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SARASVATI PRODUCTIONS

THE PULSE

Up & Coming



Sonofabitch Stew by Shameless Hussy Productions

FemFest 2012: Staging Identity *September 15-22 @ Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at U of W)* *10th Anniversary Edition*

We're still kicking after ten years and we have an amazing line-up planned to celebrate this milestone year. Touring shows include a tale of Calamity Jane from Vancouver's Shameless Hussy Productions and *My Pregnant Brother* by Montreal's Johanna Nutter. Urban Ink will also be bringing their multi-media *Women in Fish* to town. In addition, we will once again support numerous local artists with full productions, readings and skill workshops. We are particularly excited to premiere two new plays, one created with the Immigrant Women's Association and the other with a local food bank. The full line-up and schedule will be available on the FemFest website—www.femfest.ca by June 15th. Check it out and plan to take in all the action. Each show takes a unique look at identity—who we are as women, as men, as humans in a complex world. We promise though that there will also be humour, hope and a great time had by all!

General Auditions—June 15/16

Join us for our annual general auditions in mid-June. We will be interested to see potential actors for several shows in our season including FemFest, our high school tour, our cabaret of monologues and other projects. Contact Stacie at 586-2236 or production@sarasvati.ca for details and to book a slot.



Come and Gone

EDEN by Hope McIntyre

A world premiere is a huge undertaking and we could not have asked for a better team of artists, volunteers and a more supportive audience. This multi-media, epic exploration of truth and justice was the realization of many years of work. We were particularly pleased to see such a diverse audience and to welcome groups from several organizations.

International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues

It was a busy few months for us but we were pleased to still be able to offer our monologues in celebration of women. This year's theme was Winnipeg women and everyone from a Sal's waitress to Nellie McClung graced the stage. Aside from the two public shows we also performed in Carman, at the U of W, at the Manitoba Teacher's Symposium and at Sage House.



Support Sarasvati Productions

If you care about the work we do, we can use your help! As a registered charity we provide tax receipts for donations of \$10 or more. Mail in a donation to the address on the back, donate through our website or donate to our endowment fund at the Winnipeg Foundation (www.wpgfdn.org).



Vision Statement

Sarasvati is the Hindu Goddess of the Creative Arts. Sarasvati Productions embodies the spirit of the Goddess with a desire to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre. Our transformative performances promote and reflect diversity while challenging artists, audiences and society. We envision a world where the arts are used to increase human understanding and encourage positive change.

Become a Sarasvati Supporter today!

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We have sent this newsletter to everyone on our mailing list, including those who requested more information while completing our surveys and past artists who have worked with us. We respect your privacy; if you would like to be removed from our mailing list or change your contact information please let us know.

Tidbits

Thanks to the Manitoba Teachers' Society we were able to host immigrant and refugee youth at a performance of EDEN!



RISING STAR

Claire Therese

Claire Therese is still searching for her favorite creative outlet! She is a musician, singer, sewer, actor and writer. In 2010, she designed a collection of clothing for the local magazine "Betty" called "Urban Armour". All the pieces are designed to be worn over jeans and a t-shirt. Claire enjoys designing pieces for dancers, actors, movers and shakers.

As an actor she has appeared in *Remember the Night*, *The God Box*, *Featuring Loretta* and *Problem Child*. She also teaches drama around the city and in Northern Manitoba.

We are pleased to be working with Claire to develop her first play, *In Waiting*, to be read at FemFest 2012. The play was written as part of a class exploring conflict in the

family. Although we have been pleased to have Claire involved with FemFest in the past as an actor, we are excited to support her work as an emerging writer!

Check out the website after June 15th for the date and time of the reading.

In Waiting by Claire Therese

Is a women's identity linked to their ability to bear children? Molly is infertile, her struggle to conceive is wreaking havoc on her marriage, and to top it all off she discovers her teenage student is pregnant.




Hands Up

Welcome to our new summer students. Ava Jerao has joined us as Marketing and Community Outreach Assistant. She is a Business student at the University of Winnipeg specializing in marketing. Stacie Gagnon is on board as our Production Assistant. She is going into her third year at U of M doing a double major in Linguistics and Asian Studies, but spends a lot of her time pursuing her passion for theatre. We look forward to the contribution they will make to the Sarasvati team.



Hands Out

First of all a big thank you to all those who contributed to our EDEN Rocket hub campaign! It was our first crowd source funding experience and we truly appreciate all the support we received!

Our Board and staff have been working hard to take advantage of matching sponsorship funding through the ArtsVest program offered by the Winnipeg Arts Council and Business for the Arts. With an end of June deadline, this is our last call for any businesses out there who are interested in seeing their sponsorship dollars stretch even further through matching monies. If you work somewhere or know of a business that would be a good match for Sarasvati or any of our upcoming projects, we'd love to hear from you. In particular, we are now ramping up our sponsorship and fundraising campaign for FemFest 2012.



Testimonials

Eden is a captivating tale centered around deceit and injustices of all kind. The story takes place 50 years in the future, though I felt as if it was the present. They way the characters think and act isn't too different from what is going on in the world right now. The performers did an excellent job of evoking different emotions and the audience saw how even the good and bad characters are affected by dishonesty. I especially enjoyed Marsha Knight as Essa. It is important to showcase as much Aboriginal content in this country as possible and to show what kind of racism is unfortunately still going on. It would be great if *Eden* could make its way to Toronto, or other parts of Canada!
- Amanda Bhaggu

LOVED the production. Please pass on my praises to the cast and crew. So glad we attended! - Margo Kehler, Vincent Massey