

Centaur Theatre Company presents

the Tron Theatre Company production of

The Guid Sisters

by Michel Tremblay

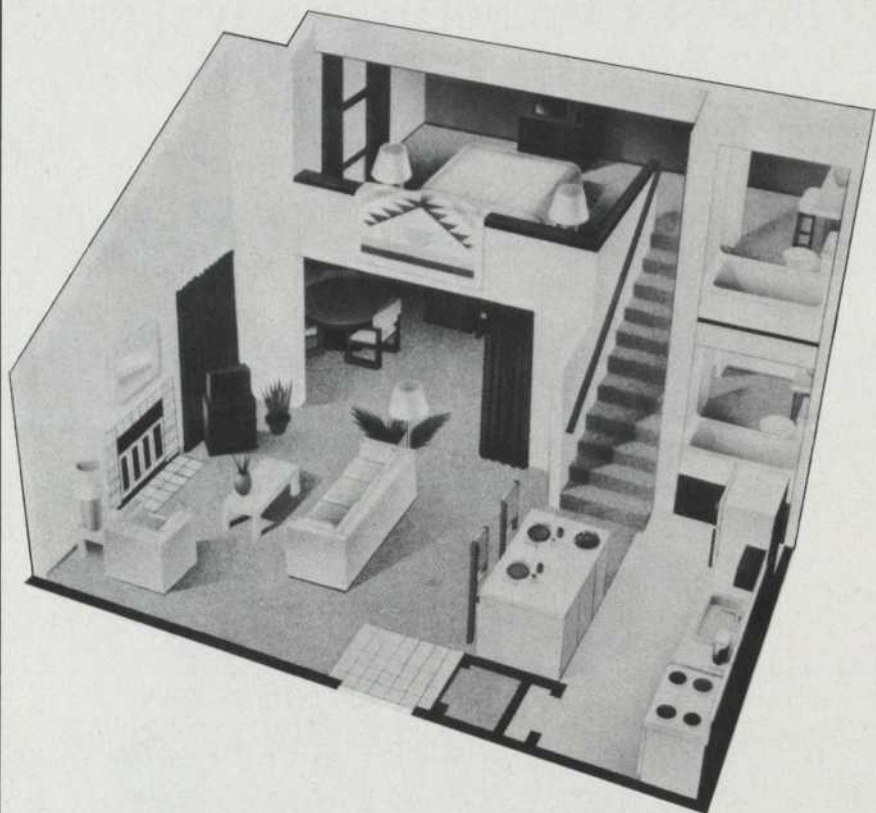
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directed by Michael Boyd



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The Centaur Theatre Company presents
the TRON Theatre Company production of

The Guid Sisters

by Michel Tremblay

translated by Martin Bowman and Bill Findlay

directed by Michael Boyd

October 1 - 25, 1992
(Previews Sept. 29 & 30)

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Germaine Lauzon	DOROTHY PAUL
Linda Lauzon	ASHLEY JENSEN
Rose Ouimet	ANN SCOTT-JONES
Gabrielle Jodoin	JAN WILSON
Lisette de Courval	MONICA BRADY
Marie-Ange Brouillette	DONALDA SAMUEL
Yvette Longpre	MAUREEN CARR
Des-Neiges Verette	JANETTE FOGGO
Therese Dubuc	ANNE LACEY
Olivine Dubuc	PRIMROSE MILLIGAN
Angeline Sauve	ANNA WELSH
Rheanu Bibeau	KAY GALLIE
Lise Paquette	JENNY McCRINDLE
Ginette Menard	JANE McCARRY
Pierrette Guerin	MURIEL ROMANES

Directed by **MICHAEL BOYD**

Designed by **KENNY MILLER**

Lighting Design by **NICK McCALL**

The action takes place in Montreal in 1965.

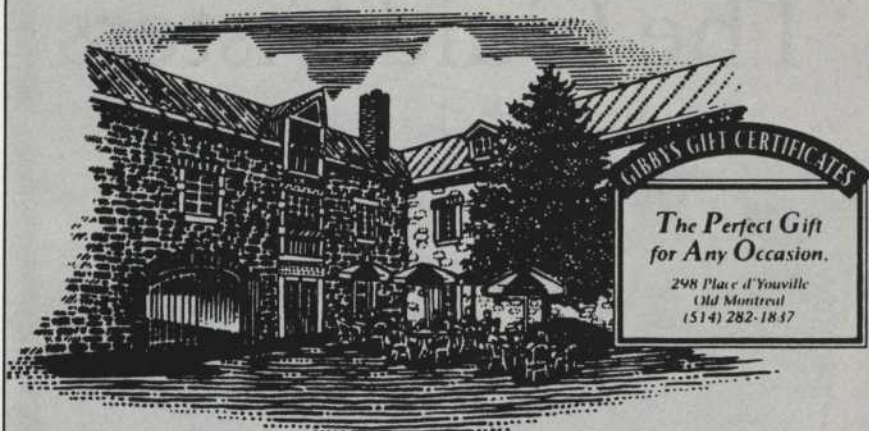
There will be one 15-minute intermission.

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A Word from Michael Boyd

(Director and Artistic Director of the Tron Theatre)



Michel Tremblay has been adopted as one of Scotland's premier playwrights. This is not simply a reflection of the powerful parallels (linguistic, cultural, and political) between Quebec and Scotland – it's because we love his writing. He speaks with a voice that marries compassion with a ruthless eye for the truth, and combines the recognisable joys of naturalistic observation with a real theatrical flair and wit.

It did not surprise me when Michel ventured into opera. One of the features of his work which is so appealing to me as a director, is the way in which he pushes the boat out, theatrically, and emotionally, and – I think – invites the director and actors to do the same.

My attempt with this production of *Les Belles-Soeurs*, and with our *Le Vrai Monde?* last year has been to push the heightened "theatrical" and emotional "reality" of Michel's world as far as it will go without taking flight into meretricious fancy.

My aim has been simply to give Michel's bold lyrics as full and as resonant a voice as I could.

Translator's Note:

The Guid Sisters is a translation of *Les Belles-Soeurs* into modern Scots, the vernacular language of the Lowlands of Scotland. It is spoken throughout the Lowlands, particularly in rural and working-class urban communities, from Caithness in the North to Galloway in the Southwest. Like its sister language English, Scots evolved largely as a result of the combined influences of the Germanic and Norman invasions of Britain. It should not be confused with Scottish Gaelic, the Celtic language of the Highlands. The Scots of the Tron Theatre's production of *The Guid Sisters* is for the most part in the idiom of the city of Glasgow and environs. Like the Quebec French of *Les Belles-Soeurs*, it is an earthy and energetic vernacular, a medium well suited to convey the power and musicality of Tremblay's drama.

MICHEL TREMBLAY (Playwright)

Michel Tremblay is one of Canada's leading playwrights. He was born in 1942 in Montreal and began his career writing poems, plays and novels while still at school. In 1964, he won the first prize for young writers sponsored by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for his play *Le Train*. It was during the same year that he met André Brassard who has since directed nearly all his plays. Although Tremblay wrote *Les Belles-Soeurs* in 1965, it was only in 1968 that it was premiered at Théâtre de Rideau-Vert in Montreal. It was immediately acclaimed by the critics and public alike and has since been performed internationally.

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The Guid Sisters received its British premiere at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow, with the Tron Theatre Company, in Mayfest 1989.

At 50, Michel Tremblay has written nineteen plays, six novels, an opera, a musical comedy and seven film scripts. He was named CHEVALIER DE L'ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES DE FRANCE in 1984 and was presented with an Honorary Doctorate from Stirling University, Scotland, in July 1992.

MARTIN BOWMAN & BILL FINDLAY (Translators)

Martin Bowman was born in Montreal (the son of immigrants from Angus, Scotland) and Bill Findlay in Culross, Fife. They first met while doing postgraduate work in Scottish literature in Edinburgh in 1978 and have since translated into Scots four Michel Tremblay plays: *The Guid Sisters*, *Hosanna* and *The Real World?* (all premiered at the Tron) and *House Among the Stars* which will form part of the inaugural season for the new Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. They are now collaborating in translating other French-Canadian playwrights in addition to more Tremblay.

MICHAEL BOYD (Director)

Michael Boyd has worked at the Malaya Bronnaya Theatre, Moscow; Belgrave Theatre, Coventry; and the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. His productions include Mayakovsky's *Mystery Bouffe*, *A Passion in Six Days* at the Royal Court, *Commedia* and *Othello* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, *Hedda Gabler* at the Leicester Haymarket and *The Alchemist* with the Cambridge Theatre Company.

His Tron Theatre productions include: *Macbeth*, *McGrotty and Ludmilla*, *Muir*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *The Funeral*, *Losing Alec*, *Philadelphia Here I Come*, *Peter & Penny's Panto*, *Crow*, *The Real World?*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Good*.

MONICA BRADY (Lisette de Courval)

Trained at the Drama Centre, Monica's theatre credits include *Maggie's Man* (7:84 Theatre Company), *Benny Lynch* (United Artists Scotland) and *Cuttin' A Rug* (Unit 1).

Her television credits include *Hess*, *Garnock Way*, *The Omega Factor*, *Taggart*, *A Sense of Freedom* (STV) and *Strathblair* and *The Justice Game* (BBC). In film, they include *Heavenly Pursuits* and *Blood Red Roses*.

MAUREEN CARR (Yvette Longpre)

Her theatre credits include *Magic* (Traverse Theatre), *In Time of Strife*; *Educating Rita*, *Antigone* (Communicado), *Damaged Goods* (Wiseguise) and the Tron Theatre Company productions, *The Guid Sisters* and *Paddy's Market*.

On television, she has appeared in *Asking Around*, *Square Mile of Murder*, *Around Scotland*, *City Lights* and *Grey Granite* (all BBC). Her film credits include *Riff Raff* (Parallax) and *John Brown's Body* (Freeway Films).

JANETTE FOGGO (Des-Neiges Verrette)

Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Janette's theatre credits include *King Lear* and *The Rivals* (Old Vic Prospect Company); *Commedia* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Moll Flanders* (Regina Theatre), *Steel Magnolias* (Perth Rep.), *Once Again a Catholic* (Wyndham's London) and *Pack of Lies* (Shaftesbury Theatre). Her Tron Theatre Company productions include *The Guid Sisters*, *The Life and Adventures of Thomas Muir*, *The Funeral*, *Losing Alec* and *Paddy's Market*.

Her television credits include *The Slab Boys*, *The Lost Tribe*, *The Silly Season* and *Strathblair* (BBC), *The Game* (Granada), and *Taggart* (STV). For film, they include *The Pirates of Penzance* (Universal) and *Brittania Hospital* (Lee International).



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KAY GALLIE (Rheaua Bibeau)

Kay trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Her theatre credits include *Trelawney of the Wells* (National Theatre), *Arms and the Man*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Gigi*, *Macbeth*, *Pygmalion* and the Tron Theatre Company's *The Guid Sisters*.

Her television credits include *Z Cars*, *Sense & Sensibility*, *Square Mile of Murder* (all BBC), *Six Days of Justice* (Thames) and *Take the High Road* (STV).

Her radio work includes numerous plays for BBC and commercials for Radio Clyde.

Among Kay's film appearances are the Channel 4 production *Wildflowers* and *Ball on the Slates*.

ASHLEY JENSEN (Linda Lauzon)

Trained at Queen Margaret College, Ashley's theatre credits include the national tour of *Rab C. Nesbitt*, *The Snow Queen* and *The Crucible* (Citizens Theatre); *Arturo Ui* (7:84); *Carluccio and the Queen of Hearts* (Fifth Estate). Her previous Tron Theatre Company productions include *The Real World?*, *Salvation*, *The Treasure of Wookimago* and *The Witches of Pollok*.

For television, she has appeared in *Tickets for the Zoo* (Channel 4), *Rab C. Nesbitt*, *Dreaming* and *City Lights* (BBC).

ANNE LACEY (Therese Dubuc)

Anne Lacey has trained at Jacques Lecoq, France and Roy Bosier, Italy. Her theatre credits include *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, *Jock Tamsons Bairns*, *The Cone Gatherers*, (Communicado), Tron Theatre Company's *The Guid Sisters*, *The Baby* and *The Bloody Chamber*, and *Straw Chair & Bondagers* (Traverse).

Her television work includes *Shoot for the Sun*, *House with the Green Shutters*, and *Knowing the Score* (BBC).

JANE McCARRY (Ginette Menard)

Trained at Queen Margaret College, Jane's theatre credits include *Politics in the Park* (Glasgow Arts Centre) and *The Snow Queen*, *Tartuffe*, *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Winters Tale* (Queen Margaret College).

JENNY McCRINDLE (Lise Paquette)

Jenny's theatre credits include the Tron Theatre Company productions of *The Baby* and *The Witches of Pollock*, *Casanova* (Borderline Theatre Company) and *The Sash* (7:84).

For television, she has appeared on *Jute City*, *Your Cheatin' Heart* and *Clowns* (BBC), *Taggart* (STV), *Dream Baby*, *Chancer* and *Miles Better* (Channel 4); and for film, in *Heavenly Pursuits*.

PRIMROSE MILLIGAN (Olivine Dubuc)

Primrose's theatre credits include *Whiskey Galore*, *The Cow Jumped Over the Moon* (Traverse Theatre), *Uncle Vanya* (Royal Lyceum) and Tron Theatre Company's *The Guid Sisters*.

For television, they include *19.4.90* (Television interventions): *Je Te Cherche* (Channel 4), *Rab C. Nesbitt*, *Cloud Howe*, *Square Mile of Murder* (BBC), *Charles Endell*, *Esquire* and Mrs. Woods in *Take the High Road* (STV); and for radio, *The Ken Bruce Show* (BBC) and *Bird of Prey* (Radio Clyde).

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DOROTHY PAUL (Germaine Lauzon)

Dorothy's theatre credits include straight and comic roles throughout Scotland, including *Celtic Story* and *The Funeral*. Dorothy has played many wicked Queens, Fairies and Dames in Pantomime.

Her television credits include *Taggart*, *The Steamie*, *Bookie*, *Parliamo Glasgow*, *The Justice Game* and *Rab C. Nesbitt*.

Tours include the recent, hugely successful one-woman show *See That's Her* written and performed by Dorothy Paul.

MURIEL ROMANES (Pierrette Guerin)

Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, her theatre credits include *The Jesuit*, *The Archives of Countess D* and *We Charles XII (Fifth Estate)*; *Blythe Spirit*, *Women in Mind*, *A View From the Bridge* and *Marriage of Figaro* (Royal Lyceum) and Tron Theatre Company productions *Clyde Nouveau* and *The Guid Sisters*.

Her television work includes *Take the High Road* and *Wallace Warbler* (STV).

DONALDA SAMUEL (Marie-Ange Brouillette)

Trained at the Glasgow School of Art, her theatre credits include works with TAG Theatre Company, *The Yellow on the Broom* (Dundee Rep) and Tron Theatre Company's *The White Bird Passes* and *The Guid Sisters*.

On television, she has performed in *Straithblair* (BBC) and *Take the High Road* (STV).

ANN SCOTT-JONES (Rose Ouimet)

Having trained at Citizens Theatre, Glasgow, her theatre credits include *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Evil Doers* (Winged Horse) and *The Guid Sisters* (Tron Theatre Company.)

Her television credits include *Straithblair* (BBC), *Two Play for Today*, and *Miles Better* (Channel 4).

For film, they include *Local Hero*, *Greystoke*, *Shakespeare's Mounted Foot*, *John Brown's Body*, *Breaking the Agnel's Back* and *Soft Top*, *Hard Shoulder*.

ANNA WELSH (Angeline Sauve)

Anna's theatre credits include *The Steamie*, *The White Devil*, *A Government Inspector*, *The Voysey Inheritance* and *A Doll's House* (Royal Exchange, Manchester).

Her television work includes *Sunset Song* and *Dr. Finlay's Casebook* (BBC), *Taggart* (STV), *Brookside* (Channel 4), and the role of *Mrs. Grandby* which she played for two years in *Families* (Granada).

Her film credits include *The Gorbals Story* and *All Neat in Black Stockings*.

JAN WILSON (Gabrielle Jodoin)

Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Jan Wilson's theatre credits include *Sleeping Beauty*, *Run For Your Wife*, *The King and I*, *Mother Goose*, *City Lights theatre tour*, *The Ship* and Tron Theatre Company's productions of *Paddy's Market* and *The Real World?*

Her television credits include *Garnock Way* and *Taggart* (STV) and *City Lights*, *Bergerac* and *Lovejoy* (BBC); and for film, *The Wicker Man* (British Lion) and *The Ship*.

A Question Of Pride



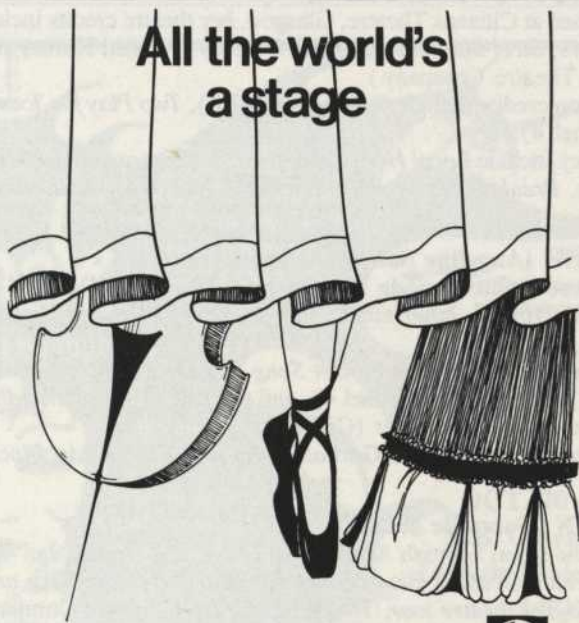
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KENNY MILLER (Designer)

Trained at the Central School of Art, he is currently Head of Design at Citizens Theatre, where recent productions include *Summer Lightning* and *Casanova Undone*. His freelance work includes *Measure For Measure* and *Don Juan* (Oxford Stage Company), *Mystery of the Rose* (Bush Theatre), *Look Back in Anger* (Lyceum, Edinburgh), *Tis a Pity She's a Whore* (RSC), *Walter* (Edinburgh International Festival) and the Tron Theatre Company's production of *Paddy's Market*.

NICK McCALL (Lighting Designer)

Technical Manager and Resident Lighting Designer for the Tron, shows lit for the Tron include: *The Real World?*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Baby*, *The Witches of Pollock*, *Salvation*, *Century's End*, *Clyde Nouveau*, *Paddy's Market*, *Peter and Penny's Panto*, *Cinzano* and most recently, *Good* and *The Bloody Chamber*. Other recent work includes *Merlin*, *Travesties* and *Hay Fever* - all at *The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh*. Nick has worked as a Lighting Designer in Scotland, Ireland, Germany and North America.

MAREK OBTULOWICZ (Production Manager)

Born in the Middle East and of Polish descent, Marek Obtulowicz studied sculpture at Hornsey Art College and architecture at Sheffield. Subsequently he earned his living in the U.S.A. by writing short stories and illustrating for literary magazines. As a lighting designer and stage manager, he has worked for companies including The Young Lyceum, 7:84, Wildcat and Corsica's Theatre Point. He wrote *The Moray Brothers* documentary for Channel 4, and film credits include Bertrand Tavernier's *Death Watch*.

JO MASSON (Company Stage Manager)

Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, this is Jo Masson's 33rd production with the Tron Theatre Company.

MAREY DEVLIN (Deputy Stage Manager)

Marey Devlin has worked as a stage manager in Ireland and the U.S.A. with Charabanc Theatre Company, Belfast, Druid Theatre, Galway and Theatre Project, Baltimore, U.S.A.

SOFIA HUSSAIN (Assistant Stage Manager)

Sofia Hussain graduated from Glasgow University in 1987 with a degree in languages. She has worked in both community and professional theatre with various companies including TAG, Strathclyde Theatre Group, P.A.C.E., Wildcat, Glasgow Arts Centre, and the Arches Theatre. Work for the Tron Theatre Company includes *The Bloody Chamber*. She lives in Glasgow with her cat MacDuff.

STEWART STEEL (Assistant Electrician)

Stewart trained at RSAMD and since graduating has worked with many theatre companies. He has been involved with the Tron in various guises since 1990, working on Tron Theatre Company productions *The Real World?*, *Good*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Baby*. He has also lit productions for the Tron, PenName Theatre Company, Penny Mob, Scottish Youth Theatre, Waterfront Productions and E.g. Productions.


The Tron Theatre Company is delighted to acknowledge the British Government, in the form of the Foreign and Commonwealth office and the British Council, for their substantial financial support for this production. They are grateful, too, to British Airways for their assistance.

The British Government's support for the play is a cornerstone of its multi-media contribution to Montreal's 350th anniversary celebrations. As its official gift to the City of Montreal, the British Government has presented a catalogue of Quebec imprints in French held by the British Library.

In May, the British Council was a major contributor to the "Mont Royal - Ville-Marie: Early Plans and Views of Montreal" exhibition at the McCord Museum.

As well as helping British artists performing at a number of Montreal's established summer festivals, the British Council is sponsoring the Montreal visit of **P.D. James** whose program includes a McGill University lecture on **October 6** and visits to the Université de Montréal, Concordia University, and the Union des Ecrivains.

The British contribution to the 350th celebration will culminate in a retrospective of Scottish film at the Cinémathèque Québécoise from October 27-31. This will include examples of modern Scottish cinema with works by Bill Forsyth, Bill Douglas, Bill Bryden and, among others, David Hayman, who will be in town for the event. These varied activities will without doubt continue to reinforce the many cultural ties which already exist between Quebec and Britain in a continuing program of cultural exchange.

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The Guid Sisters

GLOSSARY

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GUID SISTERS	Sisters in law
GIE ME THE BOKE	Makes me sick
UP OOT THEIR STINKERS	Out of bed
BREEKS	Trousers
WEANS	Children
THERE'S AYE A RAMMY	There's always a row
A PACKET OF GETTS	Cigarettes
MEALY MOUTHED	Miserly
BLETHER	Chat
GUFF	Smell
A BINT	Woman (derogatory)
SKELVES	Splinters
KEN	Know
GEY LUCKY	Very lucky
MOOCHIN'	Searching
GREETIN'	Crying
WINCHIN'	Dating
SKELP	Slap
FLIT	Move house
BUMMIN' ONE'S LOAD	Boasting
BUCKETING OUTSIDE	Raining heavily
ON THE GAME	Prostitution
PECHED	Tired, Winded
GIEN ME JIP	Giving me bother
BRAW	Well, lucky, good
SNAFFLE SOME	Steal some
DOOR OAFF THE SNIB	Unlocked
YOU'D CLYPE	You'd tell
PATTER	Dialect
SEEK SCOUNNERT	Sick
PUSS	Face
EMPTY SCUNNERIN' LIFE	Hard, empty, useless life
TELLY	Television
PLEYTIRIN'	Playing about
KEELIES	Useless, lazy people

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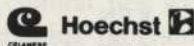
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The Guid Sisters

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translated by Martin Bowman and William Findlay

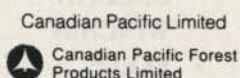
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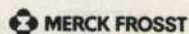
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On November 4th, Centaur Theatre Company's **THEATRE OF TOMORROW** program offers its first matinée. A partnership with the *Montreal Gazette* and generously sponsored by *The Chawkers Foundation*, this program is **designed to both educate and expose young people to English-language theatre.**

Schools participating in the program receive significantly discounted tickets, and background information on the production in the form of both teaching guides and articles in *The Gazette* – materials they can read prior to their visit to the theatre. Geared toward giving students an understanding of what is involved in the production of a play, from the written word to the curtain rising on Opening Night, students will also review the productions – with some of their articles appearing in *The Gazette*.

During this, the pilot year of the project, the program will provide schools with the opportunity to see three of the season's shows: *THE GLASS MENAGERIE*, *PLAYBOY OF THE WEST INDIES*, and *LOOK BACK IN ANGER*.

Centaur is committed to making theatre accessible to young people. We thank *The Gazette* and *The Chawkers Foundation* for sharing and supporting this vision.

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TRON

theatre

The Tron Theatre was opened in 1982 and occupies the elegantly converted 18th Century Tron Kirk in Glasgow's Merchant City. Under Michael Boyd's artistic direction since 1985, the Tron has become one of Scotland's leading theatre companies. Recent highlights include:

- 1989** *The Guid Sisters* (Mayfest); *Cinzano* (Co-production Tron/Chelovyek, Moscow); *Uncle Vanya & Pirosmeni* (from Nekrosius's Lithuanian State Theatre)
- 1990** *Crow* (Mayfest); *The Guid Sisters* (World Stage Festival, Toronto); *Paddy's Market* (Tron Theatre); *Hosanna* (Mayfest)
- 1991** *The Real World?* (Mayfest & New York); *Paddy's Market* (Sell out Scottish tour)
- 1992** *Good* (Mayfest and Edinburgh International Festival); *The Bloody Chamber* (Mayfest); *The Guid Sisters* (Edinburgh Festival and Montreal)

New Auditorium – Opened May

FOR THE PRODUCTION

Production Manager	MAREK OBTULOWICZ
Company Stage Manager	JO MASSON
Deputy Stage Manager	MAREY DEVLIN
Assistant Stage Manager	SOFIA HUSSAIN
Wardrobe Supervisor	LIZ CULLINANE
Set Construction	PHIL BOWEN PRODUCTIONS
Stage Carpenter	TIM BLOSS
Assistant Electrician	STEWART STEEL
Production Photographs	PAUL REID

FOR THE TRON

Chairman	MICHAEL RUSSELL
Artistic Director	MICHAEL BOYD
General Manager	DAVID TAYLOR
Administration Manager	JUDY KILPATRICK
Press and Marketing Manager	ANNIE HOUSTON REDDICK
Marketing Assistant	ALEXANDER HETHERINGTON

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CENTAUR
THEATRE
COMPANY

ADMINISTRATION: 288-1229
FAX: 288-8575

BOX OFFICE: 288-3161

Artistic & Executive Director - Maurice Podbrey

ADMINISTRATION

Annalisa Aboud	Asst. House Manager
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Charles Childs	General Manager
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Catherine Lee	Development Assistant
Virginia Massey	Receptionist
Lynn Priest	Box Office Manager
Scott Rowley	House Manager
Catherine Vokey	Administrative Assistant

Bruce Smith Playwright-in-Residence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rémi Lafrenière, Q.C.	Chairman
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Carole Boivin	
Esther Buchsbaum	
Sandy Mackay-Smith	
Hugh W. McAdams	
J. Brian Riordan	
David Rittenhouse	
Ruth Shine	
Gillian Yanov	

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Herbert C. Auerbach	Founding chairman
Harold P. Gordon, Q.C.	
John Rae	

PRODUCTION

Griffith Brewer	Properties Master
Mike D'Amato	Production Manager
George Galanis	Head Carpenter
Krista Hansen	Stage Manager C1
Nancy MacDonnell-Manzo	Wardrobe Mistress
Lynn McQueen	Stage Manager C1
Howard Mendelsohn	Head Electrician C1
Pam Nichol	Asst. Production Manager
Elaine Normandeau	Stage Manager C1
Johanne Pomrenski	Asst. Stage Manager C2
Woodrow Rosenbaum	Technician
Steve Schön	Head Electrician C2
Greg Stoneman	Asst. Carpenter
Michael Taylor	Technician
Mary Thomas	Wardrobe Supervisor
Valérie Viertel	Properties

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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatre and engages Artist, 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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