

AISLIN 77

les canadiens

by Rick Salutin



centaur
theatre
company

in
centaur 1

les canadiens

By RICK SALUTIN
assist: Ken Dryden

Opening Feb. 10, 1977

From left to right:—

back row: Peter Stephens
Guy Sprung
Rick Salutin

middle row: Donna Prudhomme
Raymond Belisle
Pierre Lenoir
Steven Hawkins

front row: Ray Landry
Luce Guilbeault
Eric Peterson
Sebastien Dhavernas
Michael Rudder



directed by Guy Sprung
designed by Astrid Janson
lighting by Steven Hawkins
stage manager Peter Stephens

ACT I: The Past

Intermission

ACT II: The Day of a Game This Season

In order not to disturb the performance in the other theatre, we would be grateful if members of the audience would not congregate in the upstairs lobby during the intermission.

Tape recorders & cameras must be left at the coatcheck

Vol. 2 Issue 5

Printed 8 times a year by Rosenfield Printing Co. Ltd. for centaur theatre company

cast (in alphabetical order)

RAYMOND BELISLE

is a graduate of the National Theatre School. He made his English-language theatre debut as Gros Gas in David Fennario's NOTHING TO LOSE in centaur 1 this season. He is also known to Montrealers for his work at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and La Nouvelle Compagnie Théâtrale. Credits include radio, television and film. He appeared in "Jo Carbone" released in 1975.

SEBASTIEN DHAVERNAS

studied drama at McGill, Le Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique and in London and Reims. Since his return in 1974 he has not stopped working. He has made regular appearances on television in The House Of Pride, Rue Des Pignons and Y A Pas De Problème. Theatre credits include "The Medium" at La Poudrière and at Stratford, "Ubu" at Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and "Nothing But" at La Poudrière. He directed "La Nuit Des Assassins" there and "Heureux Celui Qui Meurt De Rire" now touring after a successful run at Le Patriote. Very important to him is La Belle Affaire, a company he founded with some friends a year ago. They have produced "La Famille C'est Quoi" for a new series on Radio-Québec and "Un Petit Bonhomme Dans Le Paysage", a musical scheduled for its second run at Le Patriote this spring.

LUCE GUILBEAULT

is one of Quebec's foremost actresses. She has played at Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Le Rideau Vert, Festival de Ste-Agathe, Théâtre de la Place, L'Egrégoire, Le Théâtre de Quat'sous, Le Patriote. Her wide range of roles includes "Les Belles Soeurs", "Un Prince", "Mon Jour Viendra", "Les Oranges Sont Vertes", "Le Misanthrope", "A Toi Pour Toujours Ta Marie-Lou", "En Pièces Détachées", "Le Quadrillé", "Le Placard", "Ubu". She directed, wrote and performed in "La Nef Des Sorcières" last year at Le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde. Films she has performed in include Rejeanne Padovani, directed by Denys Arcand, and O.K. Laliberté.

RAY LANDRY

makes his second appearance at centaur having played here last season with the Mummers Troupe's IWA-THE NEWFOUNDLAND LOGGERS STRIKE (by Rick Salutin). A Maritimer, his career has covered a wide range of activities including writing and performing in many areas: political satire items for CBC radio, television and radio commercials, nightclub comedy. He has made special guest appearances as an impersonator. He co-produced and narrated audio-visual productions for educational purposes and conducted student workshops for the Newfoundland Department of Education. Credits include three years as a radio announcer/producer in Eastern Canada.

PIERRE LENOIR

began his career in 1971 as an actor and musician in "Les Enfants Jouent Pus Dans Rue", a play which he wrote and directed for L'Estafette in Longueuil. He spent the next three years at Le Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique studying drama and writing music. Since then his work has involved acting, composing, recording, writing and doing a series of one-man shows in and around Montreal. He directed and appeared in "Arizona Mon Amour", a Western opera for children for which he wrote the story, most of the lyrics and all of the music. LES CANADIENS is his first job in English.

ERIC PETERSON

comes to centaur with a long and impressive list of credits behind him. He has appeared regularly at the Passe Muraille in Toronto: "The False Messiah", "1837-The Farmers' Revolt", "The Farm Show", and "The Olympic Show" are just some examples. Vancouver audiences are also familiar with his work: "The House Of Blue Leaves", "Creeps", "Herringbone". He has also played a variety of roles in children's theatre in Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. This winter he appeared in "Hornby", a collective creation about the North, and "The Blues" at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Television viewers saw him in "1837-The Farmers' Revolt" and "A Country Fable", both on CBC.

MICHAEL RUDDER

was last seen at centaur as Mike, the role he created in ON THE JOB. Since then he appeared in "Godspell" at Theatre New Brunswick, "Woyzeck" (return run) and "The Fantasticks" at the National Arts Centre. He studied the use of mask and clown technique with Richard Pochenko and his interest in masks led him to work and study puppetry with Felix Mirbt. He performed as a manipulator with him at the National Arts Centre including the original production of WOYZECK which ran at centaur both in English and French. Michael toured Eastern Canada with the World's Biggest, World's Best Rock Circus featuring Lighthouse. He has played in "Hair", "Winnie-the-Pooh", "Hamlet", "Snow White" and "Arturo Ui".



RICK SALUTIN (playwright)

is a leading writer in the field of collective creation having worked with great success on productions such as Theatre Passe Muraille's "1837", (also seen on CBC television) and the Mummers Troupe's IWA-THE NEWFOUNDLAND LOGGERS STRIKE, presented at centaur last season. Other works include "Fanshen", adapted from the book by William Hinton, at the Toronto Workshop Productions, "The False Messiah" at Theatre Passe Muraille (now scheduled for production at centaur) and "Money" at the Young Peoples Theatre in Toronto. Rick has written satire for CBC radio's "Inside From The Outside", has contributed to Harper's and Maclean's and is an editor of This Magazine. His "Maria", directed by Allan King, was on television this winter.

GUY SPRUNG (Director)

a Montrealer, began his theatre career in 1967 while studying at McGill where he was involved in over fifty productions with the Players' Club and the Department of English as producer/director/actor/stage manager/lighting designer. In 1970 he worked at several theatres in West Berlin including the Shiller Theatre. In London, England he founded the highly regarded Half Moon Theatre directing eleven plays (some of which toured local schools, parks and workingmen's clubs) and supervising over twenty other productions. Since his return to Canada credits include the first stage production of W.O. Mitchell's "Back To Beulah" at Theatre Calgary. He directed David Fennario's NOTHING TO LOSE earlier this season.

ASTRID JANSON (Designer)

has an M.A. in Theatre Design from the University of B.C. She has devoted most of her time to the alternate theatres in Toronto, including two years as resident designer at Toronto Workshop Productions as well as freelance work at Theatre Compact and Tarragon Theatre. Astrid is staff costume designer for CBC television.

STEVEN HAWKINS (Lighting Designer)

is Head Technician for centaur 1. Credits include property master for LENZ and RIVERLISP at centaur and "The Divine Sarah" at the National Arts Centre. He was an electrician for the COJO dance program at centaur. This is his first design assignment.

PETER STEPHENS (Stage Manager)

is a graduate of RADA in London, England. He worked extensively in Great Britain and the United States before joining centaur in the fall of 1974. This year he spent a season with Festival Lennoxville and is now reflecting on his third winter in Montreal.

27 fev/77

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE

Les Canadiens could not have been possible without the help of many people. Maurice Podbrey suggested that Ken Dryden — a frequent visitor at the centaur — might be willing to help with preparation of the play. That turned out to be an enormous understatement. Ken provided introductions to people, directions to pursue, and above all insights and experiences of his own. The play would simply not exist in anything like its present form without his help. On the other hand, he should not be held in the least responsible for anything we have made of the material which he helped us to find.

The following people were also generous, eloquent, and indispensable: Jean Beliveau, Jacques Beauchamp, Toe Blake, Tim Burke, Dink Carroll, Red Fisher, Al MacNeil, Dickie Moore, Andy O'Brien, Jacques Plante, Henri Richard, and Wayne Thomas. However like Ken, they should not be held responsible for what has been made of their contributions.

The translations into French of some scenes were made by the French-speaking members of the cast along with myself. The songs were also written in collaboration with cast members. "Oh You" and "Last Of The Wives" are by Luce Guilbeault. Terry Mosher provided the program cover.

It is hard to imagine anything that could have been more exciting and enjoyable during the current season — the hockey, theatre, and political season — than working on a play about the Canadiens in Montreal.

Rick Salutin

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Novo Printing — Program Graphics
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Centaur Foundation gratefully acknowledges grants from the Canada Council, le Ministère des Affaires Culturelles du Québec, le Conseil des Arts de Montréal and all corporate and individual donors.

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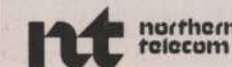
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*They know and do not know,
what it is to act or suffer.
They know and do not know,
that acting is suffering.*

T.S. Eliot.



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