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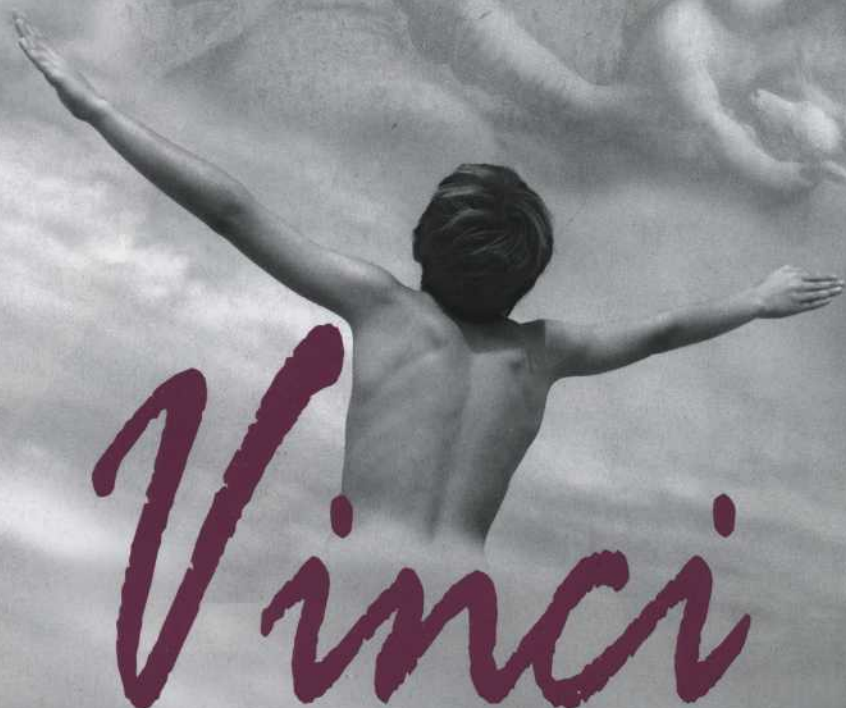
THEATRE COMPANY

September 24 - October 20, 2002



CENTAUR
THEATRE
COMPANY

Gordon McCall,
Artistic Director



Vinci

BY MAUREEN HUNTER DIRECTED BY GORDON McCALL



We are taking pride in joining
the community as partner
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of the performing arts.

Enjoy the season!



Season Sponsor

September 24 - October 20, 2002

Centaur Theatre Company

presents

Vinci

by **Maureen Hunter**
directed by **Gordon McCall**

starring (in alphabetical order)

Albiera

Antonio

Francesco

Caterina

Bartolomeo

Piero

Catherine Allard

Kent Allen

Daniel Brochu

Carrie Colak

Marcel Jeannin

Sasha Roiz

Set & Costume Design

Lighting Design

Original Music by

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Fight Coordinator

John C. Dinning

Spike Lyne

Ian Tambllyn

Christina Hidalgo

Melanie St-Jacques

Kent Allen

TIME AND PLACE:

The monastery of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, 1498 and the village of Vinci in Tuscany, between April, 1451 and August, 1456.

There will be one intermission.

The Gazette

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Centaur gratefully acknowledges the grant received from DuMaurier Arts Council for this production.



du Maurier ARTS

Playwrights notes

When you choose to write about an historical character, a question you ask yourself is: what period in this person's life most appeals to me? Another writer, attracted to the Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci, might have chosen to write about him in his prime, I was drawn to the circumstances of his birth and early years. So much intrigued me: How little is known about his mother, a figure his biographers readily dismiss. The fact of his illegitimacy - which prevented him, in 15th century Italy, from attending university. For a child with Leonardo's gifts, this was a restriction that could surely shape a life. The fact that in Europe at that time, infant and child mortality rates were very high. Illegitimate children were especially vulnerable. It struck me as miraculous in such a world that Leonardo not only survived, but had the start in life he needed.

Finally, there was the uncertainty surrounding Leonardo's whereabouts in his early years. When he was born in April 1452, his parental grandfather, Antonio, made note of the birth in his diary. But he didn't mention where Leonardo was born, how his birth was received, or who took custody. Little is known for certain until 1457, when a census taken in Tuscany revealed where Leonardo was living then. For me, the five years between his birth and the taking of that census represented a "window of time" which I could open.

To open the window, I used characters who actually existed. In the case of the da Vinci family, my research provided hints about their personalities - but only hints. So it's fair to say that I've imagined their personalities, and the personalities of Caterina and the priest Bartolomeo. Out of these personalities grew relationships. My research into the period was extensive, but this is drama, not biography; in the end, I chose the actions that seemed true for the characters I'd created. I hope you can enter with us into the spirit of the play - and imagine what might have been.

— Maureen Hunter

biographies



Maureen Hunter is one of Canada's most successful playwrights. Her work has been produced extensively on Canada's major stages and by both BBC and CBC Radio. It has been nominated for two Governor General's Awards and two Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Outstanding New Play). *Vinci* is her latest play. It premiered in January 2002 in a co-production by the National Arts Centre, Ottawa, and Manitoba Theatre Centre, Winnipeg. Along with Centaur, Toronto's CanStage will also be producing *Vinci* during the 2002-2003 season. Her play *Atlantis*, premiered by MTC and Theatre Calgary in 1996, has been produced extensively in English and received its French premiere in 1999 at Theatre de la Manufacture in Montreal. *Transit of Venus*, premiered by MTC in 1992, has had a string of successful productions in Canada and in 1993 became the first Canadian play ever staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company of Britain. It received its U.S. premiere in 1998 at the Berkshire Festival in Stockbridge, Mass. Other plays include *Footprints on the Moon*, produced by the Centaur in 1989, and *Beautiful Lake Winnipeg*. Maureen lives on the banks of the Red River in Winnipeg.



Gordon McCall (*Director*) Director, actor, screenwriter, educator, and Master of Fine Arts graduate from the theatre program at the University of British Columbia, Gordon, is perhaps best known to Montrealers for his favourite role, that of Artistic Director of Centaur Theatre Company. Selected shows directed for Centaur include, *Angels In America*, (*Parts 1 & 2*), *How I Learned To Drive*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Twelfth Night*,

The Crucible, *The Weir*, *The Gin Game*, the English-language world-premiere of Michel Tremblay's *For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* (Montreal; Canadian Tour, Arena Stage – Washington, D.C.), and last season's smash hit, *Mambo Italiano* by Steve Galluccio (Montreal, & Mirvish Productions – Toronto). In January 2002, Gordon directed the European premiere of *For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* with an Irish cast and design team at Ireland's National Theatre – The Abbey. Also last season, Centaur audiences were treated to his critically acclaimed performance as Gabe in *Dinner With Friends*. A past nominee for the Chalmers Award for Artistic Direction, and the Actra award for Best Writer – Television Drama for his original 1984 CBC TV screenplay, *The Freedom Diary of Lan Tran*, he has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Theatre School of Canada. As always, Gordon wishes to thank his wife, Eloise, and sons, Sean and Spencer, for their love and support.



Catherine Allard (*Albiera*) Catherine is very "contente" to make her Centaur and English "début" with Gordon McCall and the Centaur Theatre Company. Catherine graduated five years ago from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique in Montreal. Her repertoire of plays includes: *Crime and Punishment* (Théâtre Denise Pelletier) *Trojan Woman* (Théâtre du Trident) and Molière's *Bourgeois Gentilhomme* (Centre d'art d'Orford). She has also worked with young Quebec playwrights Wajdi Mouawad in *Pacamambo* and appeared in Olivier Choiniere's *Agromorphobia*. Her television credits include *La Dame de 100* and a teleplay which will be televised on *Les Beaux Dimanches*. She will be playing the role of Chris in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, directed by Ben Barnes at Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in 2003. Catherine would like to dedicate her performance to her Auntie Patricia, Rory, Carrie, Pandora, and Rufus.



Kent Allen (*Antonio, Fight Coordinator*) A most happy return to Montreal for Kent, who previously appeared at Centaur in *The Crucible* and in *Twelfth Night*. Kent performs across Canada, and some selected credits include *The Odyssey* (Manitoba Theatre For Young People), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Anne* (Magnus Theatre), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan), *Peter Pan* (Globe Theatre) *Our Country's Good* (Sudbury Theatre Centre) and *Mail Order Bride* (Persephone Theatre). T.V credits include *Jake and the Kid*, *Prairie Berry Pie*, *The Rink*, and the *Incredible Story Studio*. He has also been featured in such films as *Murder Seen*, *Painted Angels*, *Now and Forever*, and the recently completed Ann Wheeler film *Betrayed*. Kent lives in Saskatoon with his wife Kathy, and their children Lauren and Dominic.



Daniel Brochu (*Francesco*) Daniel is a native Montrealeur who was last seen on Centaur stage in the 1992 revival of David Fennario's *Balconville*. In between then and now, he has been a part of numerous theatre projects such as Judith Thompson's classic *Crackwalker*, and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Just this past year, Daniel was performing on Broadway at the New Victory Theatre in a children's play entitled *Matthew and Stephen*. His film credits include roles in an indie feature called *The Drive*, *The Bone Collector*, and Leonard Cohen's *The Favourite Game*. His voice can also be heard on the three-time Emmy award-winning cartoon *Arthur*. Daniel's dream is to mount the first production of *Henry IV*, part 1 on the moon, but until then he'll go on raising his albino quintuplets, getting his driver's license, and studying rocketry.

SEAGRAM ART GALLERY

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Giuseppe Gallaccio

Originally from Montreal, Giuseppe Gallaccio has lived in Toronto since 1999, working as a professional actor. A self-taught painter, Giuseppe's work reflects an ongoing fascination with personal identity and what it means to be 'Canadian' while maintaining strong connections to one's country of origin.



For rental information call : 288-1229



Carrie Colak (*Caterina*) Carrie is thrilled to be making her Centaur debut in *Vinci*. She is a graduate of the Dome Theatre program, class of 2000. Selected theatre credits include *Boy's Life*, *Star Spangled Girl*, *A Small Family Business*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *1949*. You may have also seen Carrie in shows at the Centaur's Wildside Festival, the Fringe Festival, and on tour with Geordie Productions. She has just recently made her way into the world of television with credits including *Gleason: The Life of Jackie Gleason* and *Seriously Weird*, amongst others. Carrie would like to thank her friends and family for all of their love and support.



Marcel Jeannin (*Bartolomeo*) Past Centaur credits include *Taking Sides*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Stone Angel* and *Woman in Mind*. Other theatre credits include Peer Gynt in *Gynty* (Theatre Columbus), Jacob in *Salt-Water Moon* (Globe Theatre), and *Timon of Athens*, *Enemy of the People* (Stratford Festival). He is associated with Clowns Gone Bad, and was a performer and co-creator of the 1999 Just For Laughs Festival hit *Mocshplat*, and *Umlout* at the Theatre National. A sought-after workshop participant, he has assisted in the development of over 100 plays for the National Arts Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, The National Theatre School and Playwrights' Workshop Montreal, of which he is a proud member. Film credits include *Affliction*, *Grey Owl*, and *The Sum of all Fears*. Television credits include *Blackfly*, *The Neverending Story* and *Further Tales of the City*. He lends his voice to numerous cartoons including *Mona the Vampire* and *Inuk*, and the title role in *Lucky Luke*. He is currently writing the narration for *At Last!* to be broadcast on CBC in 2003.



Sasha Roiz (*Piero*) Sasha has just completed his training at the Guildford School of Acting (UK): previously he attended the Dome theatre program. He has performed in two seasons at Lac Brome Theatre in *An Anglophone is Coming to Dinner*, *Travels With My Aunt*, *Old King Cole* and *The Village Wooing*. Other theatre highlights include *An Absolute Turkey* (GSA), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Dome Theatre) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Elysian River). He is glad to be returning to Montreal and beginning his career. He would like to thank Gordon McCall for this opportunity and his family and friends for their continued support.

AUCTION IN AID OF STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE SCHOOL

Author Michel Tremblay has made a donation of his latest watercolors entitled **Enfin Naf 3**. A silent and verbal auction will take place at the Monument National on October 24, starting at 5 pm.

The money raised will go directly into the Michel Tremblay Bursary Fund.

For more information please call (514) 842-7954.



John C. Dinning (*Set & Costume Designer*) In his 23-year career, Mr. Dinning has worked across Canada for such companies as Vancouver Playhouse, Theatre Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, The Citadel, Centaur Theatre Company, Theatre Plus, Theatre New Brunswick and the Saidye Bronfman Centre. John's talent as a set and costume designer is very much in demand. John's designs for Centaur include last season's *Mambo Italiano*, *Art* and *A Moon For The Misbegotten*. Other Centaur productions include the stunning set and period costumes for *Oliver!*, *The Weir*, *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*; *The Gin Game*; *Venus of Dublin*; *The Crucible*; *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*. John also designed the set and costumes for *Saltwater Moon* and *Having Our Say* at the Saidye Bronfman Centre. He has designed the ballet productions *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Le Tricorne* (Les Grandes Ballets Canadiens). He recently did the design for *Art* at Alberta Theatre Projects and the set design for *The Secret Garden* at the Thousand Islands Playhouse. Mr. Dinning is proud of the number (25) of new Canadian plays that he has helped to bring to stage, such as *Fire*; *Gone The Burning Sun*; *The Mad Boy Chronicles*; *I Love You Anne Murray*; *Some Assembly Required*; *All Fall Down*; *For The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*; *Venus of Dublin*, and *Inquest*. Mr. Dinning has taught design at various institutions including The National Theatre School, of which he is a graduate, and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada.



Ian Tamblin (*Original Music*) has been composing for theatre since 1976. Recent soundtrack and designs include *Shape of A Girl* (Green Thumb Theatre) and *Acre of Time* (Tarragon Theatre). As a playwright, Ian's play *Legends Of The Northern Swamp* toured with Geordie Productions last year. Awards and Nominations include Doras, Jessies and Junos, as well as a Golden Sheaf nomination for the documentary film *Nulijakuk*. Ian has recorded 22 albums. His last sound design at Centaur was *Search For Intelligent Life in the Universe*.



Spike Lyne (*Lighting Designer*) Spike is a graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada where he has returned to coordinate the new Lighting Specialization Program. Centaur audiences will be familiar with Spike's work as lighting designer for last season's hit show *Dinner with Friends*, as well as *Bowser and Blue's Blokes* trilogy. Recent design credits include *Sleuth* at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, *Marchand du Sable*, *Hamlet, Salle #6*, *Ne Jetez Pas De Cendre Par Terre* for Théâtre Deuxième Réalité, *Mom's the Word*, *Late Nite Catechism*, *Lee Evans*, *Ben Elton*, *The Simpsons in the flesh* for the Just for Laughs festival, *Divinity Bash* for Imago theatre. FWCL.



Christina Hidalgo (*Stage Manager*) Previous Centaur stage manager credits include *Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Mambo Italiano*, *Trick or Treat*, *Glenn*, *Venus of Dublin*, *Having*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *ASM for Twelfth Night*, *Angels in America: Part 1*, and *If We Are Women*. She was a senior member of Bill Glasco's Montreal Young Company, stage-managing their productions of *The Undiscovered Country*, *After the Dance*, *Measure for Measure*, and *The Possibilities*. Chris has worked on over 60 professional productions at theatres

including the National Arts Centre, Centaur Theatre Company, Saidye Bronfman Centre, Theatre New Brunswick, Manitoba Theatre Centre, and the Stratford Festival. She would like to thank Jim McNabb for his inspirational support, and acknowledges Arts Canterbury in Ottawa for opening the door to Canada's future artists.



Melanie St-Jacques (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Melanie returns to Centaur after spending the summer in the beautiful town of North Hatley at the Piggery Theatre, where she was an apprentice for their repertory season of *Twelfth Night*, *The Fantastiks*, and *Tango*. This is her fourth experience with Centaur, since working as an apprentice on *Trick Or Treat* and on last season's *Art* and *Dinner With Friends*. She is a Dome graduate, where her favourite roles include Clara Soppit in *When We Are Married* and Grandma in *You Can't*

Take It with You. Upon graduating, she worked with the small theatre company Untimely Ripped for two years, where she acted and stage-managed. Thanks to family and friends for their unbelievable support and encouragement.

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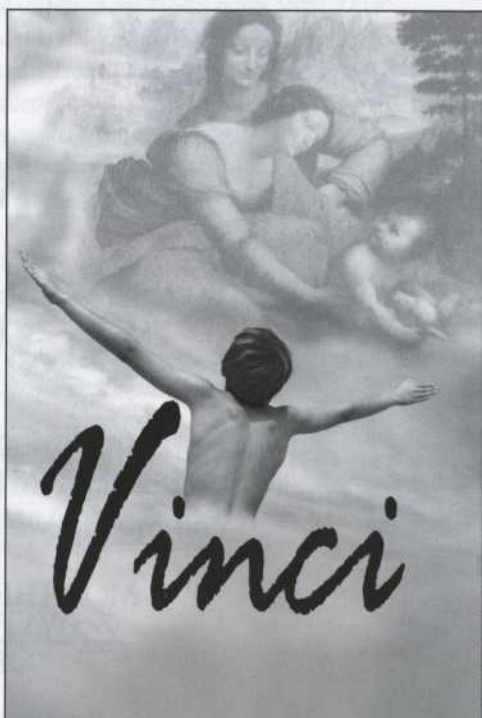


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getting involved

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Join the Director's Circle:

As an individual contributor to Centaur's annual fundraising campaign you become a member of our *Director's Circle*. Your donation makes possible the season of six plays, the company's *Theatre of Tomorrow* program for young audiences, the *Saturday Morning Children's Series* and the ever-so-popular *Wildside Festival* featuring cutting edge works from Montreal's best new theatre artists. As well, it is the support required for on-going artistic development such as the playwright-in-residence program. As a member of the *Director's Circle*, you are invited to special *Behind the Scenes Member's Events*, receive a subscription to *The Scene* newsletter and are acknowledged in Centaur house programs. Your donation is fully tax-deductible.

Become a corporate partner:

Funds raised through our corporate campaign and sponsorship program not only secure the financial support required to stage each of the season's six productions, it ensures that, in the end, ticket prices are kept within reason so that all members of the community can have access to the excitement and warmth of live theatre. The generous support of our corporate partners is the wick that keeps the Centaur flame alive. It enables us to continue to create, produce, stage, tour and reach out to audiences yearning for inspiration, goodness and community in the face of an ever-changing world. It is your vote of confidence that the arts can bring a community together.

Attend a special event:

Centaur's annual *FUNraising Play* and newly introduced *Dinner With Friends Dinner Party* are a great way to give and to receive. The *FUNraising Play* provides an outstanding opportunity for theater supporters with a yen to act the chance to experience the equivalent of a theatre fantasy camp and they, in return, give attendees of the professionally-produced show a fun night out. The whole experience for actors and audience is delightful. The recently held *Dinner With Friends Dinner Party* transformed our Seagram Gallery into a dining room where guests were treated to a casual supper before the play and delectable desserts, coffee and conversation with the cast after the show. A great time was had by all. Watch for details on next season's events and join us for some fundraising and fun.

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CENTAUR
THEATRE COMPANY

Gordon McCall, Artistic Director

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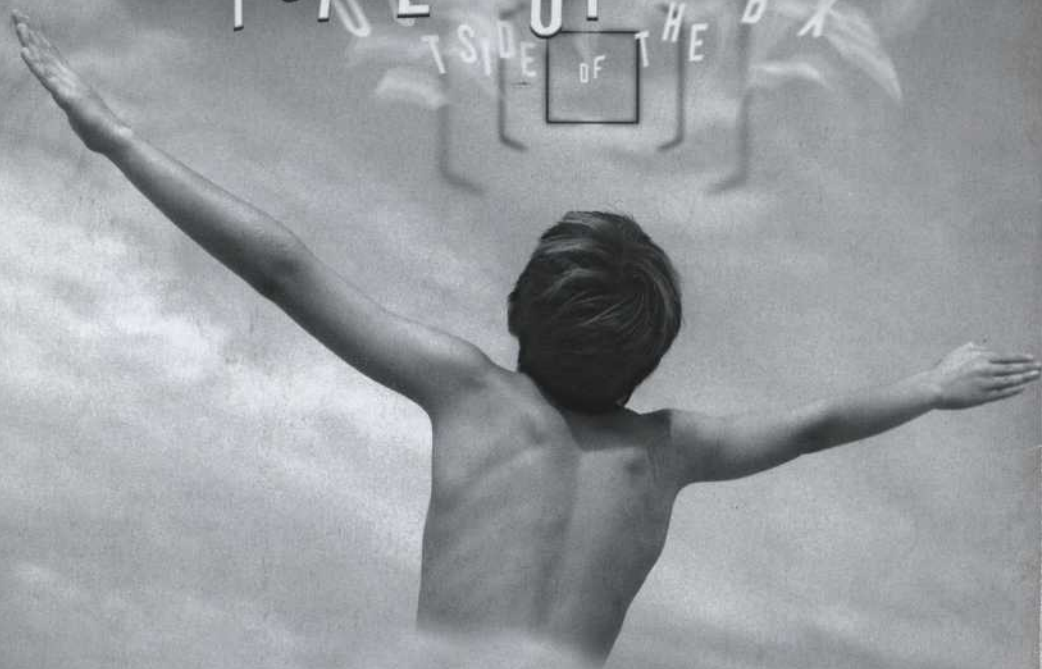


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