

## **INDIGENOUS GIRL'S COMING-OF-AGE STORY FEATURED IN FEMFEST 2018**

**Winnipeg, August 27, 2018** –FemFest once again amplifies the voices of women theatre artists to tell seldom-heard stories. This year, the 16<sup>th</sup> FemFest will feature emerging playwright and actor Darla Contois. She will be performing her own one-woman show, *White Man's Indian*. It is the story of a Cree teenage girl named Eva on a quest for identity in a high school full of teen angst, racism, and evil prom queens. Darla is a Winnipegger but this will be her first time performing *White Man's Indian* in her hometown.

*White Man's Indian* is the kind of honest, multi-faceted representation of Indigenous youth we need. Darla Contois expertly balances the dark subjects of racism, intergenerational trauma, sexual abuse, and homophobia with humour. At its core, the play has a lot of heart and the audience is sure to see Eva's point of view.

Darla Contois is a Cree/Salteaux artist from Misipawistik Cree Nation in Manitoba. She graduated from Toronto's Centre for Indigenous Theatre in 2014, attended David Smukler's National Voice Intensive and premiered her solo show *White Man's Indian* at Summerworks 2017 earning her the Emerging Artist Award. She is an internationally recognized Indigenous theatre artist having traveled recently to Germany to share her unique perspective with the Theaterformen festival's fellowship program.

Of course, one story with an Indigenous heroine is not enough. A panel discussion following the 7:00 PM performance on September 18<sup>th</sup> will explore the need for diverse representations of Indigenous people in the stories we choose to tell and how these choices influence the audience. Contois will be joined by a selection of panelists who will also explore the themes within the play.

There are just three opportunities to see the show at FemFest from September 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>.

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!*