

CALL FOR MANITOBA WOMEN AND NON-BINARY PLAYWRIGHTS

FEMFEST 2020: *Engaging Community* Winnipeg's 18th Annual Festival of Life-Changing Theatre for Everyone

Sarasvati Productions is currently accepting applications for their 10th annual FemFest *Bake-Off* which will take place the evening of **Monday, September 21, 2020**. The five fearless playwrights selected for the *Bake-Off* must be available for the event itself.

On *Friday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m.* our five playwrights will meet and greet with Bake-Off Coordinator/Director Cairn Moore, in person or virtually if necessary. Writers will then be provided with the three key “ingredients” they must include in their scene. Due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, writers will be permitted to return home (or wherever they feel most inspired), for the 8 hour writing period. The clock will start at 10 a.m. and stop at 6 p.m. Scenes can be anywhere from five to ten minutes long. Prior to the festival itself, each scene will receive a few hours of direction with a team of talented ensemble players, who will be cast prior to the scripts being written.

On Monday, September 21st, the scenes will be performed before a live audience who will vote for the scene they feel has the most potential for development. The following year, the winner of the **2020 Bake-Off** will receive dramaturgical guidance to develop a full length script, which will then be read publicly as part of *FemFest 2021*.

To shine a spotlight on our local talent, we are limiting our call for submissions to Manitoba only. By narrowing our focus, we hope to attract both emerging and seasoned playwrights. Participation in this event may be the motivation and inspiration you need to get that scene out of your head and onto the page! Our winner will also receive ***The Janet Taylor Bake-Off Award*** in the sum of \$500.00! Janet Taylor was a dedicated Sarasvati volunteer and a huge fan of the Bake-Off. Thanks to the generosity of her family and friends, FemFest is honoured to offer this award in her memory.

We use an inclusive definition of “woman” and “female” and we welcome trans women, genderqueer women, and non-binary people. Sarasvati Productions is committed to equity and actively encourages applications from all interested playwrights. Past participants are also welcome to apply again.

Your submission needs to include:

1. **A letter** including your full contact information (address, phone & email) and anything you want to tell us about yourself & why you're interested in the Bake-Off
2. **A 100-word bio** for yourself
3. **A 5-10 page writing sample** (can be a scene or monologue) in PDF format.

All applications must be received by Friday, July 31, 2020. Submissions should be e-mailed to Cairn Moore at bakeoff@sarasvati.ca. Participants needing further assistance with submitting materials, including alternative ways of applying, are welcome to contact us to discuss further.

All applications will be considered but only five selected. For more information please contact us at (204) 586-2236 or info@sarasvati.ca. To view details on past FemFests check out our website www.sarasvati.ca.

Please note that how programming is delivered for FemFest 2020 may shift to virtual options depending on health requirements. We are committed to making sure our artists and audiences are safe.