

# *The Chain*

by VITTORIO ROSSI

  
centaur  
theatre  
company  
20<sup>th</sup> season



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# THEATRE

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**The Gazette**



# The Chain

by VITTORIO ROSSI

October 4 - 30, 1988

## The Cast

Tullio Testa .....	HARRY STANDJOFSKI
Filomena Testa .....	ANNA GIANNOTTI
Giuseppe (Joe) Testa .....	RON LEA
Massimo Testa .....	RICHARD GIANNI ZEPPIERI
Anna Scuro .....	SYLVIA BONET
Rina Scuro .....	PAULINA GILLIS
Lorenzo (Enzo) Scuro .....	LOUIS TUCCI
Michael Simpson .....	DAVID GOW

directed by JOEL MILLER  
designed by GUIDO TONDINO  
lighting by ALEXANDER GAZALE  
stage manager GILLES TORDJMAN  
assistant stage manager JENNIFER O'CONNOR

## Place

The backyard of a duplex in Ville Emard.

## Time

Early August. The Present.

## Act One

Scene 1 - Sunday, late morning.  
Scene 2 - Evening. A few weeks later.

## Act Two

Scene 1 - Saturday morning. A few days later.  
Scene 2 - 11:30 pm that night.  
Scene 3 - Morning. The next day.

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There will be one intermission, time enough to enjoy a drink, sandwich or coffee at the bar.

Tape recorders and cameras are not allowed in the theatre. Please turn off wristwatch alarms and electronic beepers during the performance.

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## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Montreal playwright and actor, VITTORIO ROSSI, stormed the local theatre scene with two consecutive Best New Play Awards at the 1986 and 1987 Quebec Drama Festival. His one-act plays, "Little Blood Brother" (1986) and "Backstreets" (1987), won over both audiences and critics alike. This led to Centaur's invitation to be the theatre's 1987/88 Playwright-in-Residence. From this stint came his first full-length play and the opener of Centaur's 20th anniversary season. *THE CHAIN* will also play Ottawa's National Arts Centre later this season. Born in the Ville Emard Italian Community, Vittorio studied theatre at Dawson College and later graduated with a BFA in theatre performance from Concordia University. As an actor, his recent film credits include CBS' "Day One" and Téléscène's "Malerek". Vittorio is currently working on a play based on his experiences as a shoe salesman.

## SYLVIA BONET (Anna Scuro)

A native of Brazil, where her credits included "El Grande de Coca Cola" and the role of La Poncia in "The House of Bernarda Alba" for which she received the 1975 Best Actress Award from the Brazilian Actors' Association, Sylvia Bonet immigrated to Montreal in 1982. Her first job in Canada was as a broadcaster for CBC International Radio. Comfortable in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, she has performed on stage and in film in all of these languages. Her theatre credits include "Other Female Parts" for Théâtre L'Eskabel and "The Kitchen" at le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. Recent film and television credits include the First Choice production "No Blame" directed by Daniele Suissa, Téléscène's "Malerek" and "Night Heat". This is her first appearance at Centaur.

## ALEXANDER GAZALE (Lighting Designer)

Going into his eleventh season at Centaur, Alexander Gazale is currently Technical Director and Resident Lighting Designer. His first lighting design for Centaur was *JITTERS* in Season 11 (1979/80) and over the years he has lit over twenty productions. Alex has collaborated with Set Designer Guido Tondino on Centaur productions *MOVING*, *NOT ABOUT HEROES*, *SALT-WATER MOON* and *FIRE*. Other designs in-

clude *PLAYING THE FOOL*, *K2*, *GLORIOUS MUD*, *MASTER HAROLD... AND THE BOYS*, *ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES*, *SOMEBODY SOMEBODY'S RETURNING*, as well as last season's *LA SAGUINE*, *THE ROAD TO MECCA* and *OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME*. Alex has also taken several Centaur productions to other theatres across Canada. A Montrealer, Alex has been involved in theatre since his high school days at Loyola. While attending John Abbott College, he worked with many of Montreal's amateur and semi-professional companies; Thé-Arts, Phoenix Theatre, Group of Four and others. He has also spent a summer at La Poudrière. Alex is Quebec representative and board member of The Associated Designers of Canada.

## ANNA GIANNOTTI (Filomena Testa)

Born in Rome, Italy, Anna Giannotti immigrated to Montreal in 1961 and over the past eight years has established herself as one of Quebec's finest character actresses. A multilingual performer, Anna has appeared on stage and in film in Italian, English and French. Well-known to audiences of the Montreal-based theatre companies Théâtre Le Machere and Théâtre Romain, credits for Le Machere include "Chicchignola" and "Alla Fermata Del 66" and for Théâtre Romain "Il Marito Di Mia Moglie" and "La Scoperta de L'America". Among her numerous television and film credits are the award-winning film "Un Zoo La Nuit", "Cement Soul" for the Inside Stories series and, most recently, the Denys Arcand film "Jésus de Montréal".

## PAULINA GILLIS (Rina Scuro)

Paulina Gillis lives and works in Toronto where she has graced many stages. Her credits include "The Prince and Pauper" at Young People's Theatre; Theatre Plus' "The Miss Firecracker Contest" for which she received a Dora Mavor Moore Award nomination; "Science Fiction" at Factory Theatre; "The Little Foxes" at Theatre New Brunswick; "Brighton Beach Memoirs" for Grand Theatre; and "Lilly, Alta" at Blyth Festival. Favorite roles also include Babe in "Crimes of the Heart" for Press Theatre; Mary in "Salt-Water Moon" for Gryphon Theatre; and the title role in "Agnes of God"



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for Theatre Aquarius. Among her t.v. credits are "Street Legal", "Night Heat" and "The Campbells". Her voice is heard regularly on CBC radio dramas on "Morning-side" and "Vanishing Point". This is her first appearance at Centaur.

**DAVID GOW** (Michael Simpson)

David Gow studied theatre performance at Concordia University. He will be remembered by Centaur audiences as Donald Carney in last season's hit production *BILOXI BLUES*. Locally, he has also worked with Youtheatre in "The Knocks", at Le Stage in "Shear Madness" and for Playwrights' Workshop in a number of readings and workshops. Toronto credits include "Christmas" at Factory Theatre Studio. Film and television credits include "State Park", "Pin", "Midnight Magic" and, most recently, the role of Jack Wisnovsky in CBS' "Day One".

**RON LEA** (Giuseppe Testa)

Certainly no stranger to Centaur audiences, Ron Lea has appeared in the highly-successful productions *THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE*, *FIRE*, *BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS* and *OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME*. A native Montrealer now living in Toronto, Ron graduated from the National Theatre School. Local audiences have seen him in "Extremities" for Elite Productions and in the APA productions "Pericles" (title role), "American Buffalo" and "Dick" by Harry Standjofski. Ron has worked extensively in television and film, including "Long Dark Night" for Tom Berry, Denys Arcand's "Jésus de Montréal" and with Gary Oldman and Kevin Bacon in the recently-released "Criminal Law".

**JOEL MILLER** (Director)

From 1977 to 1985, Joel Miller was the Director of the English Acting Section of the National Theatre School of Canada. Prior to moving to Montreal in 1971, he was Assistant Artistic Director of Theatre Calgary during its initial three years. His professional acting and directing credits include productions at the Playhouse Theatre Company and Arts Club of Vancouver; Winnipeg's Prairie Theatre Exchange; Ottawa's National

Arts Centre; and la Compagnie Jean Duceppe. Quebec audiences know him from roles in "Noises Off", "Stage Struck" and last season's "Social Security" at the Pigery in North Hatley and as Eric Mathewson in the television series "La Bonne Aventure" for Radio Canada. His most recent film role was the Reverend in "April Morning" for Hallmark Hall of Fame. At Centaur, he appeared in *THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE* and directed *DEATH OF A SALESMAN*, *THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON* and, most recently, *GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS*. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Playwrights' Workshop Montreal and the Quebec Drama Festival.

**JENNIFER O'CONNOR** (Assistant Stage Manager)

A native Pennsylvanian, Jennifer O'Connor comes to Centaur directly from Saskatchewan where she 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 has worked as Theatre Technician at the University of Waterloo (Grand Bend, Ont.) and at Summer fun Summer Theatre in New Jersey. She will work on *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*, *THE REZ SISTERS* and *JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK* later this season.

**HARRY STANDJOFSKI** (Tullio Testa)

Actor and playwright, Harry Standjofski will be recognized by Centaur audiences for his appearances in the special production of Plato's *SYMPOSIUM*, *THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE* and last season's hit *GUYS AND DOLLS*. A native Montrealer and founding member of the Association of Producing Artists (APA), he has appeared in many of their productions including "Pericles" and "Threepenny Opera". Harry was Centaur's Playwright-in-Residence two seasons ago. His plays "No Cycle" and "To the Moon" were produced by APA last season. He is currently working on two new pieces - "Unravelling" and "The Life of Christ".



*Richard Cowan*



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**GUIDO TONDINO** (Designer)

Guido Tondino's association with Centaur dates back to Season 10 (1978/79) and during that time he has designed FIRE, THE ZEN OF AN INTELLIGENT MACHINE, SALT-WATER MOON, MOVING, BLOOD RELATIONS — to name a few. A native Montrealer, he now resides in Calgary where he is the Associate Director for Theatre Calgary and has produced designs for seven shows over the past two seasons. Some of these include the North American première of Louise Page's "Golden Girls", "Souvenirs", "The Normal Heart", "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Real Thing". Guido has designed in most major theatres in Canada and in the U.S.. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829.

**GILLES TORDJMAN** (Stage Manager)

A former Montrealer now residing in Los Angeles, Gilles Tordjman returns to Centaur after a two year absence. In his ten-year relationship with Centaur, he worked on over a dozen productions including NOTHING TO LOSE, BALCONVILLE, THE DREAM PLAY, A LESSON FROM ALOES, ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES, MASTER CLASS and GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS — to name a few. Gilles' international credits include Chuck Gordone's Pulitzer-prize winning play "No Place To Be Somebody" at the Matrix

Theatre in Hollywood; the world première of "Excess Baggage" at Cast Theatre, Hollywood; the classics "West Side Story" and "Oklahoma!" at the Banff Centre in Alberta; the British tour of Centaur's BALCONVILLE through England and Northern Ireland; and the National Arts Centre touring productions of LE SONGE and WOYZECK to the Edinburgh Festival.

**LOUIS TUCCI** (Lorenzo Scuro)

Making his first appearance at Centaur, Louis Tucci's most recent stage credits in his native Toronto include "Two Brothers" for Theatre Plus; "A Class Act" for Centre-stage; and "Fifth of July" and "Sunday's Children" for Adelaide Court Theatre. Film credits include "Higher Education" and the soon-to-be-released films "Shoot Me" and "State Park".

**RICHARD GIANNI ZEPPIERI** (Massimo Testa)

A recent graduate of the theatre program at Toronto's Ryerson College, Richard Gianni Zepieri is making his first appearance at Centaur. He worked in children's theatre in Toronto for two summers and appeared in "Romeo and Juliet" for Toronto Free Theatre's popular Shakespeare-in-the-Park. Television work includes "Night Heat", the CBC Inside Stories series "Cement Soul" and several national commercials.

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# English theatre is Alive and Living in Montreal

In addition to Centaur Theatre Company's regular season, there is a wide variety of English language theatre activity in Montreal at the professional, semi-professional, student and amateur levels. Some of the companies and organizations to watch for include:

**QUEBEC DRAMA FESTIVAL** – Quebec Drama Festival produces an annual, competitive festival of one-act plays each spring at Centaur (Festival '89 is April 25-29, entry information is now available) and co-produces with Centaur, a run of the winning plays in June. Q.D.F. also sponsors workshops at both professional and non-professional levels, publishes a newsletter covering English language theatre in Quebec and coordinates lobbying and cooperative efforts previously handled by the Standing Committee for Anglo-Quebecois Theatre. For further information, call 843-8698.

**PLAYWRIGHTS' WORKSHOP MONTREAL** – Playwrights' Workshop Montreal is a national new play development centre that assists playwrights from across Canada in the development of scripts and their placement with theatres throughout the country. Playwrights' regularly holds staged public readings of scripts. There is also an annual retrospective of a major playwright, a playwrights' cabaret and other special events. For further information, call 843-3685.

**BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP** – Black Theatre Workshop produces a variety of plays each year that seek to enlighten and entertain general audiences. This year B.T.W. will be presenting a variety of plays at various locations in Montreal. B.T.W.'s season will open October 7-16 with "The Coloured Museum" at Centaur. For further information, call 932-1104.

**GEORDIE PRODUCTIONS** – Geordie Productions produces a season of plays for young people that regularly tour schools, theatres and community centres throughout the province. Geordie also produces major productions at the Christmas and spring breaks and occasionally is involved in other productions such as "Guthrie On Guthrie" which was recently presented at the D.B. Clark Theatre. Geordie's season will open with a tour of last season's spring break hit of "From You To Us To You" that went on to a successful run at the Edmonton Fringe Festival. For further information, call 845-9810.

**ASSOCIATION OF PRODUCING ARTISTS** – Association of Producing Artists produces a season of plays featuring Montreal actors and directors at the Elysee Theatre. Their hit from last season, "Kiss of the Spider Woman", has gone on to great success in New York and Scotland and will travel to Edmonton this season. For further information, call 843-6376.

**CREATIONS ETC.** – Creations etc. is a bilingual company that affords young people the opportunity to explore themselves through the performing arts. Creations' main public event is a festival held each summer at the Old Port featuring several hundred young people in a variety of productions geared to general audiences. There are also a variety of other activities throughout the year. For further information, call 937-3941.

**IMAGO THEATRE** – Imago Theatre is a young professional company specializing in both established and new works that have not previously been seen in Montreal. This year, Imago will also be working out of the Elysee Theatre where their first production will be the premiere of "Bivouac" by Montreal playwright Louise Arsenault from October 13-November 6. For further information call, 843-6376.

**YOUTHEATRE** – Youtheatre specializes in contemporary original work for young people with three productions each year that tour to elementary and high schools throughout the province. They also produce a major production at the Christmas break. Youtheatre's season will open with a high school tour of "Kristal Dreams" by David Pody from October 10-28. For further information, call 844-8781.

**FOOLHOUSE THEATRE CORPORATION** – Foolhouse is the young Montreal company that had great success last season with "The Rocky Horror Show". This season, Foolhouse has several productions in the planning stages and will open their season with a political cabaret called "Oh Montreal", at a location to be announced. Also coming up is a production of "Cake-walk" by Montreal playwright Colleen Curran. For further information, call 483-5426.

**STUDENT PRODUCTIONS** – There are constantly productions, many of them excellent, at the various training institutions, CEGEPs and universities. For further information, call the National Theatre School at 842-7954, the Concordia Theatre Department at 848-4747, McGill Players' Theatre at 398-6813, the McGill English Department at 398-6586, the Dawson Theatre Department at 931-8731, the John Abbott Theatre Department at 457-6610 and the Marianopolis Theatre Department at 931-8792.

**COMMUNITY THEATRES** – Some of the community theatre companies active in and around Montreal include: the Arcadians, Hidden Attic, Otterburn Players, Cameo Productions, Teesri Duniya, Montreal Serai, Dramatis Personae, the Back Alley Players, St. Bruno Players, Still Available, Lakeshore Players, Hudson Players Club, Iona Players and Theatre Morin Heights. Watch the newspapers for listings or call the Quebec Drama Festival office at 843-8698 to be put in touch with them.

There are inevitably other companies at all levels that have been missed from this list. Watch the local listings and help support the wide range of Montreal's English language theatre scene.

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## SATURDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S SERIES

**October 15 10:30 am**

GEORDIE PRODUCTIONS  
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presents  
FROM YOU TO US TO YOU  
(Wishes, Lies and Dreams)

Based on the writing of Montreal elementary students. Last year's hit at the Saidye Bronfman Centre. "...a gold mine of imagination..." (The Gazette)

**November 5 10:30 am**

YOUTHEATRE  
presents  
KRISTAL DREAMS  
by David Pody - directed by Brian Dooley

Dynamic, entertaining and informative.  
A popular original production concerning  
drug abuse among teenagers.

**December 10 10:30 am**

CREATIONS ETC...  
presents  
THE BLUE PENGUIN SAGA  
by Robin Hand

A fairy tale for 3-5 year olds, written by 15  
year-old Robin Hand.

**January 21 10:30 am**

TIM GOSLEY  
presents  
THE TIM GOSLEY PUPPET PERFORMANCE  
WORKSHOP

Tim Gosley, puppet creator, shows children  
the basics in puppet manipulation.  
A fun-filled hour packed with entertainment  
and participation.

**February 18 10:30 am**

PICARDI MARIONETTE THEATRE  
presents  
TRADE WINDS

Three folktales from around the world:  
"Go and Find It" from Haiti told with rag-  
doll puppets, "The Banana Tree" from the

Philippines in a shadow puppet show and  
"One Last Trick" from Chile with larger-  
than-life puppets.

**April 15 10:30 am**

YOUTHEATRE  
presents  
PARTNERS IN TIME  
by Laurie Lesk  
- directed by Andrew Johnston

Two zany time travellers take a job in  
Elizabethan England as tutors and a series  
of hilarious misadventures ensue.

**April 22 10:30 am**

BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP  
presents  
FOREVER FREE  
by Marvil Ishmael

Masks and music fill the legend of Prince  
Naquan and his tribe who were taken from  
their home on the Gold Coast of Africa  
to a life of slavery in Jamacia. The story is  
told of their fierce joy and pride in keeping  
themselves - FOREVER FREE!

**May 27 10:30 am**

GEORDIE PRODUCTIONS  
presents  
THE PRINCESS AND HER SHADOW  
by David E. Freeman

It's fun being a princess, right? Wrong!  
You have so many duties to perform and so  
many rules to observe that it's no fun at all!  
This charming play is about how one  
princess copes.



Reservations 288-3161  
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Simon Webb, Maurice Podbrey, Kathleen McAuliffe in

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by Tom Murphy

directed by Elsa Bolam

designed by Andrew Lue Shue

Beniamino Gigli was one of the greatest of the Italian bel canto opera singers so when an Irish self-made millionaire discovers he has an overriding obsession to sing like Gigli he has, as they say, a problem. His last chance for help comes in the unlikely form

of a 'dynamotologist' – a quack who takes on more than he bargained for – and the results are astonishing, incredibly funny and surprisingly important. The rave of the Dublin Theatre season, 1983.

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The Canadian Young Playwrights Festival, in co-operation with CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY, invites all young people under the age of eighteen to

*write a play*

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plays will be read before the public by professional actors, at Centaur on Sunday evening, February 12.

Winners will be announced by mid December, 1988. Any questions?... Phone Christine at 488-4005 (teachers' questions are also welcome). Mail your play to the Canadian Young Playwrights Festival (CYPF), 116 Easton Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H4X 1L2.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1988.

15

# COMING SOON...

**JAN. 5-29**

Previews Jan. 3 & 4

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in

---

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

---

a zany musical comedy

book and lyrics by Howard Ashman •  
music by Alan Menken • directed by  
Allen MacInnis • choreographed by  
Cynthia Hendriks • designed by Michael  
Eagan

The story of the bizarre events that  
occur at Mushnik's Skid Row Flower  
Shop. There, Seymour, the stockboy,  
has nurtured a "strange and unusual  
plant" named Audrey II, after the dizzy  
blonde shopgirl whom he secretly  
adores. The odd (and carnivorous!)  
plant brings unexpected fortune to the  
shop, but it demands its payment...the  
result is a madly entertaining comic  
feast.

"Wow! Totally entrancing...totally  
hilarious."

(Clive Barnes, New York Post)

with Les Carlson, Jack Langedijk,  
Michelle Sweeney, Bob Poff and  
Dorian Joe Clark as the plant

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**FEB. 2 - MAR. 19**

Previews Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

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## THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR

---

by David Fennario

directed by Simon Malbogat

Hits like *ON THE JOB*, *NOTHING TO LOSE*,  
and *BALCONVILLE* charted Centaur's  
first 19 years so what could be more  
appropriate than a new Fennario play,  
in a new genre, for our 20th Anniversary  
Season? This is a detective story - a  
story of murder and intrigue. Susan  
Parr's disappearance is the flashpoint  
for a series of dramatic revelations that  
take us into the heartland of Fennario's  
abrasive world.



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Artistic & Executive Director – Maurice Podbrey  
Associate Director – Judy Cutler

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Pan Boyoucas ..... Playwright-in-residence  
Louis Spritzer ..... Voice Consultant

#### Production

Linda Babbins ..... Technician C2  
Griffith Brewer ..... Properties Master  
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  
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Mary Thomas ..... Wardrobe Supervisor

#### Acknowledgements

Svetlana Zylin  
Playwrights' Workshop Montreal  
Les Alimentaires Snackon Ltée  
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Lucy Rossi  
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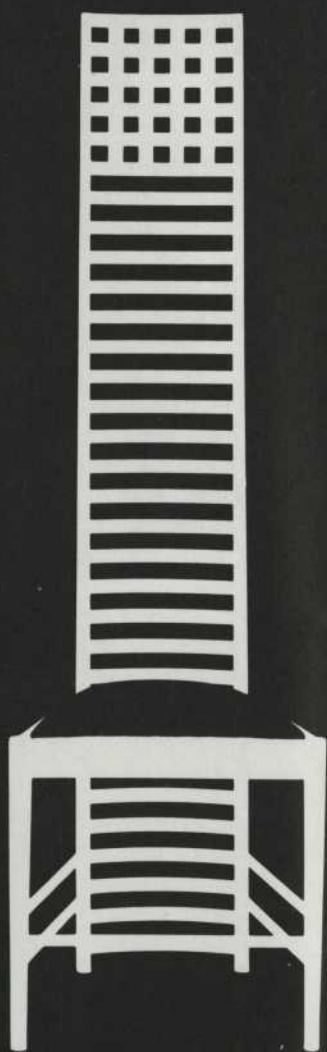
#### For this Production

Scene Painting ..... Art Appliqué  
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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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*In the art of design,  
color is to form what  
verse is to prose, a  
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