

The Tomorrow Box

by Anne Chislett



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centaur THEATRE
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presents

The Tomorrow Box

by ANNE CHISLETT

(January 6 – February 1, 1981)

cast: (in order of appearance)

Joe Cooper **RICHARD BLACKBURN**

Alice Cooper **KATE TROTTER**

Maureen Cooper **JOYCE CAMPION**

Lisa Graham **DIANA BELSHAW**


Jack Cooper **ANTONY PARR**

directed by **ELSA BOLAM**

designed by **DEBRA HANSON**

lighting by **FREDDIE GRIMWOOD**

stage manager . . **ANNE DE NYST-CLARK**

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Anne Chislett (Author) . . .

. . . is now a resident of Victoria, B.C., although she was born and brought up at the other end of the country. Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, she went on to study theatre at the University of British Columbia after attending Memorial University of Newfoundland. She taught theatre and English at a high school in Ontario before co-founding the Blyth Summer Festival where she was administrator. Now a full time writer, her earlier theatre credits include work at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, where she says she survived running box office during *MAGGIE AND PIERRE*. Although her first professional play was "A Summer Burning", adapted from the novel by Harry J. Boyle, and produced at Blyth and at Kawartha, her writing experience began in grade six with a piece about the life of Pope Pius XI, which was produced in the school auditorium in the presence of the Archbishop of St. John's. Miss Chislett is now working on a new play about the Amish in Ontario during World War 1 for Blyth.

cast (in order of appearance)

Richard Blackburn (Joe Cooper) — has appeared in repertory theatre throughout the U.S.A. and Canada. He will be seen shortly in feature films with Alan Arkin and Donald Sutherland and has a prominent role in the upcoming CBC film "Once". He last appeared on stage as Leo in Stage West's (Regina) production of "Chapter Two". *THE TOMORROW BOX* marks his first **Centaur** appearance.

Kate Trotter (Alice Cooper) — raised on an Ontario farm Miss Trotter is pleased to return to **Centaur** to appear in *THE TOMORROW BOX*. She has worked across the country playing a wide variety of roles: Olivia in "Twelfth Night" at both the Bastion Theatre in Victoria and Theatre New Brunswick, the original productions of "Child" and "I'll Be Back For You Before Midnight", both at the Blyth Summer Festival, Kitty in "Thark" and Curlie's wife in "Of Mice And Men" at Theatre Calgary, Atalidah in "Bajazet" at the Tarragon and Eve in *WAITING FOR THE PARADE* here at **Centaur**. Her credits also include film narration and television. She has just completed work on "The Family Plouffe" film and "State Of The Art". Following *THE TOMORROW BOX* Miss Trotter goes to Theatre Calgary to do Miranda in "The Tempest".

Joyce Campion (Maureen Cooper) — who is one of Canada's finest actresses has worked in all major theatres from east to west, toured in the U.S., and played in the Bahamas. Her versatility as a dialectician and comedian has brought her much critical acclaim. Recent credits include Tennessee Williams' "Red Devil Battery Sign" at the Vancouver Playhouse, and the hit show "Stollers Farm" directed by Peter Froehlich at Theatre Passe Muraille. Miss Campion was at Stratford Festival for 5 seasons, Theatre New Brunswick for 3, and Shaw Festival for 2. She toured England and the U.S. in "Big, Bad Mouse" with Eric Sykes and Jimmy Edwards, and spent a season with the Alley Theatre in Houston, Texas. Favourite roles include Amanda Wingfield in "The Glass Menagerie", Aline Solness in "The Master Builder" and Maisie Madigan in "Juno & The Paycock" with Siobhan McKenna. Montreal audiences saw her in "Absent Friends" and "How The Other Half Loves" at La Poudrière, "Biography — A Game" at the Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre, and "The Fourposter" and "Barefoot In The Park" at The Piggery. Following *THE TOMORROW BOX* Miss Campion goes to Victoria for the Bastion Theatre production of "Hedda Gabler". Her most recent television credit is the role of Priscilla in "Mermaids & Mantacores" for CBC. Her last appearance at **Centaur** was in "DEATH OF A SALESMAN".

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Diana Belshaw (Lisa Graham) — is making her first appearance at **Centaur**. She studied acting at the University of British Columbia and the Yale School of Drama. Since then, she has performed at many Canadian theatres in an impressive variety of roles including Betty in "Back To Beulah", Carla in "Kennedy's Children", Mary in "Vanities", Kitty in "Spokesong", Mrs. MacPhail in "Rain", and a lead role in "Les Maudits Anglais", a production of Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille which played in Montreal last season. Miss Belshaw enjoyed rave reviews for her work in "St. Sam Of The Nuke Pile" and "I'll Be Back For You Before Midnight" at the Blyth Summer Festival, and played the lead role of Diane in "House Of Temperance" for Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon. Radio credits include CBC's "Morningside" and "Heritage". She played a principal role in the television production "The War Brides", also for CBC.

Antony Parr (Jack Cooper) — was last seen at **Centaur** as Delaney and Williamson in **FRANKENSTEIN**, the Player King and Grave Digger in **HAMLET** and as Stormy in **SUMMER**, the play that opened **Centaur 2**. In 1957-58, he toured Canada playing the lead role of the Governor General in the now legendary "My Fur Lady". Since then he has appeared in theatres across the country including the Tarragon and St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto, the Citadel in Edmonton, the Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Stratford Festival. The stage role that brought him the most pleasure was Jim (the father) in the original production of "Wedding In White". He is familiar to television audiences as the Desk Sergeant on "Sidestreet" for the last three seasons, as well as principal roles in "The Great Detective" and "New Avengers" — to name a few. He has appeared in numerous films including "Agency" and "Quiet Day In Belfast" and in a variety of radio roles including Sir Peter Teazle in "School For Scandal" for CBC Tuesday Night.

Elsa Bolam (Director) — is originally from England where she started her career as Assistant Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company, then worked extensively in repertory before becoming a BBC television drama producer. In 1968, she came to Canada where she has taught at the National Theatre School in several capacities, most recently as Assistant Head of the Technical Section. She has also directed at various universities and regional theatres including Theatre Calgary, Globe Theatre, Regina, and Magnus Theatre North West in Thunder Bay. Recent credits include "The Tempest" at the Globe Theatre, where she is also scheduled to direct "Spokesong" later this season, and Tremblay's "Forever Yours, Marie-Lou" at Magnus Theatre. For **Centaur**, she has directed **A LILY IN LITTLE INDIA**, **THE HOMECOMING**, **TOTAL ECLIPSE**, **THE ENTERTAINER**, **OLD TIMES**, **THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW**, **ARTICHOKE**, **THE SEA** and **WAITING FOR THE PARADE**.

Debra Hanson (Set Designer) — graduated from the National Theatre School in 1976. She has taught and designed for Bishop's University, Queens, McGill and John Abbott College. As Resident Designer for two seasons at Manitoba Theatre Centre's Warehouse Theatre, her Winnipeg productions included: "Hello & Goodbye", "The Seahorse", "American Buffalo", "Circus Gothic", "Waiting For The Parade", "Talley's Folly" and "Spokesong". Other credits

are Tarragon's "18 Wheels", NDWT's "Monroe", Toronto Arts Production's "Winners" and Theatre Ontario's "Heart Of Rosedale". Miss Hanson designed ASHES and last season's CIRCUS GOTHIC for **Centaur**.

Freddie Grimwood (Lighting Designer) — designed WAITING FOR THE PARADE last season. He started his career at Oxford Playhouse in 1961 and later joined Western Theatre Ballet as Assistant Stage Manager and toured extensively at home and overseas, and then became Technical Director, Lighting Designer and Touring Manager of a company that worked in association and in repertory with Sadlers Wells Opera. In 1969, he joined the National Theatre School of Canada as Production Manager and after two years there returned to London where he worked in lighting at Sadlers Wells Theatre. Two years later he returned to the National Theatre School as Technical Director and Theatre Manager, a position he still holds. In addition to his regular duties, Mr. Grimwood works as a Consultant in Stage Lighting and Theatre Architecture. He recently joined an international group of technicians and designers for a tour of theatres in the People's Republic of China.

Anne de Nyst-Clark (Stage Manager) — arrived in Canada from Ireland in 1971. She studied at McGill University and later with the Theatre Department of the Banff School of Fine Arts. She was resident Stage Manager at the Saidye Bronfman Centre for three seasons. Last season she worked on several **Centaur** productions including SPOKESONG, WAITING FOR THE PARADE, THE LEONARD COHEN SHOW and ON THE JOB. This is her first season as **Centaur's** resident stage manager.

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- Jan. 19** Martha Henry, Alan Scarfe and Brent Carver in *A Month in the Country* by Ivan Turgenev
- Jan. 26** Robin Gammell, Frances Hyland and Nicholas Pennell in *The Ministry of Fear* by Graham Greene
- Feb. 2** Don Francks and Janet Wright in *The Shipbuilder* by Ken Mitchell
- Feb. 9** Edward Atienza in *The Circle* by W. Somerset Maugham
- Feb. 16** Fiona Reid in *Automatic Pilot* by Erika Ritter
- Feb. 23** *The Dybbuk* by S. Ansky
- March 2** Ann Casson in *Waiting for the Parade* by John Murrell
- March 9** Douglas Rain and Flo Patterson in *On Golden Pond* by Ernest Thompson
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Centaur Theatre Company uses Centaur 1 and Centaur 2 alternately, renting out the space not being used. Please watch the papers for notices on the groups renting Centaur's spaces this season. Meanwhile, here are some coming events for your information.

February 11 – 22

Théâtre Sans Fil presents

LE HOBBIT

from "Bilbo the Hobbit" by Tolkien

a marionette show presented in French and in English

March 25 – 28

German Theatre Montreal presents

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by E. Kishon – (in German)

April 21 – 26

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News Letter...

Our apologies to all of you who received so many brochures during the recent Fund Raising mailing. Problems with our Mail House are now being worked out. Our thanks to those of you who pointed out the duplications to us.

After breaking records at **Centaur** and Place des Arts in Montreal, The St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto and The National Arts Centre in Ottawa, **Centaur's** production of **BALCONVILLE** by David Fennario is about to go on another tour, this time on an international jaunt including The Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, The Vancouver Playhouse, The Theatre Royal in Bath, England, The Grand Opera House in Belfast, Ireland, and ending up at the famed Old Vic Theatre in London. This is the first time a Canadian theatre company has been invited to play at the Old Vic. The Canadian tour is with the assistance of the Touring Office of the Canada Council; the British tour is under the auspices of the Department of External Affairs. Also contributing to this enormous project: Commonwealth Holiday Inns of Canada are sponsoring the tour, GCT Associates are **Centaur's** Tour Consultants with British Management by Hetherington Seelig. Featuring Jean Archambault, Marc Gelinis and Peter MacNeill, other members of the Company are Yolande Circé, Danielle Filion, Patricia Hamilton, Robert Parson, Gilles Tordjman and Susan Wright. Miss Filion, Miss Hamilton and Miss Wright are new to the Company. Guy Sprung returns to direct with Barbra Matis' original set and Steven Hawkins' lighting. We will keep you up to date with further details of this exciting tour.

Coming next . . . a show that has been described as "a great layer cake of entertainment" and "a treat for anyone who craves live, fresh humour". **PASSIONATE LADIES** should not be missed. Direct from Los Angeles, the very talented Barbara Perry gives us five hilarious sequences from strip-tease to Shakespeare. Since her auspicious debut as the Baby in "Madame Butterfly" at the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York at the age of four, Barbara Perry has experienced a long and varied career: "Swan Song" for the legendary Hecht & MacArthur at the Booth Theatre, co-starring with the brilliant Eddie Foy in "Rumple" at the Alvin Theatre, with Burgess Meredith in "Happy As Larry" at the Coronet Theatre, and starring for five years in the Palace Hippodrome and Palladium Theatres in London as well as The Café de Paris. She has also appeared in dozens of American national companies and west coast musical productions from "The Merry Widow" to "George M". Miss Perry has appeared on several specials for Dinah Shore, Dean Martin and Johnny Carson.

Keep in touch with us. We want to hear from you.

Judy Cutler
Director of Public Relations

Centaur Theatre Company, a professional company operating within the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association and a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres performs under the auspices of the Centaur Foundation for the Performing Arts.

CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY

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