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RENE
LEVESQUE



BY DAVID FENNARIO

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THE DEATH OF **RENE LEVESQUE**

by **David Fennario**

February 5th – March 24th, 1991

A World Première Production

Jacques Beaubien	JEAN ARCHAMBAULT
Barbotte	MARCEL AYMAR
Gérald Martin	ALPHA BOUCHER
Hélène Duval	JOSÉE LA BOSSIÈRE
Chantal Fortin	LUCIE ROUTHIER
Jean-Louis Demers	MAURICE ROY

Directed by	PAUL THOMPSON
Set and Costume Design by	MARCEL DAUPHINAIS
Lighting Design by	GUY SIMARD
Sound Design by	MIKE O'HARA
Stage Manager	LYNN McQUEEN
Apprentice Stage Manager	ELAINE NORMANDEAU
Original Music by	MARCEL AYMAR
Original Lyrics by	DAVID FENNARIO

The play takes place in Montreal at a commemorative rally one year after Lévesque's death.

There will be no intermission



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gray world
blackened world
locked up world

land barely out of prehistory
land captive by blood and by bone
in blood and bone
land to my mouth like an unsaid word

trapped beast in the underbrush of morning
sister of shame, oh, like to body stooped servant

land knotted in roots and instinct
out of the prenatal blackness, out of the savage stupor
o land to be said, o land to be lived

Paul Chamberland, excerpt from *L'Afficheur hurle*

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ABOUT DAVID FENNARIO

David Fennario's rapid development from an unskilled labourer living in Pointe St-Charles, one of Montreal's working-class districts, to Canada's foremost young playwright, is a phenomenon Centaur is proud to have initiated. In 1973, Maurice Podbrey, Artistic Director of Centaur read "Without a Parachute" written by David as a class project and published by Dawson College Press (now published by McClelland & Stewart). He was so impressed by the vitality and quality of the writing, he contacted the author and with the help of a Canada Council grant, invited him to be Centaur's first playwright-in-residence. David, who had never even seen a play, spent two years watching rehearsals, talking with actors, directors, designers, production crews, etc. and out of all of this came *ON THE JOB* with two successful runs at Centaur, two sold-out weeks at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, an acclaimed engagement in Toronto, a two-week tour of Ontario and a one-week tour in and around Montreal. The play was seen in Vancouver and shown on CBC television.

David's incredible talent was confirmed with his second play, *NOTHING TO LOSE* which topped *ON THE JOB*'s popular reception and critical acclaim when it played at Centaur in 1976. It also toured Ontario and Quebec including several weeks in Toronto.

TORONTO played at Centaur in 1978 to sold-out houses. Then came BALCONVILLE, Canada's first bilingual play. The national critical attention was matched by record-breaking box office returns and even with a two-week extension, over 5,000 were turned away. The show was brought back to Centaur in the Fall of 1979 and was completely sold out prior to its opening. In February 1980 a two-week engagement at Place des Arts was extended one week and it is estimated that over 60,000 tickets have been sold in Montreal alone. BALCONVILLE sold out in Toronto at the St. Lawrence Arts Centre and met with similar success in Ottawa, Winnipeg and London's Old Vic Theatre in England.

Centaur commissioned and world premiered ON THE JOB, NOTHING TO LOSE, TORONTO and BALCONVILLE which won the Chalmers Award for Best Canadian Play in 1979. BALCONVILLE's success was followed by the 1983 hit, "Moving". "Joe Beef: A History of Pointe St-Charles", was developed and produced by the Black Rock Community Group in Verdun and premiered in Toronto in a production by Mixed Company which won the Pauline Julien Award, presented by the United Steelworkers' Union, in 1986. David's last work, THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR, was produced at Centaur in Season 20.

JEAN ARCHAMBAULT (Jacques Beaubien)

Jean Archambault has previously worked with the Centaur Theatre Company in David Fennario's plays, as the memorable characters of Thibault in BALCONVILLE (Season 10), which later toured Canada and the United Kingdom, and Chabougamou in NOTHING TO LOSE (Season 8). He worked with Toronto Free Theatre in "Memoir" by John Murrell and with Theatre Calgary in "Walsh", by Sharon Pollack. His most recent works in Montreal include "Les Feluettes" with Théâtre Petit à Petit, Bertolt Brecht's "Galilée" at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde" (directed by Robert Lepage), and at La Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrales in "L'Illusion Comique" by Corneille. He also created the part of Hosanna in Michel Tremblay's play at Théâtre de Quat'sous. For CBC, Jean has appeared in the television series "Some Honourable Gentlemen" and "Charlie Grant's War", as well as the television version of "Balconville".

MARCEL AYMAR (Barbotte)

Born in Baie Ste. Marie, Nova Scotia, Marcel Aymar moved to Sudbury, Ontario in 1971 where he helped form Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario. After working there as an actor and musician, Marcel co-founded the musical group "Cano", which recorded seven albums and toured extensively throughout Canada and abroad. Now living in Montreal and Toronto, his more recent projects include "Cris & Blues" a musical poetry show that recently toured France, "Majoma Music...", a music production company specializing in music for film and television, and fronting his Cajun band "Marcel Aymar et les Last Dash".

ALPHA BOUCHER (Gérald Martin)

Alpha Boucher has appeared extensively in theatrical and television productions. His prolific stage appearances include roles in "Un sur Six", "Coeur de Papa", as Languedoc in 175 performances of "La Cage aux Folles", in over 200 performances of La Compagnie Jean Duceppe's production of "Medium Saignant", in 250 performances of "Charbonneau et le Chef", and in productions for La Comédie Canadienne le Théâtre de Quat'sous, The National Arts Centre, The Montreal International Theatre, Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and Théâtre Populaire du Québec. For television he has played roles in "Semi-détaché", "And Then You Die", CBC's "Not My Department", CTV's "Snow Job", "Les As" and "Y'a pas de Problemes" for Radio-Canada, and "Symphonien" for TVA.

MARCEL DAUPHINAIS (Set and Costume Designer)

Marcel Dauphinais graduated from l'École des Beaux-Arts in Montréal and l'École des Métiers d'Art in Paris, where he later lived and worked for four years. His work also took him to London, England for ten years where he set up his own free-lance design studio, and to New York to create sets for the Robert Stigwood Organization. In Montréal, in addition to running his own graphic Studio, he has designed over 70 sets for the following companies: Café de la Place des Arts, Compagnie Jean Duceppe, Conservatoire d'Art dramatique du Québec, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale, l'Opéra de Montréal, Showbiz International, The Piggery (North Hatley), Théâtre de l'Escale (St-Marc), Théâtre de Marjolaine (Eastman). Le Patriote (Ste-Agathe), Théâtre Populaire du Québec and Théâtre du Rideau Vert. This is Mr. Dauphinais' 12th set design for Centaur, after PIAF, SPOKESONG, THE LEONARD COHEN SHOW, PASSIONATE LADIES, SWEET LIKE SUGA, EMPRESS EUGÉNIE, K2, ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES, BILOXI BLUES, Plato's SYMPOSIUM, and MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA! He was Artistic Director and Designer for last year's Gala Pavarotti for l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal.

JOSÉE LA BOSSIÈRE (Hélène Duval)

Since completing her studies at the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Montréal, Josée La Bossière has appeared in over 30 theatrical productions including "Wouf Wouf", "Arlequin, Valet de Deux Maîtres" and "Voulez-vous Jouer avec Moâ?" (at La Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale), the Saidye Bronfman Centre's English production of Michel Tremblay's "Bonjour là, Bonjour", the English and French productions of Louis Saïa and Louise Roy's "Une Amie d'Enfance" at La Poudrière, "Citrouille" for the Bois de coulonge in Paris, "Victor ou les Enfants au Pouvoir" at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Tennessee Williams' "Kingdom of Earth" at Théâtre Quat'sous, and Neil Simon's "Dernier des Don Juans" at Théâtre de la Grande Coulée. She has performed in a number of "téléthéâtres" including an English version of "Les Belles Soeurs", but is probably best known for her portrayal of Annick Langevin in the popular TV series "Les Bergers". In film, Josée has worked with Jean-Claude Labrecque, André Théberge, and Gilles Noël, and has played roles in "Le Soleil se Lève en Retard" and "Désiré".

LYNN McQUEEN (Stage Manager)

Lynn McQueen returned to Centaur for a third season as Assistant Stage Manager of Centaur Two, where she worked on the Season 22 opener, *OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD*. After returning from the successful Neptune Theatre run of that show, Lynn begins her stint as Stage Manager for Centaur One with *THE DEATH OF RENÉ LÉVESQUE*. Past Centaur credits include Apprentice Stage Manager for *GUYS AND DOLLS*, *THE GIGLI CONCERT*, *THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR*, and *FROM THE MAIN TO MAINSTREET*. She also Assistant Stage-Managed *HANK WILLIAMS: THE SHOW HE NEVER GAVE*, *WOMAN IN MIND*, and *SCARPONE*. Lynn was Stage Manager and Assistant Director for Les productions de la lune verte's "Zweiter Berliner Songspiel", and this past summer she was a Stage Management Intern for "Baal" at the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts.

ELAINE NORMANDEAU (Apprentice Stage Manager)

After less than glorious law studies in Quebec City, Elaine Normandeau graduated in December from Concordia University's Theatre Department, where she worked on various productions as Stage Manager, Assistant Director, and Dramaturg. Last summer she Stage Managed "Macbeth" and was Assistant Production Manager for Repercussion Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park. Upcoming projects include Apprentice Stage Manager for *THE AFFECTIONS OF MAY* at Centaur and Dramaturgy of "Much Ado About Nothing" next summer.

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MIKE O'HARA (Sound Designer)

Mike O'Hara is Head Technician for Centaur One, where he most recently worked on the chilling sound for *THE WOMAN IN BLACK*. In the summer of '89, Mike travelled across Canada as Stage Manager for the tour of "Charlie Farquharson's Olde Testament and Magic Lantern Show". He was also the Sound Designer for "Macbeth" and "Comedy of Errors"; Repercussion Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park productions which toured Montreal this past summer.

LUCIE ROUTHIER (Chantal Fortin)

Since graduating from l'École Nationale de Théâtre du Canada, Lucie Routhier has performed for stage, film, television, and radio. Theatrical credits include performances in "Ténon Demandé" directed by Denise Filiatrault at Théâtre du Rideau Vert, in La Compagnie Jean Duceppe's production of Beth Henley's "Cris du Coeur", in "Defendu" at Théâtre de l'Atelier Continu, "Les Cauchemars du Grand Monde" by Gilbert Turp at Théâtre de la Salle Fred-Barry, in "Quelques Curiosités Sexuelles Rue St-Denis" by David Mamet at Café Théâtre La Licorne, and in the Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui production of "Du Poil aux Pattes comme les CWACS" directed by Claude Jutras, which was also produced for film. Television credits include the role of Macha in Chekhov's "La Mouette" for Radio-Canada and the role of Josette in "Les Filles du Roy".

MAURICE ROY (Jean-Louis Demers)

THE DEATH OF RENÉ LÉVESQUE marks Maurice Roy's first performance with Centaur Theatre Company. He has previously worked with Le Théâtre Parminou, le Théâtre Petit à Petit, le Théâtre de Quartier, the San Francisco Mime Troup, among others. He has toured extensively across Canada, Europe, and Africa with Le Théâtre La Grosse Valise and Le Théâtre Sans Détour. His stage credits include Cupidon in "L'Amour aux Trousses", Le Ministre in "Les Archanges", Hyrcan IV in "Table d'hôte", Paul Chartier in "Faut pas s'laisser faire", and the Joker in over 250 forum-theatres. Apart from his acting, Maurice is also a director and a translator. Recently, he has directed "L'histoire du Boeuf qui a perdu son B", "La Grosse Vie", and "Le p'tit néo", his translation of "The New Canadian Kid".

GUY SIMARD (Lighting Designer)

A versatile Lighting Designer and Technical Director, Guy Simard is a favourite with Montreal audiences. He has dazzled them with his designs for Opéra International de Montréal's "Aïda" and the Festival International d'Opéra's "Aïda" in Australia. An Assistant Lighting Designer for a number of Opéra de Montréal productions, he is now their Resident Lighting Designer. His extensive repertoire includes lighting designs for Production Ondinock, Les Productions Marleb, and Les Productions Jean-Claude L'Espérance. Guy has also created the lighting for various gala evenings such as Power Corporation's private soirée at the Windsor Hotel, Production Look's '88 fashion show, Cacharel's launching of the perfume "LouLou", and "An Evening with Pavarotti" for the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. As a Technical Director, he has worked on the 1987 Just For Laughs Festival and over 75 productions for La Compagnie Jean Duceppe. A graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada, Guy last designed lights for Centaur's production of THE MURDER OF SUSAN PARR by David Fennario in Season 20.

PAUL THOMPSON (Director)

Long time Artistic Director of Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, Paul Thompson was a key figure in the early development of original Canadian plays. His particular approach to collective theatre led to the creation of a number of popular successes, including "The Farm Show", "1837", "I Love You Baby Blue", and MAGGIE AND PIERRE (Season 12). It also served as a model for work by other theatre companies across the country. He has been actively involved in the making of more than 30 plays and his Montreal work includes productions at Centaur's predecessor Instant Theatre at Place Ville Marie, an anglophone creation in bad French at Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui; "Les Maudits Anglais", and a commissioned play for the athletes during the 1976 Olympic Games. He is currently Director General of The National Theatre School of Canada.



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The Gazette



Centaur would like to remind you that our bar is open after the show! Located in the gallery, it is the perfect place to relax with friends, maybe talk about the show you just saw, meet the actors and sample the special "Theatre Mix", a drink whose theme runs along each show of the season, specially concocted by Alexina Scott-Savage, our creative Bartender.

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You may have noticed the Centaur production photos lining our wall in The Gallery. If you can identify the productions, the actors, and the playwrights, then you are well on your way to winning two free subscriptions to the next Centaur season. Check upcoming programmes for clues! You have until April 1991 to complete your contest form, which is available at the bar in The Gallery.

Start guessing, here's clue #4

Photo #6 : The playwright should be the playwright.

Good Luck!

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!

We recently laid a new carpet on the gallery and stairways. Within 48 hours we had 5 burn marks – cigarettes dropped and stomped out on our new, lovely carpet. This may be the crafty work of militant non-smokers provoking us towards a total no-smoking policy, but I think not. Please be vigilant and protective of our theatre. Citizens' arrests encouraged!!!

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 Mike O'Hara
 Steve Schön
 Mary Thomas
 Valérie Viertel

Properties Master
 Production Manager
 Wardrobe Mistress
 Stage Manager C2
 Technical Director
 Assistant Stage Manager C2
 Head Carpenter
 Assistant Carpenter
 Technician C2
 Head Technician C1
 Head Technician C2
 Wardrobe Supervisor
 Properties Assistant

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Art Appliqué
 Cinéma Coiffure
 Don Franklin

Scenic Artist
 Hair
 Sound

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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 Actor's 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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