

*Albertine in five times*



*by Michel Tremblay*

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presents

# *Albertine in five times* *by Michel Tremblay*


translated by John Van Burek & Bill Glassco

October 8 - November 3, 1985

#### THE CAST

- Joan Orenstein . . . . . Albertine at 70,  
*at a home for the aged, 1982*
- Joyce Gordon . . . . . Albertine at 60,  
*in the house on Fabre Street, 1972*
- Nonnie Griffin . . . . . Albertine at 50,  
*in the restaurant in Lafontaine Park, 1962*
- Diane Hollingsworth . . . . . Albertine at 40,  
*on the balcony of the house on Fabre Street, 1952*
- Gwynyth Walsh . . . . . Albertine at 30,  
*on the verandah of her mother's house at Duhamel, 1942*
- Jacqueline Blais . . . . . Madeleine  
*sister to Albertine*

directed by **Maurice Podbrey**  
set designed by **Marcel Dauphinais**  
costumes designed by **Valerie C. Kaelin**  
lighting by **Alexander Gazale**  
stage manager **Gilles Tordjman**  
assistant stage manager **Jean-François Coupal**

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**MICHEL TREMBLAY** (Author): At forty-three Michel Tremblay has written eighteen plays, two musical comedies, six novels, one collection of tales and five film scripts. He has translated plays by Aristophanes, Paul Zindel, Tennessee Williams, Dario Fo, Chekhov and Gogol. He has also written the lyrics of songs interpreted by some of Quebec's best known singers.

Michel Tremblay was born June 25, 1942 in Montreal's industrial east end. While still in High School he wrote poems, plays and novels. At 17, after having completed his 11th grade, he entered the Graphic Arts Institute of Quebec where he learnt his linotypist trade. It was at this time that he began writing tales which were later published under the title "Stories for late night drinkers".

From 1963 to 1966 he worked as a linotypist. In 1964 he won the first prize for young writers sponsored by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for his play "Le train" written in 1959. It was during the same year that he met André Brassard who has since directed nearly all his plays.

Although Michel Tremblay wrote "Les Belles-Soeurs" in 1965, it was only in 1968 that it was premièred. It was immediately acclaimed by critics and public alike. It since has been performed in many countries. In 1973 its Paris production was declared "the best foreign production of the year". This play has been called "the single most important event in the history of Quebec theatre".

In 1972 Michel Tremblay wrote his first full length film script "Il était une fois dans l'Est" which André Brassard directed in 1973. In 1974, this film represented Canada in the Cannes and Chicago film festivals.

Brassard and Tremblay had previously signed a short subject film "Françoise Durocher, Waitress" which was awarded three Canadian "Genie" prizes in 1972.

Since 1978, Les Editions Leméac have published Michel Tremblay's "Chroniques du Plateau Mont-Royal" in the form of - to date - four novels appearing every two years:

- La grosse femme d'à côté est enceinte 1978
- Thérèse et Pierrette à l'école des Saints-Anges 1980
- La duchesse et le roturier 1982
- Des nouvelles d'Edouard 1984

Many of his plays have been well received abroad. Productions of "Bonjour là, bonjour", in New York in 1980 and in Tokyo in 1981 and of "Les Belles-Soeurs", in Chicago in 1982, were most successful. All of his plays and three of his novels have been published in English.

Michel Tremblay was named "Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des lettres de France" in 1984 by the Government of France, Jack Lang, Minister of Culture.

• • •

**JACQUELINE BLAIS** (Madeleine): is no stranger to Montreal audiences, having played in numerous productions in recent years. At Concordia University, where she graduated in 1981, she was seen in "The Shadow Box", "Tango" and "Uncommon Women & Others". She has performed with community groups: Lakeshore Players ("California Suite"), West Island Lyric Theatre ("Company"), Montreal West Operatic Society and The Arcadians, with children's school tours ("A Christmas Carol", Geordie Productions), and delighted audiences in the critically-acclaimed "Eat Your Heart Out" which inaugurated Les Masques Dinner Theatre. She appeared in "The Mousetrap" at the Phoenix Theatre and "Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii" at Theatre 2000 in Ottawa. In Toronto, last summer, she played Juanita in the popular "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" at the Factory Theatre. T.V. credits include "Empire", "Snow Job" and the role of Marguerite Pitre in "The Ghastly Crime of Albert Guay" for the upcoming Heritage Theatre series hosted by Pierre Berton. Look for Ms Blais in the recently released Norman Jewison film "Agnes of God". Other work includes T.V. commercials, industrial films and voice-overs. This is her first appearance at Centaur.

**JOYCE GORDON** (Albertine at 60): one of Canada's foremost actresses, graduated from Baron Byng High School (as Joyce Korenberg), moving to Toronto in 1957. This is her first stage appearance in Montreal but she is certainly no stranger to audiences across the country who have



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seen her in a variety of roles from comedy to musicals to drama in her illustrious 25-year career. Her most recent stage appearances include Helen in "A Taste of Honey" at Theatre New Brunswick, Mabel in "Separate Tables" at Stratford Festival, Martha in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" at Sudbury Theatre, Margaret in "Waiting for the Parade" at Victoria's Bastion Theatre and Lily Doherty in "The Freedom of the City" at Theatre Aquarius in Hamilton. She has performed at most major theatres including Shaw Festival and the National Arts Centre. Co-founder of Toronto's Theatre-in-the-Dell and a member of the Board of Directors of Red Barn Theatre on Lake Simcoe, Ontario from 1978 to 1982, Ms. Gordon has also directed successful productions of "The Gin Game", "I Ought To Be In Pictures" and most recently, "And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little" for Equity Showcase at Harbourfront Theatre in Toronto. She has appeared in countless commercials, feature films and television roles and in 1969 was nominated for the Canadian Film Award - Best Supporting Actress for CBC's "Hey! Cinderella". Among her recent radio drama credits is the CBC series "The Canadians" in which she played Aunt Meg.

**NONNIE GRIFFIN** (Albertine at 50): will be remembered by Centaur audiences for her appearances here in David French's *JITTERS, THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD* and *UNCLE VANYA*. Her stage career has taken her to England, the Middle-east, the United-States and all across Canada where she has appeared in a variety of roles, most recently as Marilla in "Anne of Green Gables" at Huron Playhouse, Diana in "California Suite" at Edmonton's Stage West, Amy in "Special Occasions" at Halifax's Neptune Theatre and Judith Bliss in "Hayfever" at Bastion Theatre in Victoria. She received Best Actress Awards for her performances in "Waiting for the Parade" at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre and "The Sea" at Phoenix Theatre in Edmonton and has previously appeared in a Michel Tremblay piece - "The Impromptu of Outremont" at Tarragon Theatre. One of Canada's foremost radio and television actresses, she recently was a finalist for the Andrew Allan Award for her radio portrayal of Emily in "Our Town".

**DIANE HOLLINGSWORTH** (Albertine at 40): an accomplished actress, writer, singer, director and painter, comes to Centaur having recently appeared as Henrietta in "The Hollow" at Kawartha Summer Festival. Following her triumphant performance in "Top Girls" at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre, she became a member of the acting company at Edmonton's Citadel Theatre last season, playing Mrs. Parsons in "1984: A Nightmare", Charlotte in "The Real Thing" opposite Brian Bedford, Myriam in "Mephisto" and Mickey in "Clay". Her television credits include TV Ontario's thirteen-part series "Sociology", in which she was host and narrator. She worked in Montreal for the first time this past winter, filming "The Boy in Blue".

**JOAN ORENSTEIN** (Albertine at 70): is one of Canada's most impressive actresses. An original member of the National Arts Centre Theatre Company (1977-83), her roles there have included Margaret in "Waiting for the Parade" (including the 1980 Northern and National tours), Mrs. Pampinelli in "The Torch Bearer", Mrs. Alving in "Ghosts", Mrs. Borden in "Blood Relations", Courage in "Mother Courage", Queen Margaret in "Richard III" and most recently, Madame Arcati in "Blithe Spirit". A veteran of the Neptune Theatre in Halifax, roles include Juno in "Juno and the Paycock", Harriet in W.O. Mitchell's "Back to Beulah", Grand Duchess Olga in "You Can't Take It With You" and Marie-Lou in Michel Tremblay's "Forever Yours, Marie-Lou" - to name only a few. Her most recent stage appearances were Marina in "Uncle Vanya" at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre and the mother in "night, Mother" for the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Centaur audiences will remember her in the highly-acclaimed role of Milly in Athol Fugard's *PEOPLE ARE LIVING THERE* and as Mrs. Bailey in last season's *WHAT IS TO BE DONE?* Credits also include numerous radio, television and film appearances. Recently she created Emily Carr for CBC-Radio's "Booktime/Hundreds & Thousands". Television audiences will recognize her as Judge Ballantyne from the CBC series "Judge" and for her roles of Mrs. Monaghan in "Evergreen" and Elizabeth Goldman in the critically-acclaimed "Charlie Grant's War".

**GWYNETH WALSH** (Albertine at 30): is making her first appearance at Centaur. She has performed at many theatres across Canada including the Vancouver Playhouse, Manitoba Theatre Centre, Charlottetown Festival, Place des Arts, four seasons with Edmonton's Citadel Theatre and three seasons with the Stratford Festival, in shows ranging from musical revues to Greek tragedy. Recent stage credits include the title role in "Antigone" and Gypsy in "The Beaux Stratagem" for Stratford, and Goneril in "King Lear", Mistress Quickly in "Henry IV" and

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• • •

**MAURICE PODBREY** (Director): was born in Durban, South Africa and graduated from Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg. He trained for the theatre at Rose Bruford College in England and worked extensively as an actor throughout Britain. Mr. Podbrey began directing in Dundee, Scotland and subsequently became Artistic Director of the Chester Playhouse. In 1967, he was invited to be Assistant Director of the English Section of the National Theatre School of Canada. While there, he played in a number of theatres across the country. He founded Centaur Theatre Company in the summer of 1969. In the early years, Centaur introduced international playwrights such as Pinter, Athol Fugard and Tom Stoppard to Canadian audiences. The Theatre has also developed its own playwrights, such as David Fennario, and currently presents a majority of Canadian plays in its season's offerings. Mr. Podbrey is Artistic and Executive Director of Centaur. During the past 14 seasons he has directed many of the shows; most recently, *THE SEAGULL*, *A MAJORITY OF TWO*, *K2* and last season's *MASTER HAROLD...AND THE BOYS* (which also played in Edmonton and Toronto) and *'NIGHT, MOTHER*. His many acting credits at Centaur include *A LESSON FROM ALOES* and *DUET FOR ONE*. Mr. Podbrey served two terms as Chairman of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the National Theatre School. He will direct *MASTER CLASS* later this season.

**MARCEL DAUPHINAIS** (Set Designer): graduated from l'École des Beaux-Arts in Montreal 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 Montreal, in addition to running his own graphic design studio, he has designed theatre sets for the following companies: Café de la Place des Arts, Compagnie Jean Duceppe, Conservatoire d'Art dramatique du Québec, Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale, Showbiz International, The Piggery, Théâtre Populaire du Québec and Théâtre de Rideau Vert. This is Mr. Dauphinais' eighth set design for Centaur, after *PIAF*, *SPOKESONG*, *THE LEONARD COHEN SHOW*, Barbara Perry's *PASSIONATE LADIES*, *SWEET LIKA SUGA*, *EMPRESS EUGÈNE* and *K2*.

**VALERIE C. KAELIN** (Costume Designer): studied costume design and related crafts in Italy, Florida, at the Lester Polakov Studio for Stage Design in New York and most recently at the Banff School of Fine Arts Master Class with Desmond Heeley. Costume Designer and Professor at Concordia University since 1982, her career has taken her to Radio City Music Hall, California State University (Fresno), the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, Brooks Van Horn Costume Company, David Manwaring Studio and the Asolo State Theatre Summer Festival in various capacities of technology and design. She has designed shows from the classical to modern, musical to dance. Montrealers have seen her costume designs for "The Bundle", "Comedy of Errors", "The Country Wife" and "Uncle Vanya" at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre. She is currently serving as scenographer and set designer for "Alice" directed by Gerry Gross at Concordia's Chameleon Theatre. This is her first engagement with Centaur.

**GILLES TORDJMAN** (Stage Manager): returns to Centaur from Alberta after completing work on his fourth musical at the Banff Centre Festival of the Arts, "Kiss Me Kate". He has previously worked at Centaur stage managing *WEEDS*, *A LESSON FROM ALOES*, *THE CRACKWALKER*, *SWEET LIKE SUGA*, *GLORIOUS MUD* and the tours of *BALCONVILLE* and *NOTHING TO LOSE*. Mr. Tordjman has also toured overseas with the National Arts Centre at the Edinburgh International Festival. He has worked at Theatre Calgary, Saidye Bronfman Theatre, The Piggery and La Poudrière. He will be stage managing *MASTER CLASS* and *GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS* later this season.

**JEAN-FRANÇOIS COUPAL** (Assistant Stage Manager): was born in Montreal and raised in the Eastern Townships where he attended Bishop's University. Last summer, he started his stage management apprenticeship program at the Kawartha Summer Theatre in Lindsay, Ontario and completed it last season at Centaur working on *SALT-WATER MOON*, *MASTER HAROLD...AND THE BOYS* and *'NIGHT, MOTHER*. He returns as Assistant Stage Manager in Centaur 2 this season.

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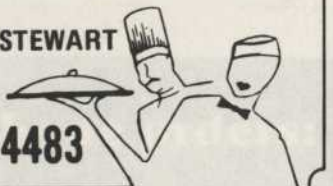
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- Centaur is 17 years old! In order to up-date our **archives**, we need to locate some missing programs: That Championship Season (1973), People are Living There (1975), The Barber of Seville (1976), Kennedy's Children (1976), Sizwe Bansi is Dead (1977). If you can contribute one or more of the above, please contact the **public relations department at 288-1229.**
- Are you on our **mailing list**? If not, you can leave your name and address in the visitors' book in the lower lobby. If you are already on the mailing list, please let us know of any errors or duplications. An accurate mailing list benefits all of us!
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Harold P. Gordon  
Maria Birks  
John B. Claxton  
Michel Côté  
Margaret Davidson  
Dominik Dlouhy  
Brian Drummond  
Francis Fox  
Alan Z. Golden  
Arnold Isseman  
Gail Jarislowsky  
Howard L. Kelly  
Joan Kouri  
David Laidley  
Sandy MacKay-Smith  
Cornelia Molson  
Patricia O'Brien  
Martha Oppenheim  
Gerald B. Wasserman  
Don S. Wells

## for this production

Dramaturge . . . . . Robert McGee  
Hair . . . . . Ben Robin  
Scenic Artist . . . . . Tristan Tondino  
Drop by . . . . . Michael Hagen Inc.  
Wigs by . . . . . Donna Gliddon

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