

FEMFEST 2019: ALL THE WORLDS A STAGE!

Winnipeg, June 11, 2019 – Dogs, money, a family dinner, and so much more on stage. Sarasvati Productions is thrilled to announce the seventeenth annual festival of life-changing theatre for everyone. Running from September 14-21, ***FemFest 2019: All the World's A Stage*** will showcase talent from across the country, as well as celebrate local playwrights and emerging talent.

“This year’s line-up will truly break down theatrical walls,” shares Artistic Director Hope McIntyre, “The touring work we are bringing in to Winnipeg will truly offer unique experiences!”

Like Mother, Like Daughter produced by Toronto’s WhyNot Theatre is a participatory project that brings together real mothers and their daughters to weave together stories from their own lives. The Winnipeg version of this experience will include mothers and daughters who were born outside of Canada (newcomers, as well as those who may have immigrated many years ago) as well as Indigenous mothers and daughters. In the second part of the presentation, the audience is invited to join the mothers and daughters for a meal to continue the conversations. ***"It works on the premise that other people's lives are completely fascinating."*** —*The Guardian*.

Winner of NOW Magazine Audience Choice Award at Summerworks 2018, ***4inXchange*** by xLq is an interactive, site-specific game with four players and \$1,000 cash. Use the cash on the table to get to know your fellow participants, while xLq asks provocative questions about value, intimacy, love, and truth. Returns and exchanges guaranteed.

Traveling in from Ottawa, ***Raising Stanley / Life With Tulia*** asks the question - is a guide dog just a dog that works, or are they more than that? Storyteller Kim Kilpatrick tells stories of the four guide dogs she has handled, accompanied by Karen Bailey’s paintings of the puppy she raised for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind. Plus, guide dog Tulia appears live on stage for the show!

In addition, an array of local work will fill out the festival schedule. This year FemFest 2019 will run at the **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (at the University of Winnipeg) 400 Colony Street from **September 14-21, 2019**. Tickets are \$15 for single shows and a full festival pass is available for \$50. For more information visit our website: www.femfest.ca.

About FemFest: Founded in 2003 by Sarasvati Productions, FemFest presents the work of both established and emerging artists from across Canada. The festival’s mandate is to produce one-act plays by women and showcase women theatre artists.

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, showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.

FemFest 2019: All the World's A Stage
September 14 -21

TOURING SHOWS

4inXchange

Created and Performed by xLq (Jordan Campbell and Maddie Bautista) and Katherine Walker-Jones
Commissioned and developed with the support of Nightswimming
4 audience members. 1 table. \$1000.00 in cash. Limitless interactive possibilities.

Raising Stanley / Life With Tulia

by Kim Kilpatrick, Karen Bailey and Bronwyn Steinberg
Whether your experience is through sound, sight, or the combination of both, you are fully included in the stories, the paintings, and the stories behind the paintings in this theatrical collaboration. Plus, you can never go wrong with a dog on stage.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

Co-Created by Why Not Theatre & Complicité Creative Learning
This unique, participatory project brings together real mothers and their daughters to weave together stories from their own lives in an improvised format.

IN-HOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Baby Box By Eva Barrie, Miranda Calderon, and Michelle Polak

A nurse, a mother placing her child in a baby box, and a mother waiting to adopt a child – these three women weave their stories of before and after a baby is placed in a safe haven box outside of a hospital.

The Launchpad Project – Workshop presentation

We are excited to share a devised piece that will showcase the next generation of Winnipeg theatre! The production will be the result of intensive workshops, mentorship, and collaboration.

The Grief Box – A reading of a new play by Alissa Watson

2018 Bake-Off winner

How do you grieve and move on after losing someone? It is a challenge for anyone, but even more so for Katherine, especially now that death has moved in as her roommate.

Bake-Off

Coordinated and directed by Cairn Moore | In partnership with the Manitoba Association of Playwrights
Feast your eyes on the annual Bake-Off. We challenge selected playwrights with a list of ingredients and eight hours to cook up their own fantastic theatrical feasts!

Leaping Off the Page - With special guest artist Yvette Nolan

Yvette Nolan (Algonquin) is a playwright, director, and dramaturg. As artist in residence at FemFest she will facilitate a masterclass for local playwrights. Come hear the culmination of this intensive process then join us for the festival closing reception. New works, inspiring writers and great food!

Opening Cabaret

Celebrate opening night with a revamp of our popular cabaret evening! It is a jam-packed variety show, which promises to entertain and inspire. It is followed by a chance to eat, drink and mingle.

All Winnipeg's a Stage – Art Tour

See Winnipeg like you never have before! This promenade-style performance will include art in all forms in unexpected places. A truly unique experience.