



centaur
theatre
company

A warm welcome to Season 21. Each of the plays scheduled has the promise of excitement, of surprise, and of pleasure. Maybe all 3! Anyway, this is the time to hope. All things are possible. Being 21 doesn't make anything easier but having so many subscribers take the journey together makes it always very worthwhile.

With thanks,

Maurice Podbrey
Artistic Director



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HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE

by Maynard Collins

October 3rd - 29th, 1989

CHARACTERS

Hank Williams	Sneezy Waters
The Drifting Cowboys	Vitus Paukstaitus
	Bob Taillefer
	Terry Tufts
	Joel Zifkin

directed by Sneezy Waters with Brian Richmond

lighting design by John Munro

stage manager Jean-François Coupal

assistant stage manager Lynn McQueen

Based on the original production directed by Peter Froelich

There will be a 20 minute intermission

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 21st 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 the RITZ-CARLTON'S exquisite seafood restaurant, LE MARITIME. Also, limousine transportation to and from the show, and special gifts!

The lucky winner for HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE is Mrs. Louise Salkeld of TMR, who has been a subscriber with Centaur for ten years. Mrs. Salkeld was born in Toronto and has lived in Montreal since she was nine years old. She worked for 23 years with Canadian International Paper Company. Now widowed, Mrs. Salkeld takes classes in glass painting and is a member of the TMR Community Club and the Canadian Club. Mrs. Salkeld's favorite Centaur production was 84 Charing Cross Road.

Congratulations Mrs. Salkeld and guest, and enjoy your special evening at the RITZ and at CENTAUR!



Ritz-Carlton

*"I said to Hank Williams
How lonely does it get?
Hank Williams hasn't answered me yet
But I hear him coughing all night long
Twenty floors above me in the tower of song."*

From *The Tower of Song* by Leonard Cohen

About Hank Williams

Born Hiram Williams, September 17, 1923, Mount Olive, Alabama; died January 1, 1953, Oak Hill, West Virginia.

Hank Williams was perhaps the most influential of all country & western musicians. His unique vocal style (he called it "moanin' the blues") and magnetic stage presence led the way for the nationwide popularity of country music. His many C & W #1 records, including "Cold, Cold Heart", "Jambalaya", "Your Cheatin' Heart" and "Hey, Good Lookin'", are still popular today, and his songs have been recorded by countless country and pop musicians.

Hiram "Hank" Williams was born in a two-room share-cropper's shack in southeastern Alabama. His father was shell-shocked from World War 1 and committed himself to a veterans' hospital when Hank was seven. Williams' mother supported him and his sister. She played organ in the local Baptist church, where Hank sang in the choir, and she bought him a guitar for \$3.50. When he was 11, Williams moved in with relatives in a railroad camp and began frequenting the Saturday night dances, where he learned about country music and moonshine. The following year, he moved with his family to the larger town of Greenville and began learning blues songs from a black street singer named Rufe "Tee-Tot" Payne. Williams played on streetcorners with Tee-Tot, sold peanuts and shined shoes.

In 1937, the family moved to Montgomery, Alabama. Hank won an amateur contest by performing his "W.P.A. Blues" and, dubbed the Singing Kid, he secured a twice-weekly radio show on local station WSFA. Soon after, he formed the Drifting Cowboys and began playing the Alabama roadhouse circuit, with his mother as booking agent and driver.

By December 1944, Williams had played nearly every roadhouse in Alabama and had married Audrey Mae Sheppard. Two years later, he signed a songwriting contract with Nashville publishers Acuff-Rose, and he recorded in Nashville on the small Sterling label. Soon after, he got a recording contract with newly formed MGM and began his successful collaboration with producer/arranger Fred Rose. That summer (1948), Williams joined the popular KWKH country music radio program "Louisiana Hayride" in Shreveport. His records started making the C&W charts, and he finally hit big with "Lovesick Blues", which became the #1 country record of 1949.

On June 11, 1949, Williams played at the Grand Ole Opry for the first time and received an unprecedented six encores. His fame grew along with his touring schedule of one-nighters across the country. Besides recording his blues C&W records, he also recorded gospel-influenced songs under the name Luke the Drifter. By 1952, his drinking had gotten out of hand, his health had deteriorated and his marriage ended in divorce.

Williams' chronic back problems had resulted in his dependence on painkillers, and in August he was fired from the Grand Ole Opry because of frequent no-shows. Four months later, at the age of 29, he died of a heart attack in the back of his Cadillac on the way to a show in Canton, Ohio. Many years later reports were issued that he actually died in a Knoxville, Tennessee, hotel room after excessive alcohol and drug consumption.

After his death, his records sold more than ever, and he hit #1 twice more with "Kaw-Liga" and "Take These Chains from My Heart". His son Hank Williams, Jr., recorded his father's songs for the biographical film *Your Cheatin' Heart* (MGM, 1964).



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Maynard Collins' love of Country and Western music speaks for itself through HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE. In fact, the author of both stage and screenplay is a self-confessed "music junkie" and has been since childhood.

Collins became addicted to Country music as a boy listening to late night American radio shows and Hank Williams was an early idol.

He has worked as a freelance journalist, writing for various newspapers and periodicals and in 1974, wrote his first theatrical piece — THE LATE, LATE, CRISIS SHOW. He has worked as a researcher on National Film Board Production, LOS CANADIENSES, ONE MAN, and HAS ANYBODY HERE SEEN CANADA? In 1976 he published his first book of film criticism, entitled, NORMAN McLAREN.

In 1977, Maynard Collins completed HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE, the synthesis of his three loves: music, writing and theatre. Although his initial intention had been to write a stage play about a fictional alcoholic Country and Western singing star, he soon realized that the element of fiction was not required: the very character he was attempting to create had existed in the person of Hank Williams.

Maynard Collins joined the Canada Council in 1978 as an Awards Officer.



***From the program for HANK WILLIAMS from
the Raw Ink Inc./Sneezy Waters Inc. Production.

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SAIDY BRONFMAN CENTRE

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. Centaur welcomes Jean-François back to his position of Stage Manager for Centaur Two after a year's absence. His previous Centaur Two credits were productions of FIRE, THE REAL THING, BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS, GUYS AND DOLLS, VASSA, OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME, and BILOXI BLUES.

LYNN MCQUEEN (Assistant Stage Manager)

Lynn McQueen returns to Centaur for a second season as Assistant Stage Manager of Centaur Two, after completing her apprenticeship during Season 20 while she worked on GUYS AND DOLLS, THE GIGLI CONCERT, THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR, and FROM THE MAIN TO MAINSTREET. Lynn stage managed numerous productions while studying political science at McGill University and she has also stage managed APA's productions of TO THE MOON and THE THREEPENNY OPERA. This past summer, Lynn stage managed and was Assistant Director for Les productions de la lune verte's ZWEITER BERLINER SONGSPIEL which played in the courtyard of The National Theatre School.

JOHN MUNRO (Lighting Designer)

A resident of Meech Lake, Quebec, John Munro has worked extensively across Canada as a lighting designer. He has designed over 30 productions at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, most recently for the operas CARMEN and DON GIOVANNI, as well as for the Canada Dance Festival. The most recent season at the Stratford Festival showcased John's designs in HENRI V and THREE SISTERS. Upcoming lighting designs to John's credit include FIRE at Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre, A GIFT TO LAST at the National Arts Centre, and the touring production of LA SAGOUINE with Joan Orenstein beginning at The Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa.

VITUS PAUKSTAITUS (Bass)

Vitus Paukstaitus has been trained formally and has studied with Johnny B. Gayden (Albert Collins Band - The Icebreakers) and Russell Jackson (B.B. King). His love of all forms of roots music (jazz, rhythm and blues, country, blues) has taken him on several trips to New Orleans. He is active in the Ottawa music scene and has toured with Sneezy Waters for the last two years.

BRIAN RICHMOND (Director)

Brian Richmond has directed over 75 productions for most major theatres in Canada. Currently the Artistic Director of Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, Brian is founding Artistic Director of Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre. He has also worked as dramaturge for Playwrights' Workshop in Montreal and as Artistic Director for Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, where he had the pleasure of working with Sneezy Waters in HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE. Brian has directed a number of hit musical productions at Centaur over the past seasons: CRUEL TEARS, LOVE IS STRANGE, FIRE, GUYS AND DOLLS, as well as the drama on the life of Norman Bethune, GONE THE BURNING SUN. In Montreal, he has also directed BIRTH RITE and MOONSHOT at the Phoenix Theatre and BOSOMS AND NEGLECT and BILLY THE KID at the Saidye Bronfman Centre. He most recently directed a new version of RIGOLETTO for Passe Muraille and will be directing Canadian Stage's (Toronto) upcoming production of FIRE.

BOB TAILLEFER (Pedal Steel)

Bob Taillefer is a native of Ottawa, where at the age of 14 he began playing five string banjo in a bluegrass band, later taking up the pedal steel. He played with a number of country bands, most notably Terry Carisse & Tracks. Bob hails from a musically inclined family, and spent a number of years with his brother in Manchester, England, where he had the opportunity to create original music for the BBC. There they formed bands of various musical styles, including jazz, funk, blues, and country. Bob is now back living in Ottawa, playing, writing, and working mostly with country singer Anita Perras.

TERRY TUFTS (Guitar)

Terry Tufts has made time for music and little else throughout his life. He has been singing since the age of four and playing since the age of nine, beginning with the banjo, dulcimer, lap steel, tabla, acoustic and electric guitars. Terry works mainly as a solo performer and studio guitarist and has just recently completed his second album, "Transparent Blue". Terry has opened for such notables as Scott Merrit, Valdy, Jesse Winchester, and Air Supply, and has made several appearances on CBC radio showcasing part of an endless catalogue of original material.



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A PARTY WITH HANK, SNEEZY, AND THE DRIFTING COWBOYS!

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Hankerin' for a good ole down home time?
Y'all come over, you'll be feelin' fine,
Chow's right here;
Chicken, ribs and beer.
Wear your clothes that ain't the best
Cause we're goin' for a ride —
Through the ole wild west.
Listen to Hank sing "Cold Cold Heart"
Reckon it's for Centaur..
That you're doin' your part!

Date: Monday, November 6th, 1989.
6:00 pm: Wet your whistle and chow-down at the Centaur Saloon!
8:00 pm: Snezy Waters in the highly acclaimed — **HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE**
10:15 pm: Dessert and one heck of a good time!
Place: Centaur, 453 Saint François-Xavier.
Tickets: \$65.00 a portion to be tax-deductible.
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SNEEZY WATERS (Hank Williams, Director)

Sneezy began his professional career in the 1960s and has been featured on many network radio and television shows including *This Country in the Morning*, *The Entertainers*, *Variety Tonight*, *Let's Sing Out*, *The Family Brown Show*, *Café Hibou*, *Canada After Dark*, *The Bob McLean Show*, *Ninety Minutes Live*, *The Alan Thicke Show*, *The Tommy Hunter Show*, and *Super Country Superstars*. He has shared the stage with a number of musicians, including Joan Armatrading, John Hammond, Roy Orbison and Martin Mull.

In November 1977 he starred in the runaway hit *Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave*. The show toured extensively until 1982 in Canada and the United States and was part of *O Kanada*, the Canadian cultural festival in Berlin. The movie version of the play has been shown on First Choice Superchannel and on CTV in Canada, on Home Box Office and Z Channel in the United States, and in Great Britain and Scandinavia. In 1984 Sneezy won the Best Actor Award in the *Je Festival International du Film Musical* in Grenoble, France, for his role as Hank Williams, and the film was nominated for the best country motion picture of 1984 in the 19th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards.

Sneezy acted in *Blind Faith*, an episode of *For The Record* and was nominated for an ACTRA award for his portrayal of the sulky driver Delbert Purvis in the CBC mini-series *Backstretch*. He also starred in an episode of *The Twilight Zone* entitled "Love is Blind". Aside from this work, Sneezy produced the sound track for *Joe Cat*, a National Film Board production and for *Terminal Blues*, a National Arts Centre production. He has released two albums: *(You've Got) Sawdust on the Floor of Your Heart*, whose title song was featured in Anne Wheeler's 1986 film *Loyalties*, and *Sneezy Waters Sings Hank Williams*.

He has toured extensively in Canada (including several Arctic communities), Japan, Hong Kong, Laos, Thailand, India, Denmark, Germany, Holland, and the United States.

Sneezy has been influenced by the music of these countries as well as by the music of Philip Glass, Woody Guthrie, Lester Young, Willie P. Bennett, Frank Zappa, Charlie Parker, Ian Tamblyn, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, and John Lennon.

He receives a lot of musical support from his band which includes some of Canada's best session players.

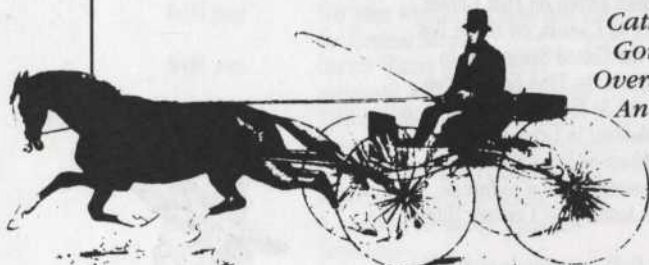
JOEL ZIFKIN (Violin)

Joel is a Montreal resident with a number of impressive musical credits. A talented multi-instrumentalist, he has played with Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Buddy Guy, Hubert Sumlin, Robert Charlebois, Joe Dassin, Eddy Cleanhead Vinson, and Big Mama Thornton. Joel composes and produces music for films and commercials, and has been involved in a number of studio sessions. He also writes and plays with The Bliminals.



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This month's personal profile is with:

LYNN PRIEST
Box Office Manager

Born in Ottawa, Lynn moved to Montreal at a very early age. She has been with Centaur for three seasons.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO A JOB IN THEATRE?

The excitement, the variety. I've always been fascinated with the creative arts — theatre, film — and when I went to Concordia I thought that I wanted to be a stage technician, but by the third year, after having studied all facets of theatre, I realized that I really wanted to stay with theatre administration.

OBVIOUSLY, TICKET SALES ARE AT THE CRUX OF WORKING IN THE BOX OFFICE, BUT WHAT OTHER THINGS ARE INVOLVED?

Often, the Box Office is the only link between the public and the theatre. In a sense, there's a lot of PR involved. Sometimes we are the only people that the audience sees aside from the actors, and we get a lot of feedback about the productions from them.

BOX OFFICE STAFF DEAL WITH A LOT OF PHONE CALLS IN ONE DAY. SURELY, YOU MUST GET SOME AMUSING REQUESTS AT TIMES?

It was quite funny recently, actually, with a couple of rental groups that we had in. Customers would call to ask what we had playing, and we would have to say, we have "The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas" and "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking". I was beginning to think that I was in the wrong place!

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I'm involved in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, I read quite a bit and I dabble in photography.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE CENTAUR PRODUCTION?

Asinamali. All they needed was a stage and a few props, and yet the feeling that came out of it was overwhelming. It was the play that affected me the most.

Rush Reinblatt

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Season 21



CENTAUR NOTES

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10:30 A.M.

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October 21st, 1989

10:30 A.M.

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A NOTE TO OUR AUDIENCE:



As you may have noticed, a number of seats in the last rows of the theatre are often reserved for latecomers. When a sold out show is running, our ushers often have no option but to seat you in single seats, despite the fact that those back row seats are available. We do request your co-operation in taking the single seats offered to you, as we cannot seat latecomers anywhere else but in those reserved rows without disturbing the performance. Thanks for understanding!



CENTAUR WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT
OUR BAR IS OPEN AFTER THE SHOW!

Located in The Gallery, it is the perfect place to relax with friends, maybe talk about the show you just saw. Meet the actors and sample the special "Theatre Mix", a drink whose theme runs along each show of the season, specially concocted by Alexina Scott-Savage, our creative Bartender.

This month's recipe, *THE DRIFTING COWBOY*:

1/2 ounce AMARETTO
1/2 ounce SOUTHERN COMFORT
1/4 ounce GIN
2 1/2 ounces CLUB SODA
a slice of lemon



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Associate Director – Judy Cutler

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 Mike D'Amato Head Technician C2
 Mary Dowe Properties Assistant
 Alexander Gazale Technical Director
 Francis LePage Head Carpenter
 Steve Marullo Assistant Carpenter
 Brenda McLeese Wardrobe Mistress
 Steve Schön Head Technician C1
 Mary Thomas Wardrobe Supervisor

For This Production

Hair Ben Robin
 Make-up Julie Champagne
 Scene Painting Art Appliqué

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

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