

## **FemFest 2016: Transformation** **Featuring Life-Changing Theatre**

**Winnipeg, June 15, 2016** – From September 17 to 24 Sarasvati Productions hosts FemFest 2016: Transformation. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual festival featuring captivating plays by women for everyone, will take over the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film for eight days of exciting performances.

This year's theme revolves around change – change within ones' self to a change within our communities. FemFest 2016: Transformation will take audiences through an emotional journey as they explore what it means to rise above societal barriers and become stronger than before. We are excited to announce the touring shows of FemFest 2016 featuring talented artists from across the country:

***Miss Understood*** – produced by the frank theatre company (Vancouver, BC): Antonette Rea is a survivor, having lived through horrific experiences of marginalization and abuse as a transgender person. From suburban real estate agent and married father of two, to drug-addicted sex worker in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Antonette has transcended the unspeakableness of her personal pain to create word-worlds of haunting beauty. *Miss Understood* is a theatrical poem based on her incredible life story, a piece performed by Antonette herself, with spoken text lifted from Antonette's poetry.

***Morro and Jasp do Puberty*** - Produced by U.N.I.T Productions (Toronto, ON): Clown sisters Morro and Jasp are at that age where the hormones are always flaring, the telephone keeps ringing, and the punk rock can never be too loud. This smash hit explores the trials and tribulations of growing up.

***Mouthpiece*** - Produced By Quote Unquote Collective (Toronto, ON): In the wake of her mother's death, *Mouthpiece* follows one woman, for one day, as she tries to find her voice. Interweaving a cappella harmonies, dissonance, text and physicality, two performers express the inner conflict that exists within a modern woman's head: the push and the pull, the past and the present, the progress and the regression.

FemFest 2016 will also include the world premiere of ***The Seduction Theory*** by Vancouver playwright, Sherry MacDonald. The play explores the criminalization and sexual exploitation of underprivileged girls. It was the audience choice at the FemFest 2015 Bake-Off and recently won the 2016 Special Merit Award from the Theatre BC Playwriting Competition. FemFest 2016 will also include another edition of our Bake-Off playwriting competition; readings from the shortlist; and an opening cabaret featuring fantastic female artists in music, theatre and film.

FemFest runs from **September 17-24, 2016** at the **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$15 for single shows and a full festival pass available for \$50. FemFest welcomes all audience members to join the celebration of female artists and enjoy the local and national art scene. More information at [www.femfest.ca](http://www.femfest.ca).

***About Sarasvati Productions:*** *Founded in Winnipeg in 2000, we seek to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre and to provide a place where artists can develop, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity. FemFest has been up and kicking since 2003 and to date has showcased hundreds of artists!*