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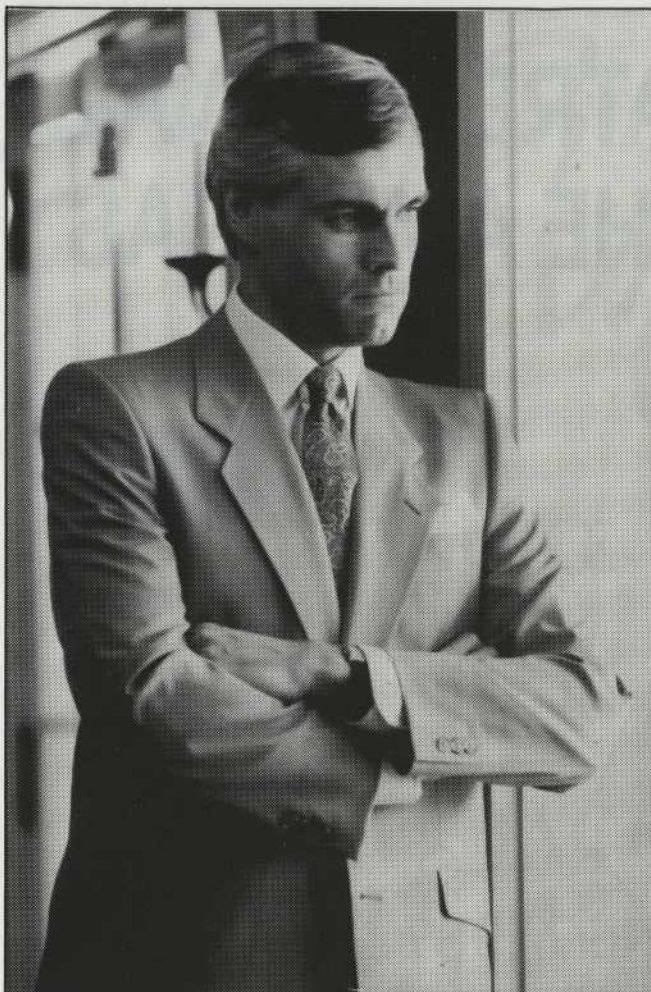
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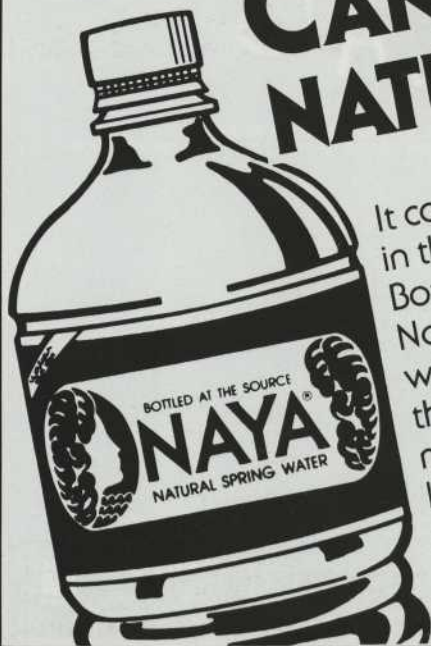
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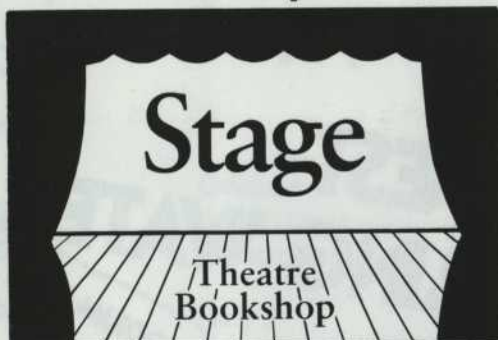


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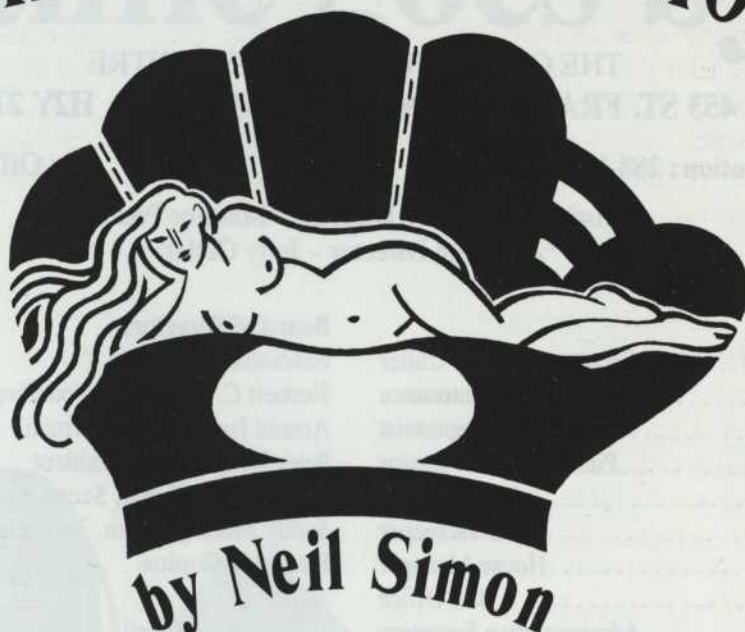
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Centaur Theatre Company is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists, who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

Centaur Theatre Company performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

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

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS



May 12 - June 14, 1987

The Cast (in order of appearance)

Mark Saunders	Eugene Jerome
Diana Belshaw	Blanche Morton
Miriam Newhouse	Kate Jerome
Alison Podbrey or Helen Clare Baggaley	Laurie Morton
Susan Bain	Nora Morton
Ron Lea	Stanley Jerome
Maurice Podbrey	Jack Jerome

directed by **Elsa Bolam**
designed by **Barbra Matis**
lighting by **Howard L. Van Schaick**
stage manager **Jean-François Coupal**
assistant stage manager **John Raymond**

Act One

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Act Two


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There will be a twenty minute intermission between Act one and two, time enough to enjoy a drink, sandwich, coffee or cake at the bar.

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 PÉTROLES ESSO CANADA

Neil Simon (Author), is one of North America's most popular and celebrated contemporary playwrights. Since 1960, a Broadway season without a Simon comedy or musical has been a rare one. Born on July 4th, 1927, he graduated from De Witt Clinton High School in Bronx, New York, then entered the army airforce reserve training program at New York University and was discharged in 1946. He began his writing career for television's *Phil Silvers Show* and Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*. His first play was *Come Blow Your Horn* in 1961, followed by, in that decade, *Little Me*; *Barefoot in the Park*; *The Odd Couple*; *The Star-Spangled Girl*; *Sweet Charity*; *Promises, Promises*; *Plaza Suite* and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. His success continued throughout the seventies with *The Gingerbread Lady*; *The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue*; *The Sunshine Boys*; *The Good Doctor*; *God's Favorite*; *California Suite* and *Chapter Two*. Recipient of the Outer Critics' Circle Award and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* is the first in a trilogy of semi-autobiographical pieces. The second, *Biloxi Blues*, played on Broadway last season and the third, *Broadway Bound*, has recently opened. Many of Mr. Simon's plays have been adapted for the screen and he has written several original screenplays including *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Seems Like Old Times* and *Only When I Laugh*.

Helen Clare Baggaley (Laurie), was born 15 years ago in Liverpool, England. Her previous stage roles include Gretl von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* and Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol*. Since coming to Montreal in 1983, she has played the title role in *Annie* with both Lyric Theatre and Montreal Live Theatre companies. She also played Molly in Atlantis Films' award-winning *A Good Tree*. She has appeared in Brecht's *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, and played Julie in the recent Lakeshore Players' production of *Pack of Lies*.

Susan Bain (Nora), is making her first appearance at Centaur. A native Montrealer, she studied at Ryerson Institute in Toronto and Banff School of Fine Arts. Local audiences have seen her in Lakeshore Players' *The Heiress*; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*; *The Lion in Winter* and others. She has appeared in two school-tour shows for Geordie Productions, *Pinocchio* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and recently appeared in the Playwrights' Workshop production *Before the War Down at Gilles' Cove*. Susan's film credits include several National Film Board productions and the recent Filmline feature film *Barnum*.

Diana Belshaw (Blanche), will be remembered by Centaur audiences for her appearances as Betty Ann in David Fennario's *Moving* and as Lisa in Anne Chislett's *The Tomorrow Box*, a role which has repeated at Theatre New Brunswick and Blyth Festival. Since graduating from the University of British Columbia and the Yale School of Drama, much of her stage work, including several seasons with Blyth Festival, has been in new plays, most recently, *Vanity Press* by James Polk at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto. She spent last autumn touring as Madeleine in Tarragon's highly-acclaimed production of *Albertine, in five times* playing such places as Edinburgh Festival, Expo '86 and London, England. Diana's numerous television appearances include *Ready for Slaughter*, *Bambinger* and a regular role in the CBC series *Backstretch*. She has recently completed filming the NBC mini-series *Hands of a Stranger*.

Elsa Bolam (Director), has worked at the Royal Shakespeare Company and directed plays in repertory theatres and for BBC-TV in England. In Canada she has taught and directed at the National Theatre School and her work has been seen at Theatre Calgary, The Globe Theatre, Magnus Theatre, Theatre Plus, Sudbury Theatre Centre, the Saidye Bronfman Centre, and Kawartha Summer Theatre. She was a founding member of Centaur and has directed fifteen previous productions, of which *The Zen of an Intelligent Machine* was the most recent. Her work for young audiences includes Youtheatre, the Centre Stage Hour Company and Geordie Productions' Shoestring Shakespeare Theatre, a company she started five years ago, to bring "classics for kids" to young people in the province of Quebec. Most recently, she directed *Vicky*, a short film in the National Film Board series *Wednesday's Children*, and *Agnes of God*, which was a smash hit at Sudbury Theatre Centre.

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*, *Fire* and *The Real Thing*.

Ron Lea (Stanley), is making his third appearance at Centaur this season, having recently completed the tour of *Fire*. He also was seen in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. He played Agathon in Centaur's special

production of Plato's **Symposium** last season. A National Theatre School graduate and native Montrealer, last summer, he directed **Laundry and Boubon** and **Lonestar** for APA at McGill Players' Theatre. Stage credits include the title role in APA's original production of **Pericles**, Bobby in APA's **American Buffalo** and Raoul in Elite Productions' **Extremities** seen at Centaur in 1985. Film credits include **Punch Drunk** for CBC's **The Way We Are** series, **The Trumpeter**; **MorTIMER and Stalinsky** and the recently released **Wild Thing**.

Barbra Matis (Designer), since graduating from the National Theatre School, has created numerous designs for Centaur including last season's **Master Class**; **84 Charing Cross Road**; **Quiet in the Land**; **Duet for One**; **Dr. Faustus**; **Jitters**; **Nothing to Lose** and **Balconville** for which she received the 1981 Dora Mavor Moore Award. She has designed for Canadian Opera Company Ensemble, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Stratford 3rd Stage, Theatre Plus, Theatre New Brunswick and Saidye Bronfman Centre. An Art Director for films, her most recent credits include **Children of a Lesser God** and **Moonstruck** which will be released later this year. Barbra is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.

Miriam Newhouse (Kate) is making her first appearance on the Centaur stage. Since returning to her native Canada ten years ago, after living and working in England, Miriam has appeared in theatres from coast (Neptune Theatre, Halifax) to coast (Bastion Theatre, Victoria). Her roles have been as varied as Beth in **Otherwise Engaged**; Madame Arcati in **Blithe Spirit**; Eleanor in **Passion**; Vivien Bliss in the première production of **Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii**; Sarah in **The Norman Conquests**; Moon in **The Real Inspector Hound**; Mrs. Patrick Campbell in **The First Night of Pygmalion** and the mass-murderess, Myra Hindley, in the one-woman show, **Our Kid**. Her television credits include **Cagney and Lacey** and **Kay O'Brien, Surgeon** and she is slated to be in the new David Cronenberg film, **Twins**. Miriam is also co-editor of "**And what are you going to do for us?**", a book of audition speeches drawn solely from Canadian plays. Now in its second printing, the book is rapidly becoming a classic. With her husband, Peter Messaline, Miriam gives seminars across the country on the business side of the acting profession.

Alison Podbrey (Laurie), was last seen at Centaur as Nancy Brubacher, the Amish child, in Anne Chislett's **Quiet in the Land**. Since then, she has done a great deal of voice-over work, appeared in a number of films including the lead role of Suzie in Mike Rubbo's film, **The Peanut Butter Solution**, an experience she greatly enjoyed.

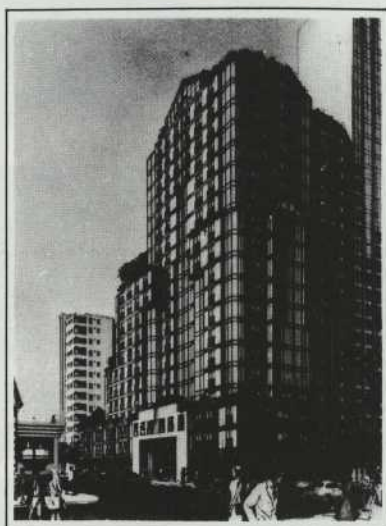
Maurice Podbrey (Jack), is the founding Artistic and Executive Director of Centaur Theatre Company. Over the past eighteen seasons, he has directed numerous acclaimed productions, including, in recent years **Albertine, in five times**; **Master Harold... and the Boys**; **The Seagull**; **K2**; **Night and Day** and this season's **The Real Thing**. 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 Board of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres for two terms and is currently on the Board of Directors of the National Theatre School.

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 hits, **Fire** and **The Real Thing**. He resides in Montreal and has directed several productions for local amateur groups including **Songs for War** for Children's Creations; **Oaklahoma** 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.

Mark Saunders (Eugene), originally from Reading, England, attended the National Theatre School where he performed a variety of roles including Florizel in **A Winter's Tale**; Frank in **Restoration** (which toured to Toronto); Carlos in **The Bewitched** and Dale in **Lakeboat**. Since graduating in 1984, he has appeared in two Centaur hits, **Salt-Water Moon** and **Master Harold... and the Boys**. He now lives in Toronto where his recent stage credits include **Twelfth Night** and **Romeo and Juliet** for Skylight Theatre; **Infidelity** at Crow's Theatre and **The Wedding Script** for Tarragon. Mark plays the role of Steve on the CBC television series, **Street Legal**.

Howard L. Van Schaick (Lighting Designer), is a graduate of the University of Regina, currently in his fourth season as Head Technician in Centaur 2. He has designed **'Night, Mother**; **The Zen of an Intelligent Machine**; **Master Class** and recently, **Faith Healer**, all for Centaur, as well as last summer's **Stage Struck** for the Piggery Theatre in North Hatley. He has spent two seasons at the Kawartha Summer Theatre, designing **Billy Bishop Goes to War**; **Filthy Rich** and **A Spider in the House** - among others. Howard has also created numerous sound designs including the recent Centaur hit, **Fire**. Credits also include Festival Lennoxville and the National Arts Centre - Atelier.

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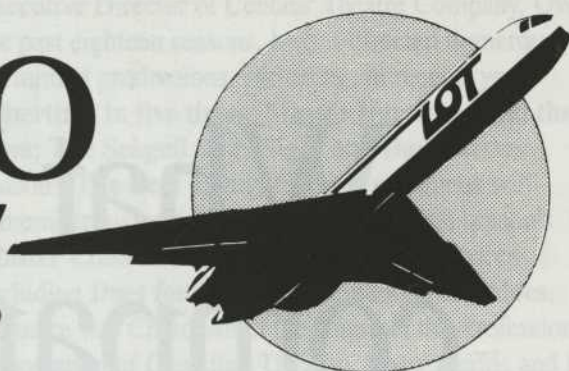
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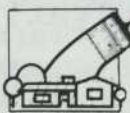
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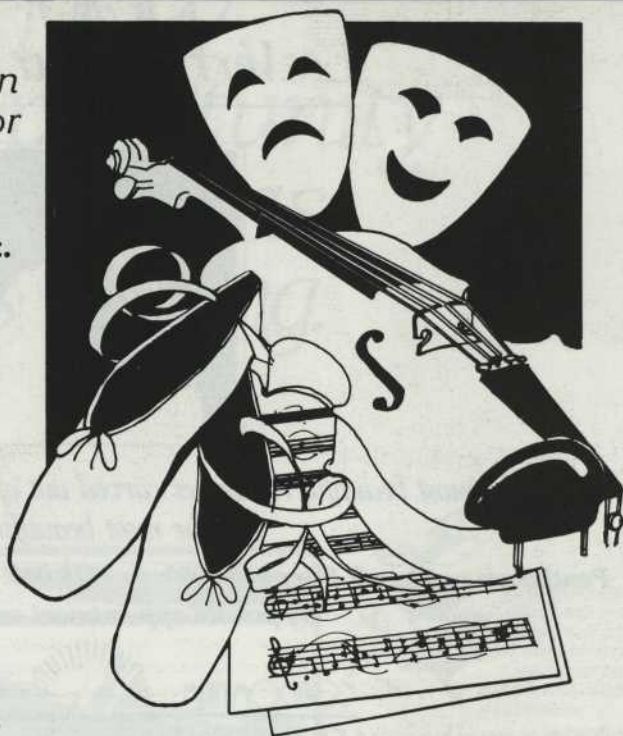
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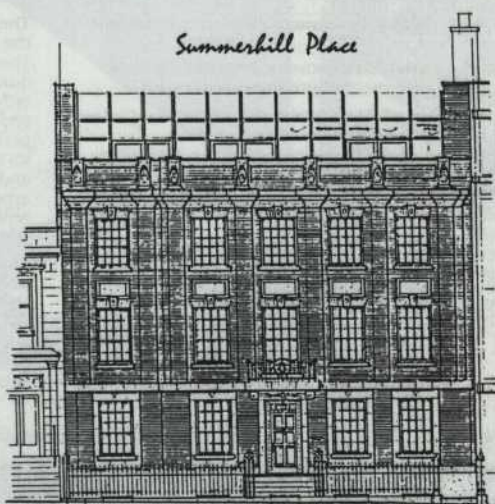
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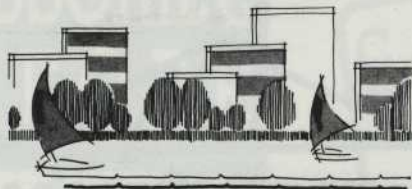
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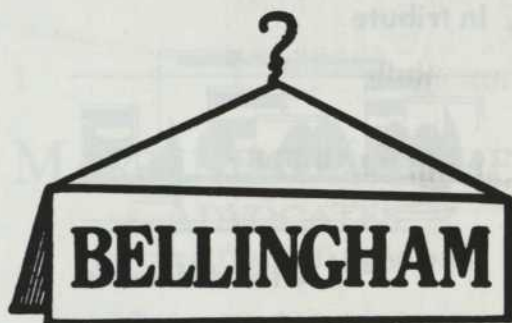
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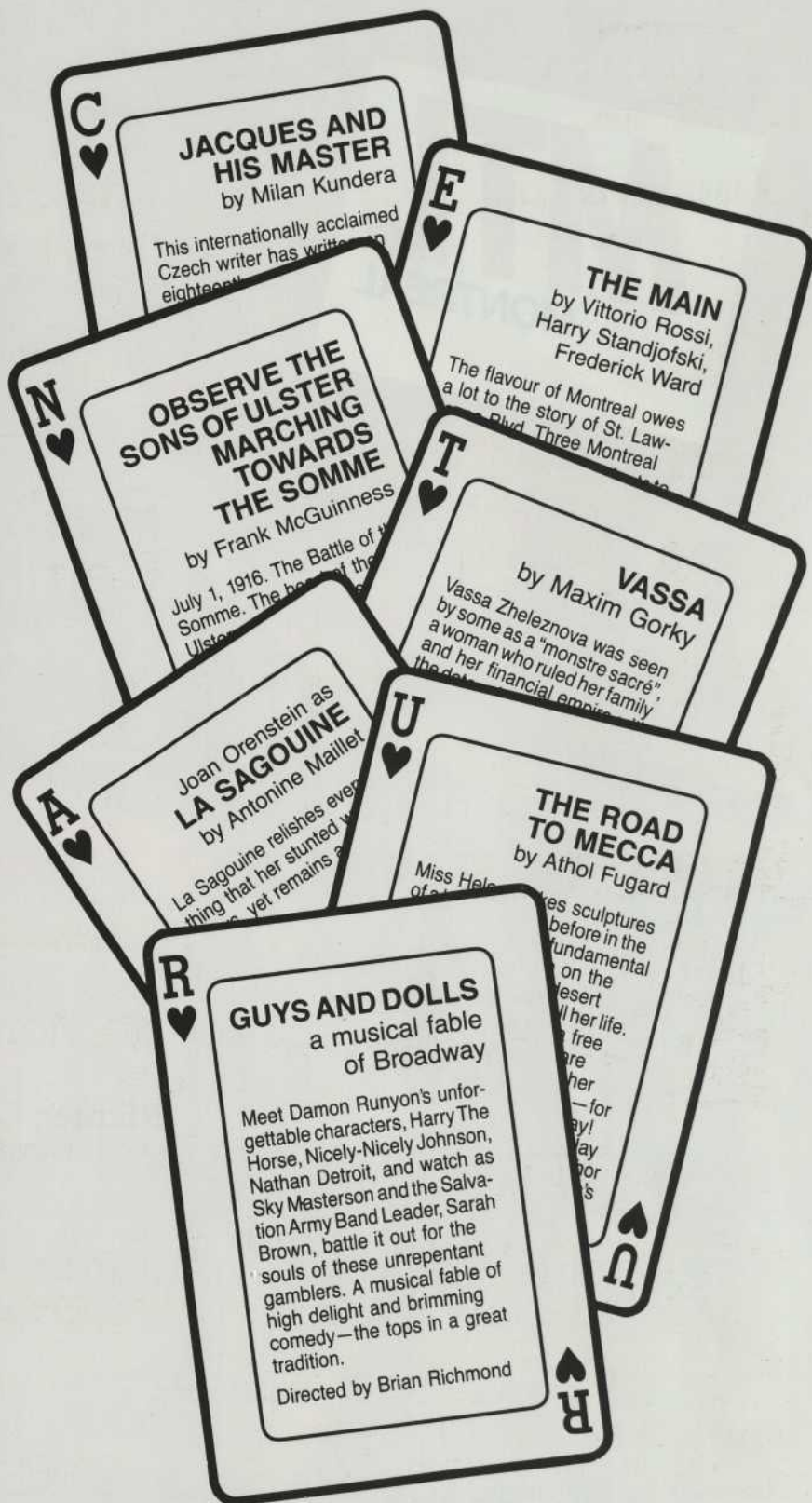
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