

Home 2.0
Testimonials

Oh my gosh, that performance and workshop were amazing! So Powerful! Students really enjoyed it all!...Thank you so much for arranging this with us. Can't say enough good things about the whole afternoon! Really gave us a lot to think about!

- Leanne Van Bergen, Whitemouth School

Sarasvati's production of Home 2.0 is based on topics that resonate with many of our students. I believe that the show created a space for students to either relate to the experiences of the actors or be more mindful and purposeful regarding their interactions with those who are new to Canada. The notion that it is possible to be both grateful and desperate as a new immigrant or refugee is impactful and true for many. Thank you to Sarasvati for igniting important and empathetic conversations with our students.

-Megan Turnley, Steinbach Regional Secondary School

It was amazing. I liked it because it included some history in it about people and where they came from. It was funny and sad. I learned how to welcome people who come from other countries. - Kayleen, Student from Elmwood Leadership

I really liked the play. It was funny but also serious. I learned that Canadians should treat newcomers better. – Victoria, Student from Elmwood Leadership

We were so impressed with the show Home 2.0. It was first time bringing your show to Linden and I hope there will be more opportunities in the future. When we debriefed the next day, my students made the following comments:

- *"I had never seen that kind of theater before and I liked how it was about showing us how we can have an impact"*
- *It showed ways the bystander can become involved to make changes to the situation."*

The audience interaction was new to them, and I was so pleased with how some of them responded. One girl had mild autism and her improved line to the mean girl was so perfect. It was a great moment for her and for her classmates to see her in that light.

The actors and stage manager were so wonderful. They fully engaged the students before the show to get them comfortable.

Thanks again so much. It was a great afternoon educating and entertaining us on the relevant subject of newcomers.

- Carri McDonald, Linden Christian School

Our students continued to talk about the performance after your team left. Considering we are a rural school over 2 hours away from Winnipeg, we have a very multi-cultural student body.

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There were things that came up during the performance that hit home for many, and opened eyes of even more. As a teacher, I had more than one “eye-opener” moments, thinking back to the different students I have taught who are new Canadians.

Thank you again for working within our budget. We truly enjoyed having your team here.

- Teresa Moore, Teacher | Fisher Branch Collegiate

The performances you do are always timely and relevant; the students take a lot away every single time. Thank you for that. – Rachelle Bauer, Gimli High School

The performance was very interesting in the way that it highlights how one person’s life/situation can change for the better just by how society behaves towards them. The workshop was very fun and helpful. I learned many warm-up techniques and most importantly, how important body language can be. Overall, it was a very fun and helpful day that got me thinking about the world, my actions, and myself when acting. The cast was also very kind!

-Taniel, Grade 11 Student, Gimli High School

The performance was amazing. The energy, the delivery – they got us to pay attention. The contents of the performance was not what I expected. I thought ‘oh, it’s just going to be fun entertainment’ and it was, but it there was a raw message and issue that was being addressed. I have never taken an hour to sit back and think about how hard it is for people/refugees to come and live in Canada. The true stories made me pretty upset because I just can’t understand why anybody would treat another human being so poorly and make them feel like nothing. I feel like it got us thinking about how we could help change the picture in the present and future. Also, the actors were so cool, man. Their personalities just shone through and in our workshop they didn’t act above us; they gave us an opportunity to feel included. They were not uptight professionals who couldn’t play with some kids. They made me feel like I could do something like them, like maybe I had a shot. It was nice because right now we are where they once started. It was inspiring. - Ivy, Grade 12 Student, Gimli High School

“It made me think of home and how different it is being in Canada”

-Anonymous Student, Daniel MacIntyre School

“It made me want to help the new people in Canada who are having a difficult time”

-Anonymous Student, Daniel MacIntyre School

“I didn’t like it, I LOVED it!”

-Anonymous Student, Daniel MacIntyre School

“I like the soccer player because he was just like me. I want to be a famous soccer player but it’s hard here in Canada to become good.”

-Anonymous Student, Daniel MacIntyre School

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It was fantastic. The students were engaged and the performers did an amazing job of pulling everyone in, Bravo! - Alanna Deluca, Teacher, Garden City Collegiate

The energy of the actors was infectious for staff and especially EAL students who experienced these difficult times in their past lives.

An amazing depiction of life before Canada became a new home from immigrants and refugees.

Thanks so much !!

- Vanessa Romans, Kildonan East Collegiate

Our students reacted very positively to watching Home 2.0. The storylines presented in the show mirrored many of our students' experiences, and it was very powerful for them to see these stories told on stage. Students were really enthusiastic about it, and there was buzz about it for days afterwards!

Thanks again for coming-- we truly thought it was a powerful experience for students.

- Caitlin Belton, Drama & English Teacher, Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Coming from the child of two refugees, I felt like it spoke very accurately about the struggles one faces coming to Canada as a refugee. It really touched upon many issues and explained it in a way that was helpful for people who might not understand what this experience is like for others.

- Nina, grade 10, Seven Oaks School Division

Home 2.0 was an innovative play that showed many of the worst case scenarios that refugees face when immigrating. Not only was the play outstanding, but adding the parts where viewers were allowed to interact with the actors and potentially change the outcome of the play, made you truly think about how you can impact the lives of others through simple actions.

- Grace, grade 12, Seven Oaks School Division

You helped me so much today! I've always kept my person things to myself but what you guys did today was awesome. I've went through so much since I come to Canada. My parents as well. I started crying because I've been through that too and it sucks being called the "dumb" one or just being treated like your nothing. Thank you so much, keep doing what you do!

- Magaly, New Era School

This performance was really beautiful but heartbreaking. Seen what you went through being played in front of you like that brings all those memories back. And if you have never been through anything like it it's really revealing you get to see another side of the story. All those feeling that the performance shows you are very descriptive. The feeling of not fitting in being

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new and not being good enough is scary. Knowing that you are forgetting everything is devastating. Thanks for reminding me that I went through and why I am here.

- Araceli, New Era School

I really liked the show it reminded me of what my parents went through. I liked that I connected with so much of the show. I loved how you show people the hardship and how you get to experience what they have gone through or at least start to understand how difficult it is to leave everything you've ever known and start again from scratch. I really appreciate what you're doing. Thank you so much for coming it was great to see something that is so close to what I have experienced.

- Karla, New Era School

We thought the session was fabulous and it certainly hit home with many of our students!

- Kelly Fuhr, Teacher, New Era School

Nothing but very positive feedback from all of the students and staff that were in attendance. We are following up in classrooms with our peer support students tomorrow afternoon to explore the experience and get more feedback from students about how they'd use what they discovered to plan supports for the school. We have many student newcomers, they were particularly moved by the performances. One girl, she'd participated in second one, was moved to tears....said she related to every single character in the performance in some way. I'll let you know what comes out of our classroom tours tomorrow as well. great job, great writing, wonderful performances, so true to realities these families face.

- Laura Nault, Counsellor, College St. Norbert Collegiate

We were absolutely thrilled to have you and the touring group here to perform at our theatre. What an amazing experience for our students. There was so much fantastic energy created by your actors/actresses.

However, the highlight for everyone was the forum interaction and the message that Home 2.0 shared. We have many students that are from immigrant homes or are immigrants themselves and the message of struggle, hope and inclusion was really something that resonated with them. Thank you so much for such an amazing experience on behalf of myself, the students and St. Mary's Academy, we thank you for sharing this story and the amazing talents of your touring group!

Cannot wait until next year to bring in another show!

- Ms. Eliana Dell'Acqua, Social and Drama Teacher, St. Mary's Academy

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The grade 12s wrote theatre reviews, so here is some feedback:

"They gave us a chance to make something negative into something positive. They portrayed real life issues that lots of people go through. I think the performance impacted the audience to be a better person."

"The play made me realize that my parents went through the same thing. There were no wars where we came from but we moved so my siblings and I could have a better future. My mom always talked about moving back home. I miss it too but my mom spent her whole life there and I can't even imagine now how much she misses it."

"The show was motivating, very uplifting and it showed positive and negative aspects of life; it is what you can call a performance for all."

"The performance was very impactful, effective, and passed a very important message to all. This play is worth the money and time spent."

"The actors playing the characters did a phenomenal job."

Thanks again for coming!

- Tracey Zacharias, Dramatic Arts Department Head, Fort Richmond Collegiate

Thank you so much to Sarasvati Productions and the Home 2.0 actors for visiting Elm Creek School! Our grade 7 - 12 students were extremely impressed with the performance, and loved having the opportunity to participate at the end of the production. As a UNESCO school, we are committed to promoting a more peaceful and inclusive world, and this production did an excellent job of engaging our students in social justice issues related to newcomers to Canada. We are so thankful that you were willing to travel out to our rural school to help spread your important message to our students! We hope to have more productions visit in coming years.

Thank you!

- Ashley Cook, Senior Years Teacher, Elm Creek School
