

Centaur Theatre Company presents
Rosemary Dunsmore

in

w;t

by **Margaret Edson**

directed by **David Latham**

sponsored by
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Gordon McCall, Artistic Director

January 23 - February 18, 2001

La Gargote

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January 23 - February 18, 2001

Centaur Theatre Company presents



*Up close
and personal*
SEASON 2000/01

Rosemary Dunsmore in

W;T

by **Margaret Edson**

sponsored by



directed by DAVID LATHAM

set & costume design by DAVID GAUCHER

assisted by LINDA BRUNELLE, PAULE-JOSÉE MEUNIER

lighting design by LUC PRAIRIE

assisted by KAREEN HOUDE

stage manager MICHAEL HART

apprentice stage manager MHIRAN DANSON-FARADAY

with *(in alphabetical order)*

Lesley Faulkner

Carolyn Hetherington

Paula Jean Hixson

Sean McCall

Peter Millard

Ian Watson

Lee Wilson

There will be no intermission.

Produced in New York City by MCC Theater

(Bernard Telsey and Robert Lupone, Executive Directors; William Cantler, Associate Director),
Long Wharf Theatre, and Daryl Roth, with Stanley Shopkorn, Robert G. Bartner and Stanley Kaufel.
Lorie Cowen Levy, Associate Producer, Roy Gabay, General Manager.

New York production originally premiered at Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut,
Doug Hughes, Artistic Director; Michael Ross, Managing Director.

Originally produced by South Coast Repertory, David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director; Martin Benson, Artistic Director.

The Gazette



CBC Montreal
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playwright

Margaret Edson – Playwright

Margaret Edson was born in Washington, D.C. in 1961 on the fourth of July. She studied Renaissance history at Smith College. After graduating *magna cum laude*, her jobs were, in order: selling hot dogs on the street in Iowa City; waitressing at a hog-farmers' bar; painting the walls (white) of a contemplative French Dominican convent in Rome; scooping ice cream in Washington; working as a physical therapy aide in a hospital; as a unit clerk on the cancer and AIDS inpatient unit of a major research hospital (during the first clinical trials for AZT); as a policy intern at a philanthropy-issues lobbying organization; as a fundraiser for a community-based mental health organization addressing psychosocial aspects of HIV, where she wrote and designed the training manual *Living with AIDS: Perspectives for Caregivers*; and selling bikes in a bike shop (*W;t* was written at this time).



In 1991-92 she attended Georgetown University on a full scholarship for a master's degree in English. She worked for six years in the DC public schools teaching English as a second language. She became particularly interested in teaching reading and taught first grade for one year at Myrtilla Miner Elementary School in Northeast DC.

W;t, written in 1991, is her first play. Since its world premiere at South Coast repertory in 1995, *Long Wharf* in 1997 and subsequent successful off-Broadway runs, it has earned a number of playwriting awards including: 1999 Pulitzer Prize; Drama Desk, Dramatists Guild, Drama League of New York; New York Drama Critics' Circle, Outer Critics' Circle; Lucille Lortel; Fellowship of Southern Writers; Newsday ("Oppie"), Berilla Kerr Foundation; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (finalist); Connecticut and Los Angeles Drama Critics.

In August 1998 Ms. Edson moved to Atlanta, where her partner, Linda Merrill, is the curator of American art at the High Museum. She now teaches kindergarten in downtown Atlanta.

Director's Notes

In one of his essays on *'The Joys of Storytelling'* Ben Okri says:

" Even when it is tragic, storytelling is always beautiful. It tells us that all fates can be ours. It wraps up our lives with the magic which we only see long afterwards. Storytelling reconnects us to the great sea of human destiny, human suffering, and human transcendence."

In her play *W;t*, Margaret Edson gives us that opportunity.

David Latham
Director



David Latham – Director

David works regularly in both Canada and Australia. Unfortunately, he has spent winter in both countries for the last three years. Before coming to work at the Centaur, he directed the actors of the Stratford Festival Conservatory in *Love's Labour's Lost*, and before returning to Canada he directed a workshop on a new play by Michel Marc Bouchard for the Melbourne International Festival and Canadian Stage. Recent directing credits include *Absurd Person Singular*, *Sylvia* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Hotel Sorrento*, *Girl Talk* (Hit Productions, Melbourne and Australian National Tour), *Richard III*, *Love for Love*, *Twelfth Night* (Monument National - National Theatre School), *The Chocolate Soldier* (Shaw Festival), *Three Sisters* (Hildegard), *Bauernhof*, *Singsing* (La Mama, Melbourne). He recently played a role in the Australian Drama series *Something in the Air*. He was director of the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School and Dean of the School of Drama of the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne. He worked with Gordon McCall many years ago when they both lived in Vancouver, so it is with great pleasure that he makes his debut at the Centaur Theatre.



Rosemary Dunsmore – Vivian Bearing

Rosemary last appeared in Montreal in *Single* at the Saidye Bronfman Centre. Her only appearance at the Centaur was in the national tour of *Ten Lost Years* (with Peter Millard) in 1975, which was her first major professional engagement. Since then her award-winning career has taken her to theatres across Canada, England, Scotland, Holland, and California. Most recently she was in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* in Winnipeg. Highlights of a busy film and television career in Canada and L.A. include the title role in the CBC series *Mom P.I.*, Katherine Brooke in *Anne of Green Gables*, Aunt Abigail in *The Road to Avonlea*, and fun parts in *Total Recall*, *Twins*, *Strike*, *Breaking the Surface* to mention a few. Among her directing credits are *Hedda Gabler* at the Atlantic Theatre Festival, *The Glace Bay Miners' Museum* in Toronto and *All's Well That Ends Well* at the Utah Shakespearean Festival. Rosemary currently teaches acting at Equity Showcase, University of Toronto and the Canadian Film Centre. She has dedicated this performance to her splendid mother.



Lesley Faulkner – Technician 1/Fellow 1/Fellow 4/Student 1/Code Team Member

Lesley is thrilled to be a part of Centaur's production of *W;t*, having been seen last year as Susanna Walcott in Centaur's production of *The Crucible*. Other selected credits include: Mary Anne in *Escape from Happiness*, Carrie in *The Great Nebula in Orion*, actor/creator of *Real Joose Flavour - A Cabaret*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Concordia University), The Paperbag Princess in *The Paperbag Princess and Other Stories* (Geordie Theatre), Jo in *The Other Children* (Atelier Theatre, Ottawa), Lori in *Periostracum* (1999 Montreal Fringe Festival). Lesley most recently completed filming *Atikka* for HBO/Showtime starring Alan Alda. Being a graduate of the Performance Program at Concordia University, B.F.A., Lesley also studied at the Ottawa School of Speech and Drama.



Carolyn Hetherington – E.M. Ashford

Carolyn is thrilled to be back on the Centaur stage and is looking forward to working with David Latham. Her last appearance at the Centaur Theatre was in the title role in *Driving Miss Daisy*. Selected theatre credits include - The Stratford Festival, N.A.C., The Citadel Theatre, Sudbury Theatre Centre, The Great Canadian Theatre Company, The Grand Theatre in London and Kingston and The Thousand Islands Playhouse. In Toronto - The Winter Garden, Theatre Passe Muraille, Tarragon, Theatre Plus and Necessary Angel. Film and television include : *Road to Avonlea*, *The Thriller*, *Anne of Green Gables II*, *Nest of Singing Birds*, *Return of Perry Mason* and the upcoming series *Blue Murder*. Last year Carolyn shared the Montreal English Critics' Circle Award (MECCA) for Best Actress with Brenda Robbins for their role as mother and daughter in Centaur's production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.



Paula Jean Hixson – Susie Monahan

Paula first appeared on the Centaur stage in 1997 in *A Winter's Tale* and is ecstatic to be returning to work with such an incredible group. Originally from Portland, Oregon, Paula has made Montreal her home for the last 12 years, during which she has been gallivanting around Mt. Royal spewing Shakespeare and touring schools in various children's theatre productions. Favorite roles include the Chorus in *Henry V*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, the Referee in Daniel MacIvor's *Never Swim Alone*, and most recently Renée Duchene in Norm Foster's *Drinking Alone*, at the Village Theatre. Paula hopes to employ her martial arts skills to become a super-action heroine in film, television, on stage, and in any other medium that is developed in her lifetime. Paula is a graduate of Concordia University's theatre performance programme and a proud member of The Montreal Women's Choir. She would like to dedicate her performance, in loving memory, to her grandmother, Lois Carol Davis.



Sean McCall – Technician 2/ Fellow 2/ Student 2/ Student 4/ Code Team Head

Sean is very happy to be making his Centaur debut in *W;t*. A recent B.F.A. graduate in playwrighting from Concordia University's theatre program, Sean is pursuing a career in both acting and playwrighting/screenwriting. Favorite roles to date include Packer in *Vinegar Tom* for Concordia University, and Tick in the staged reading of *Dead Ducks* for infinitheatre. Sean has also appeared in the television series *Are You Afraid of the Dark*. In fall 2001, Sean will travel to Ireland where he will undertake his Master's Degree in Irish Theatre Studies at Trinity College, Dublin.



Peter Millard – Harvey Kelekian/ Mr. Bearing

Peter Millard last appeared on the Centaur stage in 1987 as J.D. Blackwell in *Fire*. He trained with George Luscombe at Toronto Workshop Productions and has just completed his fourteenth season as a member of the Shaw Festival's Acting Ensemble. Most recently he worked on the feature film *Urban Legend II* and then went to Calgary to be a member of the Acting Company of Alberta Theatre Projects' Pan Canadian Play Rites 2K where he played The Chief in *The Coronation Voyage* by Michel Marc Bouchard translated by Linda Gaboriau and directed by Roy Surette in its first English language production (latter remounted at the Belfry Theatre, B.C.). His television credits include *Wind At My Back*, *PSI Factor*, and *Kung Fu - T.L.C.* His film work includes *Thirty-two Short Films about Glenn Gould*, *Perfectly Normal* and the CBC's Christmas film *Must Be Santa*. He also plays Daniel Wellington in the new CBC Radio series *The Investigations of Inspector Nickels*, which began airing in January 2001.



Ian Watson – Jason Posner

W;T marks Ian's second appearance at the Centaur, having appeared as Martin Crawford in Joe Dowling's production of *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* in 1988. A native of Winnipeg, Ian studied under David Latham at the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School from 1979 to 1981. A member of the National Arts Centre's English Theatre Company from 1981 to 1984, he played major roles in over 11 productions. His roles there include Kiro in *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Prince Edward in *Richard III*, Pinocchio in *Pinocchio*, The Reporter in *How I Got That Story*. He has spent four seasons with the Stratford Festival appearing as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Firk in *A Shoemaker's Holiday*, Sylvius in *As You Like It*, The Player Queen in *Hamlet*, Alfred in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and Luce in *A Night of the Burning Pestle*, among others. In 1988, Ian participated in the creation and premiere production of Carbone 14's *Le Dortoir*. Other roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Hal in *Loot* (both MTC), Hally in *Master Harold and the Boys* (Grand Theatre London), Eugene in *Biloxi Blues* (Persephone), Steve Barisovitch in *Dead Together* and the three roles of Tom, Phyllis and Leslie in *Sylvia* (both Piggery Theatre), and Robin in *The Wild Guys* (Drayton Theatre). In 1996, Ian graduated from McGill University with a BA Honors in English Literature. He is a teacher at the National Theatre School of Canada.



Lee Wilson – Technician 3/ Fellow 3/ Student 3/ Code Team Member

Lee is absolutely thrilled to be making his Centaur debut with such a brilliant play and equally blown away that he is working with such a brilliant cast and Mr. Latham. Since finishing his training at Ryerson Theatre School almost three years ago, Lee has been a founding member of the Soulpepper Training Company with Robin Phillips, and he has been busy founding and being Artistic Director for Resurgence Theatre Company/York Shakespeare Festival. Credits for Resurgence include: Orsino in *Twelfth Night* directed by Chris Abraham and Lysander in

A Midsummer Night's Dream directed by Centaur's own Gordon McCall. Other credits include: *Romeo in Romeo and Juliet* (Repercussion). Lee looks forward to continuing a wonderful working relationship and friendship through the coming years with Gordon McCall which started a few years back when he was a guest director at Ryerson. Lee would also like to dedicate this performance to his girlfriend, Gillian, who has the most incredible gift of making anything and everything of nothing.



David Gaucher – Set & Costume Designer

A multi-talented artist, David Gaucher has worked in cinema, television and commercials, and has created some forty set designs including *Kafka's Chimps* and *Zurich 1916* produced by the opera of the Banff Centre for the Arts, two productions which were highly praised for their visual aspects by critics. Particularly noteworthy also are two stunning designs: *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry at NCT in 1992, directed by Daniel Roussel and *Le Cygne* by Elisabeth Eglhoff, directed by Claude Poissant, which earned him a nomination at the 1994 Gala des Masques. For his first assignment with the TNM, David designed a boldly poetic space for *La vie est un songe* by Pedro Calderon. More recently, he created the scenic design for *Uncle Vanya*, presented at the Lincoln Centre in New York and the Gate Theatre in Dublin, directed by Ben Barnes, with whom he also collaborated on *Waiting for Godot* at the Centaur Theatre.



Luc Prairie – Lighting Designer

Luc has been lighting up stages for theatres and operas, and has been contributing his expertise to the field of musicology and to corporate events. Luc lit up the sky in *Aurora Borealis* for the McCord Museum. Centaur audiences saw his work last season when he designed the lighting for *The Crucible*. Since then he has dazzled the stages in *M. Bovary* (TNM), *Mambo Italiano* and *Droits d'auteurs* (Théâtre Jean-Duceppe), *L'Heureux stratagème* (Théâtre Rideau-Vert), *Measure for Measure*, *The Possibilities*, and *The Great Houdini* (Saidye Bronfman Centre), and *Il Travatore* (Calgary Opera). In addition to his career as a lighting designer, Luc has been an assistant director and stage director for the past 25 years. He teaches lighting design at Collège Lionel-Groulx.



Michael Hart – Stage Manager

W;t marks Michael's debut at the Centaur Theatre. He has been a member of the stage management team at the Stratford Festival for five seasons. Last season he worked on the productions of *Titus Andronicus*, *Elizabeth Rex* and *Medea*. Michael has also worked on numerous productions at Neptune Theatre in Halifax where most recently he stage-managed *Hamlet*. He has also worked for Theatre New Brunswick and the Grand Theatre. Michael is a recipient of two Tyrone Guthrie Awards from the Stratford Festival. Following *W;t*, he will return to Stratford to work on the productions of *Private Lives* and *Inherit the Wind*.



Mhiran Danson-Faraday – Assistant Stage Manager

Mhiran happily returns to Centaur Theatre where she assistant stage-managed *Waiting For Godot*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and *Angels in America, Part II: Perestroika*. Favorite past credits include: *Forever Plaid*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Musical*, and *Emily*, over 3 seasons at the Charlottetown Festival, the On the Verge Playwrites Festival 1999 at the National Arts Centre, and numerous productions at Neptune Theatre in Halifax. Mhiran is excited to be back in Montreal, but sends her love to Bob and her family at home on the East Coast.

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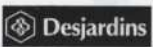




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erratum

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should read:

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Missing is:

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