



Using research to improve policy and practice in women's health

**Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**Performances with Biographical Information**

## **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Evening Performances**

### **Candy Palmater – MC for the Evening**

Candy is a Mi'kmaq activist, a gay rights activist, a writer, a radio personality, a senior beaurocrat, a comedian...and a lawyer, oh well, nobody's perfect.

Raised by bikers in the wilds of northern New Brunswick, this gal about town is equally passionate about making people laugh as she is about affecting change in the world. She strongly believes the two are flip sides of the same coin. Once you've heard Candy you will never see the world in quite the same way again.

### **Toira Aidoo and the Shannon Park School Students: African Drummers & Dancers**

The Shannon Park African Performance Troupe, comprising choir and African Drum & Dance students from Grades 3 – 6, was established in 2002, by Toria Aidoo, the music teacher and a native of Ghana, West Africa. The goal of this group is to expose and educate students at the school to African music and culture and enable them to share their music knowledge and skills with others. Students work on drumming, (including supporting African percussion instruments), xylophone (marimba), as well as singing, dancing, improvising and performing. Students sign a contract to join the group and give up one lunch hour and a recess each week from September to May. Students enjoy the rich and complex rhythms found in African music, and work hard to perfect their skills. 90% of students who join at the beginning of the year stay for the duration of the program. We are deeply indebted to our long time sponsors: Craig Foundation and Long & McQuade formerly known as Musicstop.

They performed at two of the Halifax Regional Libraries this February; Woodlawn on February 7 and Keeshen Goodman on February 21. On April 1 & 2 they are putting on a show featuring a musical based on a Tanzanian folk tale entitled “What a Fine Day at Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth”. They have also been invited to perform at the Musical Showcase 2009 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex featuring HRSB bands, strings and massed choirs on May 5, 2009

### **The Raging Grannies**

The Halifax Raging Grannies began in 1994 when Muriel Duckworth called a few friends to protest the G-7 in Halifax. They have been spicing up activist gatherings since then, adapting the lyrics of popular songs to suit the occasion.

Grannies sing at schools, rallies, healthcare and human services events, legislative forums, marches and other places where they are invited. They also sing at public hearings and places where they are not invited.

## **Taryn Della**

Nova Scotian-born Taryn Della is a stand-up comic, workshop facilitator, journalist, and performance artist. She has produced a number of well-received one-woman shows, including, “Eenie, Meenie, Mine-ee Moe! and "My Blues Are Like Billie's" and has performed in theatre festivals across Canada.

Ms. Della’s passion as an activist, educator, and motivational storyteller, is a bookend to her unwavering commitment to unveiling and honouring the achievements of women, African Nova Scotians and Native souls deferred. To this end, she hosts and performs at a number of annual events including FemFest, December 6 Vigils and International Women's Day events. Ms. Della lectures to high schools and (girl) youth conferences across the country with the explicit message that they ‘show up for their lives’, honour their roots and embrace their brilliance, because she says little girls need to know as early as possible that they are perfect just the way they are.

Ms. Della possesses a Bachelor of English Literature, and a Bachelor of Journalism and says it may be in her stars to return for a Masters in Education and Communications – all she needs is a hefty subsidy!

## **Sarah Loucks**

Sarah Loucks sees nothing but open doors. With a background in classical piano, dance and theatre training, the stage is her second home. Through her vast training and artistic influences, Sarah has found herself a niche as a singer/songwriter. As a songwriter, Sarah hands us tangible evidence that she has talent to sustain her efforts and ambitions. Her lyrics are honest and descriptive. Sarah's rich vocal ability will lead you to believe that she is well-seasoned beyond her years. Originally from Peterborough, Ontario, Sarah Loucks has spent time in various parts of the country studying the arts and working on her songwriting. After a couple of years traveling back and forth to record at SOS Studios in Peterborough and Bathouse Recording Studios in Bath, ON, Sarah has released her first album, "Keep What You Keep". The songs are a manifestation of Sarah's integrity, passion and observations. Having been compared to the likes of Norah Jones and Sarah McLachlan, Loucks finds herself in good company.

## **The Shining Lights Choir**

Inspired by a Montreal street choir, the Metro Non-Profit Housing Association’s (MSPHA) Shining Lights Choir, founded in 1997, is composed of people who are homeless, living in temporary or substandard conditions, and their friends and supporters. Under the direction of Earl Cosman, The Shining Lights Choir provides its members with a will and a voice to rise above the harsh realities of poverty and street life.

The Shining Lights Choir’s debut album “Burning Bright” encompasses a variety of musical styles. Songs that speak about homelessness and street life, traditional maritime music, and original material complement each other to form a unique musical experience. To order a copy of the CD, call 902-466-8714 or visit the MNPFA web site, [www.mnpha.ca](http://www.mnpha.ca) for more information.

### **Rose Madden, Folksinger and Musician, L'Acadienne**

Rose is from a small Acadian village in South West Nova Scotia called Surette's Island or "L'Île des Surette". She is from a musical family and has been playing music since the age of 4.

During the past two summers, Rose has performed at the Rodd Grand Dinner Theatre in Yarmouth and plans to do so again this summer. She is currently in her 4th year at Université Sainte-Anne in the Business Administration Program. Rose is also involved in a summer music camp at the university called "Rock le bot".

Other interests include SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) a school team that promotes entrepreneurship within the community.

### **We'koqma'qewiskwa (The Women of We'koqma'q)**

Born of a weekly Women's Wellness Circle on the We'koqma'q First Nation, this highly regarded group has shared traditional Mi'kmaq chants and songs at a variety of high profile events, including Treaty Day in Wagmatcook, the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Gathering in Toronto, Wolfville's Deep Roots Festival, and the Cape Breton Women's Ecumenical Conference. The group has a powerful healing effect because three of the group members are residential school survivors who were forbidden to speak their language when they were children. Members of the group are: Margaret Poulette, Phyllis Googoo, Lena Bernard, Janey Stevens and Andrea Currie.