

**Studio
Productions**



FORTUNE, MY FOE

By ROBERTSON DAVIES

MONTREAL REPERTORY THEATRE

1550 GUY STREET

JUNE 8-9-10, 1950

Sir George Williams College

OF THE MONTREAL Y.M.C.A.

Degree courses in arts, science, commerce. Pre-engineering, pre-dental and pre-medical courses. Single subjects. Day and evening classes.

★

Sir George Williams Schools

High School

Evening elementary and high school classes.

Business School

Day and evening classes. Open summer and winter.

School of Art

Day and evening classes. Fine and commercial art.

★

Information from the Registrar

1441 DRUMMOND STREET, MONTREAL

(MA. 8331)

★

FOSTER, HANNEN, WATT & STIKEMAN

Barristers & Solicitors

★

507 Place d'Armes,

Montreal

HArbour 0131

FORTUNE, MY FOE

by

Robertson Davies

Directed by Charles Rittenhouse

Setting by Hans Berends

Produced under the supervision of Doreen Lewis

* * *

CAST . . . in order of appearance

James Steele (Chilly Jim)	Harold Kelley
Nicholas Hayward	Griffith Brewer
Idris Rowlands	John Stewart
Edward Weir	Kenneth Haslam
Buckety Murphy (Bucket O'Slops)	Eric Matheson
Vanessa Medway	Suzette Amos
Franz Szabo	Adolf Mueller
Ursula Simonds	Rita Roy
Orville Tapscott	Louis Burggraf
Mrs. E. C. Philpott	Winifred Dennis

The scene is James Steele's equivocal establishment near the city of Kingston, Ontario. It is early autumn.

ACT I. Late afternoon.

ACT II. Early evening. A week later.

ACT III. Evening. A week later.

Puppets made by Marie and Griffith Brewer.

Puppeteer — John Common

PECK'S

SHERBROOKE, EAST OF GUY

Fl. 4685

RECORDS - RADIOS - ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

yours for many encores

GRAY ROCKS INN

ST. JOVITE, P.Q.

F. H. "TOM" WHEELER,
Managing Director.

While up the street

Visit the

STORK CLUB

1433 GUY STREET

and tell your friends about it.

Over 60 Years' Experience — We Can Help You

C. R. Crowley
LIMITED
THE PAINT MAN

Artist Materials
for all purposes

1387 ST. CATHERINE ST. WEST, MONTREAL
Phones — Plateau 4412 — Two Lines

STUDIO COMMITTEE

DOUGLASS BURNS CLARKE, *Chairman*

BEATRICE MUNRO BROWN

JEAN deSAVOYE

DOREEN LEWIS

SILVIO NARIZZANO

LEE PRIME, *Secretary*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager: TIM STAPLETON

Production Manager: JEAN STAPLETON

Properties: SYLVIA SPIEGELMAN

Assistants: I. ROBERTSON
A. TRUESDELL

Stage Crew: F. FARHA, J. FOWLER
R. ROBINSON, L. WOLLOCK

Lighting: G. DICKINSON, N. HOLTZMAN

Prompters: J. MACHULAITIS, B. MURRAY

Make-up: C. BENSLEY, E. WILSON

MRT STUDIO MEMBERSHIP

1950 - 51

Double - \$5.00 Single - \$2.50

Double membership entitles you to two tickets, Single membership to one ticket to each of the three Studio Productions, with the privilege of permanent reservations.

Studio Productions represent the more experimental phase of MRT, specializing in plays which are novel in form or construction, lesser known works of great dramatists and new plays of merit by Canadian playwrights.

THE PRODUCTION

"Fortune, My Foe" is a Canadian play. The people in it are Canadians, and could be no other nationality. The locale is near Kingston, Ontario, and could be many spots in Canada. There are two themes running together and merging at the end, and both are Canadian. What this play has to say is important. It is not a matter of geography, of prairie wastes or frozen northlands; it is a matter of spirit and intellect.

The action of the play is set in a bar, where fresh fruit juice is sold at a high price, and gin (neatly fished by boathook out of the river, where it lives peacefully in a bucket on Crown property) is given to a selected few by the proprietor, Chilly Steel. Chilly is a character, a man whose independent spirit delights in providing the sort of place where a man can be alone; a man to whom language is a hobby and for whom skilfully manipulated marionettes seem like a religion.

To Chilly's bar come the people who weave the tale. Here is Idris Rowlands, a university professor, originally English, who is embittered and intellectually frustrated, but still capable of deep and earnest passion. Canada creates in him belief and despair. Also from the university, albeit a mere instructor, is Nicholas Hayward, an intellectual, high-spirited, younger man, who feels that whatever talents he may have will be wasted on the desert air if he remains in Canada. "Everybody says that Canada is a hard country to govern," he says, "but nobody mentions that for some people it is also a hard country to live in." Nicholas craves, also, a salary which will allow him to marry, for he is in love. Vanessa Medway is a curious girl, mature, intellectually, but undeveloped emotionally, and unable to do more than observe Nicholas and his love for her with detachment.

Then there is Franz Szabo, an Austrian-Bohemian, and a Master Puppeteer. Szabo plays a curious role in the unfolding of the theme. He is the foreigner, among a group of Canadians, but he is a great artist, and because of this it is he who intensifies the perception and determination of the others. He meets the gloomy predictions of Nicholas and Idris and Edward Weir, a thoroughly likeable, lively newspaperman, with quiet assurance. However they may emphasize the lack of artistic appreciation in Canada, he is un-

Elizabeth Leese

Classical Ballet and Modern Dance

Summer Classes on Tuesday
and Thursday Evenings.

Studio at 1616 Sherbrooke St. W.

Wilbank 0778

★
McKenna
LIMITED FLORISTS
ESTABLISHED 1881
★

Manufacturers
of TAPS-
TAP SHOES-
TOE SHOES-
Ballet Slippers-
Acrobatic
Sandals-
Street Ballet-



Theatrical
Make-up-
Costume
Materials-
Sequins-
SPOTLIGHTS
for All Purposes-
for RENT
or FOR SALE-

Johnny Brown

SPECIALIZING IN
SHOES AND SUPPLIES
FOR THOSE WHO *Dance*

BE.
3221

637 BURNSIDE STREET between University & Union Ave.
(rear of Eaton's and Morgan's)

*The largest selection of
Fine Men's Wear we have
ever shown is now available.*

CASE

**1115 St. Catherine St. W.
and
Henry Marks Ltd., Mount Royal Hotel**

The PINE SHOP Ltd.

Quality Lumber . . . "Cut to Size"

★

Telephone: Fitzroy 8022 — 1438 GUY STREET

RECORDS

VICTOR — DECCA — HIS MASTER'S VOICE
COLUMBIA — LONDON — TELEFUNKEN

SHEET MUSIC and
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC STORE
LIMITED**

1334 ST. CATHERINE STREET WEST — PL. 6431

For All Your
BOOK NEEDS

See . . .

CLASSIC BOOKSHOP

1380 St. Catherine Street West

Telephone: LA. 3669

moved. When Rowlands remarks ironically to him, "We have the talkies in Canada. Have you heard of them?", he replies, "Oh, yes. But somebody discovers Coca Cola, and there is still a place for good wine."

There are other characters. There is Ursula Simonds, a completely repellent socialist; Orville Tapscott, a recreational organizer who objects to Don Quixote's Mistress Dulcinea because he's on the Board of the Y.; Mattie Philpott, who is an enthusiastic supporter of Arts and Crafts, gruesome examples of which bespangle her person, and Buckety Murphy, an ingratiating, alcoholic, down-at-heel bum.

The primary theme to be stated concerns Nicholas' problems—his yearning for recognition and for Vanessa, and his resolution to go to the United States in order to achieve both these ambitions. The secondary theme, about which the plot revolves, is the desperate attempt to find some way of reaching an audience for Szabo, who took sixteen years to become a master puppeteer. Here the contrast is made between the North American passion for doing everything in a hurry, and the artist's incomprehension of aiming at speed instead of at perfection.

The experiment ends in disaster, and the Canadians are crushed, ashamed and aching with sympathy for Szabo. But Szabo is neither crushed nor beaten. He is an artist, his nationality is unimportant. People are simply people to him, and he is passionately convinced that his puppets will find audiences in twentieth century Canada as they did in ancient Egypt. "So long as I keep the image of my work clear in my heart, I shall not fail. The educated like my work, and the uneducated like it. As for the half-educated—well, we can only pray for them in Canada, as elsewhere."

By Beatrice Munro Brown.

Fitzroy 3042

WILLIAM SOFIN, Chemist

medical arts drug stores

. . . Just across the street from the MRT

CITY WIDE DELIVERY

Compliments of

JAS. A. OGILVY'S LTD.

MONTREAL

WESTMOUNT REALTIES COMPANY

1376 GREENE AVENUE

Fitzroy 8541

ARTHUR BROWNING & CO.

INSURANCE BROKERS

Established 1886

INSURANCE IN ALL ITS BRANCHES

264 HOSPITAL ST., MONTREAL

MArquette 6371

WILFRED W. WERRY, M.A., C.A.

3458 PEEL STREET

Compliments of

DECHAUX FRERES LIMITEE

MONTREAL

DID YOU

"NUGGET"

YOUR SHOES THIS MORNING?

duBois

FRENCH PASTRY — BON-BONS — CATERING

4887 Sherbrooke W.

WESTMOUNT

WA. 8163

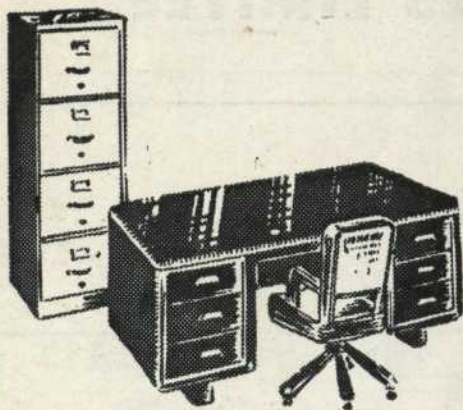
MODERN BUILDING MATERIALS

In our showroom in our Head Office at 1040 Bleury Street, you are invited to see our complete range of building materials.

Our staff will be pleased to advise you how these versatile materials can be used to solve your building problems. Experienced service . . . Six branches in Montreal — One in St. Jerome.



IT'S FOR THE OFFICE WE HAVE IT



- OFFICE FURNITURE
- ADDING MACHINES
- CALCULATORS
- FILING CABINETS
- DESKS & CHAIRS
- SAFES & VAULT DOORS
- PORTABLE TYPEWRITERS

NATIONAL
TYPEWRITER INCORPORATED

700 ST. JAMES ST. (West of Victoria Sq.)

*MA. 2147