

Seven Visions Reconciliation Through Theatre!

Winnipeg, April 25, 2019 – Important consultation has occurred throughout Winnipeg and Sarasvati Productions is excited to share details on their latest community-based project *Seven Visions – Reconciliation Through Theatre*. We will be hosting public presentations from **May 4 - 9, 2019** to officially launch this exciting initiative.

Working with 7 local organizations, and under the guidance of an Indigenous Advisory Committee, Sarasvati Productions is gathering youth together in a creative and welcoming space to share their experiences and interactions of being Indigenous in a colonized nation. We will be using an artistic lens to examine how they interact with the world around them and how the world in turn interacts with them during a series of workshops in the fall of 2019. This collaboration will bring together youth and elders, various artists and a broad audience, culminating in a large public presentation in May 2020.

“This whole process is about community input and building relationships,” shared Artistic Director Hope McIntyre. *“Before we finalize the process to build a full production for 2020, it was crucial to open a dialogue with the youth. At this stage, we want to welcome the public to a reading of a new play that will spark discussion, we want to report back to them on what we heard from the youth, and we want their responses to important questions about what reconciliation means.”*

After the first step was hosting visioning circles and now bringing the results back to the full community for input. *Seven Visions: Reconciliation Through Theatre* will commence with the reading of *OUR HOME & native land* by local Anishinaabe playwright Jo MacDonald. It will be directed by Winnipegger Heidi Malazdrewich, with dramaturgy provided by Algonquin theatre artist Yvette Nolan. This comedic piece about treaty rights will help to frame discussion and encourage public input. It will feature a local cast, including: Darla Contois, Patricia Hunter, Kevin Klassen, Marsha Knight, and Spenser Payne.

Visual artist Jaime Black will share what was heard in these consultation circles through an interactive art installation piece. A consultation overview will be provided by Marsha Knight, Indigenous Community Outreach Coordinator, and results from visioning sessions outlined by Nova Courchene, Indigenous Project Coordinator. The public presentations will conclude with community discussion and refreshments.

Special thanks to seven partner organizations: Children of the Earth High School, Indigenous Leadership Development Institute, The Knowles Centre, Manitoba Youth Centre, Marymound School, Ndinawe, and Wahbung Abinoonjiiag for hosting Indigenous Youth Visioning Circles, bringing together their youth to guide us in developing a framework for arts-based workshops.

Seven Visions is open to all. Admission is pay-what-you-can-afford. It will take place at the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film located at the University of Winnipeg 400 Colony Street on the following dates:

- **Saturday, May 4th at 2pm**
- **Tuesday, May 7th at 1pm**
- **Wednesday, May 8th at 10am**
- **and Thursday, May 9th at 7pm**

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.