

Stories of Strength Staged for International Women's Week

Winnipeg, December 5, 2017: Surviving riots, a pregnant Mom's journey to Canada, ghosts seeking revenge and learning to teach yoga as a senior - this year's line-up is full of inspiring stories from unstoppable women! Sarasvati Productions will again be producing and taking to the community our cabaret of monologues to celebrate International Women's Week. This year's theme is *I Am Unstoppable*, as we tackle obstacles, conquering challenges and living life to the fullest. The evening will offer a diverse line-up of monologues by Canadian playwrights as well as performance pieces by local creator/performers. Our goal is to honour women by telling their stories and to explore multiple perspectives to represent the scope of women's experiences.

"Every year we strive to bring to the stage new perspectives and this year we wanted to focus on celebrating strength while making the work more accessible than ever." shares Artistic Director Hope McIntyre, "To that end we will be offering ASL interpretation, welcoming performer Joanna Hawkins from deaf mime troupe 100 Decibels as well as other artists who have unique stories of perseverance."

This year's playwrights are from all over Canada. New work is being created by up and coming stand-up comic Anjali Sandhu as well as trans advocate Cynthia Fortlage. Aboriginal artist Kristy Janvier will be traveling from Flin Flon to present a new dance theatre hybrid piece. The work will truly feature something for everyone.

Sarasvati Productions launched this popular event in 2003. Over the years it has featured over a hundred monologues from playwrights across Canada. The goal is to provide a range of voices, issues and styles that relate to women's experiences. Through partnerships with multiple organizations, past performances have been hosted all over Manitoba at women's shelters, drop-in centres, and even shopping centres.

The full performances of the cabaret of monologues will take place on **March 10 at 4pm and 8pm at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (at U of W, 400 Colony Street). Tickets are \$15** and can be purchased at www.sarasvati.ca or by calling 204-586-2236.

There will also be additional community performances available from March 4th to 11th.

About Sarasvati Productions: Sarasvati Dramatic Theatre Producers 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 and showcase their skills and celebrate their creativity.

About International Women's Day: In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolutions calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace. Following the UN's lead, Canada chose March 8 as International Women's Day (IWD). Over time, International Women's Day has grown into a week-long series of commemorative events and activities across the country, recognizing global progress toward general equality.

**Sarasvati Productions - International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues:
*I am Unstoppable***

Saviour Self by Andrea Scott and performed by Reena Jolly

Where were you in 1992 when Yonge Street exploded in riots? Josephine Benedict was a swaggering teenager looking to take care of herself, one tampon at a time.

Flight 182 created and performed by Anjali Sandhu

Where are you from? The Jungle Book, supermodels, ignorant politicians...nothing will stop Rani from being accepted as Canadian.

I Got 99 Problems, My Penis is Just One created and performed by Cynthia Fortlage

One transgender woman's exploration of her journey to womanhood. This piece delves deep into Learning to be a Feminist, Loss of Privilege, and the Subtleties of Sisterhood.

I Am Unstoppable created and performed by Joanna Hawkins

Can you remember a time when nothing stood in your way? The innocence of childhood can make you feel unstoppable, but how do we persevere after the barriers and discrimination in the dominant world are fully perceived? Deaf artist, Joanna Hawkins explores this through mime.

Captain of My Ship by Kathy France and performed by Ady Kay in collaboration with Victoria Hill and Emily Solstice

A woman recounts her coming of age story, reliving the confusion and fear that define a young woman's entry into sexual awareness.

I've Never Been Very Good at Drawing Hearts, But I Keep Trying by A.b. Norris and performed by Monica Thurn und Taxis

Using images captured during a lunar eclipse, this audio-visual media and collaborative performance piece explores (dis)connection between the persistent need to love/be loved and actually being good at either.

I Am a Warrior by Sue Higgs

Cathy signs up for a course. Nothing unusual about that, except for the fact that Cathy is in her late 60's in a class full of twenty-something's.

Sweet An Nice by Althea Cunningham and performed by Lorraine James

Pregnant with a child, Jamaican immigrant Celestine seeks a better life in a new country. After getting a family to sponsor her, she moves thousands of miles across several oceans to discover it's far from what she imagined it to be.

ObScene created and performed by Kristy Janvier

By holding onto our beliefs or judgements, how can we create connection? A performance art piece that explores healthy sensuality as a means of release.

Perfect Pie by Judith Thompson

Performed by Anna Binder

When prompted by a long-estranged friend, Patsy explains what it's like to have an epileptic seizure. From master playwright Judith Thompson's ground-breaking play about how you cannot escape where you come from.