

MADE-IN-MANITOBA PLAYS PREMIERE THIS SUNDAY!

This Sunday, March 16 at 1 pm and 4 pm, two brand new plays will receive their world premiere in a double feature on the MTYP mainstage. Students age 9-13 appear in the extra-curricular show *Goodbye Mrs. K*, and the Junior Company production, *Catarinetta*. Read on for a feature article about these plays and their accomplished authors.

Professional Playwrights Writing Especially for Children:

Of the four brand new plays slated to hit the boards of MTYP's mainstage this March, two of them are by playwrights whose plays for adults are finding their way onto Canada's professional stages.

Last year, Carolyn Gray's play *The Elmwood Visitation* premiered at Theatre Projects Manitoba, and was published by Scirocco Drama. *Catarinetta* is Gray's second play for young actors to be performed at MTYP Theatre School (*The Travelling Show* was performed by teens in 2005).

On Sunday, March 16, the MTYP Junior Company will perform *Catarinetta* on MTYP's Mainstage. While *Catarinetta* is a fairy tale that bears similarities to stories like Little Red Riding Hood and the Baba Yaga tales (like these, it features a trek through a dark forest, symbolic of the journey into the mysteries of adulthood), it also carries a contemporary undertone in its portrayal of relationships between young people. "It's all about facing the problem of bullying", says Gray.

Melanie Brouzes's adult play *A Very Polite Genocide* is slated to receive its world premiere at Native Earth Theatre in Toronto next season. *Goodbye Mrs. K* is Brouzes's first play written for young actors. (featured along with *Catarinetta* on Sunday, March 16 at 1 pm and 4 pm.) When she started the project, Brouzes observed that many young actors end up playing parts that are way out of their age range. One of her key concerns was to write parts that matched the age of the actors. In the production, actors play students in a classroom – for the role of the teacher, Ms. Brouzes requested that an adult actor be found. Local actor Jen McDonald was brought in to play the part of Miss Huffins, the substitute teacher.

Good-bye Mrs. K is the story of how an entire class of students deals with the death of their favorite teacher. What happens when someone you care about is gone forever? *(continued on page 2)*

FINAL CLASSES FOR FALL AND WINTER SESSION: MARCH 15-20

From Saturday, March 15 to Thursday, March 20, classes at MTYP will hold their open classes and final presentation. If you're in a 10-week class, this means an OPEN CLASS, with a focus on PARTICIPATION. Come in with your child at the beginning of class and prepare to enjoy watching, participating, and learning what goes on in a drama class. You'll be treated to warm-ups, acting exercises, improvisations, and even prepared scenes.

If it's a 24-week class, the focus is on PERFORMANCE. Students arrive at their class time, and visitors are invited for the last portion of class to watch a show (usually the half-way mark, but some classes have made special plans!).

**DON'T FORGET TO
SIGN UP FOR
SPRING CLASSES!**

**SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION
BEGINS MARCH 15.**

PROFESSIONAL PLAYWRIGHTS...(continued from page 1)

When a new teacher arrives to take Mrs. K's place, the students learn that their favorite teacher is dying of cancer. Within the social bubble of a classroom, students confront their loss with anger, bravery, kindness and even humour. From the class clown to the science wiz to the meanest girl in class, this play offers the rare opportunity for young actors to perform as characters their own age in roles of significant emotional depth.

The play invites you to open your heart and step into the classroom for this touching look at one of life's harder lessons.

For tickets to *Catarinetta* and *Goodbye Mrs. K* (or to upcoming MTYP theatre school and mainstage shows, call 942-8898.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 15, 2008 – Early Registration begins for Summer Theatre Camp at MTYP.

March 15-20 – Week of final classes for all Fall and Winter Courses. (Invite your family and friends to come see your final performance!)

March 16, 2008 at 1 and 4 pm - DOUBLE FEATURE
The Junior Company performs Carolyn Gray's new twisted fairy tale play, *Catarinetta*, and MTYP students age 10-13 will perform *Goodbye Mrs. K*, a drama by Melanie Brouzes.
(recommended for audiences ages 7 and up)

March 24, 5:30 – 8:30 pm Auditions for Advanced Improv Performance Group.

March 27, 28 7:30 pm - SHAKESPEARE COMPANY SHOW
Twelfth Night. **(recommended for ages 10 and up)**

Sunday, March 30 - 6-9 pm - BIG SCREEN FILM FESTIVAL
(Free admission)

March 31- April 4 – SPRING BREAK CAMP

April 10-11 7:30 pm - YOUNG COMPANY SHOW
Lost and Foundling, by Eric R. Pfeffinger. **(suitable for audiences of all ages)**

Saturday, April 12 – SPRING SESSION BEGINS

Got Questions? Comments? News?

Call or write Kent Suss, Theatre School Director
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