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THE REAL THING

by Tom Stoppard



March 10 — April 5, 1987

The Cast (in alphabetical order)

SUSAN ALMGREN	Annie
WENDI DAWSON	Charlotte
AIDAN DEVINE	Billy
BRIAN FURLONG	Brodie
ROB ROY	Max
MICHELE ELAINE TURMEL	Debbie
SIMON WEBB	Henry

directed by MAURICE PODBREY
 designed by SUSAN SAVAGE
 lighting by FREDDIE GRIMWOOD
 stage manager JEAN-FRANÇOIS COUPAL
 assistant stage manager JOHN RAYMOND

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

TOM STOPPARD wrote his first play, "Enter a Free Man", while working as a journalist in Bristol. He continued in journalism as a freelance, at the same time writing radio plays, a novel ("Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon") and the first of his plays to be staged, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead". His subsequent plays include "The Real Inspector Hound" and "After Magritte" (seen at Centaur in 1973), "Jumpers", "Travesties" (seen at Centaur in 1978), "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour" (a play for actors and orchestra written with André Previn) and "Night and Day" (staged by Centaur in 1981). For Ed Berman's Company, he wrote "Dogg's Our Pet", "Dirty Linen", and "New-Found-Land", "Dogg's Hamlet" and "Cahoot's Macbeth". He adapted "Tango" for the Royal Shakespeare Company, "Undiscovered Country", "On the Razzle", "Rough Crossings" and "Dalliance" for the National Theatre ("Dalliance" will open at New Haven's Long Wharf Theatre this spring). He has also translated Lorca's "House of Bernarda Alba" and Vaclav Havel's "Largo Desolato". His radio plays include "If You're Glad I'll Be Frank", "Albert's Bridge" (Italia Prize Winner), "Where Are They Now", "Artists Descending a Staircase" and "It Was the Dog That Died", and for television he adapted "Three Men in a Boat" and wrote "A Separate Peace", "Neutral Ground", "Teeth" and "Professional Foul" which won awards from BAFTA and the Broadcasting Press Guild. His Standard award-winning plays are "Rosencrantz and Gildenstern Are Dead", "Jumpers", "Travesties", "Night and Day" and "The Real Thing" (also recipient of five Tony Awards including Best Play). Mr. Stoppard has written screen plays for "Despair", "The Human Factor", "Brazil" and "Empire of the Sun".

* * *

SUSAN ALMGREN (Annie) attended Brown University and graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a B.F.A. in costume design. Stage credits include Perdita in "A Winter's Tale", Desdemona in "Othello", and various Chekhov roles in summerstock at Martha's Vineyard. Since moving to Canada, her film work includes Joyce in Mordecai Richler's "Mortimer Griffin & Stalinsky", Helene in RSL's "Separate Vacations", and Tamara, the lead in one of the eight television video romances recently co-produced in Montreal with Lorimar Studios. Last summer's theatre credits include Elizabeth in APA's production of "Laundry and Bourbon".

WENDI DAWSON (Charlotte) is no stranger to Centaur audiences who have seen her in the highly-acclaimed production 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD, ASHES, and THE SEA. She was most recently seen here in the Donald K. Donald/Piggery Theatre production of "Noises Off" as the dotty Dotty playing Mrs. Clackett. Montrealers will remember her from Encore Theatre productions, "Cloud Nine" and "La Ronde";

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AIDAN DEVINE (Billy) graduated from the Dawson College Professional Theatre Program in 1984. Born in Royton, a small town in Northern England, he now makes his home in Montreal. Centaur audiences saw him in the special production of Plato's SYMPOSIUM last season. He has recently appeared in several school-tour shows for Geordie Productions: "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "The Government Inspector", "The Wizard of Oz" and "The Taming of the Shrew". Last season, Aidan appeared in the Piggery Theatre productions "Stagestruck" and "Noises Off" (also seen at Centaur last September).

BRIAN FURLONG (Brodie), a graduate of the Dome Theatre School and originally from Hamilton, has performed in a variety of roles ranging from Tybalt and Friar Lawrence in "Romeo and Juliet" for the Theatre of Monmoath, Maine, to Ned in "Philadelphia Here I Come" for Equity Showcase, Toronto, and Henny in "The Actor's Nightmare" in Hamilton. Montreal audiences saw him as Lutern in Black Theatre Workshop's production of "The Death of Bessie Smith". Brian is also a founding member of Montreal's Foolhouse Theatre Company.

ROB ROY (Max) will be familiar to Centaur audiences for his appearance in JITTERS and in this season's THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE. APA credits include last summer's "Lonestar", Harry Standjofski's "Dick", and the roles of Thaliard and Cerimon in "Pericles". Recent film roles include Horace Greeley in the made-for-television movie, "Barnum", seen this past November on CBS, Gerry Nolte in "The Morning Man", and Ernest Kanzler in the soon-to-be-aired television movie, "Henry Ford".

MICHELE ELAINE TURMEL (Debbie) is making her professional stage debut. A 1986 graduate of Dome Theatre, she appeared as Helena in "All's Well That Ends Well", Alice in "You Can't Take It With You" and Thea Elvsted in "Hedda Gabler". Her television and film credits include Tracey in "Make Mine Chartreuse", one of a series of Harlequin Romance films, and the supporting role of Sarah in "The Great Land of Small" — soon-to-be-released.

SIMON WEBB (Henry), one of Western Canada's leading performers, will be remembered by Centaur audiences for his performance of Stan Laurel in last season's GONE WITH HARDY. In his hometown of Vancouver, he has starred in numerous productions including "Cabaret", "The Murder of Auguste Dupin", "El Grande de Coca Cola", "Twelfth Night", "A Man for All Seasons", "An Imaginary Invalid", "The Suicide", "The Chairs", "Three Thousand Years of Sexual Politics", "Don Messer's Jubilee" and "Taking

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Steps". Directing credits include "A Life in the Theatre", "Our Town", "The Good Doctor", "Bob Bossin's Home Remedy for Nuclear War", "The Hollow", "Bedroom Farce" and "The House of Blue Leaves" and an upcoming festival of Agatha Christie mysteries. Also an accomplished musician, he has written four original musicals. Winner of acting awards, recipient of Canada Council grants, Expo '86 visitors will recognize Simon for his memorable performance as the Blue King in the Oscar-nominated movie "Rainbow War".

* * *

MAURICE PODBREY (director) is the founding Artistic and Executive Director of Centaur Theatre Company. Over the past eighteen seasons, he has directed numerous acclaimed productions, most recently, ALBERTINE, IN FIVE TIMES, MASTER HAROLD... AND THE BOYS, THE SEAGULL, K2 and Stoppard's NIGHT AND DAY. Centaur audiences will remember his performance of Stalin in last season's MASTER CLASS as well as other stage appearances including DUET FOR ONE and A LESSON FROM ALOES. Maurice was Chairman of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres for two terms and is currently on the Board of Directors of the National Theatre School.

SUSAN SAVAGE (designer), a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, designed the set for last season's GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. Recently, she designed sets and costumes for Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay, including: "The Tempest", "The Shipbuilder", "Of Mice and Men", and "Teddy". She has also designed two productions which played at Centaur: "Angel: A Musical" for Les Productions Angel/Alan Jaslow Productions and "1984: A Romance", a David Rimmer production. Susan's other credits include the stage designing of 15 projects for The Town Stage, Dollard des Ormeaux, where she was the Resident Designer from 1977-1980, and the art direction of both "Time Bomb", a video for the Montreal Foundation for the Performing Arts and "Drama Lab", a series of collected drama shorts for the National Film Board of Canada.

FREDDIE GRIMWOOD (lighting designer) designed WAITING FOR THE PARADE, THE TOMORROW BOX, SWEET LIKE SUGA, TRANSLATIONS, 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD, SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES, and last season's PRAGUE for Centaur. He began his career at Oxford Playhouse moving to London a few years later to become Production Stage Manager for Western Theatre Ballet, a company which worked in association with Sadlers Wells Opera. Since moving to Canada, he has been Technical Director and Theatre Manager of the National Theatre School. He has represented Canada at international theatre gatherings in East Germany and the People's Republic of China. Over the past three seasons, Freddie has designed lights for l'Opéra de Montréal's "Il Barbiere di Siviglia", "Don Pasquale", "Suor Angelica" and "Cavalleria Rusticana".

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JEAN-FRANÇOIS COUPAL (stage manager) began his Stage Management apprenticeship at Kawartha Theatre in Lindsay, Ontario, completing the training at Centaur two seasons ago. He worked on SALT-WATER MOON, MASTER HAROLD... AND THE BOYS and 'NIGHT, MOTHER. Last season, as Assistant Stage Manager, he worked on ALBERTINE, IN FIVE TIMES, PRAGUE, MASTER CLASS and GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. He recently stage managed THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE and FIRE. Later this season he will work on BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS.

JOHN RAYMOND (assistant stage manager) is in his second season at Centaur, having worked on THE ZEN OF AN INTELLIGENT MACHINE, GONE WITH HARDY, and the recent hit, FIRE. He resides in Montreal and has directed several productions for local amateur groups including "Songs for War" for Children's Creations, "Oakhoma" and "Oliver" for Beth Zion Youth, and "Fiddler on the Roof" for Beth Tikvah Youth. He recently stage managed the Canadian première of "Social Security" at Stage West Dinner Theatre in Mississauga, Ontario, and has also worked at the Kawartha Summer Theatre in Lindsay, Ontario.

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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 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.

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