



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OCTOBER 3 TO NOVEMBER 19, 2006
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**TfT presents the Toronto premiere of
LE PROFESSIONNEL (THE PROFESSIONAL)
by Dusan KOVACEVIC**

WHEN THE WALLS HAVE EARS ...

Toronto October 3, 2006 – Théâtre français de Toronto is proud to introduce **GABRIEL ARCAND**, one of Québec's major theatre artists, in the remarkable production of *Le Professionnel* by celebrated Serbian playwright **Dusan Kovacevic**. Gabriel Arcand, equally renowned for his roles on stage and in film, including films by his brother Denys, has won several Genies and is the co-founder of Groupe de la Veillée in Montréal, where this production originated.

Le Professionnel, a powerful text about totalitarianism and censorship, raises questions about the relationship between politics and artistic creation. The story takes place in Yugoslavia, under the Tito regime and in the years that followed. Teja, a dissident writer and publisher in Belgrade, is visited by a man he has never seen before, Luka, who appears in his office carrying a large suitcase. Luka is a "professional" : he has been in the secret police for thirty years. His mission was to shadow this intellectual with dangerous ideas, make note of his every single word and deliver this information to the Party. Today, the professional is forced to retire after a change in regime and he has come to settle things with Teja.

Dusan Kovacevic is considered one of the most important contemporary Serbian writers. He is widely known for his screenplay *Underground*, the Golden Palm winner at Cannes in 1995. Dusan Kovacevic has written twenty plays which have been translated in fifteen languages. *Le Professionnel* ran for twelve years in Belgrade, from 1990 to 2003.

Directed by **Téo Spsychalski**. Featuring **Gabriel Arcand, Onil Melançon, Liliana Komorowska** and **Bernard Carez**
Set design and Soundscape : **Téo Spsychalski**. Translated from the Serbian by **Anne Renoue** and **Vladimir Cejovic**.

A production of Groupe de la Veillée in Montreal

"A gem by La Veillée. Surprising, delightful and moving" Jade Bérubé, Voir
"This play is funny, sad and accessible (...) Gabriel Arcand is magnetic" André Ducharme, Radio-Canada

Le Professionnel by Dusan Kovacevic
November 15 to 19, 2006

Théâtre français de Toronto
Berkeley Street Theatre, 26, Berkeley Street, "Upstairs"

Opening: Wednesday, November 15

Performances: Wednesday to Saturday at 8:00PM

Saturday Matinée: Nov 18 @ 3:30PM / **Sunday Matinée:** Nov 19 @ 2:30PM

Tickets: \$28 to \$46/ Students, seniors and groups: \$23 to \$31

Box office: 416.534.6604 or 1.800.819.4981

www.theatrefrancais.com

About TfT: founded in 1967, TfT is one of the most important francophone theatre companies in Canada outside of Quebec. While appealing to all lovers of French-language theatre, TfT contributes to the cultural and educational development of Toronto's francophone community. Since its creation, TfT has presented over 200 productions. It sells 10,000 tickets every season and has more than 900 subscribers.