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Sarasvati Productions Presents:

GIVING VOICE

Fall 2014 High School and Community Tour!

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming fall tour of *Giving Voice*, our latest youth based piece created by and about youth in care. It is our tradition to tour a show every two years and we can't wait to take our latest piece into high schools where it truly needs to be seen. *Giving Voice* is a relevant, interactive theatrical experience and will feature youth performers tackling the challenges youth in care face in their everyday lives.

**Touring Communities and High Schools in Winnipeg and Surrounding Areas:
October 13- November 28, 2014**

**Save a date and give your students or community the powerful experience of live theatre!
Giving Voice presents the challenges of youth living in foster care and will encourage audience members to speak-up and make a change for the better in their lives and communities.**

Giving Voice tells the story of Sally and Josh, two youth living in care. As they navigate their way through the child welfare system, the audience sees how they face the challenges of their tumultuous family life, how they deal with the trauma of apprehension, and how they adjust to the constant changes in their everyday lives. Ultimately the play peers into the lives of youth living in care, giving voice to their experiences and depicting the impact the challenges have on their sense of self and their engagement with others.

What makes *Giving Voice* so unique is that it allows students to share their thoughts and suggestions about situations that are played out in front them on stage. It is performed in Forum Theatre style. Forum Theatre is a lively and effective way to look at and counter issues that our community faces today. After the play is performed, scenes are replayed and the audience is able to stop the action and step in with solutions. This provides a chance for those watching to discuss what happens and participate in changing the characters outcomes.

Background

Giving Voice was created in partnership with VOICES: Manitoba's Youth in Care Network as an interactive theatrical piece exploring issues that youth in care have experienced from the stigma of being in care to the transition to adulthood after care. The initial script was developed through forum theatre workshops throughout the summer of 2013, which included work with over 30 youth in or from care. The script was then previewed at FemFest 2013 as a staged reading. In November 2013, a test run took place in three MB high schools. According to an article published in the Winnipeg Free Press in 2013, Manitoba has the highest rate of youth in care in Canada. With *Giving Voice*, we hope to begin a conversation with thousands of students and teachers about the state of the Manitoba care system and the realities those involved in it face.

"It really did an awesome job of portraying how it is for kids in care."
- Self-identified "kid in care"