

Gordon McCall, Artistic Director

CENTAUR

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April 2 - May 12, 2002

Dinner with Friends

by
Donald Margulies

directed by
Rosemary Dunsmore

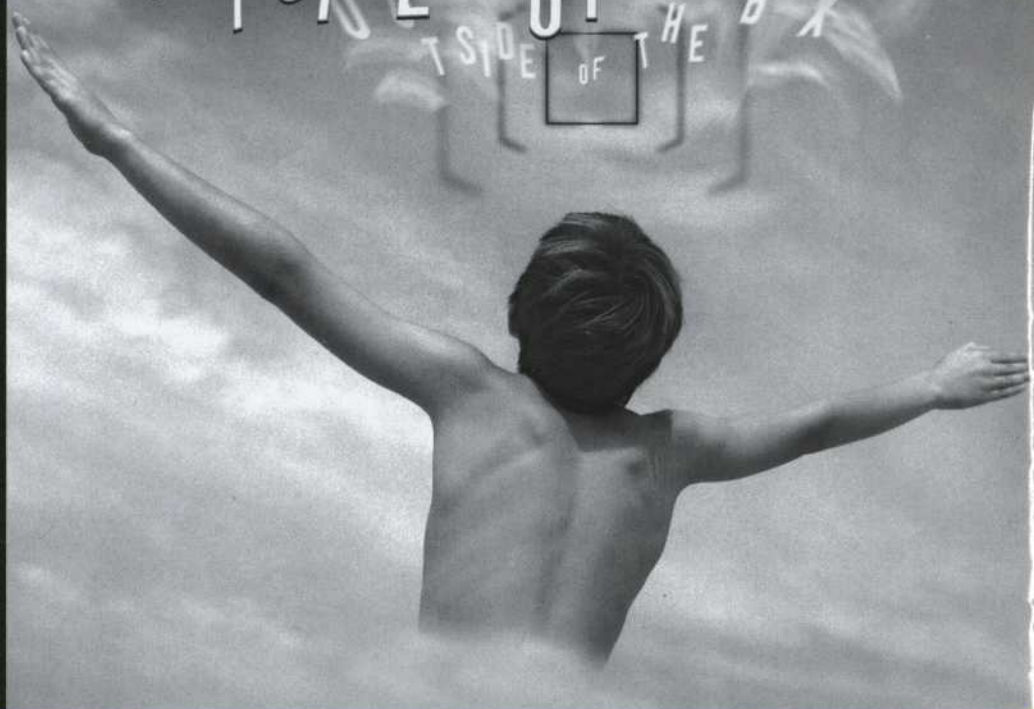


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Gordon McCall,
Artistic Director



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April 2 - May 12, 2002

Centaur Theatre Company

presents

dinner with friends

by **Donald Margulies**

directed by **Rosemary Dunsmore**

starring (in alphabetical order)

Tom **Steve Adams**

Beth **Danette MacKay**

Gabe **Gordon McCall**

Karen **Linda Smith**

set and costume design by **Dennis Horn**

lighting design by **Spike Lyne**

stage manager **Wendy Rockburn**

apprentice stage manager **Melanie St. Jacques**

TIME : The Present

LOCATION : The Eastern Seaboard

There will be one intermission.

Commissioned by and premiered at Actors Theatre of Louisville

Subsequently produced by South Coast Repertory

Originally produced Off-Broadway by:

Mitchell Mawell, Mark Balsam, Ted Tulchin

Victoria Maxwell, Mari Nakachi, Steven Tulchin

Dinner with Friends by Donald Margulies is presented

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"What makes a happy marriage?

It is a question which all men and women ask one another....

The answer is to be found, I think, in the mutual discovery, by two who marry, of the deepest need of the other's personality, and the satisfaction of that need." - Pearl S. Buck.

director's notes

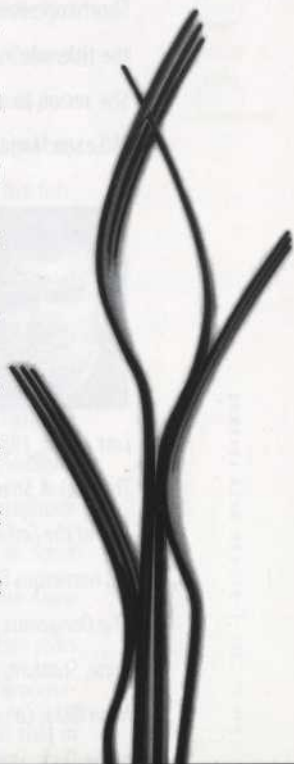
This play explores the expectations we have of marriage. I arranged my wedding with a certain embarrassment. I shunned the commercial venture and shyed away from the traditional romantic trappings. At the same time, I wanted it to be special but I felt apologetic asking friends to participate. What I quickly realized was everyone wanted to be involved. The wedding was for everyone a celebration of the institution itself. Our friends and family were also marrying our marriage. Indeed the service charges the guests to standby and fortify the union.

Surrounded by friends we say "I do" filled with an idyllic notion of living happily ever after. Marriage for love is a relatively new practice in our society. Previously marriages were arranged for practical reasons. Now we marry because this person makes us feel complete and seems to fulfil our needs. The difficulty is that as we stand at the alter, we may not yet recognize what our real needs are. The glory of marriage is that as life's challenges force us to confront the essential mystery of ourselves as individuals, we need not be alone, if we dare to risk true intimacy. It isn't easy and all the more so, because we thought it would be. We hope you thrive on the discussion as much as we have.

- Rosemary Dunsmore

The Playwright

Donald Margulies (*Playwright*) won a Pulitzer Prize for drama in 2000 for *Dinner With Friends*. He was the 2000 recipient of the Sidney Kingsley Award for outstanding achievement in the theatre by a playwright. His other plays include *Collected Stories* (Pulitzer Prize finalist and Hull-Warriner nominee), *The Model Apartment* (Hull-Warriner nominee and Obie Award winner), *Sight Unseen* (Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of the Hull-Warriner and Obie awards); *July 7, 1994*, *The Loman Family Picnic*, *Pitching to the Star*; *Zimmer*, *Luna Park*, *Broken Sleep*, *God of Vengeance*, *Found a Peanut*, and *What's Wrong with This Picture?* Margulies wrote the teleplay for the HBO version of *Dinner With Friends* that premiered in August 2000. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut, where he teaches playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.



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CENTAUR
THEATRE COMPANY

biographies



Rosemary Dunsmore (*Director*) appeared last season in Centaur's production of *Wit* for which she won a Masque award. She divides her professional time between acting, directing and teaching. This past season, she directed *Fighting Words* at the Factory Theatre in Toronto and *Wuthering Heights* at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton. She can be heard as Lillian on CBC's radio's *Hartfeldt Saskatchewan*. This winter she shot a role in the new Stephen King film *DreamCatcher*. She teaches acting and directing actors at the National Theatre School, Canadian Film Centre, University of Toronto, Shortworks Halifax and Equity Showcase. Among her many television appearances are the title role in *Mom P.I.* and Katherine Brooke in the sequel of *Anne of Green Gables*. She recurs as a judge on *The Associates* and *Soulfood*. She was chosen in 1990 for McLean's Magazine Honour Roll as a Canadian who "makes a difference".



Steve Adams (*Tom*) happily returns to the Centaur stage. He was last seen here in *Angels in America, Part 2: Perestroika*. Steve was born in Hamilton, Ontario and now happily resides with his lovely wife in Montreal after spending many years in Toronto and Vancouver. His theatre credits include *Androcles and the Lion*, *The Lost Letter, 1984* (Shaw Festival), *Pal Joey* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Suicide* (Alumnae Theatre) *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Theatre Aquarius), *Deathtrap* (Rainbow Theatre), *Sins of the Father* (Vancouver Fringe), *Semmelweis*, *Chekov in Yalta* (Equity Showcase). His numerous film and television credits include *Affliction*, *Savage Messiah*, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, *For Hire*, *Pressure Point*, *IMAX: Ultimate G's*, *Nuremberg, 2000 and None*, *Stardom*, *Possible Worlds*, *Largo Winch*, *Arrival II*, *X-Files*, *Twilight Zone*, *Whiskers*, *Neon Rider*, *Commish*, *Wiseguy*, *Thunderpoint*, *Night Heat*, *Dead Man's Gun*, *Are You Afraid of the Dark*, *Student Bodies*, *Top Cops* to name but a few. Steve also writes screenplays and is in the process of editing his first short film that he wrote, produced and directed. Hobbies include anything to do with Formula One racing and searching for signs of intelligent life on other planets. Don't ask.



Danette MacKay (*Beth*) Perversely, Danette is most well known from a certain LotoQuebec commercial, although local audiences might also remember her as Linda in *Play It Again, Sam* at the Saidye Bronfman Center, and as Skai in *The Small Play* at Theatre la Chapelle or as She in *Ceremony* at Geordie, or in any number of other roles in fabulous, obscure productions. When last she performed at Centaur, she was hugely pregnant as Sylvie in *Scarpone*. Recent film and TV credits include *Hysteria: the Def Leppard Story* for VH.1 where she played a 55-year old mum of a rock star, and *Within These Walls* for Lifetime, where she got to cry with Laura Dern. She started up and is the Emcee of the *Kiss My Cabaret* soirée at La Sala Rossa, featuring some of the best and brightest Montreal performers. She is honoured to be a part of this production, performing in this wondrous play. She has one husband, two daughters, one dog, three cats and five fish.



Gordon McCall (*Gabe*) A professional actor since the age of twenty-one, Gordon has acted on stages from coast to coast. Some favourite roles include, Trinculo in *The Tempest*, and Greta in *Bent* (The Manitoba Theatre Centre), Edward in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* and Floyd in *Cold Comfort* (Sudbury Theatre Centre), Arthur Birling in *An Inspector Calls* (Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre), Wullie in *The Black Bonspiel of Wullie MacCrimmon*, Father in *Some Assembly Required* (The Thousand Islands Playhouse) and Ivan in *Drinking Alone* (Hudson's Village Theatre West). Host of his own television talk show for two years in Saskatoon, Gordon also enjoys working in film and television, when the opportunity arises. The role that he continues to enjoy the most, however, is that of Artistic Director of Centaur Theatre Company. As always, Gordon wishes to thank his wife, Eloise, and sons Sean and Spencer, and director Rosemary, and the amazing Centaur family for being so incredible.



Linda Smith (*Karen*) is delighted to be performing on the Centaur stage again where she previously appeared in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* and *Look Back In Anger*. Linda, a native Montrealer has been travelling and studying and doing her part to support the local film industry. She was recently seen in the HBO series *Dice* and will soon be seen in the made for TV movie *Aftermath*. Enjoy the show. By the way, if anyone knows of a nice apartment to rent please let me know.



Spike Lyne (*Lighting Designer*) is a graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada. He currently works at the school as a technical production coach and lighting design instructor. He is also the Technical Production Manager for Moyses Hall at McGill University. Centaur audiences will be familiar with Spike's work as lighting designer for the Bowser and Blue's *Blokes* trilogy. Some of his recent design credits include *Sleuth* at the (Saidye Bronfman Centre), *Marchand du Sable*, *Hamlet* (Salle #6), and *Ne Jetez Pas De Cendre Par Terre* (Théâtre Deuxième Réalité). For the Just For Laughs Festival, Spike's credits include *Mom's the Word*, *Norman Rockwell is Bleeding*, *Christopher Titus*, *Late Nite Catechism*, *Richard Jeni*, *One Funny Bastard*, *Lee Evans*, *Ben Elton*. Most recently, Spike was lighting designer for The Just for Laughs inaugural Canadian Gala tour. Spike will be coordinating the new lighting design specialization program for the National Theatre School this coming fall.



Dennis Horn (*Set and Costume Design*) returns to Centaur with trepidation. After all, when he was here to do *Twelfth Night* they had an ice storm in his honour. He also had the privilege of designing the Quebec English-language premier of *The Orphan Muses* at Centaur in 1997. Recent credits include *Nurse Jane Goes To Hawaii* (Grand Theatre), *Problem Child*, the premiere of *Queen Milli of Galt* (Theatre and Company) and the costumes for *Fiddler on The Roof* and *Dracula* (Thousand Island Playhouse). Other credits are *Hayfever* (Thousand Island Playhouse), *Beauty Queen of Leenane* with Rosemary Dunsmore (Manitoba Theatre Centre). Dennis is the President of the Associated Designers of Canada. When not living out of a suitcase, Dennis lives in Elora, Ontario with a Springer spaniel named Bailey.



Wendy Rockburn (*Stage Manager*) is very excited to be working on this wonderful play with such illustrious company. Previous Centaur credits include *Freeze*, *Art*, *Oliver!*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Gin Game* and *Waiting For Godot*. She would like to take this opportunity to wish a wonderfully Happy 90th Birthday to Mr. Karl Malden, who has encouraged and inspired her in this life in the theatre for so many years.



Melanie St-Jacques (*Apprentice Stage Manager*) is very excited to be working with the team at Centaur. This is her third experience with the Centaur, since working as an apprentice stage manager earlier this season with *Art*, and with last season's *Trick or Treat*. After studying theatre at the Dome, where her favorite roles include: Clara Soppit in *When We Are Married* and Grandma in *You Can't Take It With You*, she has been acting and stage managing with the Montreal based entertainment company Untimely Ripped, of which she is a proud member. Recent UR acting credits include: Alison in *Look back in Anger* and Thelma in *Nine Days in January*. UR stage managing credits include: *Star Spangled Girl*, *Prisoner of 2nd Avenue*, and *Leaf in the Mailbox*. When Melanie is not focusing on theatre, she dabbles in catering and the art of food presentation. Thanks to family and friends for their unbelievable support and encouragement.

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Kate Walker

Every painting is a journey for me, whether it's an escape from the everyday or an exploration of identity in our pluralistic society. Our lives are very busy, full of change and unpredictability. In my works I try to depict a quiet moment, a look, a memory, or a mood, subjects that range from figures contemplating to objects we see everyday but never really look at. Every painting is a reflection of me but hopefully the viewers can find something of themselves as well.



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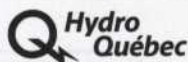
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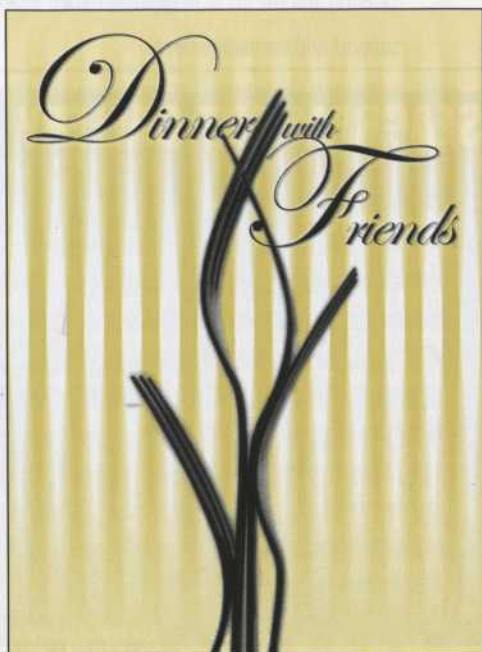


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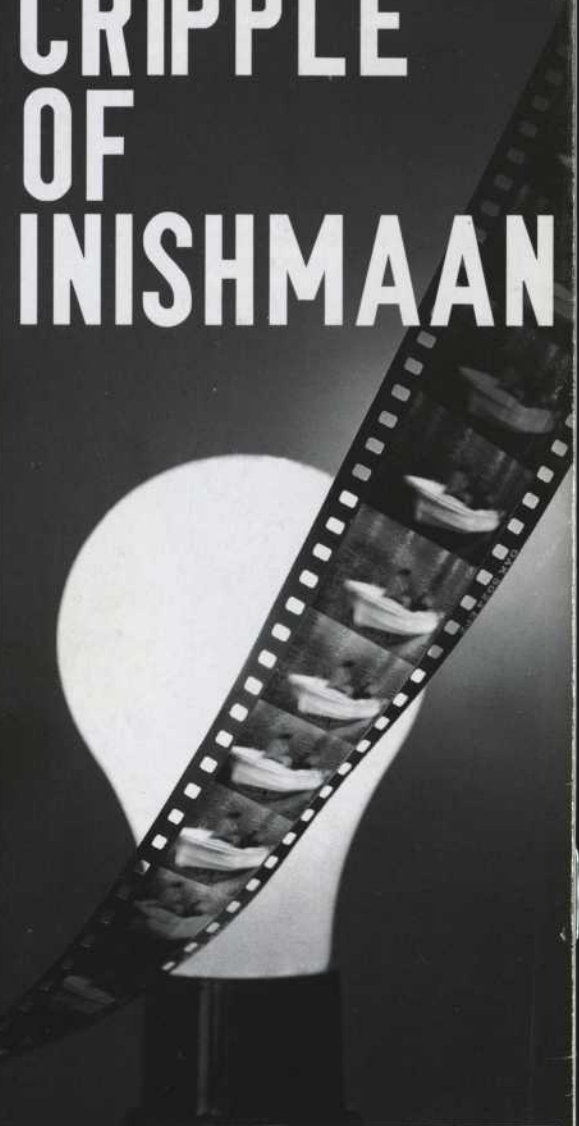
We are very happy to welcome Ben Barnes, Artistic Director of Ireland's Abbey Theatre and director of the Les Masques award-winning Centaur productions of 'Waiting For Godot' by Samuel Beckett and 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' by Martin McDonagh.

Welcome, once again, to the world of Martin McDonagh, the Bad Boy of Irish theatre. His is a world of the blackest, wickedest humour, of scorching characterizations and stunning plot twists. Two seasons ago, our production of McDonagh's 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane', also under the direction of Mr. Barnes, was so popular that we could hardly wait to bring this equally riveting piece of 'McDonagh Magic' to our audience, once again, under Mr. Barnes' direction.

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The New York Times

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN



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