



CENTAUR
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Gordon McCall
Artistic Director

CENTAUR THEATRE
COMPANY PRESENTS
THE CROW'S THEATRE
PRODUCTION OF

High
Life

By
LEE MACDOUGALL

DIRECTED BY
JIM MILLAN

LIGHTING DESIGN BY
BONNIE BEECHER

PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY
GLENN DAVIDSON & JIM MILLAN



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**CENTAUR
THEATRE
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Centaur Theatre Company presents
the Crow's Theatre Production of

HIGH LIFE

by

LEE MACDOUGALL

March 31 - April 26, 1998

Directed by
JIM MILLAN

Premiered by Crow's Theatre in the 1996 du Maurier World Stage Festival.
Original Toronto Production produced by Harbourfront Corporation
and Follows Latimer Entertainment, 1997

Lighting Design by
BONNIE BEECHER

Production Designed by
GLENN DAVIDSON and JIM MILLAN

Producers
JIM MILLAN and NANCY MACLEOD

Cast

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Dick	RON WHITE
Bug	RANDY HUGHSON
Donnie	STEVE CUMYN
Billy	JASON CADIEUX

Stage Manager
MICHAEL WALLACE

Fight Director
JON STEAD

Set Builder
IAN CHAPPELL

Photography
MICHAEL COOPER

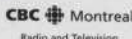
SETTING

A City in Canada, May 1989

The play is approximately 105 minutes in length.

There will be no intermission

Centaur gratefully acknowledges the following supporters of this production.



N.B. Performances begin on time. Latecomers are kindly asked to wait for an appropriate pause in the program to be seated. Tape recorders and cameras are not allowed in the theatre. Please turn off all wristwatch alarms, cellular phones and electronic beepers during the performance.

All rights inquiries to the author's agent, Charles Northcote, The Core Group Talent Agency, Toronto.
Special thanks to Candace Burley and Iris Turcott of New Play Development, Canadian Stage Company for their initial interest and encouragement of this script.

PEGABO



A Gay Fantasia on National Themes



CENTAUR
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ANGELS

IN AMERICA Part Two: Perestroika

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DIRECTED BY
**GORDON
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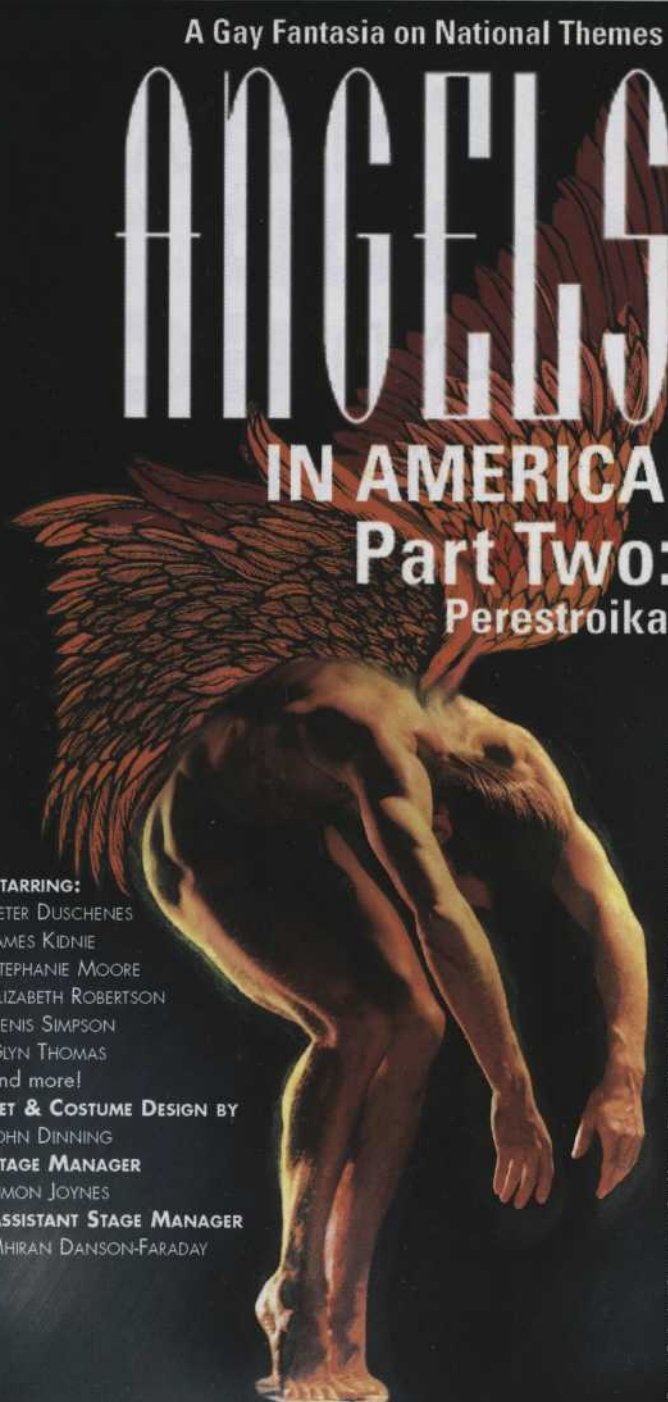
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About the Play

In 1989 I was acting at a regional theatre (all names have been changed to protect me), and was billeted in a house with a few other men. After about three days, one of my co-habitants approached me and said "We're morphine addicts, but you're cool, right?" Not being sure what morphine addiction entailed, I assured him I was cool, and thus began my education. These men, and their daily visitors, were also ex-convicts, and as I spent time with them I was surprised to learn that although they had drug habits, they also had morals, and dreams, and humour. It was not at all what I had expected. I thought that if I could recreate this world, perhaps it could be the basis for a play. But if I had a setting, I still had no plot. A few years later, while waiting in line in a bank, I watched some repairmen working on an automated bank machine, and it came to me: my guys would try and – but I don't want to spoil it for you. The unveiling of the plan is part of the fun. Drawing on my experiences with the men who were the original inspiration, and on my upbringing in Northern Ontario, and on research into addiction and the effects of incarceration, this is the play that came forth. Enjoy your time with the boys.

Lee MacDougall
Playwright

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BIOGRAPH THE Playwright



Playwright/Actor Lee MacDougall has performed in theatres all across Canada.

He has spent five seasons with the Stratford Festival, three with the Shaw Festival, and appeared at The Royal Alexandra Theatre, The Elgin Theatre, The Citadel, The Charlottetown Festival, and The Neptune Theatre. It was at one

of these regional theatres that Mr. MacDougall met the men who were to be the inspiration for the darkly comic *High Life*. "Being billeted in a house with ex-convicts and morphine addicts proved to be the best thing about that production," remembers the playwright, "for it was from these men's surprising mix of violence and humour that this play was born". Mr. MacDougall received a Tyrone Guthrie Award from The Stratford Festival, and an Ontario Arts Council grant to aid in the development of *High Life*. The play was named Outstanding New Play at the 1996 Dora Mavor Moore Awards. In 1997 the play was published by Scirocco Drama, (Winnipeg, Manitoba) and received a Governor-General's Award Nomination for Drama.

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Who's who

JASON CADIEUX (*Billy*) Jason Cadieux first came to the attention of audiences



and critics in the summer of 1993 when he played the title role in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* staged by Die in Debt Productions under the Bathurst Street Bridge in Toronto. He collaborated with director Sarah Stanley one year later, again portraying the title character, in a production of *Oedipus* which played under Toronto's Gardiner Expressway. He has had the opportunity to explore very diverse and complex characters in both the theatre and visual

mediums. His credits range from starring roles in Brad Fraser's controversial production of *Poor Superman* and the disturbing *Steel Kiss* to more mainstream but troubled characters in television movies-of-the-week *Sins of Silence* with Lindsay Wagner and *What Kind of Mother Are You?* with Mel Harris. His film and television career began in late 1993 when he was cast to star in Canada's first daytime drama *Family Passions*. He then went on to star opposite Louis Gossett, Jr. in *Iron Eagle IV* and co-starred with Sara Polley in the film *Joe's So Mean to Josephine* which had its debut at the Sundance Film Festival in 1997. In 1996 he received a Genie nomination for his portrayal of Young Simon in the highly acclaimed and award winning film *Lilies*. Most recently in Toronto he co-starred in the Tarragon Theatre production of *New World* under the direction of Colin Taylor. This winter, he can be seen starring in the new sci-fi series *Deepwater Black* airing on YTV and the Sci-fi channel.

STEVE CUMYN (*Donnie*) Steve Cumyn graduated with Honours from Queen's



University in 1984 where he received both "The Rod Robertson Prize" for scholastic achievement and "The Lorne Green Award" for performance. He has been living and working in Toronto ever since and is most proud of his contribution to the life of new

Canadian theatre. Steve originated roles in the collective *White Trash*, *Blue Eyes* (Platform 9, Buddies, DaDa Kamera), Robin Fulford's *Gargoyle* (Platform 9), Ray Storey's *Saints and Apostles* (Buddies), Daniel MacIvor's 2-2 *Tango* (Toronto Fringe), Edward Roy's *A Secret Life* (Theatre Direct Canada); and Michael Hollingsworth's *W.W.II* (VideoCabaret). Most recent credits include Michel-Marc Bouchard's *The Orphan Muses* (Topological Theatre), Brad Fraser's *Martin Yesterday* (Buddies) and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America, Parts I & II* (The Canadian Stage Company), for which he received a Dora Award for his portrayal of "Prior Walter". He also played for four seasons in *Twelfth Night* and a *Midsummer Night's Dream* in The Canadian Stage Company's *Dream in High Park*. Film and TV credits include Jane Ford and Diane Flacks' *Behind the Scenes, My Own Country, The Morrison Murders, Face Down, Forever Knight* and *The Paris Crew - A Heritage Moment*. Mr. Cumyn is proud to be a part of this project and to be in such illustrious company.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY

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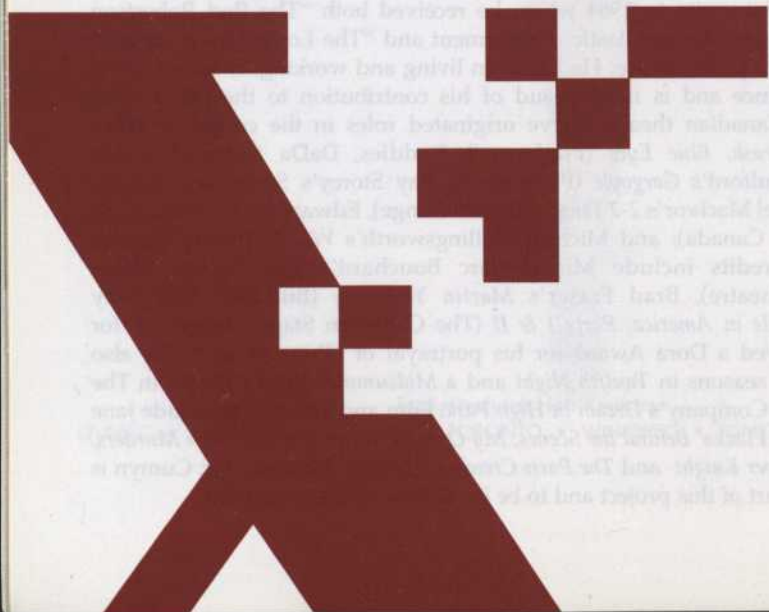
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RANDY HUGHSON (*Bug*) Randy Hughson has worked in theatres across Canada



and internationally. Selected credits include: *Possible Worlds* (Theatre Passe Muraille - Dora Award for Best Performance), the Toronto productions of *High Life* (Dora Award nomination for Best Performance), *The Crucible* (Vancouver Playhouse - Jessie nomination for Best Performance), *Ghosts*, *Julius Caesar* (Citadel Theatre), *The Crackwalker* (Tarragon - Dora nomination for Best Performance), *Death and the Maiden* (Belfry Theatre/National Arts Centre), *Whale Riding Weather*

(Factory Theatre/Touchstone Theatre, Jessie nomination for Best Performance), *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love* (Crow's Theatre, Gran Festival Ciudad de Mexico), *Nothing Sacred* (The Elgin Winter Garden Theatre), *Scheherazade* (Outlandish Productions - Dora Award nomination for Best Performance), *Mirandalina* (Manitoba Theatre Centre), *Sky* (25th Street Theatre/Theatre Network - Sterling nomination for Best Performance), *I Am Yours* (The Great Canadian Theatre Company), *A Woman's Comedy* (Tarragon Theatre), *King Lear* (Globe Theatre), *Being at Home with Claude* (Phoenix Theatre - Sterling Award for Best Performance), *Of the Fields, Lately* (Canadian Stage) and *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* (Alberta Theatre Projects). He has also been the recipient of a Golden Sheaf Award for Best Performance for the short film *The Feeler*. Other film and TV credits include *Shoemaker*, *Stolen Heart*, *Gross Misconduct*, *Little Criminals*, *Side Effects*, *Kung Fu*, *F/X The Series*.

RON WHITE (*Dick*) Born in Dawson Creek, B.C., Ron White grew up in Camp



Borden, an army camp 60 miles north of Toronto where his father was stationed. He attended the theatre program at Guelph University and received the majority of his acting training in Toronto. He is one of the most respected and sought after actors in the Canadian entertainment industry. He has starred in an array of films, theatre productions and television shows, from his Genie nominated role in *Cowboys Don't Cry* to his Gemini nomination for Best Actor in *Manic*. Other highlights of

his prolific career: leading roles in Atlantis Film's *Where the Spirit Lives*, and the highly acclaimed *Strange and Rich* on Global. He also starred as Jack, the test pilot in the hugely popular CBC special *Avro Arrow*. He played Elberek in Christian Duguay's *Screamers*, receiving a Genie nomination for Best Supporting Actor. He starred as Di Angelo in Sidney Lumet's *Guilty as Sin*, as Clyde Ledbetter, the one-armed cowboy, in Clint Eastwood's *Unforgiven*, and as Haldemann in *Kissinger & Nixon*. He recently starred in the critically acclaimed Tarragon Theatre production of Judith Thompson's *Sled*, for which he received a Dora nomination. He originated the role of Dick in *High Life* in its critically acclaimed Toronto productions. Most recently, Mr. White has made television appearances in *The Outer Limits*, *Love on the Land*, *The Alex Kelly Story* and *Due South*.

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Behind the Scenes

JIM MILLAN (*Director*) The founding Artistic Director of Crow's Theatre is



renowned for his risk taking projects and the track record of so many important premiere productions. In the last seven years Jim Millan has directed more than 20 productions and created two Chalmers Award-winning plays with two of Canada's foremost young writers. Brad Fraser's *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love* premiered at the Poor Alex Theatre in January 1990 and has since gone on to international success and a feature film adaptation by Denys Arcand. John Mighton's *A Short History of Night* which he directed also won a Best Play Dora and the Governor General's Award. *Come Good Rain* by George Seremba was dramaturged and directed by Mr. Millan and won a Dora for Best Play. Including *High Life*, he has directed four Best Play Dora winners in the last six years. Outside Toronto, Millan has directed productions in Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Edinburgh and Mexico City. He has written *Dali* (Dora Award-winner); *Urban Voodoo* (with Peter Hinton); *Serpent Kills* (with Blake Brooker); *The Prince, A Hole in My Heart, The Size of My Heart* (with Ali Riley) and *Born in the Grave*. *Serpent Kills* was published by Playwrights Canada Press and has since been produced across Canada and England and Singapore. Recently Millan directed *Hard as Rock* by Australian Kate J., at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *True West* by Sam Shepard at Manitoba Theatre Centre Warehouse, the English-language premiere of *Unsettling Accounts* by Yvan Bienvenue for Crow's Theatre and *The Vacant Chapel* by Victoria Ward at the Fringe of Toronto in July 1997. He has directed all the incarnations of *High Life* by Lee MacDougall which was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Drama. He is presently co-writing a new play set at the time of the Riel rebellion, *Red River*, with Daniel David Moses for a production in 1998.

BONNIE BEECHER (*Lighting Designer*) Bonnie Beecher's designs for Crow's



Theatre include *A Hole in My Heart, the Size of My Heart, Born in the Grave, Unsettling Accounts*, and *High Life*. Other recent credits include *Still the Night* for Alberta Theatre Projects and Tapestry Music Theatre, *The Two Mrs. Carrolls* for the Shaw Festival, *La Calisto* for the Canadian Opera Company, *Romeo and Juliet* for Canadian Stage, *Harlem Duet* for Canadian Stage and Nightwood Theatre, and *End of Season* for Theatre Direct. Other theatres include

Tarragon, Neptune, Theatre Passe Muraille, National Arts Centre, Buddies in Bad Times, The Belfry, and five years with Desrosiers Dance Theatre. Ms. Beecher received a Dora Award for her design of *Frida K.* which opened at Tarragon in 1995 and was most recently seen in Vancouver, Calgary, and New York City.

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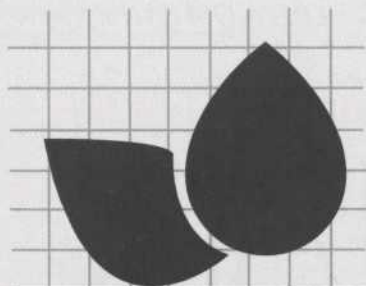
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GLENN DAVIDSON (*Set and Costume Designer*) Glenn Davidson's work has been seen across the country, in more than a hundred productions. Recent credits include *The Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr Abridged* at the Bathurst Street Theatre, *Une Soirée Tchekhov* at Le Théâtre français de Toronto, *Doc* for The Great Canadian Theatre Company and *Romeo and Juliet* for Ballet Jörgen and the Banff Centre. He is thrilled to return to the *High Life* team, having designed the original as part of the World Stage Festival. His work has been nominated for nine Dora Mavor Moore awards, and in 1993, he was the recipient of the Pauline McGibbon Award. Mr. Davidson is a member of Associated Designers of Canada.



MICHAEL WALLACE (*Stage Manager*) Michael Wallace is delighted to be stage managing this five city Canadian tour of *High Life*. Two years ago, he stage managed its premiere at Harbourfront's du Maurier World Stage Festival in Toronto. Since then he has stage managed *Jacob Two-Two's First Spy Case* at Young People's Theatre, was rehearsal ASM on Stratford's *Richard III*, and was ASM on Canadian Stage's *Angels in America*, including its two week run at the National Arts Centre. For six summers he has been at the Blyth Festival working on new Canadian plays. Mr. Wallace has toured the Maritimes with productions from Theatre New Brunswick, Mermaid Theatre and Neptune Theatre. He is a graduate of the University of King's College and Dalhousie University.

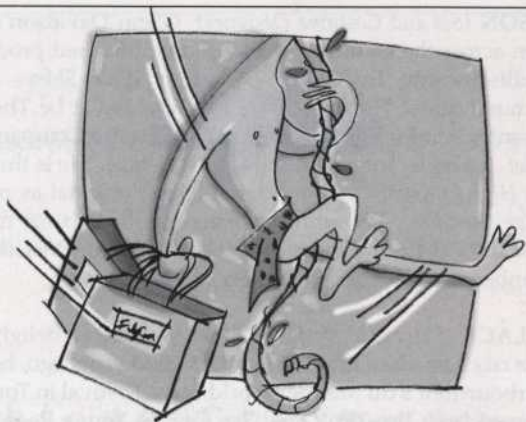
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SPECIAL THANKS

Kyra Bailey, Bravo!, Clive Cholerton, everybody at Centaur Theatre, Eric Gordon, David Himelfarb, Cheryl Landy, Todd Marciniak, Heather Morton, Jean-Paul Picard.

Crow's Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and the Toronto Theatre Alliance and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors Equity Association.

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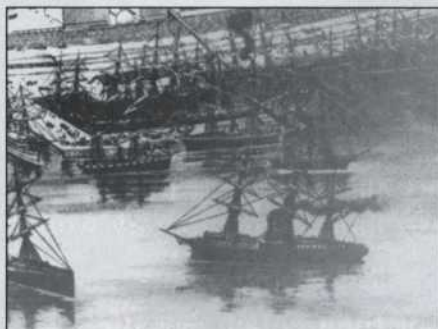
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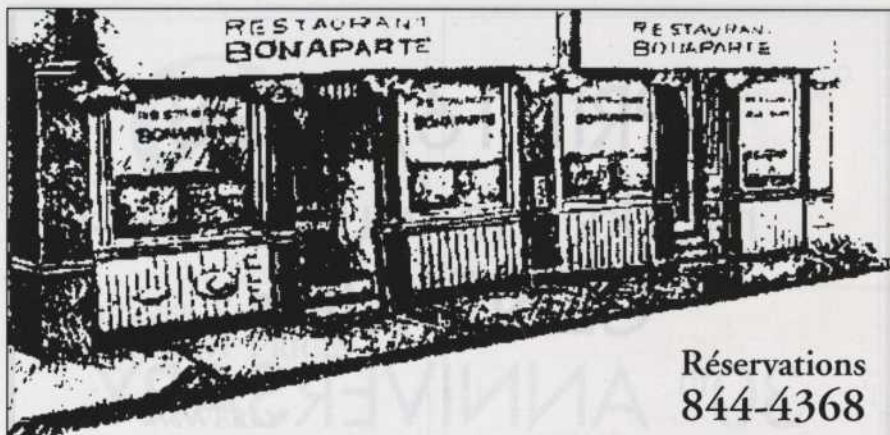
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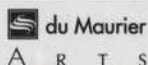
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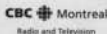
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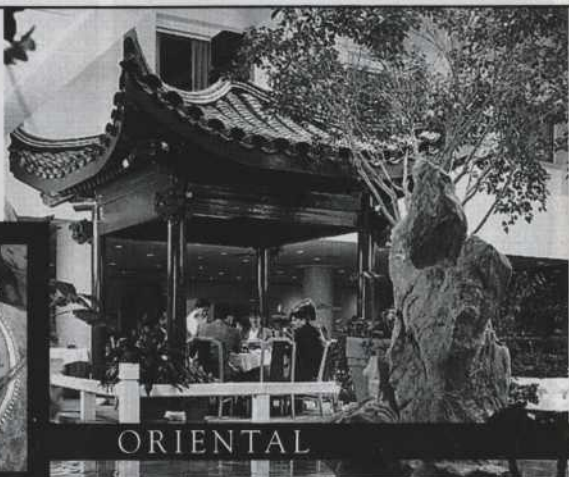
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Richard Brown Properties Assistant
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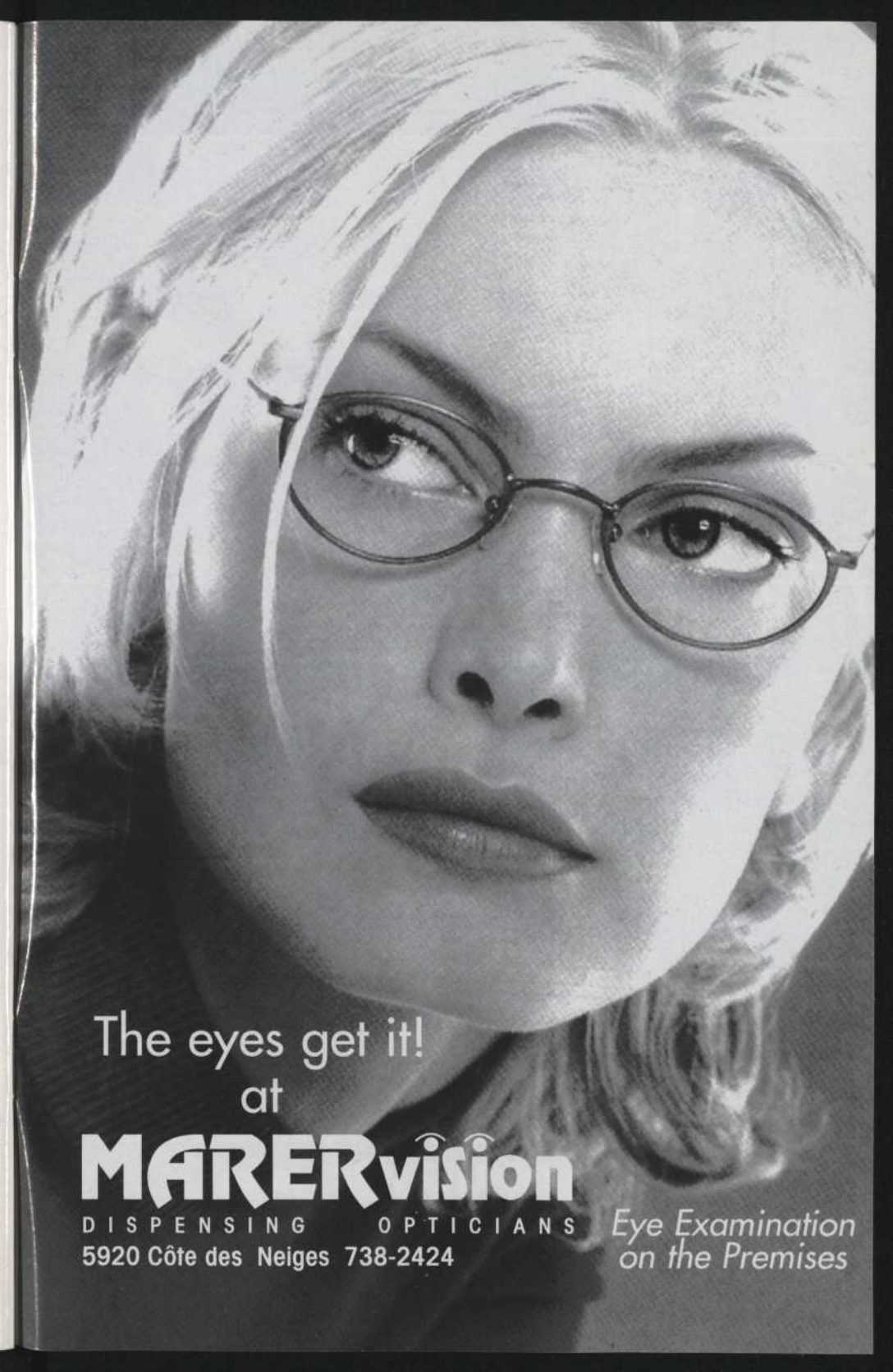
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