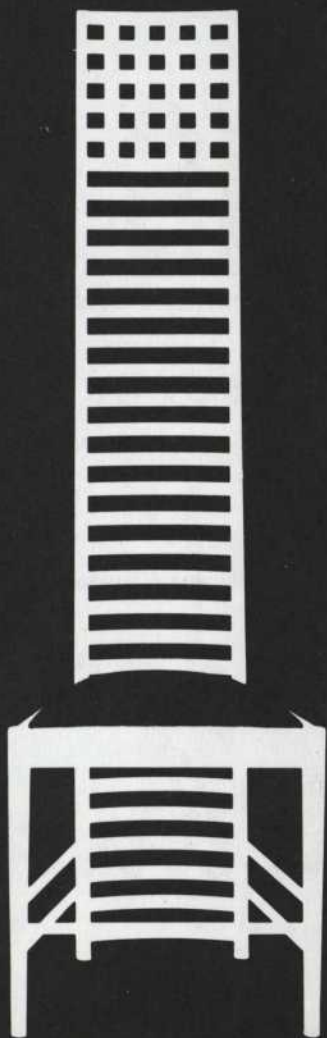


the REZ SISTERS

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11			
6			

by Tomson
Highway


centaur
theatre
company
20th season



*In the art of design,
color is to form what
verse is to prose, a
more harmonious
and luminous vehicle
of thought.*

— Anna Murphy Jameson —
1797-1860
*Irish authoress, essayist and
art historian*

mariette
clermont

AFFORDABLE BY DESIGN ... SINCE 1950



THE REZ SISTERS

by Tomson Highway
March 7-April 2, 1989

The Cast (in alphabetical order)

ANNE ANGLIN	ANNIE COOK
SHIRLEY CHEECHOO	MARIE-ADÈLE STARBLANKET
MARGARET COZRY	VÉRONIQUE ST-PIERRE
GLORIA MAY ESHKIBOK	EMILY DICTIONARY
RENÉ HIGHWAY	NANABUSH
ALANIS KING	ZHABOONIGAN PETERSON
GLORIA MIGUEL	PELIJIA PATCHNOSE
MURIEL MIGUEL	PHILOMENA MOOSETAIL
ROSE MARIE TRUDEAU	BINGO GIRL

directed by LARRY LEWIS

set, costumes and lighting designed by PATSY LANG

music soundscape performed & composed by DAVID TOMLINSON

stage manager NICOLETTE THÉROUX

assistant stage manager JENNIFER O'CONNOR

Time

The Present

Place

The Wasaychigan Hill Indian Reserve, Manitoulin Island, Ontario

There will be one intermission

Tape recorders and cameras are not allowed in the theatre.

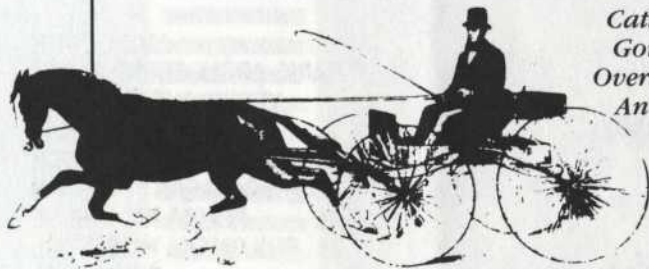
Please turn off all wristwatch alarms and beepers during the performance.

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Note to audience members: In Act II of THE REZ SISTERS, members of the audience will have the opportunity to play one single-card game of bingo with the women. A real, genuine cash prize will be awarded to that audience member who wins this game. In the event that two or more people win the game, the prize will be divided equally among the winners. May the best player win!

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Hampstead



Ninette Rosen
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Welcome to

the REZ SISTERS

The Rez Sisters is a show that speaks about native people and their lives. It is about a few of their hard times, perhaps, but more important, it is about their good times, of which there are many, good times that unfortunately don't reach the front pages of this country's newspapers too terribly often.

Well, here we are. Have a hell of a good time.

Tomson Highway

A Note on Nanabush:

The dream world of North American Indian mythology is inhabited by the most fantastic creatures, beings and events. Foremost among these beings is the Trickster, as pivotal and important a figure in Native Mythology as Christ is in the realm of Christian mythology. As Weesageechak in Cree, Nanabush in Ojibway, Raven in others, Coyote in still others, this Trickster goes by many names and guises. In fact, he can assume any guise he chooses. Essentially a comic, clownish sort of character, his role is to teach us about nature and the meaning of existence on the planet Earth; he straddles the consciousness of man and that of God, the Great Spirit.

Some say that Nanabush left this continent when the white man came. We believe he is still here among us — albeit a little the worse for wear and tear — having assumed other guises. Without him

— and without the spiritual health of this figure — the core of the Indian culture would be gone forever.

The Rez Sisters was honoured with the Dora Mavor Moore Award for the Best New Play of 1986-87 and a Floyd S. Chalmers Award in the category of Outstanding New Play in 1986.

The Rez Sisters was first developed in workshop at the De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Company, West Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, under the direction of Larry Lewis with the following cast: Mary Assiniwe, Greta Cheechoo, Gloria Eshkibok, Mary Green and Doris Linklater. The author wishes to thank these as well as the following for assistance in development of the script: Gloria Miguel, Muriel Miguel, Monique Mojica, Margaret Cozry, Anne Anglin, Sally Singal and Gloria Eshkibok.

The Rez Sisters was first produced by the Act IV Theatre Company and Native Earth Performing Arts Inc. at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, November 18 - December 14, 1986. Set and costume design for the original production was by Marilyn Bercovich.

The sequel to **The Rez Sisters** entitled **Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing** directed by Larry Lewis opens April 21 until May 21 at Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. The play is a co-production between Native Earth and Theatre Passe Muraille.



CJFM96

TOMSON HIGHWAY (Playwright)

Award-winning playwright Tomson Highway is a Cree Indian from the Brochet Reserve in northwestern Manitoba. The son of trapper/fisherman Joe Highway who is a legendary dogsled racer, Tomson has established himself as one of Canada's leading playwrights with the overwhelming success of *The Rez Sisters* which has played at theatres across Canada and at the Edinburgh Festival. A recent work, *The Sage, The Dancer and The Fool* met with equal critical and box office success in Toronto. He has written the script and/or musical score for *New Song...New Dance, A Ridiculous Spectacle in One Act, Aria* and CBC-TV's *For The Record; Where The Heart Is*. His latest work, the sequel of *The Rez Sisters* which is about the men, entitled *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* will open in Toronto in April. Tomson is currently Artistic Director of the Native Earth Performing Arts Inc. He travels regularly across the country presenting readings of his works and actively pursues new scripts by native writers.

ANNE ANGLIN (Annie Cook)

Anne Anglin, one of Canada's foremost actresses, is a native of Toronto now making her home in Montreal. Centaur audiences have seen her in the tour of *Balconville* and in *'night, Mother*. A founding member of Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, she worked on many of the company's collective creations including *The Farm Show*. She has also worked at the Blyth Festival, Toronto's Canadian Stage Company and Stratford Festival. Recent television appearances include the controversial CBC drama on life in a women's prison — *Turning to Stone*.

SHIRLEY CHEECHOO

(Marie-Adele Starblanket)

Shirley Cheechoo is a member of the Cree tribe, originally from James Bay, Quebec. Shirley recently hosted a TV-Ontario production called *Full Circle; Native Way*, a four part series. She played Jessica in the award-winning production *Jessica*. Her television credits include *Daughters of the Country*, a National Film Board production, *Where The Heart Is* for CBC's *For The Record*, and the *Spirit Bay Series*. Shirley is the founder of De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group and co-owner of

an art gallery, Kasheese Studios, on Manitoulin Island. Shirley is also known for her work as a composer, playwright, visual artist, illustrator of children's books, casting consultant, model and producer.

MARGARET COZRY (Véronique St. Pierre)

Margaret Cozry is an Ojibway woman originally from Parry Island Indian Reserve and now of Toronto. She has appeared as Tom's mother in *Wildfire: The Story of Tom Longboat* for CBC-TV, in *Caroline* for Atlantis Films and *The Allies* for TV-Ontario. She has been with the original cast of *The Rez Sisters*, touring across Canada in 1987-88 and has appeared with them at the Edinburgh World Festival last August. In 1988, she acted in Native Earth's stage production of *Coyote City* and, in the fall, she will appear in the film, *Where the Spirit Lives*. Since 1972, she has owned and operated The Algonquians Sweetgrass Gallery in Toronto, an outlet for North American Indian arts and crafts.

GLORIA MAY ESHKIBOK

(Emily Dictionary)

Gloria May Eshkibok is an Ojibwe/Odawa Native Indian from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on the Manitoulin Island. She has studied under the direction of Larry Lewis for three years. Gloria has been involved with *The Rez Sisters* since January 1986, including the Edinburgh Festival, Canadian National Tour, Toronto production and the Script Developmental Workshop with the De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group on Manitoulin Island. Other theatre credits include workshoping of the role Nanabush in *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* in the second Script Developmental Workshop in Toronto; The Ontario Tour and American Indian Festival showing of *Nanabush of the 80's; Nothing Personal* and *Aria* at Manitoulin Island and the World Junior Olympics in Sudbury; *Coyote City* with Native Earth Performing Arts Inc. in Toronto; and *Ayash* for the De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre. She has written her own piece entitled *What? The Reservation Blues?* for the Playwrights Workshop on Manitoulin Island. Gloria recently completed a video film presentation of *Never Alone* with the Anishnabec Spiritual Centre in Lake Anderson.

RENÉ HIGHWAY (Nanabush)

René Highway began his dance training at the school of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet while still in high school. He was "turned on by the magical space of the stage and by the creatures who inhabited it". His dance training continued at the school of the Toronto Dance Theatre after which he joined the Company, touring and performing nationally and internationally with them for many years. After a brief sojourn in Europe, teaching in Denmark, and studying and performing in London, England, he returned to Canada to pursue an independent dance/choreography/acting career. He appeared in the national and international tour of *The Rez Sisters*. Television and film credits include *The Campbells* and *Street Legal*. Most recently, he co-directed and choreographed Tomson Highway's *The Sage, The Dancer and The Fool* which played to critical acclaim and sold-out houses in Toronto.

ALANIS KING (Zhaboonigan Peterson)

Alanis King is an Odawa Indian originally from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation, Ontario. She is an actress/playwright with De-ba-jeh-mu-jig, whose latest production, *Nanabush of the 80's*, was a play she co-wrote which toured Ontario reserves and Friendship Centres and appeared as the opening act to the XIII American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Alanis has performed in *Aria* by Tomson Highway; as Juicy Blackcrow in *Nothing Personal*, a play she co-wrote with Shirley Cheechoo; and as Lena in *Coyote City* by Daniel Moses and produced by Native Earth Performing Arts. Alanis' acting training began at the Native Theatre School directed by Norman and Asa Charles who were graduates at Tukat Teatret in Denmark which bases its theatre method on ritual and ceremony. This is her first time with *The Rez Sisters*.

PATSY LANG (Designer)

This is Patsy Lang's first show for Centaur. She has been involved with *The Rez Sisters* for two years, designing set and lighting for both the National and Edinburgh tours. Her other credits include lighting designs for the Shaw Festival's *The Women, On The Rocks, Anything Goes, and Breaking The Silence*; set and costume design for

Tarragon Theatre's *Double Bass* and *All Other Destinations are Cancelled*; lighting design for the National Arts Centre's *Can't Pay; Won't Pay*, and for The Grand Theatre, set, costume, and lighting design for *One Thousand Cranes* and lighting design for *Gaslight*.

LARRY LEWIS (Director)

Larry Lewis is the Artistic Director of De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre, a professional Native company based on Manitoulin Island. Larry has been associated with *The Rez Sisters* since 1986 and has directed Tomson Highway's highly acclaimed *Aria*. Other credits include: *Nanabush of the 80's*, a Native country and Western musical; *Ayash*, one of the oldest recorded Ojibway legends; his own adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*; *Jessica* for Northern Lights Theatre, Edmonton, and *Back to Methuselah*, at the Shaw Festival, where he assisted Denise Coffey in the direction of this 8-hour epic. He is about to direct the sequel to *The Rez Sisters*, for Native Earth and Theatre Passe Muraille, called *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* — about the men.

GLORIA MIGUEL (Pelijia Patchnose)

Gloria Miguel is a Cuna/Rappahannock Indian. She studied drama at Oberlin College, Ohio. A founding member of Spiderwoman Theatre Co., Native Americans in the Arts, and Off the Beaten Path, she has worked in film, *Sun, Moon and Feather* and television, *The Equalizer*; toured the U.S. in the Native American Theatre Ensemble's one woman show *Grandma*; and appeared as Pelijia Patchnose in the Canadian tour of the original production of *The Rez Sisters* and at the Edinburgh Festival. Most recently, she performed as Coyote/Vitaline in *Jessica*, a Northern Lights Production in Edmonton, and was nominated for the Sterling Award as outstanding supporting actress 1988.

MURIEL MIGUEL (Philomena Moosetail)

Muriel Miguel is a Cuna/Rappahannock Indian actress and director. She was a member of Open Theatre under the direction of Joseph Chaikin. She appeared in Jean-Claude Van Itally's *Serpent*, Megan Terry's *Viet Rock*, Sam Shepard's *Sidewinder* and Arrabal's *They Put Handcuffs on*

the Flowers. One of the very few native directors, she founded and is director of the internationally renowned Spiderwoman Theatre, now thirteen years old. The OBIE award-winning company has recently completed their first film entitled *Sun, Moon and Feather*. Muriel is also director of the native theatre group Off The Beaten Path and is theatre coordinator for the American Indian Community House in New York City. She has directed *Double Take a Second Look* and *Give Them a Carrot* for Native Earth as well as *The Dream Was* for Northern Delights. Muriel was Indian of the Year in New York City.

JENNIFER O'CONNOR (Assistant Stage Manager)

Jennifer O'Connor began her stint as Assistant Stage Manager in Centaur 2 working on *The Chain* earlier this season and recently on *Little Shop Of Horrors*. A native of Pennsylvania, she comes to Centaur having recently completed a tour as Stage Manager for Regina's Globe Theatre. While at the Globe, she also worked on various Mainstage productions including *The Norman Conquests* and *King Lear*. Since completing her theatre training at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Jennifer worked as a theatre technician at the University of Waterloo, assistant technical director at Huron County Playhouse (Grand Bend, Ontario) and at Summerfun Summer Theatre in New Jersey. She will work on *Juno and the Paycock* later this season.

NICOLETTE THÉROUX (Stage Manager)

Nicolette Théroux recently stage managed the hit musical *Little Shop of Horrors*. This is her third season with Centaur; she has previously worked on such shows as *Faith Healer*, *La Sagouine*, *The Road to Mecca* and *Bordertown Café*. Last fall, she spent three months in the Maritimes stage managing Theatre New Brunswick and the Neptune Theatre's co-production of *Blood Relations*. A native of Edmonton, Nicolette completed her Stage Management apprenticeship at the Citadel Theatre and has since worked for various theatres across the country including Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, Manitoba Theatre Centre and Workshop West in Edmonton.

DAVID TOMLINSON (Composer/Performer)

David Tomlinson comes to Centaur having just performed in Menotti's *The Medium* at the Royal Ontario Museum Theatre in Toronto. David was nominated for a Sterling Award for Outstanding Composition/Sound Design for his work on *Jessica* for Northern Lights Theatre in Edmonton. He has previously performed with Caravan Stage Company, Sudbury Theatre Centre, Huron County Playhouse, 45.3 and The Group of Several. Other credits include work for the CBC, CIUT, Duke Street Records and Holly Records as well as dance accompaniment for Toronto Dance Theatre, Dancemakers and TIDE. David composed and performed the soundscape for the original production of *The Rez Sisters*.

ROSE MARIE TRUDEAU (Bingo Girl)

is an Ojibwe Pottawatami Native Indian of the Odawa Nation and from the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. An Early-Childhood Educator for the past fifteen years, she became involved in theatre in July 1988 appearing in *Aria* and *Nothing Personal* at the De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre under the direction of Larry Lewis. She has taken time off from her career to perform in this production of *The Rez Sisters*. Rose Marie is understudying the role of Véronique St-Pierre.

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This month's personal profile is with:

MARK ZIMMERMAN

Business Manager

A native Montrealer, Mark joined the Centaur team in May 1987.

Q: You are a relatively new member of the company. What is your first impression of the Centaur team?

A: How together everyone is under the incredible pressure.

Q: What is your role as Business Manager?

A: To oversee all business aspects of the company. More specifically, the accounting functions, finance and dollar related matters. I work closely with the Artistic Director, Associate Director and Production Manager. We meet regularly to prepare budgets and analyse revenues and expenses.

Q: What are your interests outside the theatre?

A: Sports, especially tennis and aerobics. I love to travel and try to catch as many plays as I can, especially in New York and London. I have an extensive theatre poster collection.

Q: You've been a Centaur theatregoer for a long time. What is your favourite production?

A: I would have to say *Fire*. *K2* is a close second. I loved the raw energy in both.

Q: Now that you're working here, is the "business of theatre" what you expected it to be?

A: Actually, I thought that it would be the same as the corporate world. But I know, now, that theatre administration is characterized more by "gut feel" and "experience". It's more a "seat of the pants" type management. The business is guided by the artistic vision.

The recent 20th Anniversary Gala hosted by CFCF 12 was a terrific success. The February 24th event began with a lively champagne reception and was followed by the taping of the gala show which included the participation of the following celebrity guests: Don McGowan (Host), Dave Broadfoot, Denis Christianson Band, Dorian Joe Clark, Leonard Cohen, Donald K Donald, Charles Dutoit, Ted Dykstra, Margie Gillis, Gratien Gélinas, Oliver Jones, Irving Layton, Ron Lea, Rane Lee, The McGarrigles, Sylvie Perron, Christopher Plummer, Peter Pringle, Maurice Podbrey, Jean-Louis Roux and Bobby Smith. The Centaur Gala will air on CFCF 12 on March 15 at 8 p.m.

Watch for this month's Genie Awards. Some performers you have recently seen on the Centaur stage have been nominated for awards, namely, Michael Rudder (*The Murder of Susan Parr*) and Ron White (*Glengarry Glen Ross and Biloxi Blues*).

Television audiences will recognize Cree Summer Franks as one of the stars of America's #2 hit TV series A Different World. Centaur audiences will remember Cree Summer from the 1987 production Somebody Somebody's Returning.

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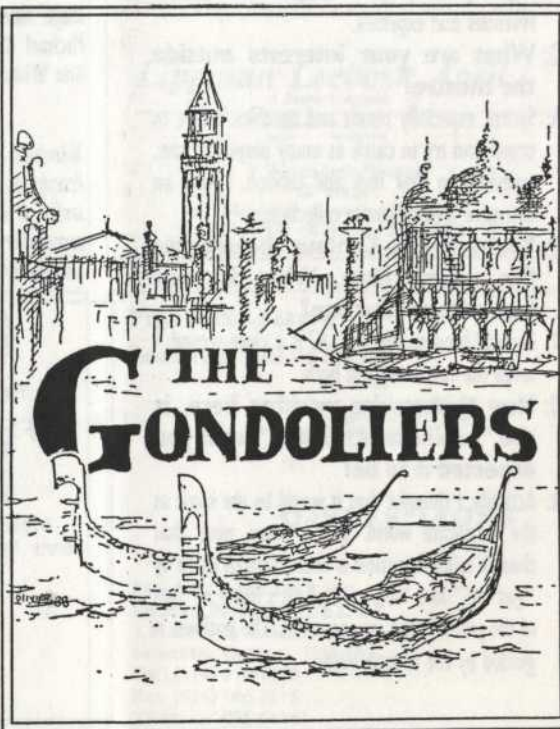
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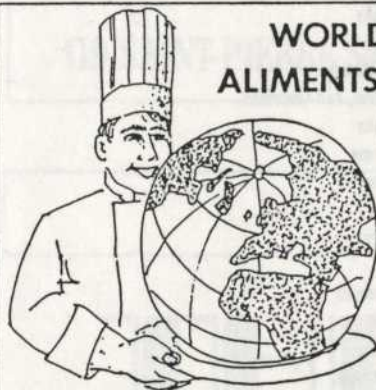


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Charles Childs Production Manager
Mike D'Amato Head Technician C2
Mary Dowe Properties Assistant
Alexander Gazale Technical Director
Francis LePage Head Carpenter
Stewart Markham Assistant Carpenter
Brenda McLeese Wardrobe Mistress
Steve Schön Head Technician C1
Mary Thomas Wardrobe Supervisor

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Centaur Foundation gratefully acknowledges grants from the Canadian Council, le Ministère des Affaires culturelles du Québec, le Conseil des Arts de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal and all corporate and individual donors.



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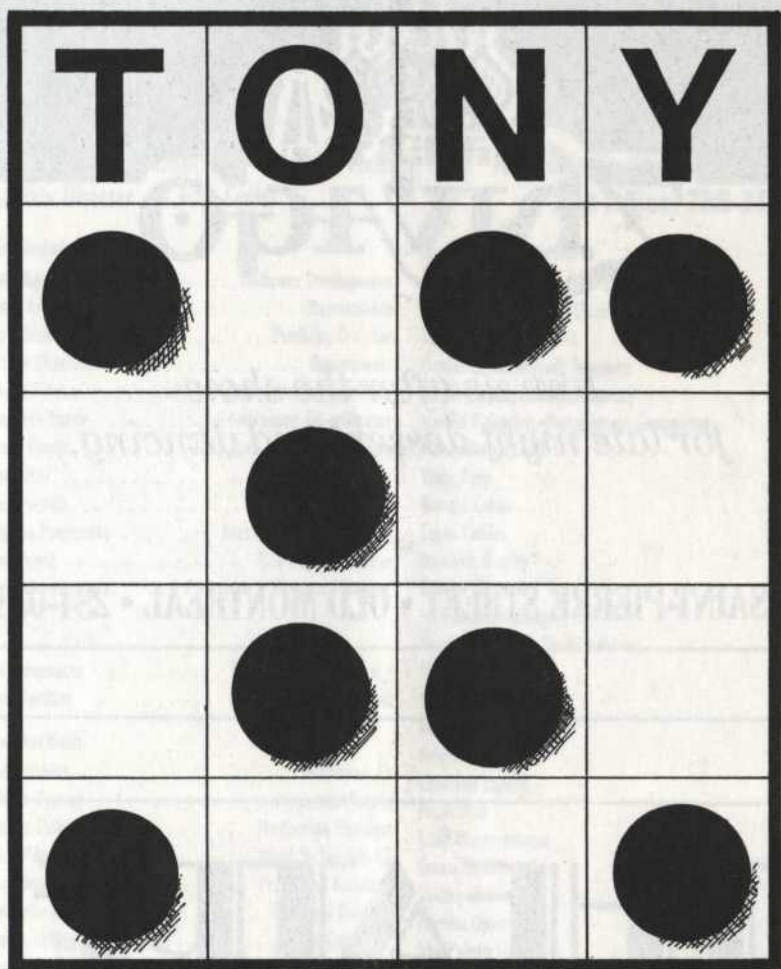
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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7 A.M.-6 P.M. Sat. 7 A.M.-5 P.M.

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