

CENTAUR
THEATRE COMPANY

27 Oct 78

presents

PAPER

WHEAT

a collective creation
by the 25th Street House Theatre

Sponsored by
Canadian International Paper Company.



come one, come all
to
a harvest moon concert
of

the play that dares to tell the farmers' own story

PAPER WHEAT

(Ladies are asked to remove their hats)

presented by

CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY

(October 12 – November 19, 1978)

(Please refrain from spitting on the ceiling)

CAST

SHARON BAKKER Elizabeth Postlethwaite; Farmer Leo
MICHAEL FAHEY Sean Phelan; Musician
DAVID FRANCIS William Postlethwaite; The Whistler
SKAI LEJA Anna Lutz; Louise Lucas
LUBOMIR MYKYTIUK Vasil Havryshyn; Ed Partridge
BILL PROKOPCHUK Fiddler

Directed by GUY SPRUNG

Designed by C. ZAK

Lighting by STEVEN HAWKINS

Stage Manager ERIKA KLUSCH

ACT I

COME TO ME, O MY CHILDREN! YE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR LAND - MUCH WILL I GIVE FOR YOUR LABOR: I GIVE WITH A LAVISH HAND. BRING ME THE STRENGTH OF YOUR ARMS, FERTILE AND TOUGH ARE MY PLAINS, I'LL MAKE YOUR LIVES WORTH LIVING, I'LL QUICKEN THE BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS.

I AM THE LAND OF PLENTY, AND RICH IS THE MILK OF MY BREAST AND SO MY CHILDREN LOVE ME - THEY CALL ME "THE GOLDEN WEST"; MY HUNDRED OF MILLIONS OF ACRES WHICH NEVER HAVE FELT A PLOUGH ARE WAITING FOR YOU, MY CHILDREN - THE PRAIRIES ARE CALLING YOU NOW.

By Walter P. Davisson, 1927

It was to this call of the west that three million immigrants responded between the years 1896 and 1914. And it is their story that the entertainers will portray in the first act. The story of their breaking the sod; of intemperate climate and countless tribulations. But it is also the story of their hope and determination; and of the discovery that their isolation and helplessness could be overcome by human co-operation.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

FROM THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST,
ALL O'ER THE PRAIRIE,
KEEP THE WHEAT POOL ROLLING ALONG,
TELL EVERYBODY WHEN YOU SIGN YOUR NAME,
THEN ASK YOUR NEIGHBOUR AND HE'LL DO THE SAME:
IF WE ALL STICK TOGETHER,
WHAT WE'LL HAVE WE'LL HOLD:
YOU'LL BE PROUD TO BE A FARMER
WHEN THE STORY'S TOLD.
FROM THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST,
ALL O'ER THE PRAIRIE,
KEEP THE WHEAT POOL ROLLING ALONG.

The Wheat Pool Song – by H.W. Ellerton, copyright 1926.

Act II wherein we meet both the generals and the private soldiers in that vast army of prairie farmers who fought to gain control of their own destinies. We meet E.A. Partridge, an early idealist who founded the first Farmers' Grain Company; we witness the struggle for the creation of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool; and we meet Louise Lucas, farm wife, who became known as the "mother of the CCF". We are invited to reflect on the past, present and future of the cooperative movement, and receive a lesson in economics. We hear the voices of the young and the old, the rich and the poor, marching forward towards the establishment of the brotherhood of man.



The original production of PAPER WHEAT produced by Saskatoon's 25th Street House Theatre opened in the Memorial Hall, Sinaluta, Saskatchewan, March 18, 1977 and was created collectively under the direction of Andy Tahn by Linda Griffiths, Sharon Bakker, Michael Fahey, Bob Bainborough, Brenda Leadlay and Catherine Jaxon. PAPER WHEAT was restaged by the 25th Street House Theatre in the Fall of 1977 and toured Saskatchewan and Toronto. This second production was collectively redeveloped under the direction of Guy Sprung by Michael Fahey, Sharon Bakker, Skai Leja, David Francis and Lubomir Mykytiuk.

cast

SHARON BAKKER (Elizabeth Postlethwaite; Farmer Leo) – was born and raised on a farm near Aberdeen, Saskatchewan and studied drama at the University of Saskatchewan. Sharon has performed in numerous Saskatoon productions including "Tiny Alice", "Lysistrata", "The Sibyl", "The Birthday Party", as well as touring with PAPER WHEAT and "Generation and 1/2" last season with 25th Street House Theatre, of which she is one of the founding members.

MICHAEL FAHEY (Sean Phelan; Musician) – was in the original production of PAPER WHEAT. Mr. Fahey began acting at St-Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, and has since worked in Ottawa at the National Arts Centre, in Toronto at Theatre Passe Muraille, Theatre London, and most recently The Mulgrave Road Co-operative Theatre, Mulgrave, Nova Scotia.

DAVID FRANCIS (William Postlethwaite; The Whistler) – has worked extensively in theatre in his native Montreal, most recently at centaur in ON THE JOB, ANATOL, and COMEDIANS. Since attending drama school (LAMDA) in London, England on a scholarship from the Government of the Province of Quebec, he has worked as an actor in England, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Czechoslovakia, and has also worked as a writer and freelance broadcaster (CBC, Australian Broadcasting, et al). He spent last year with 25th Street House Theatre doing one-night-stands of PAPER WHEAT and "Generation and 1/2" throughout the prairies, and has just returned from teaching in Czechoslovakia.

SKAI LEJA (Anna Lutz; Louise Lucas) – of Latvian descent, came to Canada as a young child. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Miss Leja has performed in North Bay, Ottawa, and at the Peterborough Summer Theatre in "Yesterday The Children Were Dancing". She has worked in several "collective" plays including "Toronto The City Show", "Where Is The Voice Coming From", and "Up The Valley". She has toured eastern Canada with Mermaid Theatre Wolfville, and Saskatchewan with the 25th Street House production of PAPER WHEAT, which the National Film Board filmed.

LUBOMIR MYKYTIUK (Vasil Havryshyn; Ed Partridge) – was born in the Ukraine and grew up in Montreal. He studied acting at New York University, performing in radio, television and film including one French and one Ukrainian language film. He has worked at the Globe Theatre, Regina, 25th Street House Theatre, Saskatoon, St-Lawrence Centre and Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, and Theatre New Brunswick, Fredericton. He was host of the CBC network radio program Identities from '73 to '75. centaur audiences will remember him as Marat in THE PROMISE and Murray the Union Man in NOTHING TO LOSE.

BILL PROKOPCHUK (Fiddler) – was born in Rhein, Saskatchewan and began playing country and western music as a small boy. In 1964 he won the Western Canada Fiddling Championships. In 1968 he performed with a number of top recording artists in Nashville, Tennessee. He has recorded seven records and made many radio and television appearances. Bill Prokopchuk lives in Springside, Saskatchewan and plays with his band called "Fiddling Bill and the Country Kings".

GUY SPRUNG (Director) – A graduate of McGill, has worked in the theatre from Berlin to Calgary. Co-founder and first Artistic Director of the Half Moon Theatre, London, England, he returned to Canada after 4 years and 30 productions at that theatre with a unique style and an enviable reputation. Back in Canada he directed the premiere of W.O. Mitchell's "Back To Beulah" (1976 Chalmers award) at Theatre Calgary. For centaur he conceived and directed LES CANADIENS (1977 Chalmers award) as well as the premiere production of David Fennario's NOTHING TO LOSE. He will direct BALCONVILLE later this season.

C. ZAK (Designer) – worked on PAPER WHEAT for the 25th Street House Theatre in Saskatoon, where she was Resident Designer for two seasons at Persephone Theatre. Her designs there included "That Championship Season", "Glass Menagerie", and "Vanities" which was a co-production with Theatre 3 in Edmonton. Miss Zak has recently completed work as Design Assistant on "Yiskor" for Edmonton Actors' Workshop.

STEVEN HAWKINS (Lighting Designer) – is Head Technician of centaur 2 and one of centaur's resident designers. Centaur audiences saw his work in LES CANADIENS, TORONTO, THE ISLAND. Other credits include "Strong Currents" for Black Theatre Workshop, both the Montreal and Winnipeg productions, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" for Painted Bird Theatre, and "Can Opener" for Vis à Vis Productions.

ERIKA KLUSCH (Stage Manager) – After a successful summer season at Lennoxville, Ms Klusch is back for her 2nd season at centaur. She is a founding member of the Gryphon Theatre in Barrie, Ontario. Before coming to centaur she worked at Theatre Compact in Toronto as Production Stage Manager. Other Toronto credits include Stage Management at Theatre Plus, Toronto Arts Productions at the St-Lawrence Centre, Factory Theatre Lab, and Toronto Workshop Productions. Ms Klusch has worked extensively in Canadian theatre, Stratford Festival, Theatre Aquarius in Ottawa, The Neptune Theatre's Second Stage in Halifax as well as several tours. She also stage managed concerts for International Women's Year.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12th – 3 p.m.

OPEN DISCUSSION

on PAPER WHEAT and related things . . .

everyone is invited to meet the PAPER WHEAT Company and some special guests for an informal discussion in the theatre. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

For further information please call

centaur's P.R. Department: 288-1229

CENTAUR
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COMPANY
78/79

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Centaur Theatre Company, a professional company operating within the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY

Old Exchange Arts Centre

453 St-François Xavier, Old Montreal H2Y 2T1 — 288-1229

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DANNY CHATHAM Head Carpenter
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ALEXANDER GAZALE Head Technician - Centaur 1
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acknowledgements

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THE CROFTER'S TRAIL TO HAPPINESS.

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