

## **FEMFEST 2018 BAKE-OFF CHALLENGES NEW WRITERS**

**Winnipeg, August 27, 2018** –FemFest once again amplifies the voices of women theatre artists to tell seldom-heard stories. Every year, FemFest includes an evening of readings of scenes written in an eight-hour challenge called the Bake-Off. Five playwrights are all given the same three “ingredients” to include in their scenes so that they can’t write ahead. The winner, chosen by the audience, will receive dramaturgical guidance over the course of the next year and have the completed play read at the next FemFest. This year, Ntara Curry, Jo MacDonald, Allison Stier, Alissa Watson, and Pamela Wolk will all be participating. On August 17<sup>th</sup> they spent the entire day creating a piece incorporating a drone, the sound of children’s laughter, and the Nellie McClung quote “Democracy for women”.

“Audiences love seeing how each writer incorporates the elements,” says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre, “Not only is it an entertaining evening, but over the years it has jump started many amazing scripts that go on to further development.” This year will see the reigning champion challenged by four first-time participants.

Ntara Curry is a multi-disciplinary artist, working primarily in professional theatre as a stage hand, stage manager and actor. As well as writing for the Bake-Off, she will be acting in *The Game* Sarasvati’s co-production with Manohar Performing Arts of Canada. Jo MacDonald is Anishinaabe, a mom, theatre fan, writer, and an educator. She won the Bake-Off last year and will be participating again as well as having her new play, *OUR HOME and native land*, read as part of FemFest. Allison Stier is a fledgling playwright born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As a Winnipeg born actress, educator, and now writer, Alissa Watson has studied theatre at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England, the Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance and is an alumna of the Professional Training Ensemble (PTE@PTE). Pamela completed a BA Honours in Theatre Studies from the University of Regina with stars in her eyes of life on the stage. She was swept off her feet by a military man and followed him from posting to posting. Twenty years later she is back on the theatre scene.

FemFest 2018: Staging Resistance runs from **September 15-22, 2018** at the **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$15-\$20 for single shows and a full festival pass is available for \$50. FemFest welcomes everyone to join this celebration of transformative theatre. For more information, please visit [www.femfest.ca](http://www.femfest.ca).

**About Sarasvati Productions:** *Founded in Winnipeg in 2000, Sarasvati Productions is experimental and transformative theatre that presents significant social issues; engages in community collaboration; and supports emerging artists. FemFest has been up and kicking since 2003 and to date has showcased hundreds of artists!*