

# Theatre Columbus

in association with the Canadian Stage Company  
presents



# The Betrayal

Canadian Stage Berkeley Street Theatre  
March 14 - April 4, 1998



### A Note from the Company

Outside a window is a forest. You have an urge to go there, to walk through its twisty darkness. You have no idea what you will find. It could be dangerous to the point of being deadly; it could be idyllic, you might find a paradise. You go because you feel like you have no choice - almost as if you are a character in a fairy tale and it's your destiny, it's your mythological duty.

Our story has no villains and no saints. Our characters are trying to understand love. Some of us stop being compelled by the forest and then some of us never stop. Who is to say which choice is virtuous, which is not? We welcome you to our tangled tales that we have created over the past four years. It is a difficult subject but a rich subject. We welcome you to our forest.

*The Betrayal* was last workshopped at the Theatre Centre West in 1996. It has been collectively created over a period of four years, through a process involving improvisation, writing and many hours of discussion.

### Theatre Columbus Mandate

Theatre Columbus' primary focus is to create original shows combining a physical theatre tradition with issues relevant to our time and place.

Over the past 14 years, Theatre Columbus has collaborated with a variety of artists with diverse backgrounds and training, but who have an understanding and appreciation for the style of our work. We are oriented toward the actor and tend to build on the performance skills of those involved. Our plays are primarily comedies, although in varying degrees they reveal a tragic edge, an edge which has become a vital component of our comic style. It is through the investigation of the relationship between laughter and pathos that we create worlds which, no matter how fantastical, are always rigourously attentive to the full range of human experience.

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Theatre Columbus gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and the Toronto Arts Council

Coming next..... Anton Chekhov's

## **The Cherry Orchard**

Co-produced by Theatre Columbus and Theatre Smith-Gilmour  
in association with The Canadian Stage Company

Co-directed by Leah Cherniak and Dean Gilmour

An aristocratic family faces the loss of their beloved cherry orchard to business. The provocative struggle between a firmly rooted generation who can't forget the past and a younger generation passionately branching out towards a new age are the seeds from which this outrageous comedy grows.

MAY 11 - 30 (Special Gala Performance & Reception May 9)

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# **Theatre Columbus**

in association with The Canadian Stage Company presents

## **The Betrayal**

**created by Leah Cherniak, Oliver Dennis, Maggie Huculak,  
Robert Morgan, Martha Ross & Michael Simpson**

### **Cast**

Bill & others	<b>Michael Simpson</b>
Ellie & others	<b>Martha Ross</b>
Angie & others	<b>Maggie Huculak</b>
Bill Jameson & others	<b>Oliver Dennis</b>

Director:	<b>Leah Cherniak</b>
Sets & Costumes Designer:	<b>Sue LePage</b>
Lighting Designer:	<b>Andrea Lundy</b>
Original Music & Sound Designer:	<b>Cathy Nosaty</b>
Script Consultant:	<b>Banuta Rubess</b>
Contributing Writer:	<b>Sean Dixon</b>
Stage Manager:	<b>Melissa Berney</b>
Assistant Stage Manager:	<b>Shauna Janssen</b>
Production Manager:	<b>Nathaniel Kennedy</b>
Wardrobe:	<b>Michelle Smith</b>
Costume Maintenance:	<b>Amy Marshall</b>
Carpenter:	<b>Chris Sproule</b>
Technician:	<b>Steve Lalande</b>
Scenic Artist:	<b>Mattea Goldstein</b>
Tree Artist:	<b>Lisa Bussanich</b>
Media Relations:	<b>FLIP Publicity</b>
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Special Thanks to: Laura Astwood, Lisa Bussanich & everyone at the Tarragon, Equity Showcase, Leslie Lester, Kate MacNaughton, Amy Marshall, John Millard, Joey Morin, Jenny Pelletier, Mark Ryder at Theatre Passe Muraille, Mary Spyraakis, Eva Taché-Green.

Theatre Columbus is an active member of go7, the Group of 7 Theatres, the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT), the Toronto Theatre Alliance (TTA) and operates under the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

The running time of The Betrayal is approximately one hour and thirty minutes.  
There is no intermission



## Biographies

**Melissa Berney (Stage Manager):** Melissa last worked with Theatre Columbus ASMin *The Barber Of Seville*. She is also the Stage Manager of the Daniel Brook's directed *Possible Worlds* (Possible Worlds Co. and Theatre Passe Muraille). Other recent work: SM of *Insomnia* (Augusta Company) and *The Travelling Troupe Shopalovich* (Equity Showcase), ASM of *The Little Years* (Theatre Passe Muraille) and *Skinny Saints* (Skinny Saints Co.,) Assistant Volunteer Co-ordinator for the 17th Annual Genie Awards. Upcoming: SM of a new work by Karen Hines, directed by Chris Earle, to be presented in April at the Dupont St. Studio, then off to Quebec City as *Possible Worlds* lives again at the Carrefour Festival in May.

**Leah Cherniak (Director):** is Co-founder and Co-artistic Director with Martha Ross of Theatre Columbus. She directs, acts in and co-creates shows for the company, including *The Barber Of Seville*, *Still*, *The Knee Plays I & II*, and *Ratbag*. Leah directed and co-wrote *The Anger In Ernest And Ernestine*, which was published in 1990 and has been performed in theatres across the country. She has worked with a variety of theatres across Canada, including *The Diary Of Anne Frank* for Young People's Theatre. In 1992 she received the Pauline McGibbon Award for Directing. She also teaches clown at the National Theatre School in Montreal. This season she played Jelly in *The Attic*, *The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls* at G.C.T.C. in Ottawa. Upcoming: directing *The Cherry Orchard* with Dean Gilmour in a co-production with Theatre Smith-Gilmour.

**Oliver Dennis (Actor):** Past Theatre Columbus credits include *Knee Plays I*, *1492*, *The Porch People*, *Dr. Dapertutto* and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. Other theatre credits include *Vigil* (N.A.C./Grand Theatre), *Touchstone* in *As You Like It* (Festival of Classics, Oakville), *Great Expectations* and *Dracula* (The Grand Theatre, London), *The Importance Of Being Ernest* and *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre New Brunswick), *Yankee Notions* and *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* (Blyth Festival), Demetrius in *A Midsummers' Night's Dream*, Dora nomination for Bob in *Mirror Game* (YPT). Other Toronto stages: *Factory Theatre*, *Theatre Passe Muraille*, *Canadian Stage*, *Solar Stage*. TV credits include *Traders*, *Taking The Falls* and *Love And Hate*.

**Maggie Huculak (Actor):** Maggie Huculak's association with Theatre Columbus dates back to 1989 with *Doctor Dapertutto*. Her stage credits include *Beating Heart Cadaver* (Necessary Angel), *Three Tall Women* (Grand Theatre), *Seven Lears* and Edmund in *King Lear* (Necessary Angel), *The Little Years*, *Body And Soul* and *Under The Skin* (Theatre Passe Muraille), *Play Murder* (Buddies in Bad Times), *Lion In The Streets* (Tarragon Theatre) *Escape From Happiness* (Factory Theatre), *The Knee Plays* and *Twelfth Night* for Theatre Columbus, *The Doctor's Dilemma* (Shaw Festival) and Julia in *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* (The Stratford Festival). TV credits include the recurring roles of Marion the Librarian in *Eric's World* and Mrs. MacFarlane in *Wind At My Back*, *For Those Who Hunt The Wounded Down*, *The Newsroom* and *Kids In The Hall*.



**Shauna Janssen (Assistant Stage Manager):** Shauna is thrilled to be working with Theatre Columbus again. Recent ASM credits include *New World* (Tarragon Theatre), *Building Jerusalem* (Volcano), *Albrecht* (Forward Motion & Da Collision) and *The Attic, The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls* (Theatre Columbus). As Stage Manager: *Horse* (Theatre Centre), *Therac 25* (Summerworks '97), *A Peace Line* (Fringe '97) and *The Raft Of The Medusa* (Collodion, Montréal). Shauna has also worked as an assistant director in Vancouver and Montréal. Upcoming: ASM for *Laurence & Hollorian*, Tarragon Theatre) and SM for *I Wuz a Disco Goalie* for the Ottawa Fringe.

**Sue LePage (Set & Costume Design):** *The Betrayal* is Sue's first project with Theatre Columbus. In Toronto, her designs have appeared most frequently at Canadian Stage, (*Thirteen Hands, The Glorious 12th, Death and The Maiden, Dancing At Lughnasa*) and at the Tarragon: (*New World, The Four Lives Of Marie* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* among many). Her designs also appear on stages across the country, including the National Arts Centre, the Banff Centre and the Stratford Festival. Upcoming projects include *Anne* at YPT and *You Can't Take It With You* at the Shaw Festival. Sue is winner of several Doras, a member of Associated Designers of Canada and lives in Toronto with her exasperated partner and two children.

**Andrea Lundy (Lighting Design):** Andrea continues a long relationship with Theatre Columbus, having production managed many of their shows and designed *The Attic, The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls, The Barber Of Seville, Knee Plays I And II* and *Twelfth Night*. She has won 3 Dora awards, for *Attic*, for Theatre Passe Muraille's *Possible Worlds* and for Die in Debt's *Oedipus*. Other design credits include Tarragon's *The Designated Mourner* and *The Retreat*, Modern Times' *August 22nd*, Theatre Passe Muraille's *Still the Night*, Platform 9's *Gulag* (Dora nomination) and *Eddycandyside*, Da Da Kamera's *Here Lies Henry* (Dora nomination) and The Augusta Company's *Red Tape* and *The Lorca Play* (Dora nomination). She is currently the Production Manager at Tarragon Theatre. Upcoming: *Megatropolis* for Die in Debt and *The Cherry Orchard* for Theatre Columbus

**Cathy Nosaty (Music & Sound Design):** Cathy Nosaty did original music and sound for the workshop production of *The Betrayal*, and is pleased to return to the project as part of the creative team. She was remount sound designer for *The Attic, The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls* last spring and for the recent production at Great Canadian Theatre Company. She will return to GCTC later this season as sound designer for the premiere production of *Pauline And Turgenev*. Other recent productions include *Random Acts* for Nightwood Theatre and *Old Friends*, a Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes and Manitoba Theatre for Young People co-production.



**Martha Ross (Actor):** Martha Ross is Co-artistic Director and Co-founder of Theatre Columbus with Leah Cherniak. Since 1983 she has been performing and writing for the company, her most recent performance was a GCTC production of the Theatre Columbus hit comedy, *The Attic, the Pearls & 3 Fine Girls*. Her writing credits include: *Ratbag* (with music composed by John Millard), the award winning *Paranoia* (written in collaboration with the company), and *Dr. Dapertutto* which was nominated for a Floyd S. Chalmers Best Play Award. In 1987 Martha collectively created (with Leah Cherniak and Robert Morgan) *The Anger In Ernest & Ernestine*. She is currently writing another musical with John Millard about three Canadians in a snow storm. Upcoming: the Theatre Columbus/Theatre Smith-Gilmour co-production of *The Cherry Orchard*.

**Banuta Rubess (Script Consultant):** Banuta Rubess is an award-winning playwright and director. Her most recent production was the comedy hit *Froth- The Shopping Show*. Other plays include *Head In A Bag, Boom, Baby, Boom* and *Pope Joan*. She devised and guest produced the CBC radio show *Adventure Stories For (Big) Girls*. She last directed Leah and Martha for the Theatre Columbus production *Still*. She is Co-artistic co-director of Froth Productions.

**Michael Simpson (Actor):** Michael Simpson has appeared in many Theatre Columbus shows including *Melancholia, Paranoia, Dr. Dapertutto, Twelfth Night* and the *Peer Gynt* workshop. Last summer he played Jacques in Albert Schultz's *As You Like It*. At Montreal's Centaur Theatre he starred in *VIGIL*. He was a Stratford member for three years where he performed Launce in *Two Gentlemen Of Verona* and Snout in *A Midsummers Night's Dream*. Michael received a Dora Award for his work in *Paranoia* and received a Best Actor's Dora nomination for his Tusenbach in *Three Sisters*. Lately, Michael has been thrilling audiences south of the border, playing D.J. in *A Child's Christmas In Wales* and Mr. Rice in *Molly Sweeney* at the Irish Classical Theatre of Buffalo.

**Michelle Smith (Wardrobe):** Recent credits include *Song Of Songs* for Dancemakers, *Elemental* and *Mad For All Reasons* (Queen of Puddings Opera Company), *The Four Lives Of Marie* (Tarragon Theatre), *The Attic, The Pearls & 3 Fine Girls* (Theatre Columbus), *Reading Hebron* (Factory Theatre), *Froth* and *The Bitch* (Froth), *The Freud Project* (Theatre Passe Muraille/Civilised Theatre) and *Through The Eyes* (Nightswimming), as well as Tarragon's 1997/98 season. Design credits include *Possible Worlds* redesign (TPM), *Ragtime Rosie Bandstand* and *Beautiful Dreamers* (Smiles Theatre), *The Death Of General Wolfe* (Nightswimming), *CHERI* workshop (Civilised Theatre), *Les Mots et Les Choses* (The Believer Project) and *Controlling Interest* (TPM/Platform 9)

# For Theatre Columbus

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Leah Chemiak, Janice Copeland, Jane Czarny, Amanda George, Richard Gotlib, Lisa Greenberg, Jennifer Iutzi, Martha Ross, Kristine Thompson

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## For the Canadian Stage Company

The Canadian Stage Company is proud to be working in association with Theatre Columbus to present *The Betrayal*. This season, Canadian Stage has teamed up with four of Toronto's hottest theatre companies to support their projects at the Berkeley Street Theatre. Now in its tenth season, The Canadian Stage Company, led by Artistic Director Bob Baker, Managing Director & Producer Martin Bragg and President & Chairman William A. MacKinnon, continues to develop not-for-profit theatre which is distinctly Canadian. We focus on the creation of Canadian work and the presentation of Canadian interpretations of international works, both classical and contemporary, that are accessible to large audiences.

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