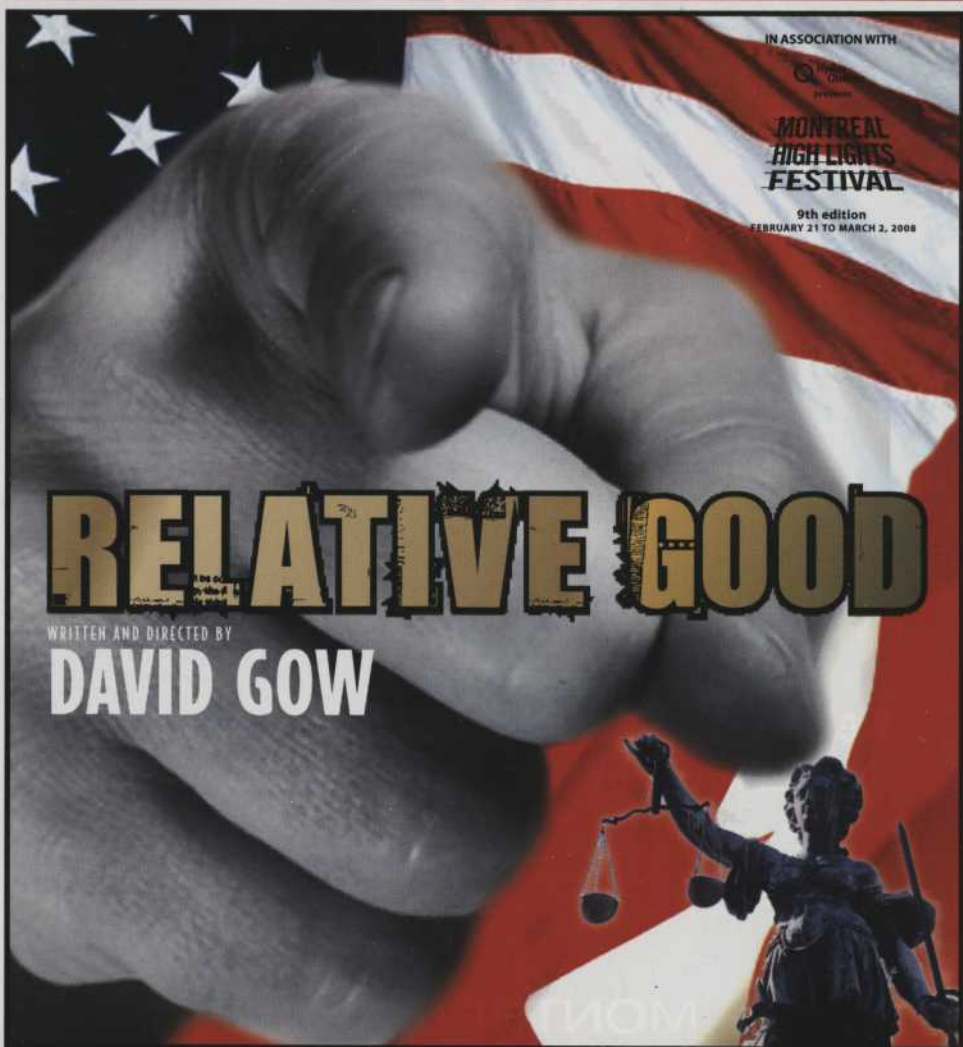


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February 26 - March 30, 2008



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9th edition
FEBRUARY 21 TO MARCH 2, 2008

RELATIVE GOOD

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

DAVID GOW



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DE MONTRÉAL



February 26 - March 30, 2008

Centaur Theatre Company

presents

RELATIVE GOOD

Written and Directed by **DAVID GOW**

Don Anderson

*Johnston, Hodge,
Barbara Murielle,
Customs Guard*

Christine Aubin Khalifah *Laila El Rafi*

Marcel Jeannin *Jenkins, Waiter*

Stephanie McNamara *Claire Hopkins*

Mikel Mroué *Mohammed El Rafi*

Set Design by

Vincent Lefèvre

Costume Design by

Ginette Grenier

Lighting Design by

Spike Lyne

Assistant Director

Kalo Gow

Stage Manager

Christina Hidalgo

Apprentice Stage Manager

Sarah-Marie Langlois

THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION

Centaur

The Gazette

We're always proud to rub shoulders with a good thing.

The Gazette

Words matter

welcome



As you will see in many ways *Relative Good* could be pulled directly off the front page (or more likely the middle pages) of any of our national newspapers. *Relative Good* was written and first staged not long after the events of September 11, 2001, when the rug was pulled out from under our collective feet and panic and fierce protective instincts prevailed. Has much changed? David Gow's wonderful play, while chronicling the Kafka-esque labyrinth of policy, bureaucracy and ever ambiguous political stance also puts a very human face on the complexities we face as border-sharing neighbours to the United States of America.

I am very pleased that in the telling of this harrowing story David has combined the talents of many of Montreal's finest theatre artists and that in this mix we have two recent graduates, Mikel and Christine, from Dawson College and The National Theatre School respectively. In my mind they demonstrate the incredible training we have here in Montreal and we can celebrate our fantastic community of artists who commit their passion to the Canadian Theatre. They join the other theatre practitioners in bringing their talents, insights and heritages to share this important story.

Please join us for the rest of our 2007-2008 Season. I am eagerly anticipating directing *The Mystery of Maddy Heisler* by Nova Scotia based playwright/actor Daniel Lillford. It's a theatrical, intriguing and romantic look at another era, when we were guarding the East Coast Canadian shores during World War II. A young cadet meets a seductive and mysterious 'older' woman and events and surprises cascade. We finish the season with Michel Tremblay's powerful classic *Forever Yours, Marie-Lou* directed by the fabulous Sarah Stanley and featuring some of Montreal's finest as well. Thanks for making the Centaur yours.

Cheers,

Roy Surette
Artistic & Executive Director

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Dear Theatre Patron,

I will not write to you about the subject of my play, I believe if I have done my job, it should be dealt with in this evening's production. If perchance you feel I have not done my job, I will not be able to amend the situation herein... I could say that when a country throws out the rule of law it has gone from democracy to totalitarian regime- and elaborate on that a great deal, but instead I will let you watch the evening's entertainment for yourself and not dismantle the experience any further.



I would however, like to write to you about this theatre, Centaur. My first Centaur Theatre experience was watching a touring production of David Fennario's *Balconville* at The National Arts Centre in Ottawa as a high school student, in the late 1970's. In 1982, about to become a theatre student at Concordia University, I watched Felix Mirbt's *Happy End*. In 1988 as a young working actor, I was in two shows at Centaur. One was Vittorio Rossi's *The Chain*. Two years later I was in a memorable production directed by Joe Dowling who now runs the Guthrie. In 1996 the first major production of my work as a playwright, was at Centaur. Now in 2008, the Montréal and Québec premiere

of my play *Relative Good* is happening at Centaur. For many Canadian theatre artists the place has been a compass point, and a place to call home. As you can see, my own history with the company goes back some thirty years. I thank you the theatre patron, and also the organization, for this place to work and exist. Without the patrons and the organization, we who have worked and thrived in the place, would suffer a very great loss.

To the Patrons I would ask that you please continue the tradition and legacy of the Centaur by bringing your friends who don't hold tickets, by talking about the shows to others, and considering a donation to a worthy company and organization, it is a rich and unique place.

With thanks,

David Gow



David Gow – Playwright & Director

David Gow is the author of five stage plays. *Relative Good*, which appeared last year Off-Broadway in New York City, and premiered with GTC in Ottawa is his most recent play. Mr. Gow's plays have seen international production and recognition. In Berlin, Germany, his hit drama *Cherry Docs* has been part of the repertoire of the historically and culturally noteworthy Vaganten Buhne Theatre for nearly three years. At the beginning of 2007, David had four productions running simultaneously in Germany and Poland. David's plays have also seen production in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Memphis, Tel-Aviv, Manchester UK, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, etc. David's work is currently in pre-production in London, England and Jerusalem, Israel.

David trained as an actor at Concordia University in Montréal, and then moved to Toronto where he became a playwright while pursuing work as an actor. He studied with Urjo Kareda and Andy McKim in the Chalmers Playwrights Unit, Tarragon Theatre, and had his second play, *The Friedman Family Fortune*, produced by Centaur in 1996. Thereafter, he attended York University and completed an MFA in Theatre.

More recently David made his debut as a filmmaker, with his feature film *Steel Toes*, starring Oscar Nominee David Strathairn alongside Montrealer, Andrew Walker. The film has won many awards and prizes including Best Feature Film- Beverly Hills 2007, Best Screenplay Methodfest 2007- Los Angeles California, a CINE Golden Eagle- a juried industry award for Best Feature Film (non studio affiliated), among other prizes and honours (www.steeltoesthemovie.com). The film is available on DVD.

Other plays by David include *Bea's Niece* and *The Flight of Peter Pumpkineater*, but it is *Cherry Docs*, his most successful play to date with dozens of productions throughout the last decade, making it arguably one of the most successful dramas in Canadian Theatre.

A partial list of cities and companies to have produced David's work: Toronto (Factory Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Joe's Theatre), Montréal (Centaur Theatre); Saskatoon (25th St. Theatre), Winnipeg (MTC), Vancouver (Touchstone Theatre), Ottawa (GTC, Pressed For Time Theatre), Calgary (Ground Zero), Edmonton (Kurt Spenrath & Co.), Halifax & Tour (Bunnies In The Headlights) The Grand Theatre (London), Kitchener (Theatre & Company). In the US: Philadelphia (Wilma Theatre), Atlanta (Theatrical Outfit), Memphis (Playhouse In The Square), Evanston/Chicago (Next Theatre), Fort Collins (Bas Bleu Theatre), Los Angeles (Company Of Angels), San Francisco (Travelling Jewish Theatre) Washington D.C. (Metrostage) In Germany: Weurzberg (Theatre Weurzberg), Berlin (Vanganten Buhne). In Poland (Teatr Telewizji). In Israel: Tel-Aviv (Nephesh Theatre).

David's plays have had support from The Canada Council For The Arts, and have seen nominations for a Governor General's Award, a Chalmers Award, a Dora, and the 2005 Siminovitch Prize. Mr. Gow belongs to the WGC, PGC, DGA, and CAEA. David continues to work as an actor, director and producer. He lives in Montréal with his wife of eleven years, Kalo Gow, where they share a domicile with the prize performing barn cat, Mathilda.



Don Anderson – *Johnston, Hodge, Barbara Murielle, Customs Guard*

Don is ecstatic to be appearing on the Centaur stage for the first time and he considers himself extremely fortunate to be working with such a talented group of theatre professionals. Don has appeared on stages in and around Montréal for the past twenty years. He was a creative contributor and principal actor in many of Gravy Bath Productions award-winning plays including, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Coriolanus*, *Kali Yuga* and *De Profundis*, for which he received the MECCA for Best Actor as Oscar Wilde.

Don is a highly sought after lead and character actor in theatre productions, films and television projects. He has also appeared in leading roles at the Village Theatre West in Hudson. Don would like to thank his friends and family for their generosity and support throughout the years, specifically: Mary, Heather, Brian, Donna, John, Liz, Catherine, Angie and Anthony to name a few.



Christine Aubin Khalifah – *Laila El Rafi*

Christine is a native Montrealer and graduated from the acting program of the National Theatre School of Canada in the spring of 2007. She is thrilled to be making her Montréal debut at Centaur. Past National Theatre School credits include Clytemnestra in *Iphigenia 2.0* directed by Eda Holmes, Varia in *The Cherry Orchard* directed by Jason Byrne and Cleopatra in *The Suicide* directed by Alexandre Marine. Most recently she had her first television role in *Les Hauts et les bas de Sophie Paquin*. Two years ago she co-founded

On a Wire whose first production *In the Beginning* was presented at the 2006 Montréal Fringe Festival. The company is continuing to work on their second piece which was workshopped at the 2007 Toronto SummerWorks Festival.



Marcel Jeannin – *Jenkins, Waiter*

Marcel has performed in various theatres across Canada, notably Centaur Theatre, the National Arts Centre, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, the Stratford Festival, Theatre Columbus and the Globe Theatre in Regina. Recently, he appeared in *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *An Enemy of the People* at the Segal Centre, and will return for *The Odd Couple*. A sought-after workshop participant, he has assisted in the development of over 100 plays for the N.A.C., Theatre New Brunswick and Playwrights' Workshop Montréal.

His television credits include *Dead Zone*, *Snakes and Ladders*, *The Sign of Four* and *Blackfly*. Film credits include *Taking Lives*, *Wicker Park*, *The Sum of All Fears* and *Affliction*. He lends his voice to numerous cartoons, including *Arthur*, *Lucky Luke*, *Mona the Vampire* and *Postcards from Buster*.

RESTAURANT

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Stephanie McNamara – Claire Hopkins

Stephanie is thrilled to be back among friends at Centaur. Recent credits include Julia in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Rubicon Theatre, California), Maxine in the Rubicon Theatre and MTC's co-production of *The Night of The Iguana*, Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate* (Theatre New Brunswick), Tracy Lord in MTC and Theatre Calgary's co-production of *The Philadelphia Story*, Virginia Revel in the world premiere of Agatha Christie's *Chimneys* (Vertigo Theatre), Stevie Mills in *Make Me A Match* (Victoria Playhouse Petrolia), and Alexa Vere de Vere in *As Bees In Honey Drown* (Theatre Muskoka.) For Drayton Entertainment: The Woman in *Dads: The Musical* and *Cash On Delivery*, Alice in *Glory Days* (Theatre Aquarius) and Agnes in *I Do, I Do* (Theatre Collingwood.) For Centaur, she has had the pleasure of playing Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Nancy in *Oliver!* and Manon in *Having*, and Molly Ralston in the SBC's production of *The Mousetrap*. Shaw Festival: Nadina in Strauss' operetta *The Chocolate Soldier*, and originated the role of Lady Jessica in Gershwin's *A Foggy Day*. Other theatre: Alice Thompson in Theatre Panache's *Till We Meet Again*, Medea in Emma Tibaldo's production of *Medea*, Woman 1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. For Theatre Lac Brome: Denise Gosselin in *The Anglophone Who Came To Dinner*, Woman in *The Turn Of The Screw*, Evelyn Strange in *Evelyn Strange*, Yvette in *Impromptu at Outremont*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Louise in *Love Always, Patsy Cline*.



Mikel Mroué – Mohammed El Rafi

Mikel Mroué grew up in diverse regions of the world including Québec, Accra, Paris, Toronto and Abidjan before finding a home in Montréal. After pursuing his scholarship at l'Université de Montréal, the multilingual actor attended The Dome Program where he was introduced to the performing arts for the first time (Alumni 2007 – Merit of Excellence). His respect and dedication for the craft was recognized very early in his career as he was lauded for his outstanding performances in a variety of leading roles. His Dome credits extend from classical to contemporary drama in roles such as Shakespeare's young lover Orlando in *As You Like it*, David Edgar's vigilant Professor Katz in *Pentecost* and Tennessee Williams' poetic yet candid Valentine Xavier in *Orpheus Descending*. Upon graduation, Mikel was immediately snapped up by Repercussion Theatre for the title role in Molière's physical comedy *Les Fourberies de Scapin*. The company successfully led the promising team to its first bilingual production all the while earning great acclaim by audiences and critics alike, resulting in an invitation to remount the show this upcoming season. Thrilled to be making his Centaur debut in David Gow's *Relative Good*, Mikel thrives in discussing our current political climate in the hopes that through such thought provoking work, we continue holding "the mirror up to nature..."



Vincent Lefèvre – Set Designer

Born in Strasbourg in 1974, Vincent graduated in Applied Arts, before entering the National Theatre School of Canada. Most of his work has been in French theatres, as well as dance, and opera as a Set and Costume Designer. Some of his recent English productions are *Still Once* (2003) at Le Nouveau Théâtre Anglais, *Death and Taxes* (2005) at the Leonor and Alvin Segal Theatre and the last five Mainstage productions for Opéra McGill. He has previously worked at Centaur as the Set and Costume designer for last year's production for *The Caretaker*. Vincent is thrilled to be part of this production of *Relative Good*.



Ginette Grenier – *Costume Designer*

Since her graduation from The National Theatre School of Canada in 1997, Ginette has designed more than 60 productions. Her work includes theatre, opera, dance, film and television. Selected design credits include *Scrooge* (Théâtre Denise Pelletier) and *Shakespeare pour les nuls* (Juste pour rires). She has worked with many creative people including Douglas Campbell, Bill Glassco, André Brassard and Eric Jean. This is Ginette's first production at Centaur and she is very happy to be working with such a wonderful group of people.



Spike Lyne – *Lighting Designer*

Spike is thrilled to be back at Centaur, where his previous shows include *Have a Heart*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Past Perfect* and *Dinner with Friends*. His more recent designs include *Amadeus* (Mecca Nominee for Best Lighting), *Shakespeare for My Father*, *My Old Lady* (Mecca Award winner for Best Lighting) and *Rose* at the Leonor and Alvin Segal Theatre; *The Love List* for Neptune Theatre; and *Marie Stuart* for Théâtre du Rideau Vert. For Kaylan, I hope we can start making the world a more sane and peaceful place for you to grow up.



L. Kalo Gow – *Assistant Director*

L. Kalo Gow is an actor, screenwriter, director, playwright, vocal coach and period movement/dance choreographer. Kalo wrote, directed and produced the short film *Lemonade*. Her feature length film *Eating Cake* and television series *Waiting for Dessert* are both in development. Kalo directed in Boston for Unit II Theatre Co., Playwright's Platform, and Nucleo Ectetico Inc. She wrote and directed over twenty-five plays and musicals for young audiences and was the Artistic Director of Belmont Children's Theatre in Boston. Kalo holds an M.F.A. in Theatre/Acting, a Diploma in Teaching Voice and a Specialization in Teaching Movement from York University, as well as an M.Ed. in Theatre from Lesley University in Cambridge. Kalo's academic publications include *The Vocal Vision: Views on Voice by 24 Leading Teachers, Coaches and Directors*, published by Applause Books. Kalo has taught acting, voice and movement since 1988. Select institutions include: McGill University, Concordia University, Teesri Duniya Theatre, Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts (where she was Head of the Acting Area), York University, Humber College, Emerson College, Boston College, Lesley University, The Roy Hart Theatre, The New Theatre, The Vocal Lab, The Women's Performing Artist Forum, and Kendall Center for the Arts. In her varied career in theatre, Kalo has worked with the likes of The Roy Hart Theatre in France, Shakespeare and Co., Jean-Claude van Itallie, and the Riolama Theatre/Dance Ensemble. Kalo's professional memberships include ACTRA, CAEA, ATME and VASTA.

SEAGRAM ART GALLERY at CENTAUR THEATRE

Vickie Marston is originally from Wolfville, Nova Scotia. For the past 8 seasons she has been the Head of Props at Centaur Theatre. A Freelance Designer for many Theatres in Nova Scotia, The Atlantic Theatre Festival, Neptune Theatre and Mermaid Theatre, photography is an interest she has developed in her free time.

When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs.
~Ansel Adams





Christina Hidalgo – Stage Manager

Previous Centaur credits: Stage Manager for *Glorious!*, *Have A Heart*, *Hellfire Pass*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Mambo Italiano*, *Blue/Orange*, *Vinci*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Trick or Treat*, *Glenn*, *Venus of Dublin*, *Having*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and Assistant Stage Manager for *Twelfth Night*, *Angels In America Pt. 1* and *If We Are Women*. Selected Montreal Productions: *The Lady Smith* (Black Theatre Workshop); *Gas*, *Death and Taxes*, *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccomatios*, *Barnacle Wood* (Infinithatre); *Here and There* (Nouveau Théâtre Anglais), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Sunday Father* (Leonor and Alvin Segal Theatre); and *Leacock Speaks* (Geordie Productions). Last summer, she was the SM on the inaugural production of *Creon* for TheatreWorks in Toronto, and on *Mambo Italiano* with Mary Long's Bellweather Productions, both of which will be remounted this year. Since graduating from Ryerson Theatre School 17 years ago, she has worked on over 100 productions at companies including The National Arts Centre, Great Canadian Theatre Company, Opera Lyra, Theatre New Brunswick, Toronto Dance Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Centre and The Stratford Festival. She would like to thank the fantastic Centaur Gang and her cast, and especially David for being so great to work with. And welcome to Roy.



Sarah-Marie Langlois – Apprentice Stage Manager

Born in Toronto, Sarah-Marie moved to Quebec in 2003 to attend Bishop's University. During her three years of study in their theatre department, she stage managed such shows as *Les Belles Soeurs* directed by Diana Fajrajsl, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* directed by Greg Tuck, and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* directed by Mike Kennard. In addition, Sarah-Marie worked for Township's Stage during her summers, lending a helping hand to shows like *The Foursome* and *Kingfisher Days*. Since moving to Montreal, Sarah-Marie has been busy busy busy! Montreal credits include; *That Woman* (Talisman Theatre), *The Lady Smith* (Black Theatre Workshop), *That Woman* (Infinithatre and Talisman Theatre), *Gas* (Infinithatre), and *My Name Is Rachel Corrie* (Teesri Duniya and neworld Theatre).

**Centaur menu available from 5pm to 6h30pm
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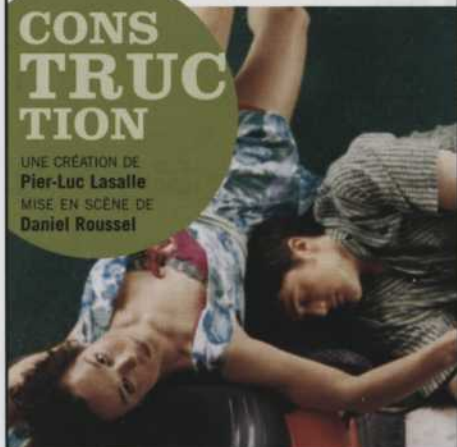
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educates and inspires young leaders of tomorrow

Centaur Theatre Company is proud to have developed its popular Theatre of Tomorrow (TOT) program, designed to inspire and enhance the theatre going experience in the lives of thousands of local high-school students.

Each year, close to 3000 young people attend special matinee performances of Centaur Theatre Company productions through the TOT program. Centaur teams up with educators by providing participating high schools with tickets at special discount prices, instructional workbooks and the unique opportunity to meet the actors and creative team after the show. The TOT experience begins with students reading the play before attending the performance. Teachers are provided with a workbook that includes detailed background information on the play and production, notes on the playwright as well as suggested improvisations, preparation activities and theatre games. In many cases, seeing a show at the Centaur is the first live theatre experience for the student. With this in mind, the workbook includes an introduction to theatre etiquette, an overview of "who's who" in the theatre process as well as the inside track of what it takes to stage a theatrical production. Following the performance, students can articulate ideas and ask questions at a moderated talk-back session with the cast.

Centaur Theatre selects TOT productions for their educational value as well as their potential to entertain and inspire. T.O.T. Shows this season are *The Carpenter*, *Half Life*, *Relative Good*, *Maddy Heisler* and *Forever Yours, Marie-Lou*. The discounted ticket price and costs associated with TOT, are generously subsidized by Great West Life.

For more information on how you can support the Theatre of Tomorrow initiative and join Centaur Theatre Company in encouraging cultural activity in the lives of thousands of young people contact

Eric Sukhu, Group Sales and Outreach Coordinator at (514) 288-1229 x245 or by fax at (514) 288-8575.

At Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life, we are committed to enriching communities through our support of the arts. We focus on accessibility and audience involvement, and encourage the participation and education of youth. We're proud to support Theatre of Tomorrow through the Centaur Theatre Company as they engage minds, entertain audiences and encourage new ideas.

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To create, develop and present a season of thought-provoking plays that reflect our artistic vision and inspire and engage the Montreal community is a joy and a privilege for all of us who are associated with this great theatre company.

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Featured Players (\$250 - \$499)

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Janet Gail Donald
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Blake T. and Helen Budd Hanna
Patricia Hadley
Barbara and Neil Hindle
Hugh A. Jones
George King
David Laidley and Ellen Wallace
Ann Lambert
Judith Mappin
Dac T. Nguyen D.D.S.
Chris and Doug Onions
Joan and Alex Paterson
Lillian and René Pilon
Wakeham and Gabrielle Pilot
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**CENTAUR
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Roy Surette,
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