

FEMFEST 2019 FEATURES ITS FIRST EVER CANINE PERFORMER

Winnipeg, September 5, 2019 –Sarasvati’s 17th annual festival of life changing theatre for everyone is honoured to bring FemFest’s first ever canine performer, Tulia to our stage. Tulia is a guide dog and companion of Kim Kilpatrick, the storyteller and creator of the show *Raising Stanley/Life with Tulia*.

In *Raising Stanley / Life With Tulia* storyteller Kim Kilpatrick, painter Karen Bailey and director Bronwyn Steinberg vividly document the journey from puppy to working guide dog for the blind. Delving into issues of identity, accessibility and canine service this storytelling show incorporates original paintings through video with audio description and music. The show offers a totally accessible experience for adults and children that both informs and entertains.

Kim Kilpatrick, a blind storyteller, performs stories of life with the four guide dogs she has handled: Gia, Margaret, Gwenny and Tulia. Kilpatrick is a former Paralympian and disability rights activist. As a woman who was born blind, she brings a fresh and unique approach to the art of storytelling.

Karen Bailey, a visual artist, painted Stanley, a puppy she raised for Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, engaging in a multitude of activities that mirror his future working life. Wall-sized enlargements of Karen’s paintings are projected using video visual effects behind her, with voice-over audio description that integrates seamlessly with Kim’s live storytelling. Part of the show takes place entirely in the dark.

FemFest 2019: All the World’s a Stage runs from **September 14-21, 2019** at the **Asper Centre for Theatre and Film** (at the University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$15 for single shows and a full festival pass is available for \$50. FemFest welcomes everyone to join this celebration of transformative theatre. For more information, please visit www.femfest.ca.

About Sarasvati Productions: *Founded in Winnipeg in 2000, Sarasvati Productions is experimental and transformative theatre that presents significant social issues; engages in community collaboration; and supports emerging artists. FemFest has been up and kicking since 2003 and to date has showcased hundreds of artists!*

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