

**Winnipeg Hosts the World Premiere of *Miss N Me* by Two-Time Governor General Award Winner Catherine Banks**

**Winnipeg, May 4, 2015:** Mermaids, Adonis, clowns and Shakespeare's Hermia and Demetrius are just some of the hitchhikers guiding Dawna on her road trip to self-discovery! Sarasvati Productions is honoured to be producing the world premiere of this new play by East Coast writer Catherine Banks. From May 21-31 a local cast will bring this wild ride to life!

This play is a hilarious and inspiring farce written by two-time Governor General Award winning playwright Catherine Banks. Three days before her 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration, Dawna, a hairdresser from a small Nova Scotia town, steals her husband's plumbing van and heads for New York City to meet the American rapper Missy Elliott. Although her 17-year-old skateboarder son, Justin, has refused to come out of his room for 77 days, he thinks her trip to NYC is a great idea. The universe and a host of wacky hitch-hiking characters have plans for Dawna as they draw her deeper into her journey of self-discovery.

"Catherine Banks is an amazing playwright and we are so fortunate to have this wonderful play to work on as artists and share with Winnipeg audiences. Her accolades as a playwright are well-deserved and this imaginative, exciting and inspiring script has been a joy to be working on over the last year," says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre.

The play was short listed for the 2013 Stage West Pechet Family Comedy Award. Catherine Banks won the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2008 (*Bone Cage*) and 2012 (*It Is Solved by Walking*). Banks' work has been described as poetic, darkly humorous, courageous and beautifully theatrical; her characters as Atlantic Gothic.

We are pleased to have stage veteran Melanie Whyte helming the cast as Dawna. Whyte has performed in multiple musicals in Winnipeg, including last summer's *Mary Poppins* at Rainbow Stage. Colin Connor, Kevin P. Gabel and Alissa Watson round out the cast. Connor and Watson have played off each other multiple times including a ravelly reviewed *The Anger of Ernest and Ernestine* at the 2013 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival and then in *Harold and Vivian Entertain Guests* at FemFest 2013. The artistic team will be led by director Hope McIntyre, assistant director Angie St. Mars and a local design team including Brenda McLean (set/costume designer), Dean Cowieson (lighting designer) and James Jansen (sound designer).

*Miss N Me* runs from **May 21-31, 2015** at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (400 Colony Street, at the University of Winnipeg). Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students/seniors. To purchase tickets and to see show times, please visit [www.sarasvati.ca](http://www.sarasvati.ca).

*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.*