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# TROUBADOURS



*through time*

by/with

## BOWSER AND BLUE

April 11 - May 19, 1996

(previews April 9 & 10)

director COREY CASTLE  
set & costume designer JILL THOMSON  
lighting designer SPIKE LYNE  
stage manager LYNN McQUEEN  
apprentice stage manager JENNIFER JENSEN

There will be one intermission.

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The Gazette



**CJAD**  
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## BOWSER AND BLUE

are George Bowser and Ricky Blue. Rick is the one on the right, which is known to theatre people as "stage left". All such stage directions are given from the actor's point of view because actors are usually unaware that any point other than their own exists. Upstage refers to the back of the stage, and is so called because theatre stages used to be sloped towards the audience, nominally to improve sight lines, but in reality so that objects thrown at the performers would roll back upon the audience.

*Troubadours Through Time* is their third original production for Centaur Theatre Company, and Bowser and Blue are delighted to be working with the same director, set and lighting designers, and stage manager again. Their aim, as usual, is to achieve a reasonable gross for the theatre, without being too gross.

Bowser and Blue have written over thirty new songs for this show, and will be playing a number of them without amplification, so you may find their sound somewhat quieter initially. This is because the first Troubadours played only acoustic instruments. This is a new departure for Bowser and Blue, who previously maintained that "acoustic" was what you play pool with.

They started performing together in 1978 at Irish Lancer Pub, which has since been closed, and spent six more years playing 60's folk-rock music in Montreal pubs. The pub above bar Deja Vu is now named the "Bowser and Blue Pub", and they still have a tab there.

They began to play at colleges and universities in 1984 with a music and comedy show as part of the "Molson Canadian Rocks" program, just before a wave of political correctness stifled humour, funding, and cheap beer on campus. The students loved their bawdy musical satire, and the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities voted them *Entertainer of the Year* in 1985, and *Best Comedy/Variety Act* in 1986 and 1991.

From 1990 to 1995, Bowser and Blue appeared weekly on CFCF-TV's award-winning show *Fighting Back* as the show's resident musical satirists, a task that led to the creation of many of the songs they have performed on Centaur's stage.

Bowser and Blue have been a part of *Just For Laughs*, Montreal's international comedy festival, every year since 1988 with Gala appearances in 1988 and 1994. Also in 1994, they headlined the Arts and Entertainment Network's *Comedy on the Road*, when that program visited Montreal.

For CBC radio, Bowser and Blue were featured on *Definitely Not The Opera*, a 1995 national comedy special; Montrealer Lorne Elliott's *Madly Off In All Directions*; and Josh Freed and John Kalina's *The Anglo Guide To Surviving The Referendum*. Bowser and Blue songs have been heard on CBC Radio International around the world.

Bowser and Blue have recorded four LPs for Montreal's *Justin Time* Records. Their song *Polka Dot Undies* was voted one of the



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*Top Funny Five* of 1988 by the syndicated American radio show *Doctor Demento*. They have also written and recorded music for the National Film Board of Canada: *Scant Sanity*, an animated film by John Weldon and featuring music written and performed by Bowser and Blue, will be released in 1996. They now record for their own label, *You Guys Records*. Some of these recordings are available in the Centaur Theatre lobby.

*BLOKES*, their first full-length theatrical production, had a sold-out run at Centaur Theatre in the spring of 1992. CFCF Television then produced *Blokes*, a one-hour special which was also aired nationally on YTV in December, 1994. In 1993, *The Best of Bowser and Blue* was a hit for the Piggery Theatre in North Hatley. *BLOKES TWO*, their second Centaur Theatre Company production, enjoyed a sold-out run in the spring of 1994, and was brought back for a second run in September, 1994. They are post-season regulars at the Theatre Lac Brome.

Live appearances throughout 1995 culminated in a one-hour television special *Something Bowser, Something Blue*, to be broadcast in 1996 on CFCF-TV.



**GEORGE BOWSER**

George was born in Sussex, England, and was educated privately in one of those British schools where young boys sleep

in rows of iron beds that sag in the middle, and are forced to take cold showers and go to chapel a lot in exchange for a pretty good classical education and lots of rugby. They wear straw hats, and the older boys practice ritual abuse on their juniors which the masters turn a blind eye to because it builds character. Of course

that's all changed now. *Ha! I bet it hasn't*. He immigrated to Canada in 1970 - just in time for the October crisis, which he said was not his fault, although being British he was pretty sure that actually in a sort of way it was. He played lead guitar with several Montreal bands, before joining Bowser and Blue, as Bowser. He found working with Blue much easier than previous bands because Blue was also of British parentage and had been to a peculiar private school as well, so they had things in common. Which Blue won't tell you about because the big difference between the two is that while Bowser will happily drone on for hours about himself, Blue is rather less inclined to do so, and would rather watch. George plays guitars and bass, and can make recognizable musical sounds with many other instruments, including his mouth.



**RICKY BLUE**

The perennially youthful Ricky Blue was born in Liverpool, England, but raised in Maine, New Jersey, and Toronto. He has an MA in

English from Concordia University. He has been involved in bands and media music for over twenty years. In 1981 he won an international "Clio" award for excellence in advertising. He once appeared on television naked. His life had no real meaning, however, until he began to play with Bowser and Blue. Rick plays guitar, mandolin, and harmonica, and sings in a rather pleasant baritone when George will let him.

For information on booking Bowser and Blue, contact:

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**COREY CASTLE**  
(Director)

This is Corey's fourth show at Centaur, having directed *Blokes*, *Blokes II*, and *Cabaret*. His credits include

*Hello Dolly* for Lyric Theatre, *Marvin's Room* and *Cakewalk* for Triumvirate, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for Opera Midi, *Cole* for Theatre Lac Brome and *See Saw* for Geordie Productions. Also for Geordie, Corey directed the hit children's revues, *From You to Us to You 1,2,3*, which were presented at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, the National Arts Centre, La Maison Théâtre, the Saidye Bronfman Centre, and which toured extensively throughout Quebec and Southeastern Ontario. Corey is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York.



**JILL THOMSON**  
(Set and Costume Designer)

A graduate of Queen's University and Dalhousie's Costume Studies

Program, Jill now tries to spend as much time as possible working from her home in Montreal. Recently returned from a production of *Oleanna* at the Sudbury Theatre Center, Jill is glad to re-join the Bowser and Blue team at Centaur, having designed *Blokes I* and *II* (and the CFCF TV special of the same name). Jill has designed shows for Theatre Lac Brome, The Piggery, Bulldog, and many school tours for Geordie Productions. Jill taught set and costume design at Bishop's University, and has designed

shows at Bishop's, McGill, Dawson, and Ryerson Polytechnic. This summer, Jill will return to Penetanguishene for her third season as Resident Designer at The Stage Company where she will design four shows including *Me And My Girl* directed by Richard Ouzounian.

**SPIKE LYNE** (Lighting Designer)

Spike is the Technical Production Manager for Moysse Hall Theatre and the English



Drama Program at McGill University. This is Spike's fourth season designing for Centaur. At Centaur, he has designed *Look Back in*

*Anger*, *Blokes* which he also redesigned for CFCF 12 as a one-hour special and *Blokes Deux*. Spike's most recent designs have been McGill's productions of *King Lear* and *The Gut Girls*, House of Chaos's *Surrounded By Water*, and Repercussion's *Shakespeare in the Park '95* tour. Spike is also a technical coordinator for the *Just for Laughs Festival*, and a design instructor at Concordia University.



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**LYNN MCQUEEN** (*Stage Manager*)  
Lynn returned to Centaur's 27th season with *Antony and Cleopatra*. Last season she was the Stage Manager for *The Master and Margarita* and *The Substance of Fire*. Previous Centaur credits include *Come Good Rain*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Arms and the Man*, *Playboy of the West Indies*,



*Karla and Grif*, *The Death of René Lévesque*, *Our Country's Good*, and *Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave*. Ms. McQueen

was the Production Stage Manager for the Stephenville Summer Festival in 1992 and 1993. In the fall of 1993, she produced the Montreal premiere of *Passages*. She recently was the Production Stage Manager for the national tour of *Past Forgetting*, a new Canadian musical.



**JENNIFER JENSEN**  
(*Apprentice Stage Manager*)

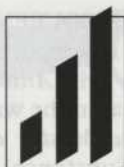
Jennifer is very excited to be working with Centaur. After graduating from McGill's

Drama and Theatre Program in the spring, she was Apprentice Stage Manager for *Not Now Darling* and *The Wild Guys* at The Piggery. Other stage management credits include: *The History of Music in 12,838 Notes*, and an outdoor production of Shakespeare's *King John*. She has studied at The National Theatre School of Canada and is currently the Production/Stage Manager of Festival McGill, a summer theatre company which will be presenting *Henry V* on Mount Royal this July.

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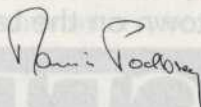
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Maurice Podbrey, Artistic and Executive Director



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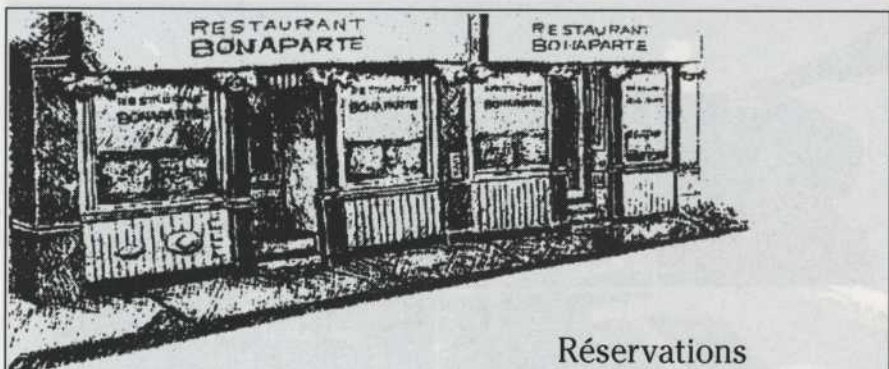
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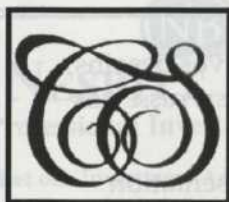
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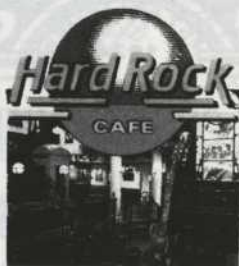
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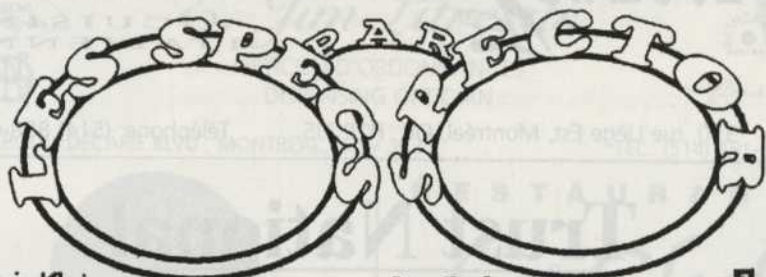
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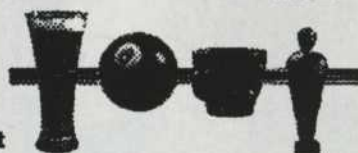


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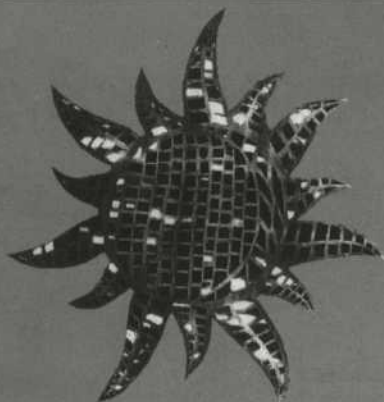
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 Moneen Bousquet Wardrobe Mistress  
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 Laura Calver Head Technician C1  
 Mike D'Amato Production Manager  
 Krista Hansen Stage Manager  
 Howard Mendelsohn Technical Director  
 Gretel G. Meyer Assistant Stage Manager  
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 Ben Robin Hair  
 Ron Rolfe Hair  
 Benoit Sauvageau Carpenter  
 Ingrid Silver Props

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

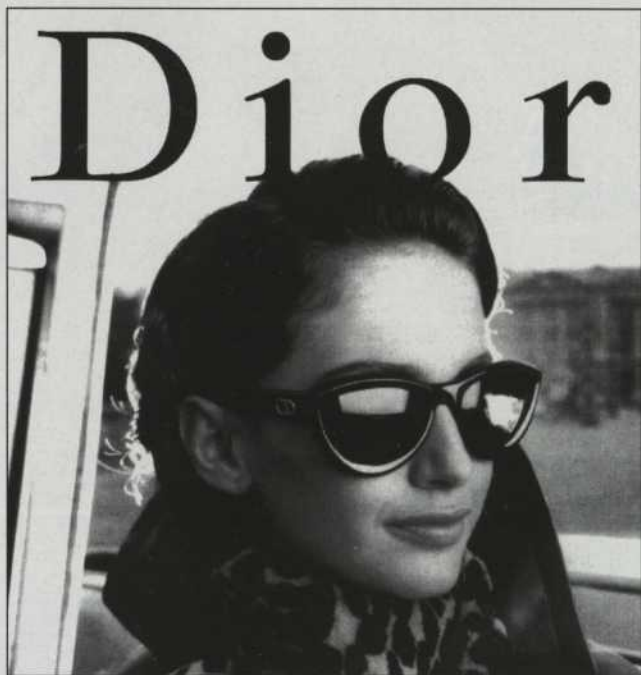
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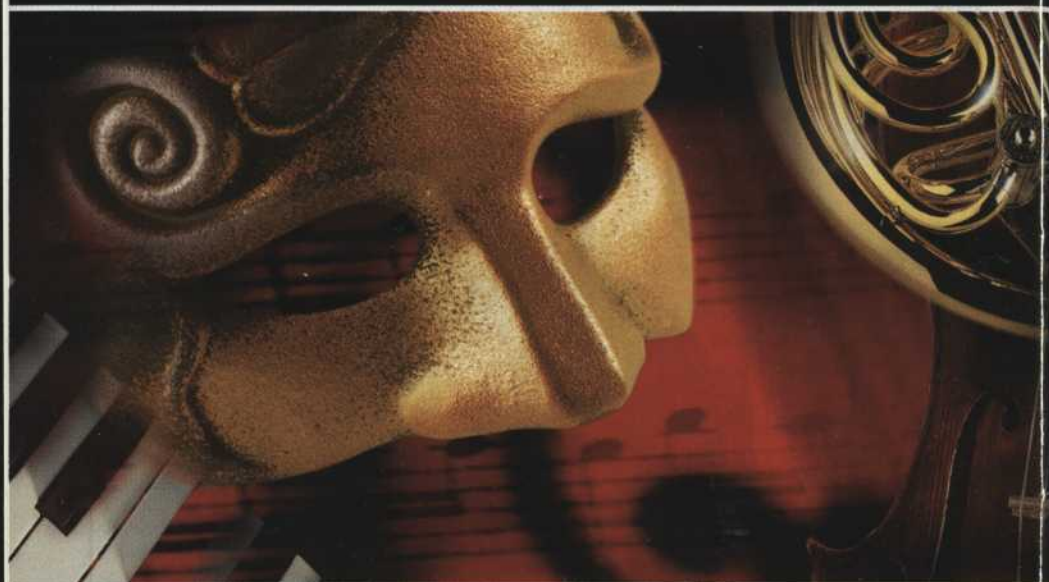
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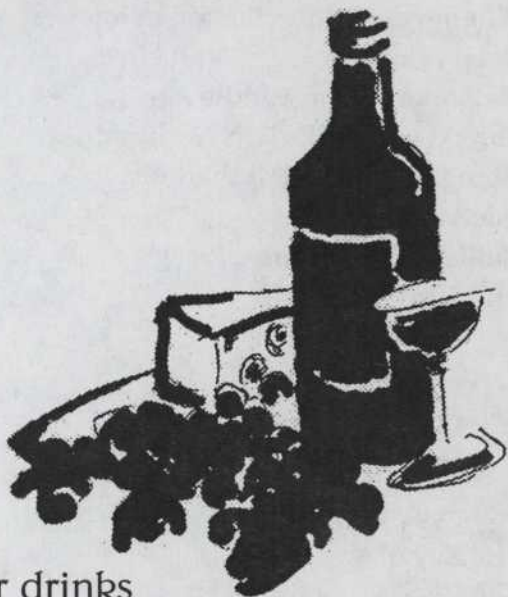
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