

## **NORAH PATON BRINGS BURNING MAN TO THE STAGE AT FEMFEST 2018**

**Winnipeg, August 27, 2018** –FemFest has become known for bringing some of the most exciting touring work to Winnipeg. This year, we're grateful to have playwright and actor Norah Paton participate in the festival. She will be performing *Burnt*, her imaginative one-woman show about the Burning Man festival.

*Burnt* is both an homage to Burning Man and a criticism of it. The sound and lighting design make it fascinatingly immersive. Paton created the piece by visiting Burning Man in 2014, 2015, and 2016 and recording interviews with the people she met there. But instead of any old documentary, Paton wrote a script that is a collage of interviews and brought it to life with her captivating acting skills. Paton premièred *Burnt* at the Undercurrents Festival in Ottawa in 2017 and received glowing reviews. Ian Huffam wrote in his review that "Paton's physicality and vocal texture when embodying the subjects of her interviews deftly captures the essence of these people." Paton also explores how something alternative and individualistic has become a mainstream capitalist venture.

"Upon seeing the show in Ottawa, I was keen to be able to share it with our audiences," says FemFest Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. "As an alternative festival ourselves, after celebrating 15 years we had to look at whether we are becoming complacent or still offering something that is an alternative to the mainstream. This very dilemma is reflected in *Burnt*."

Norah Paton is a theatre artist based in Ottawa. Her solo creations include an extended love-letter to Stephen Harper (*Stephen and Me*) and a group fortune-telling experience (*Readings*). As a collaborator, her work has appeared at DIY spaces in Montreal, with the SMASH Collective in Berlin and at Fringe Festivals in Ontario, Quebec and Edinburgh. She first attended Burning Man in 2014 and does not know how to stop...

There will be three chances to see *Burnt* at FemFest from September 18-20<sup>th</sup>. While in Winnipeg, Paton will also facilitate a workshop on devised theatre creation entitled *Devising from the Real World* on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

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!*