

Sarasvati Productions Launches a Transformative Season!

Winnipeg, August 10, 2016 – On August 5th Sarasvati Productions held its annual season launch aptly titled *Transformation*. Over 60 members of the community attended the event in order to get an exclusive sneak-peek at the exciting and ambitious 2016/17 theatre season. The launch took place at The List at 216 McDermot and featured excerpts of the upcoming season.

Highlights of Sarasvati Productions' 2016/17 theatrical season include:

- **FemFest 2016: Transformation** - FemFest continues to be Canada's primary festival for female playwrights. FemFest takes place from **September 17-24, 2016** at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (University of Winnipeg, 400 Colony Street). The launch highlighted the world premiere of *The Seduction Theory* by Sherry MacDonald, last year's Bake-Off winner. The festival will also include work that is inspiring, empowering and entertaining – from Morro and Jasp's clown coverage of puberty, to spoken word star Antonette Rea's incredibly life journey from small down husband and father, to transgender poet and survivor. Full details at www.femfest.ca.
- **International Women's Week Cabaret of Monologues** will run from **March 5-11, 2017** with the theme *Starting Over*. Pieces will explore new beginnings from the newcomer experience to moments of renewal. A national call has gone out for monologues and they will be performed in various community venues.
- **Breaking Through** –The world premiere of the full-production of *Breaking Through* will run May 23 to May 28, 2017. We began work on this play two years ago by working with the mental health community and the general public through an initiative called *Mental Health is Everyone's Health*. After incorporating public feedback from staged readings held this past May, we will re-work the script to premiere this full-production this spring at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film, as well as at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.
- **Shattered** – This interactive exploration of mental health for youth, will tour to high schools and youth groups in Winnipeg and surrounding areas from October 11 to December 9, 2016. We will launch this tour with a public performance at Graffiti Gallery on Thursday, October 6th at 7pm.
- Plus two new fundraising events: **Women's Comedy Night (November 16, 2016)** hosted by Dana Smith at the Kingshead Pub. **CEO Strike-a-thon (February, 2017)** at Academy Uptown Lanes. Local CEO's compete against one another to see who can bowl more strikes.
- As well, the season will include an on-going workshop series for emerging artists. This year, our popular informal mentorship meet-ups *Coffee with a Pro* will continue as well as sessions on grant-writing, taxes and auditions.