

Sharing Stories of Identity for International Women's Week

Winnipeg, December 4, 2018: A car dealer selling global issues. A teen girl introducing her family to her girlfriend. A spoken word piece defying victimhood. A woman fighting to go to the moon. Sarasvati Productions will again be producing and taking to the community their cabaret of monologues to celebrate International Women's Week. This year's theme is *Here I Am*, focusing on coming into one's own, often in the face of adversity. The evening will offer a diverse line-up of monologues by Canadian playwrights as well as performance pieces by local creator/performers. The goal of the cabaret is to honour women by telling their stories and to explore multiple perspectives to represent the scope of women's experiences.

Theatre allows stories to be told in a powerful way, and it's clear to see how this annual event has impacted women in the community. "Our lives are multifaceted and should be presented as so on stage," explains one of this year's playwrights, Vicki Zhang. "We are mothers, daughters, friends, scientists, artists, activists, fighters, lovers. The world is our stage. Hear us roar." Sarasvati always works to amplify the voices of women, and this year's Cabaret of Monologues will be no exception!

The 2019 line-up features unique opportunities to enjoy monologues from playwrights all over the country. Natalie Frijia (Toronto) brings us a piece that combines the spectacle of the circus with the struggles of women astronauts. Leslea Kroll (Edmonton) explores the experiences of someone recovering from addiction. And local creator/performer Hailley Rhoda will be using puppetry to connect audiences to the "elephant in the room" of an invisible disability. This entertaining and thoughtful line-up is truly not to be missed.

Sarasvati Productions launched this popular event in 2003. Over the years it has featured over a hundred monologues from playwrights across Canada. The goal is to provide a range of voices, issues and styles that relate to women's experiences. Through partnerships with multiple organizations, past performances have been hosted all over Manitoba at women's shelters, drop-in centres, and even shopping centres. This year's community performance will be touring Manitoba from March 3rd to the 10th, 2019.

The full performances of the cabaret of monologues will take place on **March 9 at 4pm and 8pm at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at U of W, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$15** and can be purchased at www.sarasvati.ca or by calling 204-586-2236.

***About Sarasvati Productions:** Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Productions and Repertory Inc (founded in Winnipeg in 2000) seeks to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre and to provide a place where artists can develop and showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.*

***About International Women's Day:** In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolutions calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the UN's lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day (IWD). Over time, International Women's Day has grown into a week-long series of commemorative events and activities across the country, recognizing global progress toward general equality.*

Sarasvati Productions
International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues: *Here I Am*

Sunday Morning Brunch by Ivy Charles

Josephine is a spunky seventeen-year-old girl, confident her sexuality. This confidence is put to the test when she introduces her girlfriend to her religious family (and of course Father Henry) at Sunday brunch.

Thelma and Louise created and performed by Nan Fewchuk

While waiting in Cancer Care, Maggie reflects back on her life, her resentment towards her large breasts, and how the thought of losing one of them changes her perspective.

Geraldine Sloan Truhill: Mommy's Going to the Moon, Kids! by Natalie Frijia

In 1961, NASA denied training to the "Mercury 13", an all-female band of astronauts. Refusing to take no for an answer, Geraldine fights for respect from NASA and her family.

The Lightfishers by Leslea Kroll

Chris is a patient in the psychiatric ward of St. Andrew's Hospital. After experiencing a traumatic event, Chris has begun recovery from an addiction to painkillers.

I Am NOT a Victim created and performed by Shereen Ramprashad

I Am NOT a Victim is a charismatic, satirical poem challenging the media's perception that women are – and always will be – a victim of something.

Talking about ED created and performed by Hailley Rhoda

Talking about ED is a short puppet piece exploring the "elephant in the room": how disability and the secrecy surrounding it affects lives.

Who's Driving? by Makrenna Sterdan

Janet is a fast-talking car saleswoman looking to get you into your next vehicle, all based off current global issues. The biggest problem with these cars isn't the millennials, or the toxic chemicals, or the Nazis... it's the auto-pilot feature.

Oracle Jane by Vicki Zhang

How do you confront the destructive power of your own creation? When a data scientist meets a single mother in need, she questions and reflects on her life's work.