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Théâtre français de Toronto 2007-2008 season 40 years of theatre for real!

«During its 40 years of existence, Théâtre du p'tit bonheur which became Théâtre français de Toronto twenty years ago has presented more than 210 productions in French from here and abroad. Today, it is with pride that I am presenting to you my tenth season. It is a birth year season for TfT. We couldn't be happier to hear patrons tell us «don't give up, your theatre makes us feel good!». We couldn't tell our stories if we didn't believe in them, that is why we say forty years of theatre for real!» Guy Mignault, Artistic Director

To mark its 40th anniversary, TfT is proud to bring you a new musical by Guy Mignault, *Si on chantait... Shall we Sing?*, the much awaited new play by Playwright-in-Residence, Glen Charles Landry, *Le Don Quichotte de Toronto/Toronto's Don Quixote*, a new work from Montréal, *Avaler la mer et les poissons* and *L'Homme invisible/The Invisible Man* by celebrated Franco-Ontarian poet Patrice Desbiens, as well as four productions for young audiences.

With the great success TfT is experiencing with the surtitles, surtitle subscription will be on sale again this year. And for this very special season, TfT is offering new activities:

- A gala and other special events to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the company. The gala will take place at Casa Loma on November 15, 2007 and tickets are already on sale.
- One additional children's play. TfT will present two productions for children the first one for children between 4 and 7 and the second one for those between 8 and 12.

To begin with, a great Molière for a great occasion: ***The Misanthrope***, considered to be Molière's masterpiece. The subtitled performances will enable all our anglophone and francophile friends to fully savour this great play. In *The Misanthrope*, Molière delivers his thoughts on authenticity and frankness, as opposed to the compromises that those who want to live in harmony with humankind must accept; and his thoughts on one's self-respect and the respect of one's own opinions, as opposed to the need to follow fashion.

October 24 – November 10, 2007

Surtitled performances: October 25 and 31, November 2 and 3

A production of Théâtre français de Toronto

Avaler la mer et les poissons/ To swallow the Sea and its Fish by Sylvie Drapeau and Isabelle Vincent
A well-polished first work which juxtaposes two lifestyles, two women whose lives intertwine around a betrayal that wasn't. The play weaves from reality to an imaginary world, from public life to the solitary inspiration of the artist, through tableaux that range from deeply moving to hilarious. *Avaler la mer et les poissons* is an occasion for TfT to introduce Théâtre de la Manufacture to Toronto. The authors are also major stage personalities whom Toronto audiences rarely get a chance to see.

November 28 – December 2, 2007

A production of Théâtre de la Manufacture

Le Don Quichotte de Toronto/Toronto's Don Quixote by Playwright-in-Residence Glen Charles Landry
Toronto's Don Quixote originated in *Le Don Quichotte de la Gare Union*, one of the stories in the 2005 version of *Contes urbains, contes torontois*. In order to expand on this story, already rich in dramatic elements, Glen Charles Landry became Playwright-in-Residence at TfT. His texts are full of the poetry typical of his native Acadie.

February 13 – 24, 2008

Surtitled performances : February 14, 20, 22 and 23

A production of Théâtre français de Toronto

Théâtre français de Toronto 2007-2008 season - 40 years of theatre, for real!

Page 2.

***L'Homme invisible/The Invisible Man* by Patrice Desbiens**

Celebrated for its simplicity and tender humour, the strength of Desbiens' poetry lies in its conciseness. *L'Homme invisible/The Invisible Man*, awarded 2005 Best Production by Ottawa's Cercle des critiques de la capitale, reconnects us with this major poetic talent. And we feel that Tft's francophone audiences will relate to this character torn between two languages and two cultures.

March 26 – April 6, 2008, bilingual production

A production of Théâtre de la Vieille 17 in collaboration with Théâtre français du Centre national des Arts

***Et si on chantait... Shall we Sing?* a new musical fantasy by Guy Mignault**

We could not celebrate our 40th anniversary without creating a new musical piece. We love to sing. When we are happy, when we are sad, in fair and bad weather, we set our feelings to music and we sing. With the help of surtitles, non-francophone audiences will understand the French *je ne sais quoi* in the songs.

April 23 – May 10, 2008

Surtitled performances: April 24 and 30, May, 2, 8, 10

A production of Théâtre français de Toronto

Volet Nouvelles Générations, youth outreach program

Volet Nouvelles Générations, in its fourth year, is specifically geared to teenagers. *Les Zurbains 2007* and *Le Fantôme de Canterville* will be presented as school matinees but will also be performed in the evening, so that the whole family may enjoy them.

Les Zurbains 2007, produced by Théâtre Le Clou in Montréal, will showcase stories written by teenagers from Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City. This year again, two of the stories were written by Toronto students: *La vie, sapristi!* by Chantal Portelance and *Le derrière d'un scandale* by Adrienne Backlock.

Evening performance: November 14, 2007

A production of Théâtre Le Clou in Montréal

***Le Fantôme des Canterville/The Canterville Ghost* based on Oscar Wilde's short story**

Adapted by: Véronique Daudelin, Jean-François Hamel, Olivier Normand and Klervi Thienpont

This story of a ghost who has been haunting a castle for three hundred years but fails to scare its new American owners, sizzles with humour and dazzling theatrical devices which have thrilled teenagers. After several hugely successful tours, it was clear that this *Fantôme* also delighted adult audiences.

Evening performance: February 27, 2008

A production of Théâtre des 4 Coins in Québec

Volet Jeune public, children's outreach program

***Conte de la lune* by Philippe Soldevila**

Masque winner for "Best Production for Young Audiences" in 2006.

This enchanting production tells the story of a Spanish boy whose father is imprisoned under the Franco regime and will eventually settle in North America. In the absence of his father, the boy's only outlet is to invent words and to dream of, one day, capturing the moon. A deeply touching tale for the young and the young at heart.

Evening performance: November 24, 2007

A creation by Théâtre des Confettis in Québec and Théâtre Populaire d'Acadie in Caraquet in collaboration with Théâtre Sortie de Secours in Québec

Winner of the Masque for Best Production for Young Audiences 2006

***La bonne femme* by and with Jasmine Dubé**

Masque winner for "Best Production for Young Audiences" in 1996

This year, for the first time, we are inviting children aged 4 – 7 to a real theatre. Solitude and homelessness are the essence of this multi-award winning play poetically written by Jasmine Dubé. The story follows a gruff but kind hearted (anti)witch who travels around with her aging elephant. Her stories are made up of witches and wolves, of clouds and snow, of growls and giggles, of blood and bones. An delightful introduction to theatre.

Evening performance: April 12, 2008

A production of Théâtre des Bouches Décousues in Montréal

Winner of the Masque for Best Production for Young Audiences 1996

**For more information about Tft's 2007-2008 season, please call
(416) 534-6604 or visit our website www.theatrefrançais.com**