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by **Wendy Lill**

based on the novel by **Sheldon Currie**

directed by **Mary Vingoe**

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THE GLACE BAY MINERS' MUSEUM



SEASON SPONSOR

by **Wendy Lill**
based on the novel by **Sheldon Currie**
directed by **Mary Vingoe**

September 24 - October 20, 1996

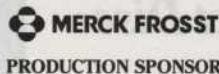
CAST

Margaret MacNeil	Mary Colin-Chisholm
Grandpa	Peter Elliott
Mother/Catherine MacNeil	Nicola Lipman
Ian MacNeil	Ross Manson
Neil Currie	Hugh Thompson

Set and Costume Design by	Stephen Britton Osler
Lighting Design by	Paul Mathiesen
Original Music and arrangements by	Ian McKinnon and Geoff Panting
Soundscape and additional arrangements by	Paul Cram
Costume Consultant	Gay Hauser
Stage Manager	Johanne Pomrenski
Assistant Stage Manager	Gretel G. Meyer

There will be one intermission.

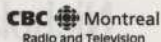
The Glace Bay Miners' Museum was originally produced in 1995 by The Eastern Front Theatre and The Ship's Company Theatre of Nova Scotia. Wendy Lill was originally commissioned to dramatize *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* for CBC Radio Drama.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The short story, *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum*, was written back in the nineteen sixties. It's an oddball, tough as nails, exquisite piece of writing and it is written in Margaret's voice. It is that voice that initially attracted me. It is so authentic, so tough, funny and tragic all at once. Everyone who reads the story has a profound reaction to the ending. Horrifying, surreal, bizarre, unforgettable, unbelievable are all within the range of response. I knew if we were to do the play the ending was crucial. Margaret's last desperate act is, above all, an act of triumph, of triumph of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming odds. Margaret MacNeil reminds me of those South American women who put their own lives in danger to picket with photographs of their lost children outside government offices of oppressive regimes. They will not be silenced. It is because there are people who will take such a stand that we can continue to have hope in ourselves as a race.

The Glace Bay Miners' Museum is about the triumph of the human spirit. I feel very fortunate to have been a part of its genesis as a stage play.



MARY VINGOE (*Director*) is the Artistic Director of The Eastern Front Theatre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has worked extensively as a director and dramaturge at theatres across the country, including Prairie Theatre Exchange, The Banff Playwrights Colony, Alberta Theatre Projects, Neptune Theatre, Playwrights Workshop Montreal and The Mulgrave Rd. Coop Theatre. She is also a founder and past Artistic Director of Toronto's

Nightwood Theatre and Nova Scotia's Ship's Company Theatres. As a writer and adapter, her work has been heard frequently on CBC radio. Her most recent play is a stage adaptation of Sheldon Currie's novel *The Company Store*.

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WENDY LILL

(Playwright)

Wendy Lill was born in Vancouver, educated in London and Toronto,

Ontario and lives in Dartmouth with her husband Richard Starr and sons Joey and Sam. She has written for radio, magazines, film, television and stage. She has received a number of awards for her writing including two ACTRAS, a Golden Sheaf for her film *IKWE*, and two nominations for the Governor General's Award*, a Chalmers Award and a Gemini. Ms. Lill's *Memories of You* was produced in Winnipeg, Toronto, at the National Arts Centre, TNB and at Neptune Theatre in Halifax 1991. Her play *Sisters* has been done in Parrsboro, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Whitehorse and in universities across the country. *The Occupation of Heather Rose* has been produced in over ten Canadian cities as well as in Denmark, Germany and Utah. Both *Sisters* and *Memories of You* have been adapted for television. *All Fall Down* has played theatres across Canada and is being translated into Hebrew for a production in Tel Aviv. *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum*, adapted from a short story by Sheldon Currie, was first produced by Eastern Front and Ship's Company Theatre in 1995 and will have three main regional productions in 1996-97 - the Centaur, Neptune and Manitoba

Theatre Centre. All of Lill's plays are published. Wendy Lill is a founding member of the Eastern Front Theatre Company in Dartmouth.

* In 1987, for *The Occupation of Heather Rose*, and in 1994, for *All Fall Down*.



SHELDON CURRIE

(Author of the short story and novel, *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum*)

Sheldon Currie was born in 1934 in Reserve Mines, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. After spending some time in the RCAF and various jobs, he attended Xavier College, Sydney, N.S. and St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S. where he received his B.A. and B.Ed. Degrees in 1957 and 1958. After teaching high school for a year he continued his education receiving an M.A. at the University of New Brunswick and a Ph.D at the University of Alabama.

A collection of short stories, *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* was published by Deluge Press in 1981, a novel *The Company Store* in 1988, and *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum - The Novel*, in 1995. He has published short stories in a variety of literary periodicals.

He has published critical articles on Flannery O'Connor and David Adams Richards.

The short story, *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* has been trans-

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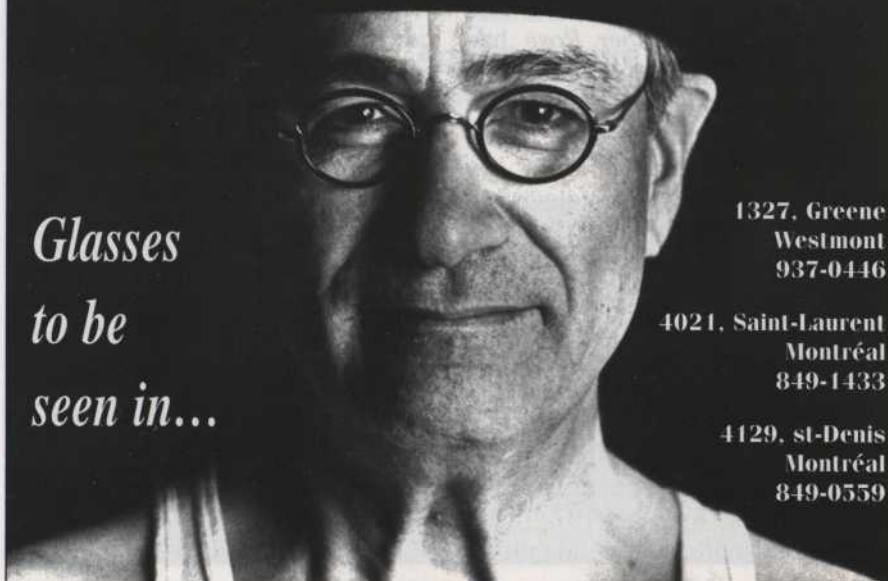
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formed into a radio play and a stage play by Wendy Lill, and into a film, *Margaret's Museum*, by scriptwriter Gerald Wexler.



MARY COLIN-CHISHOLM

(Margaret)

spent last summer on the beach and in the theatre directing *Same Time Next Year* and performing her one woman show, *He'd Be Your Father's Mother's Cousin* for Festival Antigonish. She's worked for the Ship's Co., Mulgrave Road, Neptune, Theatre New Brunswick, Prairie Theatre Exchange, the National Arts Centre and the Blyth Festival, in plays as diverse as *Good Night Desdemona*, *Good Morning Juliet* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Next spring, her play *Safe Haven* will be produced in Kamloops by the Western Canadian Theatre Company.



PETER ELLIOTT

(Grandpa)

I first worked at Centaur 25 years ago whilst I was a student at The National Theatre School. I returned here on a number of occasions during those early years, and had the opportunity to work with some fine people and do some pretty exciting plays. Since then I've

worked in most of the theatres in this country, and it's a pleasure to come back to Centaur in 1996 and be part of *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum*.



NICOLA LIPMAN

(Mother)

spent the summer at the Atlantic Theatre Festival performing in *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Twelfth Night* and *Love Letters*. Work across the country includes *Shirley Valentine* (Belfry, Victoria); *Educating Rita* and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Arts Club, Vancouver); *'Night Mother* and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg); *Road to Mecca* (Citadel, Edmonton and here at Centaur); *Lettice and Lovage* (Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary); *Broadway Bound* and others (Grand Theatre, London); *Shirley Valentine*, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* and others (Neptune, Halifax); *Blood Relations* (Theatre New Brunswick); *Sisters* and *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* (Ship's Company, Parrsboro). In Toronto, she has appeared at Tarragon Theatre and Theatre Passe Muraille, and most recently at Y.P.T. in *Two Weeks with The Queen*, plus numerous roles in radio, film and television. Following *Glace Bay*, she will be doing *Angels in America* for Neptune Theatre. Nicola Lipman is a graduate of the University of British Columbia



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**ROSS
MANSON**

(Ian)
has played leading roles at over twenty theatres across Canada. Some favorites

include Ralph Clark in *Our Country's Good* (Centaur/Neptune), Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (Neptune), Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Canadian Stage), Brendan in *Digging for Fire* (Paramour), Stephen Andrews in *A Map of the World* (Canadian Stage/National Arts Centre), The Young Covey in *The Plough and the Stars* (Banff Advanced Actor's Workshop) and The Man in *Kalldewey, Farce* (Theatre Smith-Gilmour). Ross is the Artistic Director of Volcano, a Toronto-based theatre company dedicated to international work. He has translated several plays from German, two of which he has directed for Volcano, and he is founding member of Toronto's newly-formed Group of Seven Theatres. Ross hales from New Brunswick and is overjoyed to be back in Montreal.



**HUGH
THOMPSON**

(Neil Currie), an Antigonish native, has worked at theatres across Canada including the Citadel, the

Royal Alex and the Grand and has appeared in several films and productions for television. The *Glace Bay Miners' Museum* marks his Centaur debut.



**STEPHEN
BRITTON
OSLER**

(Set & Costume Designer)
is pleased to be designing *The Glace*

Bay Miners' Museum for his debut at Centaur Theatre. He has been designing since 1976 starting at Theatre Network in Edmonton. Stephen works extensively in the Atlantic provinces with Neptune, The Eastern Front Theatre Company, Ship's Company Theatre, Festival Antigonish, Mulgrave Road Theatre, Dalhousie University, Theatre P.E.I. and Theatre New Brunswick. Stephen designed set and properties for *Alice Through the Looking Glass* for Stratford Festival's current season representing his fourth season at the festival. This past year, Stephen was Art Director for the film *Warrior Songs* to be premiered on Bravo this Fall as well as *Gullage's Taxi*, a six part series for CBC television slated for this Fall's programming. Stephen is the regional rep for The Associated Designers of Canada for the Atlantic Provinces.

PAUL MATHIESEN

(Lighting Designer)

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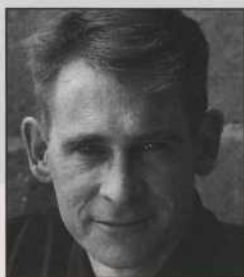
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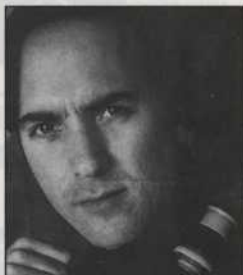
PAUL CRAM (*Sound Designer*) is a composer/performer who lives and works in Nova Scotia. He performs

with the Upstream Ensemble and the Benghazi Saxophone Quartet who have a CD coming out this Fall on Justin Time Records of Montreal entitled *Night Time Uptown*. He writes music for theatre, television, film and dance. Recently, he co-wrote and performed the music for a new CBC-TV series out of Newfoundland called *Gullage's* to be aired this Fall. He is currently working on a commission from Symphony Nova Scotia to be performed in February 1997 as part of the brand

new Open Waters Festival of new and improvised music in Halifax.

IAN MCKINNON & GEOFF PANTING

(*Original Music and Additional Arrangements*)



IAN MCKINNON, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a world-class Highland piper who has performed

and competed internationally. Ian's instruments also include tin whistle, bodhran and harmonica. His music has been featured on national radio, television and feature films. Ian is a member of the recording group Rawlins Cross.



GEOFF PANTING

resides in St. John's, Newfoundland, and has established a reputation both in live

performance and as a composer and arranger for theatre and television. His instruments include piano and button accordians and synthesizer. His credits include co-writing and producing the CODCO theme for CBC TV. Geoff is also a member of Rawlins Cross.

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**GAY
HAUSER**

(Costume
Consultant)
was the original costume designer for *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* in

Eastern Front's co-production with the Ship's Co. Theatre. Gay is also known for her work as an actress having recently performed at Festival Antigonish in *The Glass Menagerie*, *Same Time, Next Year* and *Towards Zero*. Gay appeared last year in Neptune Theatre's production of *Our Town* as Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Melrose in *Young Triffie's Been Made Away With*. Gay will be performing in Symphony Nova Scotia's production of *The Nutcracker* in December. Married to designer Stephen Osler, Gay manages their home with two children and is the administrator of the Eastern Front Theatre Company.



**JOHANNE
POMRENSKI**

(Stage
Manager)
is very happy to be reunited with the cast, Mary Vingoe and

Stephen Osler for Centaur's production of *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum*. Past credits as Stage Manager include *If We Are Women* and *Tall Tales of a Generation* for Centaur Theatre, *Babe Ruth Comes to Pickle River*, *Country Chorale*, *The Swinton Massacre*, *Young*

Triffie's Been Made Away With, *Living Curiosities*, *Odd Fish* and *Artichoke* for the Ship's Co. Theatre, The Maritime Tour of *The Occupation of Heather Rose* for Eastern Front Theatre Company and *Passages* by Peter Cureton. Next, Johanne will Stage Manage *Play it Again Sam* for Joe Malouf Theatre Company in Montreal and go on with *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* to Halifax, Winnipeg, and the Nova Scotia tour.



**GRETEL G.
MEYER**

(Assistant
Stage
Manager)

grew up on the east coast and is thrilled to be involved in this decidedly

Maritime production. Previous Centaur credits are *The Friedman Family Fortune*, *The Visitor*, *Take The Floor*, *The Substance of Fire*, *Tall Tales of a Generation*, *Someday* and *Blokes Deux*. Most recently, Gretel stage managed *Ned Durango Comes to Big Oak* at Upper Canada Playhouse. Partial to country playhouses, her other theatre credits include two seasons at The Piggery Theatre as Props Builder for *The Wild Guys*, *Marry Me A Little*, *Not Now Darling*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, and *The Best of Bowser and Blue*, and a season at The King's Playhouse in Prince Edward Island as Assistant Stage Manager/Props for *Harvest Moon Rising*, *White Weddings*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

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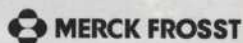
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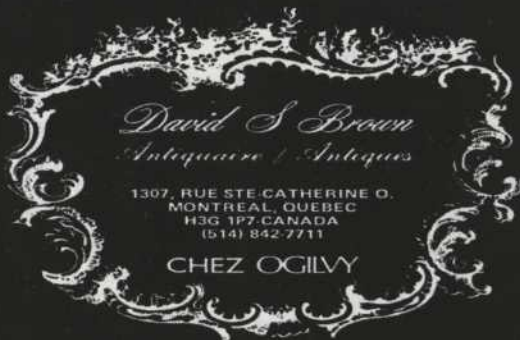


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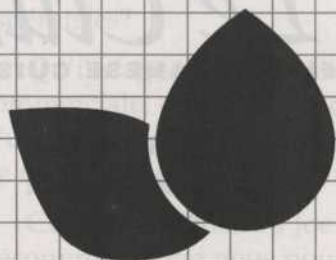
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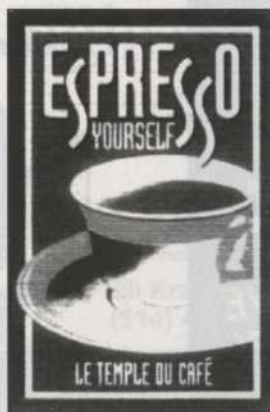
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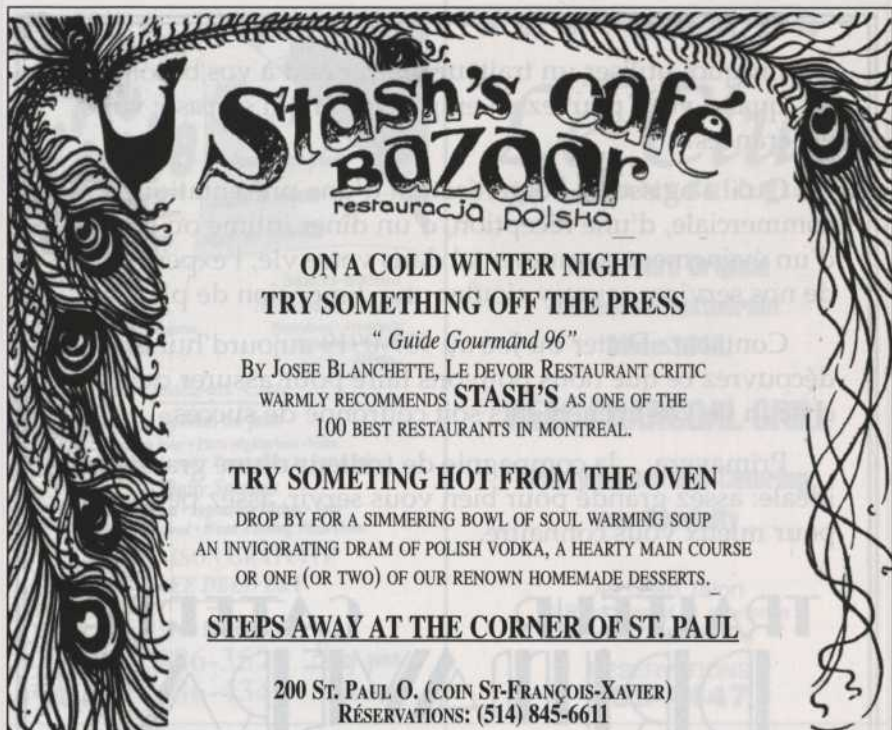
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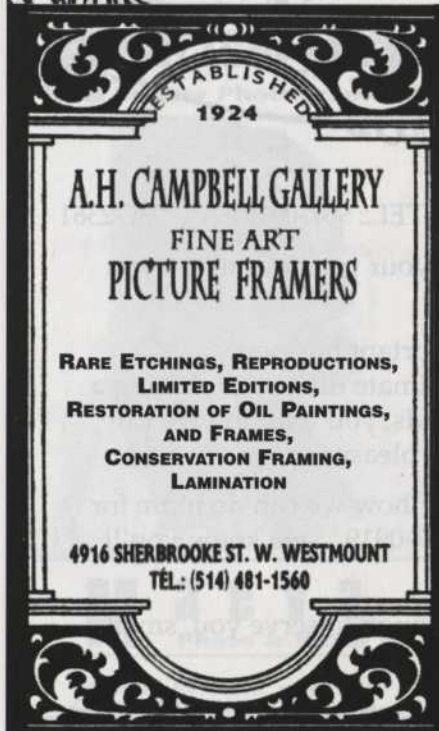
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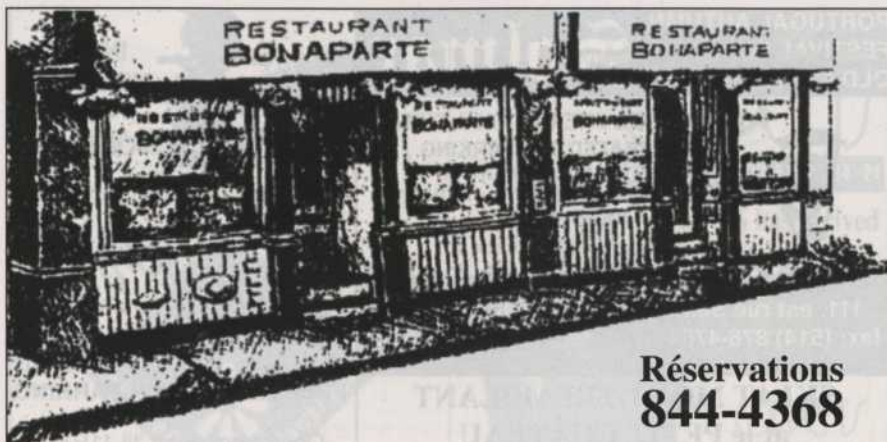
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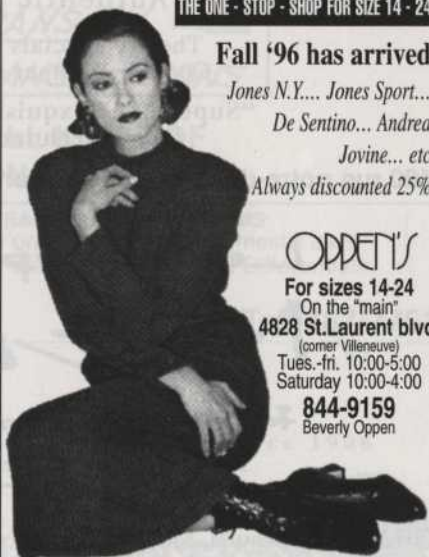
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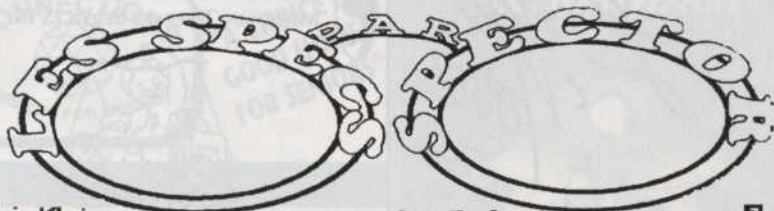
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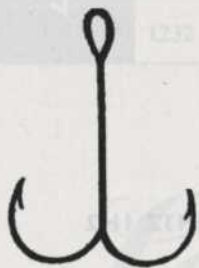
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