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La Sagouine

by Antonine Maillet
translated by Luis de Céspedes



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THE

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DE MONTRÉAL CHARLES DUTOIT



centaur
theatre
company

Joan Orenstein as

La Sagouine

by Antonine Maillet
translated by Luis de Céspedes

November 3–December 20, 1987

directed by Linda Moore
designed by Katherine Mathewson
lighting by Alexander Gazale
stage manager Nicolette Theroux
apprentice stage manager E. Jane Mawby

Act I

includes selections from:

The Trade
Youth
The Pews
Christmas

ACT II

includes selections from:

War
The Moon
Census
Spring

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"This is a true story. The story of La Sagouine, a scrubwoman, a woman of the sea, who was born with the century, with her feet in the water. Water was her fortune: the daughter of a cod fisherman, a sailor's girl, and later the wife of a fisherman who took oysters and smelts. A cleaning woman also, who ends up on all fours, with her bucket in front and her hands in the water."

Antonine Maillet

ANTONINE MAILLET (Author), was born in Bouctouche, New Brunswick, in the heart of l'Acadie. The author of nearly twenty works including novels, plays and short stories, she has been awarded ten literary prizes in Canada and in Europe. Antonine Maillet is Docteur ès lettres of Laval University of Québec and she received three honorary degrees: Moncton University, New Brunswick; Carleton University of Ottawa and University of Alberta in Edmonton. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada, Member of the Royal Society of Canada and member of L'Académie Canadienne-française. Her latest play, "MARGOT la FOLLE" received its world première at Théâtre du Rideau Vert last month.

LUIS DE CÉSPEDES (Translator), was born in Paris in 1948 and was educated in Canada and Latin America. For the past seven years, he has worked as a freelance writer for Radio-Canada with a number of dramatic scripts, historical studies and French adaptations of English and Latin American plays.

JOAN ORENSTEIN (La Sagouine), one of Canada's most impressive actresses, first brought her performance of La Sagouine to the stage at Halifax's Neptune Theatre last November. She comes to Centaur from Vancouver East Cultural Centre having recently completed a highly successful run as Emily Carr in "Song of This Place", Joy Coghill's play based on the painter's life. Certainly no stranger to Centaur audiences, Joan appeared in the roles of Milly in Athol Fugard's PEOPLE ARE LIVING THERE, Mrs. Bailey in Mavis Gallant's WHAT IS TO BE DONE? and as Albertine at 70 in Michel Tremblay's ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES. 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 Madame Arcati in "Blithe Spirit". A veteran of the Neptune Theatre, roles include Juno in "Juno and the Paycock", Harriet in "Back to Beulah", Grand Duchess Olga in "You Can't Take It With You" and Marie-Lou in "Forever Yours, Marie-Lou" — to name a few. Recent stage appearances include Aunt Meme in "Saturday, Sunday, Monday" at Centre Stage in Toronto; Baba in "Tzimbalay" and the Mother in "night Mother" both for Manitoba Theatre Centre; and Marina in "Uncle Vanya" at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre. Credits also include numerous radio, television and film appearances. 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 in the critically-acclaimed "Charlie Grant's War". Her recent CBC television films include "Island Love Song" and "Murder Sees The Light". Joan will return to Centaur to play Miss Helen in THE ROAD TO MECCA in February.

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LINDA MOORE (Director), is delighted to be working once again with Joan Orenstein whom she directed in "La Sagouine" at Neptune Theatre and in "night Mother" at the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Following last year's highly acclaimed production of FAITH HEALER at Centaur, Linda went on to Peterborough's Arbor Theatre where she directed "Salt Water Moon", and then to the Blyth Festival to direct Anne Chislett's recent drama on the farm crisis — "Another Season's Promise". Her production of Ms. Chislett's play toured Ontario and opened in late October at The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. Linda remains in Montreal to direct a production for the National Theatre School and returns to Centaur in the new year to direct THE ROAD TO MECCA.

KATHERINE MATHEWSON (Designer), is a native Montrealer who began her theatre career in Cape Town, South Africa. After returning to Canada in 1979, she studied design at both Concordia University and the CBC Institute of Scenography in Toronto. This is Katherine's third show at Centaur, having designed the highly acclaimed productions MASTER HAROLD...AND THE BOYS and FAITH HEALER in past seasons. She now divides her time between theatre and film where she has worked on many productions including "Agnes of God", "Anne of Green Gables", and "Ford the Man and the Machine". Katherine began her Canadian career working at Centaur as Props Assistant and Scenic Artist.

ALEXANDER GAZALE (Lighting Designer), is Centaur's Technical Director and Resident Lighting Designer. Audiences have seen his designs for K2, MOVING, GONE THE BURNING SUN, ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES, GONE WITH HARDY, GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, and last season's FIRE and SOMEBODY SOMEBODY'S RETURNING. A Montrealer, Alexander has been involved in theatre since his high school days at Loyola. While attending John Abbott College he worked with many of Montreal's amateur and semi-professional companies: Thé-Arts, Phoenix Theatre, Group of Four and others. He will design THE ROAD TO MECCA and OBSERVE THE SONS OF ULSTER MARCHING TOWARDS THE SOMME later this season. Alex is a member of The Associated Designers of Canada.

NICOLETTE THEROUX (Stage Manager), joined Centaur last season, stage managing SOMEBODY SOMEBODY'S RETURNING and FAITH HEALER. Prior to her return for the 1987-88 season, she stage managed her fourth summer season with Sunshine Theatre in Kelowna, B.C., and successfully completed a cross-Canada Canasta tourney. A native of Edmonton, Nicolette completed her Stage Management apprenticeship at the Citadel Theatre and has since worked for various theatres across the country including the 85/86 season at Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay; Manitoba Theatre Centre; and Workshop West and Catalyst Theatre in Edmonton.

E. JANE MAWBY (Apprentice Stage Manager), first started at Centaur six years ago working as an usher. Last season saw her move to the position of Properties Assistant, which she recently reprised for GUYS AND DOLLS. Jane studied theatre at Concordia University, and began her stage management apprenticeship at The Piggery Theatre in North Hatley. She also spent one year as a Canadian representative working in the Canadian Pavillion of Walt Disney World's EPCOT Centre.

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January 7–31
previews Jan. 5 & 6

VASSA

by Maxim Gorky

adapted and directed by Helena Kaut-Howson

designed by Susan Savage

lighting by Freddie Grimwood

Vassa Zheizvona was seen by some as a "monstre sacré", a woman who ruled her family and her financial empire with the determination of a predator. To others, she was a heroine ready to commit any crime to safeguard her children's future. Gorky, the leading Soviet playwright of his day, was clearly fascinated by these larger than life personalities that lived in Old Russia prior to the Bolshevik revolution. VASSA is a masterpiece, a contemporary classic.



February 4–March 20
previews Feb. 2 & 3

THE ROAD TO MECCA

by Athol Fugard

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December 12, 10:30 a.m.

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January 23, 10:30 a.m.

Picardi Marionette Theatre presents

Theseus And the Minotaur.

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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 la Communauté urbaine de Montréal and all corporate and individual donors.

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