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theatre



By

BILL SOLLY

montreal repertory

in this issue

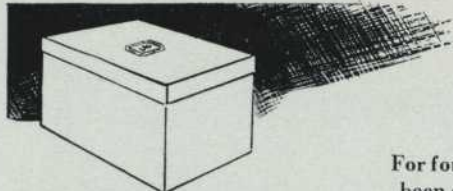
THE CANADIAN THEATREGOER

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BACKSTAGE NEWS

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THE CANADIAN THEATREGOER

THREE weeks ago, The Montreal Repertory Theatre presented its finest production for a long time. Yet, despite the topical theme, excellent reviews and usual publicity, the houses for Gore Vidal's "Visit To A Small Planet" were, to say the least, disappointing.

Why is this so?

To answer this question we must briefly examine what the Canadian theatregoer likes. It is difficult to put everyone in the same category, so we merely give you a picture of the average theatregoer's taste. There are exceptions, perhaps many exceptions, but the majority of the people who patronize theatre in this country are attracted by "big names".

Is it therefore necessary to have a well-known personality in your cast to fill your theatre? This could well be the answer, but unfortunately it is not always possible. The Mountain Playhouse, run so successfully by Norma Springford, has used this tactic, and to great advantage.

When travelling companies pass through Montreal there is always the attraction of the stars who usually head the bill. Almost a year ago "Back To Methuselah" came to Montreal. This Arnold Moss adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's extremely long play had an extremely imposing cast with Tyrone Power, Fay Emerson and Arthur Treacher. The play itself had no great appeal, yet throughout its tour, before opening on Broadway, the houses were extremely good. On Broadway it lasted out its limited run and passed away peacefully.

Then again too many Canadians take an annual or bi-annual trip to New York and see the plays on Broadway. They return home, talk at length of what they have seen, and sit for the rest of the year in front of their television sets.

It is up to the public to support the theatre. The M.R.T., which is the community theatre of this city, has an extremely important role in Montreal. But without the active participation of Montrealers, it cannot hope to survive.

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One night per week

Fees: \$20.00 per 10-week term

TEEN-AGE CLASSES — Commencing Jan. 9th, 1959

1½ hours per week between 4.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on weekdays

Minimum age: 13 years

Fees per 10-week term: \$25.00

CHILDREN'S CLASSES — Commencing Jan. 10th, 1959

1½ hours per week between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 on Saturday morning

Minimum age: 10 years

Fees per 10-week term: \$25.00

EATING OUT

by the Editors

The play is over but the night is still young. Why not add the final touch to a perfect evening and dine at one of Montreal's superb restaurants? Make your way to **CAFE ANDRE**, 2077 Victoria Street, where a delightful musical revue — *Up Tempo '59* — is spoofing at local and provincial taboos. There are two shows nightly at 9 p.m. and 11.30 p.m.

For Old World atmosphere in a charming setting, a hearty welcome from a real live piglet and the finest French cuisine served by candlelight, visit **AU LUTIN QUI BOUFFE**, 753 St. Gregoire Street, off St. Hubert.

If you wish, you may choose your own fish at **MONSIEUR NEPTUNE**, 1482 Mansfield. Here tanks of fresh water and sea fish tempt the gourmet who enjoys lobster or lake trout.

An early supper before the theatre? How about a trip to **LE PANORAMA** atop The Queen Elizabeth Hotel. Here you can watch the city twinkling below you and sip such exotic drinks as The Tropical Itch complete with backscratcher. For a light snack you can have shrimps with pineapple or Swiss cheese croquettes. In the **SALLE BONAVENTURE** there is dancing and two top line cabaret shows every evening.

A gathering place for epicures is **MOTHER MARTIN'S**, better known as the New Carlton Hotel, 915 Windsor Street. With five dining rooms each with a different flavour and individual charm, Mother Martin's is a mecca for Montrealers and all visitors to our city.

LA TOUR EIFFEL, 1422 Stanley Street, the home of French classical cuisine, is small, chic, intimate with delicious food, wine and liquors served in true French tradition in a Parisian atmosphere. In the Pavillion, Irene Andrian sings nightly; with her complete repertoire of **chansonnettes françaises**, you feel as if you have been transported to Paris.

If you wish to mingle with the "greats" of Montreal's theatreland and all your favorites from television, then drop in and visit Edouard Lelarge at his Parisian restaurant "**AU 400**" at 1500 Drummond Street. Here the stars meet and mingle as theatre life and television are discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

The Montreal restaurant with traditional English atmosphere is **DRURY'S** at 1082 Osborne Street. A fine, old chop house which dates back to 1888, it caters to the businessmen. Their steaks are most spectacular when served aflame beside your table.

CAFE MARTIN, 1521 Mountain Street, could well be termed the aristocrat of Montreal's restaurants. Open from noon till 11 p.m., the Flamingo Room is a long time favorite for visiting diplomats and tycoons. If you are a famous-face spotter — here's your dining spot.

After the theatre many feel like a quick sandwich and a cup of coffee before taking to the road. **BEN'S**, world-famous as the super-smoked-meat-sandwich palace, is situated at 990 Burnside.

An exciting piece of news for many of the diners around town with exotic tastes is the opening of the **KON-TIKI** restaurant in the Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel. Foods from the South Sea Islands . . . Stephen Crane, who runs the famous **LUAU** Restaurant in Beverly Hills, California, was brought to Montreal by the Sheraton Corporation to supervise the construction of this welcome addition to our city.

It's friendly and gracious in **THE RITZ CAFE** at night. Dine and watch one of the delightful cabaret stars. You can dance to the music of the Paul Notar Trio; every visit here is a memorable event.

The **EL MOROCCO** is one of the city's plushiest night spots. Situated next door to the MRT on Closse Street, it is a club which offers only the best in entertainment. Top line cabaret stars feature in this intimate and warm atmosphere.

We hear that Slitkin and Slotkin are back together again serving their famous charcoal broiled steaks at the **BLACK ANGUS**, 2017 Peel Street. This is welcome news and we wish them the best of luck . . . you can dine Chez S & S from 5.30 p.m. onwards.

If you have time to linger over your food — then settle yourself into Le Pavillion Room of the **HOTEL DE LA SALLE**, on Drummond Street just below St. Catherine Street. Here the elegance of Paris, the warmth of French-Canadian hospitality and a menu and cellar to delight the epicure are all on hand. If you haven't the time, then go next door to the Cavalier Room or the Club Cafe, both have fabulous cuisine.

Before signing off we would like to advise a trip to the Cabaret Room of **CHEZ ERNEST**, 1500 Drummond Street. You'll like the atmosphere — it sends you back to those Parisian nights . . . Just an intimate musical bar.

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As the season at the M.R.T. reaches its half-way mark and we enter 1959, it is only right that CUE should pay tribute to the person who has directed so successfully five of the six productions this season.

Julia Murphy, M.R.T.'s resident director since the beginning of this season, has a wealth of experience in every field of drama, inexhaustible imagination and boundless energy. Add this to her quiet and unassuming manner, her total interest in the theatre and its followers, and you realise how qualified she is to direct the productions at this theatre.

Four years ago the Canadian Observer described Julia Murphy as "one of the most notable and gifted players on the Canadian stage" with "a rare competence in direction."

This was on her arrival in Sarnia as director of a season of summer stock. Her company was the group known as The Saturday Players, which she was instrumental in turning into a professional summer stock company.

Canadian by birth, she studied for two years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, obtained her acting diploma, and

also at London University where she also holds an acting diploma.

For twenty years, Julia Murphy directed the Ottawa Little Theatre, for whom she won the Bessborough Trophy in the 1952 Drama Festival. She has also directed for the Crest Theatre and the Canadian Repertory Theatre. Before coming to the M.R.T. she spent three years with the National Film Board and directed six films.

At the M.R.T. Julia Murphy has taught in the winter night school and its first summer school. She also organized and directed the M.R.T. Workshop last season.

When her appointment as resident director was announced last August, Ray Cunningham, the managing director of this theatre, expressed the hope that under one director a team of actors would be established for the Montreal Repertory Theatre.

Already, as regular M.R.T. followers will have seen, a group of actors have come together to form the backbone of this season's productions.

For this, and for the quality of this season's productions, we must take off our hats to Julia Murphy.



"Things which you do not hope happen more frequently than things which you do hope!"

Plautus: *Mostallaria*

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CUE for January 1959 7

PLAYBILL

The Montreal Repertory Theatre Playhouse Presents

PRODUCTION

MUSICAL

NUMBERS

STAGED BY

Frank Blanche

ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY

Brian Macdonald

SETS DESIGNED BY

Arthur Voronka

LIGHTING DESIGNED BY

Nicholas Ayer

COSTUMES DESIGNED BY

Lydia Crisp

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Ed Assaly

MUSICIANS:

Pianos, Ed Assaly,

Rusty Davis;

Drums,

Johnny Nadeau

Bill Solly's

I Love Electra

DIRECTED BY JULIA MURPHY

THE FURIES

Pat Homenick
Vernis Christie
Pat Tully

HERMIONE O'HARA

Marilyn Gardner

ELECTRA

Christine Donaghy

PORK PIE LAD

Randy Davies

FANNY O'REILLY

Sheila Scott

EGG ISTHOS

Donald MacIntyre

BIGGO O'REILLY

John Hempstead

R.C.M.P. OFFICER

Jean-Roger Périard

LITTLE O'REILLY

Wilfred Hastings

VOICE OF MISS FRIBBONS

Shirley Harrison

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Terry LaBrosse

CHORUS: Joan Armstrong, Shirley Harrison, Ann McAllen, Margaret Noakes, Carlene Hammond, Slawko Nowytski, Donald Hatfield, Richard Hogan, Bob Raymond, Terry LaBrosse.

The Story:—

The action takes place in Montreal's Belmont Park, a vaudeville theatre in Toronto and in The Oracle Television Studios, Montreal.

Miss Gardner's Furs by J. K. Walkden Ltd., Miss Scott's Coiffure by Marcel Beauty Salon, Flowers by Carl, Poster Design by Randy Davies, Lighting Equipment by Independent Productions.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

<i>East, West or Nowhere</i>	The Furies
<i>Dressed Up Tonight</i>	Electra
<i>Of Love</i>	Fanny and Egg
<i>None Fear I</i>	Fanny and Chorus
<i>Write A Big, Big O</i>	Biggo
<i>Before The Winter Sets In</i>	The Furies
<i>People Who Live In Beautiful Houses</i>	Electra and Pork Pie Lad
<i>Recrimination Waltz</i>	Fanny, Biggo, Egg, Mountie, Furies
<i>Threnody for a Daddy You!</i>	Electra, Chorus
<i>Go Back to the Greeks</i>	Little O, Hermione, Pork Pie Lad

Act Two

<i>She Wants Me</i>	Little O, Hermione
<i>Earth, Sea and Sky</i>	Biggo, Electra
<i>Green Ambrosia</i>	Chorus
<i>I Love Electra</i>	Pork Pie Lad, Furies
<i>Married Alive</i>	Fanny, Biggo
<i>Reprise: People Who Live In Beautiful Houses</i>	Electra
<i>Finale</i>	

The Time:—

Soon after the advent of independent television,
between noon and midnight on Friday, October 13th.

CREDITS

STAGE MANAGER

Griffith Brewer

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Nicholas Ayer

ASSISTANT TO THE PRODUCER

Terry LaBrosse

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Carlene Hammond

LIGHTING

Jim Blackburn
Eric Scott

ASSISTANT FOR COSTUMES

Shirley Harrison

PROPERTIES

Jocelyn Kinsman

BACKSTAGE CREW

The Chorus

Baby Doll Pyjamas designed for The Furies by Taylor Maid.

BACKSTAGE NEWS

OUR PLAYERS

Red-headed Fury **PAT TULLY** is a recent arrival in Montreal from Ireland. By day she divides her time between importing French poodles from Ireland and being a mother-housewife. In Dublin she worked with the Pike Theatre. Our middle Fury, **PAT HOMENICK**, is a former Winnipegger, who has appeared in several television productions. For the past three years she's been with the Montreal Musical Comedy Theatre. Last, but not least in the line of Furies, is **VERNIS CHRISTIE**, who has appeared with all the local theatre groups in town. Vernis was last seen at M.R.T. in *Ninety-Nine Times Around The Block*. With extensive experience in musical comedy, she was at one time lead singer with the Belasco Players in Edmonton.

MARILYN GARDNER, who first appeared in this theatre as the Blonde Bombshell in "Will Success Spoil Rock Hudson?", plays Hermione O'Hara in this production. Also one of the Montreal Musical Comedy Theatre's most promising young stars, television viewers have seen her often on *The Tapp Room*. Another newcomer to Montreal is our Electra, **CHRISTINE DONAGHY**, who studied voice and music in Boston and New York before coming to this town.

A commercial artist by day, **RANDY DAVIES**, who plays the Pork Pie Lad, has been very busy in local musical comedy and with the McGill Red and White revues for the past five years. **SHEILA SCOTT**, who springs to life as Fanny O'Reilly, has played many character roles for Trinity Players and sang and danced as a wedding guest in "The Italian Straw Hat."

DON MacINTYRE, who plays Egg Isthos, has been very busy at our theatre this season. In the last production, "Visit to A Small Planet", he played out-of-this-world Delton 4. He has also appeared in *Inherit The Wind* and *Macbeth*. Another steady M.R.T. player is **JOHN HEMPSTEAD**, in this production Biggo O'Reilly, who is also heard regularly on radio and last summer appeared at North Hatley Playhouse.

Our Mountie, **JEAN-ROGER PERIARD**, appeared in "My Fur Lady" which took

Canada by storm. Trinity Players and the Montreal Musical Comedy Theatre have also used his talents to advantage.

WILFRED HASTINGS, whose role of Governor-General in "My Fur Lady" won wide acclaim, is making his first appearance with M.R.T. as Little O'Reilly. He played with a number of groups in Britain before coming to Canada. In this day and age of equal rights for women, we find many girls working backstage in our theatres. **SHIRLEY HARRISON**, one of MRT's apprentices last year, has been involved backstage in many productions this season. Last summer she toured with "Wry and Ginger". In this production she is heard as the Voice of Miss Fribbons.

Our Master of Ceremonies, **TERRY LABROSSE**, also toured with Wry and Ginger. He has appeared at La Poudrière and North Hatley Playhouse and has taken part in many M.R.T. productions.



There's still time . . .

to become an MEMBER

Enjoy the feeling of *belonging* to Montreal's most go-ahead English-speaking theatre. Meet your favourite actors *in person* at the informal coffee parties after every first night. Take advantage of the special box-office arrangements available to members. Receive advance information about the players and the plays. Register your vote as to how you want your theatre run. All these privileges are reserved for members only.

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CUE for January 1959 11

SHOWS YOU SHOULDN'T MISS

by the Editors

Comédie Canadienne, 84 St. Catherine St. West. Where the University of Montreal are holding their annual revue, *La Revue Bleu et Or* from January 19-26. For further information call UNiversity 1-3339.

Her Majesty's Theatre, 1421 Guy St. John Osborne's provocative dramatic hit from London and Broadway "Look Back In Anger" opens Jan. 12 for one week only. Donald Harron and Pippa Scott feature in this potent and compelling play which won the drama critics award for the best play of the year. For further information call Wellington 5-2488.

Orpheum Theatre, 525 St. Catherine St. West. Montreal's famous French-Canadian troupe, *Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde*, are presenting Marcel Dube's *Le Temps du Lilas* in French as from Jan. 5. This is expected to run for three weeks and will be followed by *Venice Sauvée*, for a run of five weeks. Information at VICTOR 2-9181.

Le Theatre Club (formerly The Studio), 1858 St. Luke St. A new and lively musical revue, produced by

Jack Greenwald, opens here on Jan. 15. Starring David Broadfoot, whose success in *Off Limits* is well known to visitors to the Mountain Playhouse last summer, the new revue is entitled "Poise 'n Ivy". Gerald Gross is directing this new production which will play nightly at 8.45 p.m., except Mondays, and there will be two performances on Saturdays and Sundays, at 6.15 and 9.15 p.m. For information call WELLINGTON 7-8978.

MRT Playhouse, 1429 Closse St. The bright and original musical revue, "I Love Electra" stars a top line cast including John Hempstead, Marilyn Gardner and Christine Donaghy. The book, music and lyrics are all written by brilliant young Hamiltonian Bill Solly. On January 27, the MRT Studio are presenting *Squaring The Circle*. Further information at WELLINGTON 5-4683.

Café André, 2077 Victoria St. An off beat musical revue, *Up Tempo '59*, returns once again on Jan. 8 and is expected to pack the house. Two shows nightly, with Sylvia Gillespie, Joan Stuart, and other top rank young actors in the cast. For information call UN. 9-5038.

CURRENT CINEMA

by Harold Whitehead

Auntie Mame: "Better than the play. Best performance of Rosalind Russell so far".

The Geisha Boy: "If you can stand Jerry Lewis — you'll like it."

Tonka: "A nice entertainment for the kids."

The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad: "Lots of fun for the children but rather over full of monsters."

Search for Paradise: "Another travel show in cinerama, but you see a bit too much of producer Lowell Thomas."

(Harold Whitehead is the film critic of the Montreal Gazette and one of the city's foremost cinema specialists.)

In
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A cigarette of elegance...
A filter of particular purity



Best Wishes

to M.R.T.'s first Musical

"I Love Electra"

from North Hatley Playhouse

The field of musical comedy is clean and fresh for our theatre. And so is our production — "I Love Electra".

It is natural that an original musical comedy is easier to produce than one of Broadway's smash hits. The M.R.T. has been extremely wise in selecting a musical comedy within its own production scope—nothing too elaborate.

Billy Solly, who contributed the book, lyrics and music of this musical is an old hand at musical comedies. Although this

is the first of his works to be seen in Canada, his first work, "Sweet William", had quite a success in London early in 1956. Since then he has been busy writing and was a member of the professional cast of "My Fur Lady".

"I Love Electra" could well be considered as the test for musical comedy within M.R.T. We very much hope that it will be a success and that a show of this description is featured annually in our season's programme.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

Anyone who remembers the success of last year's M.R.T. Workshop production "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be glad to hear that a similar tryout production will be included this season as an "extra".

Under the direction of Robert Verniks, the M.R.T. Studio will present the hilarious Russian Comedy "Squaring the

The M.R.T. Studio presents. . .

Circle", which recently ran for over fifty performances in French in this city.

This play will be presented for one week only, opening January 27, and special reduced prices are available for this production only. For M.R.T. members the box office will open on January 12 and for the general public on January 19.

IN THE LOBBY

Painting and acting seem to mix like Scotch and soda. It is for this reason that M.R.T. has given its patrons the added attraction of a fresh lobby display for each production.

This month our exhibitor is Hugh John Barret, a young Montrealer, whose work has already commanded outstanding attention.

He studied drawing and painting at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and at eighteen he held his first exhibition in the city. At that time he was already showing exceptional control of the graphic arts. Since then through isolation and close study of nature, he has turned toward a more abstract symbolism.

Recently his works were seen in group shows at the Agnes Lefort gallery and are at present on exhibition at the Artek Gallery.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Perhaps the most eagerly awaited production in the MRT schedule for the current season is Bernard Shaw's comedy, *Arms and the Man*, which opens February 3.

Generally considered to be Shaw's funniest play, *Arms and the Man* was written over sixty years ago, yet is still topical.

Box office for the public opens on January 26, for members it will be open from January 19.

At twenty-three, Hugh John Barret can well be hailed as one of the promising young Montreal artists of today.

LETTERS

December 10th, 1958

Mr. Peter Hoos,
Montreal Repertory Theatre,
1429 Crosse Street,
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Mr. Hoos,

I wish to thank you wholeheartedly for the wonderful article you have written for Montreal Repertory's Magazine "Cue". This informative piece will, I am convinced, serve the best interests of Comedie Canadienne and the Theatre at large.

Cordially,

GRATIEN GELINAS,
Director of
La Comedie Canadienne Inc.
84 St. Catherine Street West.

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Montreal's first permanent theatre, called Theatre Royal, was founded in 1825 by John Molson who, forty years earlier, had founded Molson's Brewery.

Since then, his descendants have been leaders in cultural, sports and civic fields and closely identified with Montreal's progress.

The Brewery he founded, now operated by the fifth generation of the Molson family, has developed through tradition, experience and recognition of the public's taste until it has become the largest in Canada.




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