

BY TIMBERLAKE WERTENBAKER

based on the novel *The Playmaker*
by Thomas Keneally

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OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

BY **TIMBERLAKE WERTENBAKER**

based on the novel *The Playmaker*

by Thomas Keneally

WITH:

an Aboriginal Australian Captain Watkin Tench, RM Black Caesar	TYRONE BENSKIN
Robert Sideway Captain David Collins, RM	TED DYKSTRA
John Wisehammer Captain Arthur Phillip, RN	DAVID FERRY
Midshipman Harry Brewer, RN Captain Jemmy Campbell, RM John Arscott	DAVID GOW
Liz Morden Lieutenant Will Dawes, RM	KYRA HARPER
Lieutenant George Johnston, RM Duckling Smith	CAMILLE JAMES
2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark, RM	ROSS MANSON
Meg Long Mary Brenham Reverend Johnson	SARAH ORENSTEIN
Dabby Bryant 2nd Lieutenant William Faddy, RM	JENNIFER OVERTON
Major Robbie Ross, RM Ketch Freeman	ALEXANDER POCH-GOLDIN

DIRECTED BY Joe Dowling

SET AND COSTUME DESIGN BY Pat Flood

LIGHTING DESIGN BY Louise Guinand

STAGE MANAGER Jean-François Coupal

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Lynn McQueen

TIME: 1788/89

PLACE: Sydney, Australia

There will be one 15 minute intermission

A co-production with NEPTUNE THEATRE, HALIFAX

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, Woodstock, IL

Tape recorders and cameras are not allowed in the theatre.

Please turn off all wristwatch alarms and electronic beepers during the performance.



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SUBSCRIBER

Each play during Centaur's 22nd season, one subscriber and a guest will receive a VIP evening courtesy of CJAD. The evening will include dinner and wine before the show at RITZ-CARLTON'S exquisite seafood restaurant, LE MARITIME. Also, limousine transportation to and from the show!

VIP winners for OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD are Don and Josiane Home of Nun's Island. Mrs. Home, who is Swiss, is a flight attendant with a major airline while Mr. Home is a businessman. The Homes have been subscribers for 15 years, and even maintained their membership while living in Calgary, flying back to see the productions. Among their favourites: the Fennario plays, the South African plays, and BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR. The Homes also enjoy skiing, tennis, cycling, hiking. With theatre and dining among their favourite activities, this is a night they are sure to enjoy!

Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Home, and enjoy your evening at the Ritz and at the Centaur!



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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Timberlake Wertenbaker was the resident writer at the Royal Court in 1984-5. Plays include *THE THIRD* (all-London Playwright's Award), *CASE TO ANSWER*, *NEW ANATOMIES*, *ABEL'S SISTER*, *THE GRACE OF MARY TRAVERSE* (Plays and Players Most Promising Playwright Award, 1985) and *THE LOVE OF THE NIGHTINGALE* (Eileen Anderson Central TV Drama Award, 1989.) *OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD* won the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award and the Olivier Play of the Year Award for 1988, Timberlake was also awarded the Mrs Giles Whiting Award in 1989 for her body of work. Translations include Marivaux's *FALSE ADMISSIONS* and *SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES* for Shared Experience, Marivaux's *LA DISPUTE*, Jean Anouilh's *LEOCADIA*, Maurice Maeterlinck's *PELLES AND MELISANDE* for BBC Radio, Lorca's *THE HOUSE OF BERNARD ALBA* for the Guthrie and Ariane Mnouchkine's *MEPHISTO* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Screenplays include *THE CHILDREN*, based on Edith Wharton's novel and starring Kim Novak and Ben Kingsley, which premiered at Cannes this year and *DO NOT DISTURB* to be shown on BBC2 in 1991.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When the British Government sent a fleet of eleven vessels to establish a colony in Australia in 1787, its intention was to rid the nation of a whole section of the population, the "criminal class". The existence of such a class was an accepted part of Georgian society and the best way to deal with the rising crime rate was to create a convict colony as far away from England as possible. They were sent literally into the unknown. Little or no reconnaissance had been done before the arduous journey was undertaken. Indeed, the existence of the southern continent had only become known after Captain Cook's brief visit to Botany Bay in 1770.

The climate and the strangeness of the natural world around them caused great distress to both military and convict alike. The first years of the colony were terrifying and brutalising, with starvation and isolation the most important aspects of the new society. It was an extraordinary achievement that the colony managed to survive at all.

The first theatrical performance in Australia was George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer* presented by the convicts to celebrate the King's birthday on June 4th 1789. This obscure fact became the subject of Thomas Keneally's fine novel *The Playmaker*. From this and from Robert Hughes's remarkable portrait of the founding of Australia, *The Fatal Shore*, Timberlake Wertenbaker has fashioned an original play. Although the sources are important, the play has its own dramatic identity which transcends its origins. The play, although faithful to its time and place, deals with the universal need for the arts in any society to define its civilization. Without art, man can not discover himself. A society becomes brutalized if it ignores the existence of the healing values of artistic experience.

JOE DOWLING
September 16th 1990



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TYRONE BENSKIN

(an Aboriginal Australian, Captain Watkin Tench, RM, Black Caesar)

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD marks Tyrone's second appearance in a Centaur production, having previously appeared in Tom Stoppard's NIGHT AND DAY. He is, however, no stranger to the Centaur stage or to Montreal theatre audiences. His credits include Black Theatre Workshop's critically acclaimed productions of "The Gingerbread Lady", "River Niger", "The Caretaker" and most recently "Cantata". He has also starred in Lac Brome Theatre's production of "Godspell", as the Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera; The Play" and as Valentine in the Association of Producing Artist's production of "Kiss of the Spider Woman" at the National Arts Centre. His numerous television and film credits include "Night Heat", upcoming episodes of "Top Cops", "Criminal Law" and "Enemies: A Love Story". Based in Montreal, Tyrone is elated to be playing to hometown audiences again.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS COUPAL

(Stage Manager)

Jean-François Coupal, a graduate of Bishop's University in Lennoxville, began his stage management apprenticeship at Kawartha Theatre in Lindsay, Ontario, completing the training in Centaur One in 1985. After taking a year off, Centaur welcomed Jean-François back as Stage Manager of Centaur Two for Season 21. Just some of the productions that Jean-François has stage-managed are FIRE, BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS, GUYS AND DOLLS, OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME, BILOXI BLUES, HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE, and WOMAN IN MIND. After touring OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD to the Neptune Theatre in Halifax, Jean-François returns to Centaur to work on THE WOMAN IN BLACK in January.

JOE DOWLING

(Director)

Joe Dowling was Artistic Director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre from 1978 to 1985 and is now Director of the Gaiety School of Acting which he founded in 1986. His 1986 production of "Juno and the Paycock" at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, and subsequently at the Edinburgh Festival, in Jerusalem and on Broadway in 1988 and his Dublin production of "The Plough and the Stars" have established him as one of the foremost interpreters of O'Casey's work. He has also been closely associated with the work of Brian Friel, including "Faith Healer" (1980) and the American Première of "Translations" at the Manhattan Theatre Club. Joe Dowling has worked actively in Canada over the past few years, directing "The Plough and the Stars" at the Banff School of Fine Arts in the summer of 1989, as well as the Centaur productions of OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME (Season 19) and JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK (Season 20). When he is working in Montreal, Joe has also found the time to guest lecture for McGill University's Irish Studies series.

TED DYKSTRA

(Robert Sideway, Captain David Collins, RM)

Since graduating from the National Theatre School in 1984, Ted has been performing in theatres across the country, including the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, and has played a number of TV and film roles. Last year he received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for his performance as Cale Blackwell in the hit show FIRE, which Centaur audiences will remember from Season 18. Other Centaur productions which Ted has appeared in are OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. He looks forward to playing Mozart in "Amadeus" in Calgary this spring. An avid composer/musician, Ted has written music scores for many theatres and is currently composing a rock opera entitled "Dorian", based on Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray. Ted loves Montreal.

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L'ÉLECTRIFICITÉ



DAVID FERRY

(John Wisehammer, Captain Arthur Phillip, RN)

This summer David played the leading role in a very successful run of "The Servant" in Toronto. His latest feature film "The Last Winter", winner of several international film festival awards, has just become the largest grossing English Canadian film of the year. He was last seen at Centaur as Roulston in OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME (Season 19). Since then he has worked extensively in film and television as well as performing across the country in roles such as Billy Bishop in "Billy Bishop Goes to War" for Brian Richmond, Pale in "Burn This" at the Citadel, King in "Toronto, Mississippi" for Martha Henry at the Grand Theatre and Fluther in "The Plough and the Stars" for Joe Dowling at the Banff Centre for Performing Arts. David has also performed roles on and off Broadway. He is currently completing a Canada Council project to collect and distribute on cassette a collection of Canadian dialects for the professional actor. David is a National Director of Actra and is actively involved in lobbying for national and Ontario "Status of the Artist" legislation, equal opportunities for women and minority performers, as well as copyright protection for performing artists. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and hails from St. John's, Newfoundland.

PAT FLOOD

(Set and Costume Designer)

Pat Flood has designed for many theatres across the country including the Tarragon, Young People's Theatre, Theatre Calgary and Theatre New Brunswick. Originally from Calgary, she now lives in Montreal where she is Co-ordinator of Design for the Theatre at Concordia University. Her work was last seen at the Centaur in THE ROAD TO MECCA. Most recently she designed "The Perils of Persephone" at the Blyth Festival and "B-Movie" for Neptune Theatre in Halifax. Pat is Vice-President of the Associated Designers of Canada.

DAVID GOW

(Midshipman Harry Brewer, RN, Captain Jemmy Campbell, RM, John Arscott)

David Gow will be familiar to Centaur audiences, most recently seen as Michael Simpson in the premiere of Vittorio Rossi's highly acclaimed play THE CHAIN. He was also with the Company for THE CHAIN'S subsequent remount at the National Arts Centre. His first Centaur appearance was as Donald Carney in BILOXI BLUES. Other theatre credits include Art Milligan in "The Mail Order Bride", a co-production between The Blyth Festival and Alberta Theatre Projects which played in Calgary at ATP, and the role of Bradley in "Buried Child" for Toronto's Equity Showcase at Harbourfront. In Montreal, David has also worked extensively with Playwright's Workshop. Numerous film and television roles include a guest lead, the role of Bob Christoff in "False Fire", an episode in the television series E.N.G., a supporting role in CBS's Emmy Award winning docu-drama "Day One" and a supporting role in the soon-to-be-released feature film "Firing Squad".

LOUISE GUINAND

(Lighting Designer)

Louise Guinand has designed lighting for the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, the National Arts Centre, Grand Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Pacific Opera, Canadian Stage Company, Banff Festival, Neptune Theatre and Theatre New Brunswick. Some of her most recent credits include "Richard III" (New York Shakespeare Festival), "Julius Caesar", "Home", "Grand Inquisitor" and "Swan Song" (Stratford Festival), "Serinette" (Sharon Temple), "Girls in the Gang", "Road to Mecca" (Grand Theatre), and "The Legend of the Avro Arrow" (NAC and Canadian Stage). A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Louise is also a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



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KYRA HARPER

(Liz Morden, Lieutenant Will Dawes, RM)

Although Kyra has worked extensively across Canada, she is making her first appearance at the Centaur. A few of her stage credits include Lady Nijo in "Top Girls", Ophelia in "Hamlet", Rita Joe in "The Ecstasy of Rita Joe" and Elizabeth in "Richard III". At the Grand Theatre she played Sandy in "The Crackwalker" and Maddie in "Toronto, Mississippi" for Martha Henry. Most recently she appeared in Maja Ardal's highly acclaimed production of "The Groundworld Adventure" for Young People's Theatre in Toronto. She has made guest appearances on such series as "Night Heat", "Street Legal", "The Campbells" and "The Judge". Kyra's feature film credits include "Renegades", "Sea of Love", and her latest film "Getting Married in Buffalo Jump", which was screened at the Toronto Film Festival and will be seen on CBC this fall.

CAMILLE JAMES

(Lieutenant George Johnston, RM, Duckling Smith)

Haligonian (Halifax-born) Camille James has just completed the role of Ebony Sue in the Cunard Street Theatre production of "Trafford Tanzi" by R.H. Thomson. She is a theatre graduate of Dalhousie University and the Banff Centre for Fine Arts whose recent credits include the role of Chelene in UpStart Theatre's "Gideon's Blues", Rebecca in New Works Theatre Edmonton's "The Poet's Pig", Dr. Judith Brooks in University of Alberta's "Family Unit", Rosaline in the Stratford Festival's "Love's Labours Lost", Madame in Alive Theatre's "The Maids", and Morgan Le Fay in Neptune Theatre's "Arthur". Camille has recorded numerous CBC radio dramas in both Halifax and Edmonton, and appears in the upcoming movie "The Bruce Curtis Story". Following the Centaur/Neptune co-production of OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD, she will play the role of Umma in Workshop West's "Delicate State Disturbed".

ROSS MANSON

(2nd Lieutenant Ralph Clark, RM)

Originally from New Brunswick, Mr. Manson now lives in Toronto where he has worked for Toronto Free Theatre, Centre Stage, The Canadian Stage Company, Tarragon Theatre, Nightwood Theatre, CanAsian Artists, Road Company, and Snake Song Theatre. Work elsewhere in Canada includes performances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Advanced Actor's Workshop in Banff, Theatre New Brunswick, and the Stephenville Festival in Newfoundland. Critically acclaimed shows include "A Map of the World" (Canadian Stage, National Arts Centre), "Nothing Sacred" (Centrestage), "Detaining Mr. Trotsky" (Toronto Free Theatre), and "Melian Dialogue" (Snake Song). He has worked in radio (CBC) as well as in television and film including "Chasing Rainbows", "War of the Worlds", "Undertow", and most recently a BBC special with director Jonathan Miller. Ross spent most of this past summer as a guest and observer in several theatres across Ireland, England, and Germany.

LYNN MCQUEEN

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Lynn McQueen has returned to Centaur for a third season as Assistant Stage Manager of Centaur Two. So far Lynn has Assistant Stage-managed HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE, WOMAN IN MIND, and SCARPONE. She completed her apprenticeship with Centaur while working on GUYS AND DOLLS, THE GIGLI CONCERT, THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR, and FROM THE MAIN TO MAINSTREET. Last year Lynn was Stage Manager and Assistant Director for Les productions de la lune verte's "Zweiter Berliner Songspiel". This past summer she was a stage management resident for "Baal" at the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts. In January, Lynn will stage manage THE DEATH OF RENE LEVESQUE in Centaur One.



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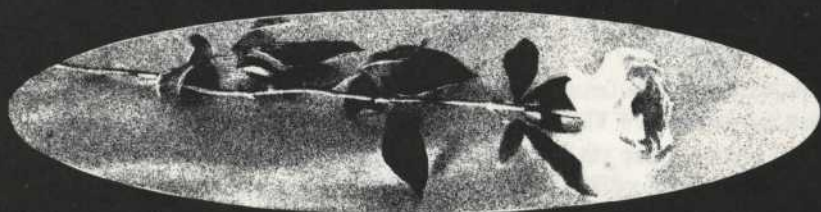
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SARAH ORENSTEIN

(Meg Long, Mary Brenham, Reverend Johnson)

Sarah Orenstein is a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, but is presently living in Toronto. She has worked in theatres across the country, appearing in "A Man For All Seasons" at the Vancouver Playhouse, in the original production of "Song of this Place" by Joy Coghill at the Vancouver Cultural Centre (also touring the Queen Charlotte Islands), as Mary Snow in Persephone Theatre's production of "Salt Water Moon", as well as shows at Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange, Neptune Theatre (Halifax), and the Shaw Festival. Sarah was most recently seen in "The Collected Works of Billy the Kid" at the Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. This is her first appearance at Centaur.

JENNIFER OVERTON

(Dabby Bryant, 2nd Lieutenant William Faddy, RM)

Jennifer Overton is a transplant to Nova Scotia. Born and raised in Ontario, she performed in numerous stage, radio, and television productions before receiving her M.F.A. in Acting from York University. She has taught in the theatre departments at both York and Dalhousie, and is currently a member of the Artistic Committee of Halifax's UpStart Theatre. Following OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD, Jennifer will be appearing at Theatre New Brunswick in "Bordertown Cafe", and will soon be seen in the CBC television movie "Journey Into Darkness". Recently married, she lives near the ocean with a bull terrier named Emily, a three-legged cat named Norman, and a new husband named David.

ALEXANDER POCH-GOLDIN

(Major Robbie Ross, Ketch Freeman)

Alex was last seen by Centaur audiences as Epstein in BILOXI BLUES. A graduate of the Dome Theatre and the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Centre, he has recently played Clitandre in Molière's "The Learned Ladies" in Toronto. He is a co-founder of Spend Your Rent Theatre and directed their inaugural production for the Toronto Fringe Festival; "Warplay" - the haunting, true tale of eight people who drive each other into their minds. The work involved experimentation with video, choreomotion, improv, text, commedia, socializing, and poverty. Alex has worked with Morris Carnovsky, Joseph Mankiewicz, Robin Phillips and Richard Rose. He has worked for the Canadian Centre for Advanced Film Studies and can be seen in the film "Sure - It's True".

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Joe Dowling would like to thank Mark Lambert for his advice and assistance

A Question Of Pride



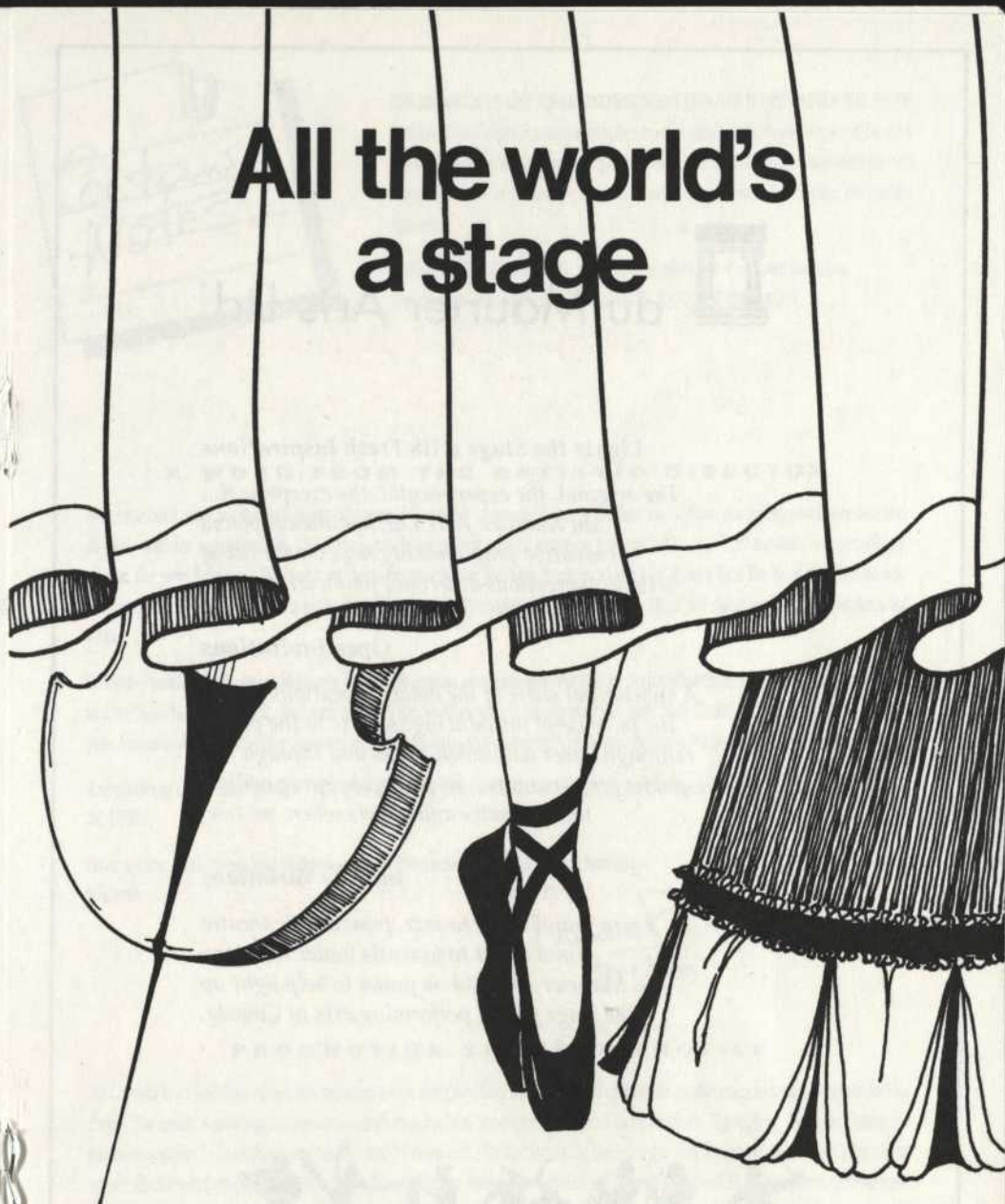
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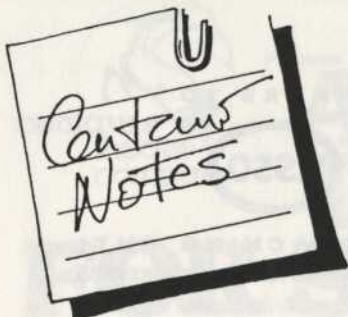
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A WORD FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome back after another hot Montreal summer (I was o.k., I was in France). The line-up of plays is a strong and lively one and all looks well for a great season. The French media are paying a lot of attention (at long last) to the Centaur season especially, of course, the new Fennario. We had a momentary panic when the New York producer of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* decided he was planning a North American tour and the rights were suddenly unavailable. We've "negotiated" the rights again but it was dicey for while.

Company news: Our Business Manager, Mark Zimmerman, is returning to the private sector after three and a half years at Centaur and we wish him all the best. And welcome to Patricia Allan who is taking over the post. Judy Cutler is back after her sabbatical year. I am also delighted to have the Administrative Assistance of Catherine Vokey who helps us through the day - welcome aboard.

A reminder to single ticket buyers: Your ticket to the first play can be used against the cost of our subscription package until October 28, 1990.

Have a very good season and please let us hear from you if you have any comments.

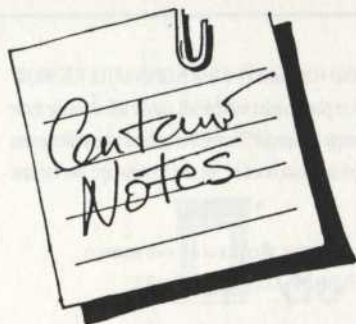
Sincerely,



Maurice Podbrey

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Centaur Theatre Company has a mandate to promote the cultural community and to develop new theatre audiences. In our attempt to fulfill this mandate, we network with a number of social service organizations to coordinate special outings for groups and individuals who would not otherwise be able to attend theatre. The following are only a few of the organizations which benefit from our OUTREACH PROGRAM:

Black Rock Community Centre
Concordia Campus Ministry
Face à Face
High School of Montreal
The Mackay Centre for the Learning Disabled
The Montreal Association for the Blind
Montreal City Mission
Montreal Native Friendship Centre

Options I and II
Projet ARC
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Vezina High School
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Youth Horizons
YWCA

18

UPCOMING RENTAL SHOWS AT CENTAUR:

October 11th - 21st

SMILE ORANGE

presented by Black Theatre Workshop

November 7th - 17th

ANYTHING GOES

presented by West Island Lyric Theatre

November 27th - December 16th

The Piggery Theatre production of RUN FOR YOUR WIFE

presented by the Performance Factory

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You may have noticed the Centaur production photos lining our wall in The Gallery. If you can identify the productions, the actors, and the playwrights, then you are well on your way to winning two free subscriptions to the next Centaur season. Check upcoming programmes for clues! You have until April 1991 to complete your contest form, which is available in The Gallery. Start guessing, here's clue #1:

Photo #11: From Season 11, this play is named after the phenomena that affects actors before stepping on stage.

GOOD LUCK!



Presents

A GREAT LINE-UP FOR SEASON 22!

WHERE'S THE LINE-UP ???!



1 OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

by Timberlake Wertenbaker
directed by Joe Dowling
September 25 - October 21
"I command you to go on that stage. If you don't you will be tried and hanged for treason." Australia, 1789. When the first convicts and soldiers were settled on that unforgiving continent, who would have imagined that a young British officer would commit himself and his mainly illiterate prisoners to a fantastical theatrical experience? The production was Farquar's Restoration comedy **THE RECRUITING OFFICER**. The process was astonishing, barbarously funny, and very uplifting. A co-production with Neptune Theatre, Halifax.

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2 ERROL SLUE IN MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA!

by Abol Fugard
directed by Maurice Podbrey
October 30 - December 16
Fugard's newest work! A confrontation between a black schoolteacher and two students - one black, the other white - is poignant, passionate, and full of laughter. Fugard says "writing it was an act of defiance, which I performed with absolute glee." A Canadian Premier Production that will tour the country.

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3 THE WOMAN IN BLACK (A GHOST STORY)

adapted by Stephen Mallatrat
from the book by Susan Hill
directed by Perry Schneiderman
January 8 - February 3
This Victorian tale of Gothic horror and surprise is still ravishing audiences in London's West End. The genre has seldom been so ambitiously treated. Just the ghostly piece for our gloomy January nights... "a brilliantly effective spine-chiller." The Guardian

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4 THE DEATH OF RENE LEVESQUE

by David Fennario
directed by Paul Thompson
February 5 - March 24
The phenomenon of Quebec nationalism is witty and perceptively explored by Montreal's most challenging and constantly innovative playwright. Six persons closely allied to René's life and work meet again at a Commemorative Service. The outcome is revelatory and deeply affecting. Acted by Francophone actors - en anglais - at Centaur - in this very interesting year.

5 CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

by Tennessee Williams
March 12 - April 7
A contemporary classic not to be missed! Maggie the cat, Brick, Big Daddy, Big Mama are names to conjure with. "Mr. Williams is the man of our time who comes closest to hurling the actual blood and bone of life onto the stage..."
New York Herald-Tribune

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6 THE BEST OF FRIENDS

by Hugh Whitmore
April 9 - May 26
George Bernard Shaw was a man of acerbic wit and great intellectual curiosity. Here he is matched in two friendships that lasted a lifetime and were full of extraordinary perceptions and discoveries. The play that brought Sir John Gielgud back to the London stage last year.

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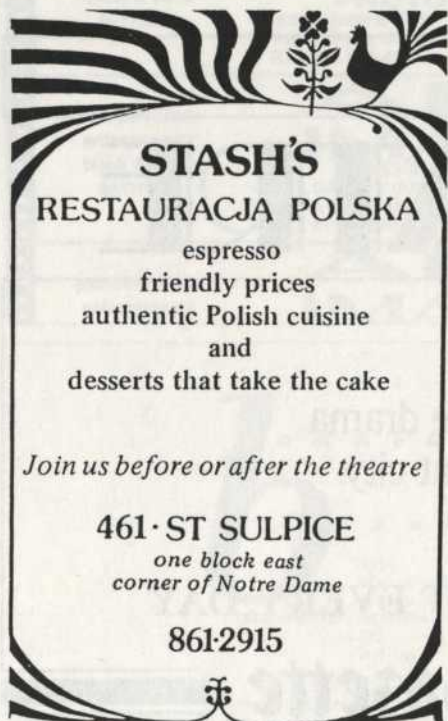
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


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 Head Technician C2
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Art Appliqué
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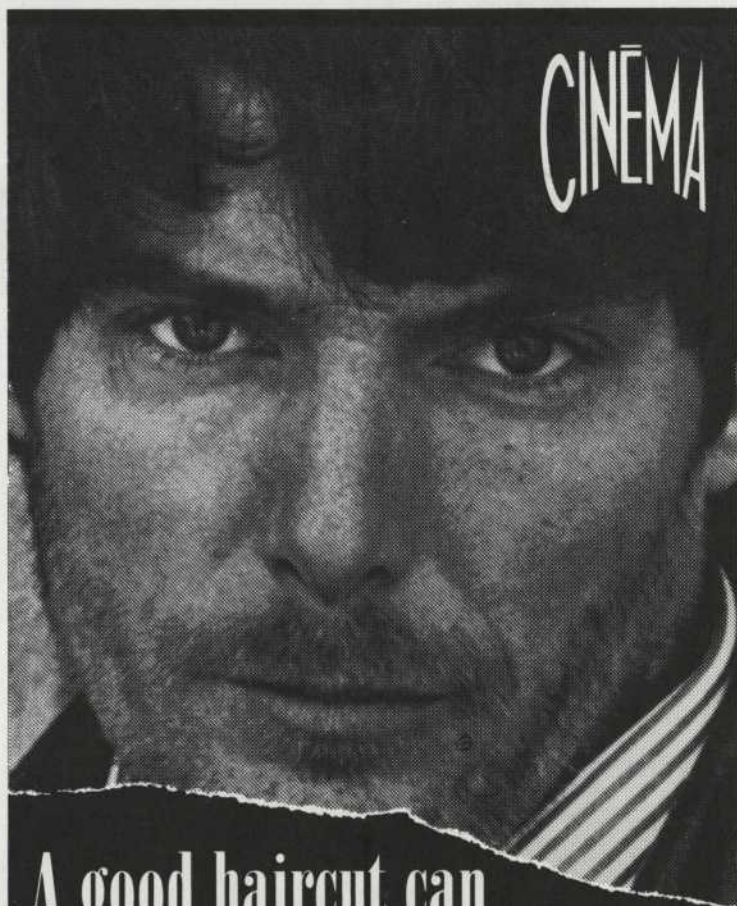
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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists, who are members of Canadian Actor's Equity Association, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, Centaur Theatre Company performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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