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Family Dysfunction At Its Finest:

So You Think You Can Act - An Evening Packed Full of Entertainment!

Winnipeg, January 8, 2012 – An Elvis impersonator finding his long lost daughter, sibling rivalry, an absent father and a domineering mother; family conflict will be on display at the second annual *So You Think You Can Act*. On February 20th at the Gas Station Arts Centre, Sarasvati Productions funs fundraiser will entertain audiences with a selection of scenes by celebrated playwrights. The evening features local celebrities testing out their acting chops in front of a panel of judges and an audience. Funds raised go to support the transformation theatre produced by Sarasvati Productions, specifically the world premiere of *Jail Baby* in May 2013.

In the style of reality television competition shows, each celebrity will be paired with an actor to do a stage reading of a scene selected to best showcase their skills. Winnipeg personality Jon Ljungberg will be donning some mutton chops as an Elvis Presley impersonator in Sharon Bajer's *Burnin' Love*. Olympic bronze medalist Desiree Scott will be playing out sibling rivalry in Norm Foster's hilarious *Maggie's Getting Married*. Foster is one of Canada's most performed playwrights. CBC morning host Marcy Markusa will be tackling the dowdy daughter in Tracy Letts' *August: Osage County*, which was a huge hit when it ran at RMTc Warehouse last season.

"This is great way for audiences to see their favorite celebrities in a whole new light," says Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. "This year's theme is Family Ties, so the scenes will explore the good, the bad and the outrageous in family relationships - something that is likely familiar to many of us."

The full line-up includes: Jenna Khan (Breakfast Television), Jon Ljungberg (comedian), Marcy Markusa (CBC News), Ron Paley (Ron Paley Big Band), Kerri Salki (102 Clear FM), Desiree Scott (Olympic Bronze medalist) and Jeff Stoughton (world champion curler). You can expect big laughs from our host Lee White (CRUMBS) and judges Mariam Bernstein (Winnipeg actor/director), Ryan Miller (Hot Thespian Action) and Robb Paterson (Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Associate Artistic Director).

So You Think You Can Act will run on February 20th, at 7pm at the Gas Station Arts Centre (445 River Avenue). Tickets are \$25, which includes a wine reception, and can be purchased online at www.sarasvati.ca or at 204-586-2236.

About Sarasvati Productions: We seek to inspire artists and audiences through the use of theatre and to provide a place where artists can develop, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.

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