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THEATRE COMPANY

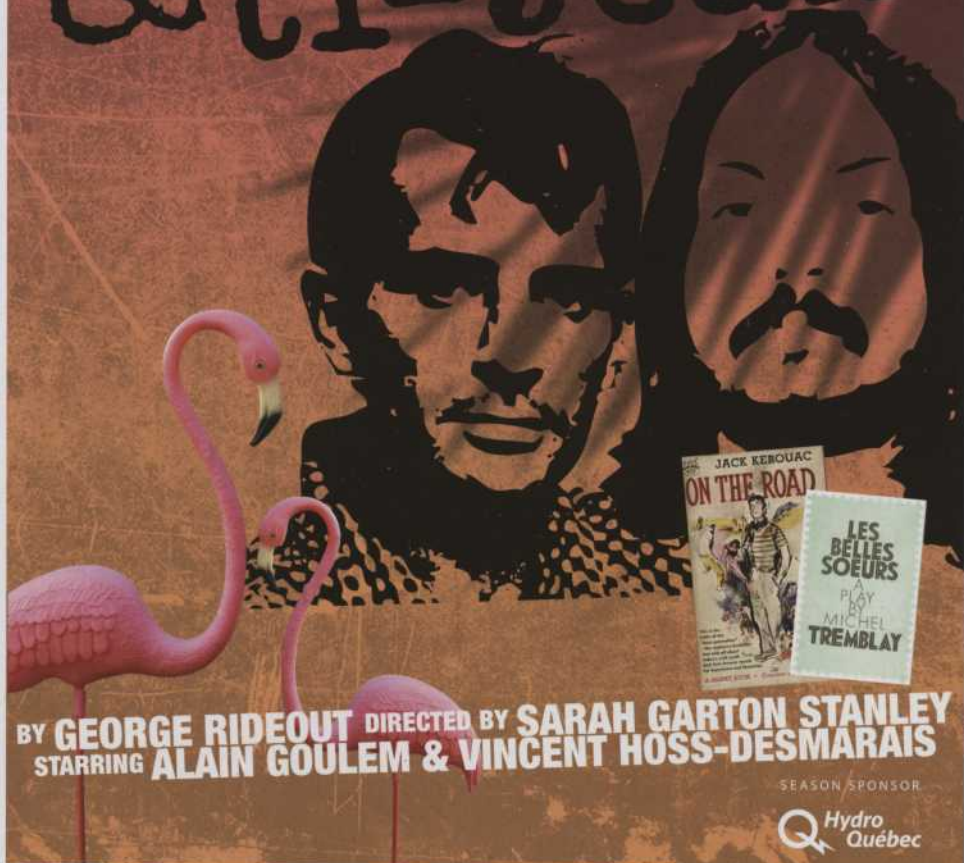
February 2 - March 7, 2010



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Michel & ti-Jean



BY **GEORGE RIDEOUT** DIRECTED BY **SARAH GARTON STANLEY**
STARRING **ALAIN GOULEM & VINCENT HOSS-DESMARAIS**

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CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY

presents

The WORLD PREMIERE of

Michel &ti-Jean

By **George Rideout**

Directed by **Sarah Garton Stanley**

FEBRUARY 2 TO MARCH 7, 2010

STARRING

Alain Goulem as Jack Kerouac
Vincent Hoss-Desmarais as Michel Tremblay

Set & Costume Design by **Amy Keith**
Lighting Design by **Kirsten Watt**
Music Composed by **Ian Tambllyn**
Stage Manager **Melanie St-Jacques**
Apprentice Stage Manager **Stephanie Link**
Assistant Director **Deborah Forde**

Setting: St. Petersburg, Florida, 1969

RECORDED MUSIC FEATURING THE FOLLOWING MUSICIANS

Tenor and alto sax, clarinet **Ian Babb**
Drums and percussion **Olivier Fairfield**
Double bass **John Geggie**
Button accordion, spoons **Jean Marc Lalonde**
Pocket trumpet, violin, trombone **Brian Sanderson**
Piano, guitar, synthesizer **Ian Tambllyn**

THERE WILL BE **ONE 15 MINUTE** INTERMISSION.



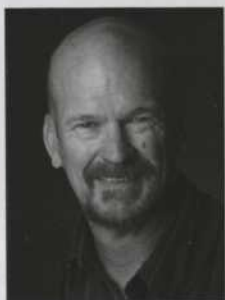
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Jack Kerouac is widely known as the author of *On the Road*, the face of the Beat Generation, and an inspirational force behind the counter-culture movement of the 1960s. Michel Tremblay, Québec's most influential playwright and novelist, helped change the face of his society with *Les Belles Soeurs* and his many other unflinching portraits of a dispossessed people.

Less well known, however, is the striking similarity in the formative years of these two literary giants. The iconic nature of *On the Road* as an American anthem has obscured the fact that Kerouac was born into a Franco-American working class family with Québécois roots, that he didn't speak English until he was six years old, and that his three "Lowell" novels—*Visions of Gerard*, *Dr. Sax*, and *Maggie Cassidy*—offer the reader a portrait of a childhood world remarkably similar to the one depicted in the works of Tremblay: a close-knit extended French-Catholic family, a father who worked as a printer, an artistic boy child who abandoned himself to the world of books, and an adored mother who did all in her power to protect and nurture her young prodigy.

This fictional meeting between the two writers takes place in the fall of 1969. The 47-year-old Kerouac will be dead in a month's time from chronic alcoholism. Just 27, Tremblay will go on to create a body of work comparable to that of Balzac and Proust.

*A Note: The musical foundation of Tremblay's and Kerouac's work has been noted by many critics. Tremblay's dramatic structure has been called "symphonic" and Kerouac's spontaneous prose has been compared to free form jazz. Kerouac recorded many sessions with famous jazz musicians who provided soundscapes to his spoken word. The stage musical of Tremblay's **Les Belles Soeurs** opens next spring.*

George Rideout

Playwright

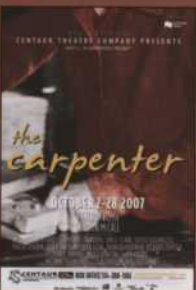
National Bank Financial Group and the arts.

National Bank Financial Group has been a supporter of Centaur Theatre for at least 20 years as a corporate donor. However, the Bank's most important contribution is as a Production Sponsor. They first sponsored a Centaur production (*Hellfire Pass*) in 2006, and went on to sponsor all three plays in Vittorio Rossi's *Carpenter's Trilogy*. National Bank recently renewed a three-year commitment to sponsor a production in each Centaur season, including this season's hit, *In Piazza San Domenico* by Steve Galluccio.

Roy Surette, Centaur's Artistic Director, said, "This level of trust and reliability is what arts organizations need to succeed. Without corporate partnerships like this one with National Bank, Centaur's ability to bring the best of international, national and local theatre to our community would be seriously compromised."

BRAVO!

Bravo to the National Bank Financial Group
and other visionary corporate citizens
supporting the arts!



CENTAUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & BIOGRAPHIES

Along with Jack Kerouac, three other names have come to be most associated with the Beat Generation.

Allen Ginsberg—author of *HOWL*, the most famous poem of the post-war era. Bob Dylan acknowledges him as major influence on his writing. Ginsberg became a very public figure in the anti-war movement of the late sixties.

William Burroughs—author of *Naked Lunch* and a dozen other novels that depict a surreal world of addiction to narcotics, sex, and power. Burroughs has been called the greatest satirical writer since Jonathan Swift.

Neal Cassady—the embodiment of the free spirit that the Beat Generation extolled. Cassady was the model for Dean Moriarty in Kerouac's *On the Road*. In the sixties he was the driver of Ken Kesey's magic bus that drove the Merry Pranksters across America. Perhaps most importantly, Kerouac regarded Neal Cassady as a replacement for his brother Gérard, who died at the age of nine.

Special thanks to Michel Tremblay and Iris Turcott for their generous support.



GEORGE RIDEOUT

(Playwright)

Raised in Texas, George Rideout moved to Thunder Bay, Ontario at the age of sixteen. He lived in several different provinces before settling for good in the Eastern Townships of Québec. Many of his plays reflect his fascination with cross-cultural relationships, particularly as they exist in times of great social change. Those plays include *Texas Boy* (which has had more than thirty different productions), *The Longstreth Line*, *Walking on the Moon*, *689 Spadina Ave.*, *The Austin Texas Twist Championship*, *Dead Together*, *The Tall Girl*, *An Anglophone is Coming to Dinner*, and *Michel and Ti-Jean*.



SARAH GARTON STANLEY

(Director)

Sarah is beyond happy to be returning to direct at the Centaur. (Previously: *Glorious! Forever Yours Marie-Lou* and *Age of Arousal*) Next up Sarah is directing *The Mill: The Woods* written by Tara Beagan. This is part 3 of a 4-part cycle produced by Theatrefront and The Young Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto. She follows up by coming

home to Montreal, and directing Amy Lee Lavoie's graduating play *Stop Heart* for NTS, where she will also get the gift of working with the graduating actors, designers and production students and doing it all alongside graduating directing student Steven McCarthy as he takes on Jeremy Taylor's *Shout!* All this can be seen at the Monument National at the end of April! Sarah co-heads The Directing Program at NTS and is a Professional Adjunct in the Theatre Department at *Concordia University* in Montreal.

ALAIN GOULEM

(Jack Kerouac)

Alain is pleased to be back at Centaur for the eighth time. Past theatre credits include *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Centaur Theatre), *Richard III* (Manitoba Theatre Centre), *Dishwashers* (Sidemart Theatrical Grocery), *The Tempest* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Stratford Festival), *The Odyssey* (Banff Centre) and *The Jungle Book* (Geordie Tour, Citadel and Manitoba Theatre for Young People). Film and TV credits include *Snake Eyes* (Paramount), *Boys Of St. Vincent* (NFB), *The Tournament* (CBC) and *18 to Life* (CBC).



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VINCENT HOSS-DESMARAIS
(Michel Tremblay)

Vincent has performed several lead parts on stage, notably Jean-Paul in the world premiere of *Vimy* (Citadel Theatre, Edmonton-2007),

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Amadeus* (Geordie Productions-2004), Pony in *SubUrbia* (Persephone Productions-2004), Dr. Lyman Sanderson in *Harvey* (Geordie-2005), Brian Mulholland in *Cabaret Insupportable* (Transthéâtre-2007), Justin in *Prescription for Murder* (InfiniTheatre-2007) and the Player in excerpts of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (National Theatre School of Canada production program-2007). Vincent has been the ringleader and actor for the special events of *Cirque Éloïze* since 2006, performing with the circus across Canada and soon in Switzerland. His selected television and film credits include the leading roles Justin Deschênes in 33 episodes of the dramatic television series *Casting* (TQS), Micah in the Hollywood indie feature film *Orgy of Blood*, Marius Borodine in the Canadian short film *Marius Borodine*, Young Mozart in the series *L'Écran Classique* (CF), as well as guest appearances in the series *Les Invincibles, C.A.* (both on Radio-Canada) and *The Business* (MN). Vincent is a member of UDA, ACTRA, CAEA, SARTEC and the Quebec Bar.


AMY KEITH
(Set & Costume Designer)

This is Amy's first time designing at Centaur Theatre. She has been working for film and theatre for the past ten years, mostly in Montreal.

Some of the companies Amy has had the pleasure of collaborating with include The Other Theatre, Imago Theatre, Geordie Productions, Black Theatre Workshop, Concordia University, McGill University,

Oregon State University, Landed 2, Gale Gates et al (NYC), The 1000 Islands Playhouse, and many other projects with dancers, filmmakers and independent theatre artists. Amy also teaches part-time at Concordia University in the Music, Theatre, and Contemporary Dance departments. She would like to extend a warm thank you to the Centaur team, the *Michel & ti-Jean* company and especially to Sarah for the creative process.

KIRSTEN WATT
(Lighting Designer)

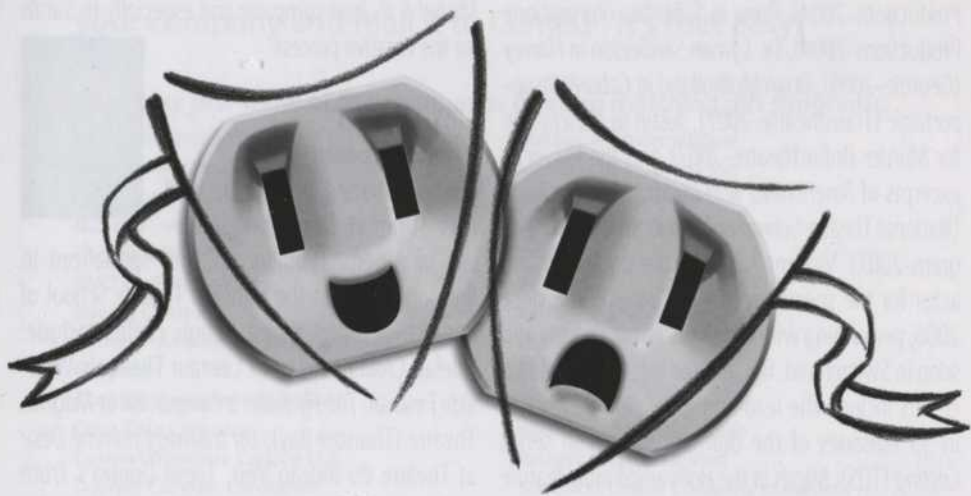
Kirsten attained her Bachelor of Arts (Drama) from the University of Alberta (Edmonton), and specialized in lighting design at the National Theatre School of Canada. Recent lighting design credits include: Odelah Creations' *Ties* at Centaur Theatre's Wildside Festival; *The Fly Fisher's Companion* at Magnús Theatre (Thunder Bay); *Un tramway nommé Désir* at Théâtre du Rideau Vert; Teesri Duniya's *Truth & Treason* at Studio Hydro-Québec; *Star Chamber* at the Shaw Festival (Niagara-on-the-Lake); and *Pirates of Penzance* and *Over the River & Through the Woods* at the Segal Centre. Following *Michel & ti-Jean*, Kirsten will return to Niagara-on-the-Lake for her fourth season at the Shaw Festival, where she will design *Half an Hour*. Kirsten is a member of Associated Designers of Canada. She is excited and grateful to work with such a talented team for the premiere of *Michel & ti-Jean*.


IAN TAMBLYN
(Composer)

Ian Tamblyn has been a musician and writer for many years, having recorded over thirty CDs and records. He has worked on countless theatre and film projects including the *Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe* and *Vinci*



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at Centaur Theatre. He was resident composer at Great Canadian Theatre Company (Ottawa) for ten years and composer and designer at Young Peoples Theatre (Toronto) for four years. Ian Tamblyn has also written eleven plays. Awards include Doras and Jessies as well as Juno nominations. Ian is honoured to be part of this production of *Michel & ti-Jean* - he has known the playwright George Rideout as a friend for forty-two years.



DEBORAH FORDE

(Assistant Director)

Deborah Forde is a relative newcomer to the theatre world, having begun working in community arts in 1999. In the fall of 2009, she made her directorial debut with *Terminal Terminal* at the MAI. She is currently pursuing a Fine Arts degree, with a specialization in Theatre and Development. Deborah is very grateful for the blessing of working with this fantastic team, and the fortuitous learning opportunities.



MELANIE ST-JACQUES

(Stage Manager)

Melanie has had a ten-year career as a Stage Manager in Montreal and across Canada. Some selected credits include *Doubt*, *The Carpenter*, *The Caretaker*, *Condoville*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Tales from Ovid*, *Life After George*, *Proof*, *Copenhagen*, *Art*, *Dinner With Friends* (Centaur Theatre). *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Little Prince*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (Geordie Productions). *Fallen Angels*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (MTC/Segal co-pro), *Man of La Mancha* (The Segal Centre) and *A Few Good Men* (Neptune Theatre). She has also worked at various

summer theatres across Quebec and Ontario and is a co-founder of the theatre company Scapegoat Carnivale. Melanie is a graduate of the Dawson Theatre Program in Montreal and currently teaches Stage Management at the National Theatre School of Canada.

STEPHANIE LINK

(Apprentice Stage Manager)

Steph is a 2008 grad of the National Theatre School of Canada who hails from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Recent credits with Centaur Theatre include: *Death and the Maiden*, *With Bated Breath* and *Doubt: A Parable* as Apprentice Stage Manager. Other credits include *As You Like It* (Repercussion Theatre Co.), *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Broadway North Theatre Co.) and *Mending Fences* (E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts) as Stage Manager. She is also now Dance Penguin/Production Manager for the amazing Comedy Dance Tribe *Dance Animal*. *Dance Animal* played to sellout crowds at this year's Wildside Festival and will be performing at the Montreal and Toronto Fringes this summer. Next for Steph is *The Madonna Painter or The Birth of a Painting* with Centaur Theatre as Apprentice Stage Manager. Steph would like to thank family, friends, co-workers and the animals.



Centaur

The Gazette

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THEATRE OF TOMORROW

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 *In Piazza San Domenico*, *Death and The Maiden*, *Michel & ti-Jean*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Madonna Painter*, or *The Birth of a Painting*. 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.

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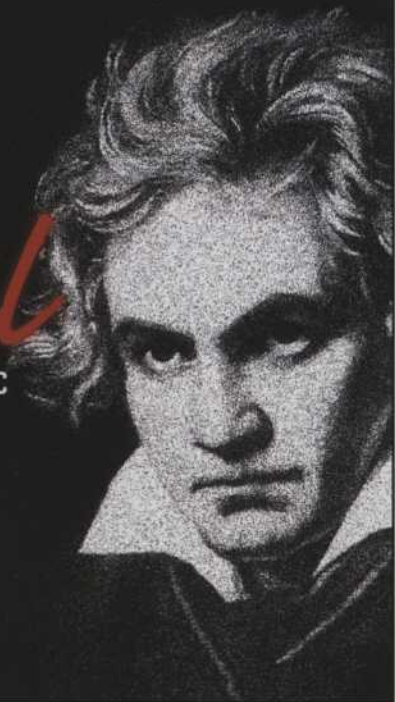
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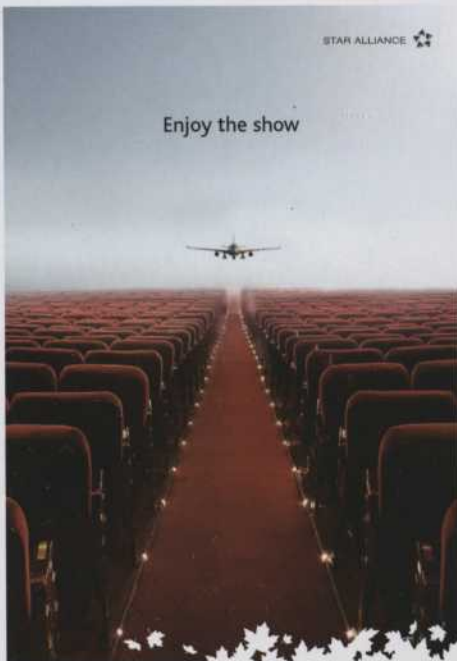


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Haleema Mini *Director of Development*
Victoria Millious *Interim Box Office Manager*
Aleksandra Oleszkiewicz *Accounting Manager*
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Layne Shutt *House Manager*
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Charlene Todaschuk *Subscription Renewal Manager*
Jana van Geest *Development Assistant*
Catherine Vokey *Administrative Assistant*
Amy Wallace *Assistant to the Front of House*

PRODUCTION

Daniel Barkley *Head Scenic Artist*
Richard Brown *Properties Builder*
Peter Cerone *Audio Engineer*
Rich Dawson *Head Carpenter*
Tanner Harvey *Head Technician C1*
Jesse Lund *Carpenter*
Howard Mendelsohn *Production Manager*
Anja Papenfuss *Wardrobe Assistant*
Julie-Anne Parenteau-Comfort *Head Technician C2*
Dave Surette *Technical Director*
Mary Thomas *Wardrobe Supervisor*
Valérie Viertel *Head of Properties*

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Jesse Ash *Videographer*
Dave Clark *Vocalist coach*
Passiona Joseph *Hair*
Stephanie Lambert *Set & Costumer Assistant*
Jessica Mensch *Painter*
Chris Rayment *Lighting Assistant*
Andrew Shaver *Rhythm section*
Victor Simoneau-Helwani *Videographer*

SET-UP CREW

Paul Deblois
Laurent Duceppe
Julie-Anne Parenteau-Comfort
Sylvain Ratelle
Fred Rousseau
Paul Teichgraber
Patrick Veillette

THANK YOU

David Paterson – TOT Workbook



CENTAUR
THEATRE
COMPANY

Roy Surette,
Artistic & Executive Director

453 St-François Xavier,
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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Centaur Theatre Company performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

AVE.

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