



**THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS  
DE TORONTO**

DIRECTION ARTISTIQUE GUY MIGNAULT

BUREAUX ET CENTRE DE CRÉATION  
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## PRESS KIT

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### **ON NE BADINE PAS AVEC L'AMOUR (THERE IS NO TRIFLING WITH LOVE)**

OCTOBER 22 to NOVEMBER 8, 2008

by Alfred de Musset

With RAYMOND ACCOLAS, MÉLANIE BEAUCHAMP, JOHN GILBERT, ROBERT GODIN, JULIE LE GAL, LOUISE NOLAN, NICOLAS VAN BUREK, and VIOLA LÉGER

Direction DIANA LEBLANC

Lights and pictures conception STEVE LUCAS

Set and Costumes YANNIK LARIVÉE

Sound DUNCAN MORGAN

Stage Management GABRIEL DUBÉ

Photography DOMINIC MANCA

Props : MEREDITH KENNY

Seamstress MELANIE McNEILL

Set Construction SCENELEMENTS

A production of Théâtre français de Toronto (TfT)

#### ***Romanticism at its best!***

#### **Musset's Theatre**

If Musset has long been recognized as a poet, he is today especially appreciated for his dramatic work. Musset's poetry, full of extreme emotion and ebullient expression faithful to an upbringing rooted in the classical tradition, moves us much less than his theatre, with its characters that hold up well under a contemporary eye.

Love affairs are at the centre of Musset's theatre. Are they not today at the centre of our thoughts? True love, with its demands and mysteries, is weighed against freedom.

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Musset's female characters possess astonishing depth. These young women are clear-headed, with great independence of mind and not in the least prepared to let themselves conform to the norms of marriage or domesticity. They share such points in common with the young women of today.

The male characters are also questioning their role in love affairs, facing their companions' demands.

Musset leaves his characters exposed for us to see. He brings us right to the heart of their prevarications, making us feel the highs and lows of their moods.

Food for thought for today's generation.

## Synopsis

This season's classical piece depicts both the bright and dark sides of passion. Three young people are trying to find their way in life, searching to fulfill their dreams. They do it surrounded by characters as colourful as they are ridiculous, who excel at the art of confusing innocent feelings. This is not surprising, since Alfred de Musset did not believe that a border exists between the reality of his existence and the fiction of his poetry. Himself a victim of a tumultuous love affair with George Sand, he created work of vicious emotion, the result being a piece of his time for all time. We are dragged down by life's incessant and contradictory rhythm. A tragedy of innocence, *There Is No Trifling With Love* rouses in our emotional memory the involuntary torture of certain passions. Can we at once live and die from emotion?

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Alfred de Musset was born in Paris in 1810 and died there in 1859. In 1833, he began his affair with George Sand. While in Venice with Sand ("my George" he called her) in 1834, he fell ill and was treated by a Dr. Pagello, who became friends with Sand. Musset returned to Paris and published *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, under the name of "Proverbe". It was Musset's conviction that love always triumphs and that the greatest psychological and moral danger awaits those who do not listen to the beating of their heart. This is the piece of a very young man, a naïve play. Ardent, gay, melancholy, impassioned, driven by excessive desires like Musset himself. I invite you to dive in, with an open heart, to the universe of a poet.



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Diana Leblanc - Director**

Artistic Director of Théâtre français de Toronto from 1991 to 1996, Diana Leblanc directed Tft's productions of *Eddie*, *Les Fantastiques*, *La Répétition*, *La Double Inconstance*, *Soirée Jacques Brel*, *Les Femmes savantes*, and *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. At Tft, she has acted in *La Maison suspendue*; *Damnée Manon*, *Sacrée Sandra*; *Le Pays dans la gorge*; *Le Chien*; and *La Voix humaine*. She has also directed numerous pieces for the Stratford Festival, the National Arts Centre, the Manitoba Theatre Centre, and Neptune Theatre, and several operas in Canada and Europe. Recipient of the *Prix Alliance de l'Alliance Française de Toronto* in 1998, founding member of Soulpepper Theatre, Diana Leblanc will direct *Tryst* at the Segal Centre in Montréal and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* with Soulpepper Theatre Company in 2009.

### **Raymond Accolas – The Baron**

Raymond Accolas is happy to be back at Tft after about a twenty-year absence. His last role here was that of Alceste in *Le Misanthrope* by Molière. In the intervening years he has dedicated himself above all to television in, among others, *FranCœur*. He was killed in the Jean-Claude Van Damme movie *Maximum Risk*. He has recorded voiceovers for documentaries, commercials, etc. He has also ventured into opera, participating in several productions of *Opera in Concert* at the Jane Mallet Theatre. Last spring he sang the role of Don Pasquale in the opera of the same name.

### **Mélanie Beauchamp – Rosette**

Last season, Mélanie acted the role of Éliante in *Le Misanthrope* by Molière, which was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Production. Previously at Tft, she played Claudine in *George Dandin*; Élise in *L'Avare*, which won the Masque for Best Franco-Canadian Production in 2006; and Lucile in *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*; as well as several characters in the children's piece *Grimm Grimm*. She also performed the parts of Milli in *Portrait chinois d'une imposteure* and Martine in *Les Femmes savantes*, two productions that both earned a Masque Award nomination.

### **John Gilbert – Maître Bridaine**

John Gilbert has already played at Tft, notably in *L'Invitation au château*, by Jean Anouilh, *L'École des femmes*, and *Cœur de Chien*, by Anne Nenarokoff. He played for six seasons at the Shaw Festival and four seasons at the Stratford Festival. He has gone on tour to New York, Broadway, and Chicago, and has played throughout Canada, at the National Arts Centre, the Saidye Bronfman in Montréal, the Belfry Theatre in Victoria, Great Canadian Theatre Company of Ottawa; and in Toronto, at the Factory Theatre, Theatre Passe Muraille, the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People, and the Tarragon Theatre, among others. John has also acted in several television series, notably *Ciao Bella*, *Road to Avonlea*, *Counterstrike*, *Rent-a-Goalie*, *Othello*, and *Side*



*Effects*. He has performed in several films, including *Le Roi de Paris*, shot in France with Philippe Noiret, and other films by great Canadian director such as Denys Arcand, Atom Egoyan, David Cronenberg, and others.

### **Robert Godin – Maître Blazius**

Robert Godin performed in *Le P'tit Bonheur*, the first production of Théâtre du P'tit Bonheur, now Tft, where he also played in several productions, notably *Le Malade imaginaire* (for which he received a Dora nomination); *C'était un P'tit Bonheur*; *La, la la, mine de rien*; *Les Femmes savants*; *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*; *George Dandin*; and *Et si on chantait...* Robert was seen in *Irma la Douce* at Theatre London, *Beauty and the Beast* at the Princess of Wales Theatre, *Man of La Mancha* and *Cinderella* at Theatre Aquarius, and *En attendant Godot* at Théâtre Ensemble.

### **Julie Le Gal - Camille**

Born in Toronto, Julie Le Gal studied the Michael Chekhov Method and was a part of the Actors' Ensemble in New York for many years. She has performed in new works and productions in Berlin, including the role of Maria in *Mein Liebttes Du*, which toured Europe for five years. Since returning to Canada, she has acted in, among other works on stage, *Duos*, *Les Fausses Confidences* (Counterfeit Secrets) by Marivaux, *Mon Joyau* by Joan McLeod, and recently at the Tft in: *L'Avare*, and *Bonbons assortis*; in the television series *Pointe-aux-chimères*; and in independent films.

### **Louise Nolan – Dame Pluche**

Louise has been associated with Tft almost since its beginning and she has taken part in several productions, including *La Nuit des visiteurs* by Peter Weiss; *Solange* by Jean Barbeau; *Une tempête* by Aimé Césaire; *Joualez-moi d'amour* by Jean Barbeau; *On demande un ménage* by Jean de Létra; *L'Impromptu d'Outremont* by Michel Tremblay; *Le Tartuffe* by Molière; and *Contes urbains, contes torontois 2002*, where she wrote and performed her own story. She has directed *Couleur ou Noir et Blanc* by Sylvie Trudel and *Une dent en or* by Marcelle McGibbon. Beyond Tft, Louise has acted in *Suivre l'appel*, a collective creation for the Toronto Fringe Festival; *Lovers* at the Theatre Circle in North Bay; and *Rapid River* at the Globe Theatre in Regina. Louise was part of the TFO television series, *FranCœur*. She is also a professor of drama and author, teaching at Glendon College. Since 2005, Louise has given intensive acting workshops at Senac College in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### **Nicolas Van Burek - Perdican**

Nicolas is very happy to find himself on the Tft stage after a three-year absence. He has played at the Stratford Festival for the last 10 years, principally in pieces by Shakespeare. *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* is the first piece by Alfred de Musset that he has played in. His favourite roles to date include George Milton in *Of Mice and Men*, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Tybalt in *Romeo et Juliet*, Allan Strang in *Equus*, and of course Cléonte in *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*.



## Viola Léger – Chorus

It is with great pleasure that Théâtre français de Toronto welcomes back Viola Léger. Celebrated for her powerful performance as *La Sagouine*, she has also played, with brio in French and English, characters of Michel Tremblay, Tennessee Williams, Garcia de Lorca, Michel Garneau and, most recently, Tom Ziegler, with her unforgettable Grace in *Grace et Gloria*. She has received numerous awards and distinctions, including Masque and Dora Mavor Moore Awards, and is an officer of the Order of Canada. Madame Léger held a seat in the Canadian Senate for 2001 to 2005. For the last six years, she can be found happily installed in *Sagouine* country, Bouctouche, New Brunswick.

## Steve Lucas – Lighting Designer

In his 20-year career, Steve has designed sets and lighting for more than 200 productions of theatre, dance, and performance art. He is also the co-artistic director of Rat-A-Tat-Tat with which he commissioned, produced, designed, and directed the world premiere of *Tequila Vampire Matinee*, the 2004 Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for Best New Musical. Though based in Toronto, his work has been seen in venues throughout Canada and the United States as well as Europe, Asia, and Australia. Steve has a Harold Award and four Dora Mavor Awards for his set and lighting designs.

## Yannik Larivée – Set and Costume Designer

A graduate from the National Theatre School of Canada and Central Saint-Martins in London, Yannik Larivée has since worked extensively throughout Canada and Europe. Selected production credits include: *The Good Life* and *The Optimist* for Calgary's Theatre Junction; *Dangerous Liaisons*, *The Odd Couple*, *Hedda Gabler*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Lies My Father Told Me*, *God of Vengeance*, and *Amadeus* for Montréal's Segal Theatre; *Wolf's Court* and *Monument* for the National Ballet of Canada; *Dreamland* for the Royal Swedish Ballet, Stockholm; *Castle Nowhere* for the Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, and *Interiors* for Compagnie Coleman Lemieux; Rossini's *Tancredi* for the Canadian Opera Company and *Don Giovanni & Renard* for the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble; *Simpl* (Dora nomination for Best Set Design) at the National Arts Centre; *Past Perfect*, *Generous*, and *John & Beatrice* at Tarragon Theatre. Upcoming productions include the English language premiere of *Coma Unplugged* with GCTC.

## Duncan Morgan – Sound Designer

Duncan finds this design of *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* rewarding and frightening all at the same time. The challenge of working in the other official language when English is your native tongue is a step out of the ordinary for him and he wishes to thank TFT for this wonderful experience again! This is Duncan's second sound design with TFT. His past credits include *Strawberries in January* (TFT); *The Lost Boys*, *Patience*, *Kilt*, *Inexpressible Island* (GCTC); *Woman in Black* (Festival Antigonish); and *Human Collision/Atomic Reaction* (The Other Theatre). He was System Designer and Engineer for *The Last Five Years* (Theatre and Company). His music



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compositions include *The Forest*, *Bea's Niece*, *Mourning Dove*, *Whale Riding Weather* (GCTC); *Leaving Home* (The Blyth Festival); *Of The Fields Lately* (Ship's Company); and many others. Duncan is a multi-instrumentalist who has an active interest in building instruments. He dedicates this work to his lovely wife Sarah, with whom he just shared their second anniversary.

## **Gabriel Dubé – Stage Manager**

A native of Saint Boniface, Manitoba, Gabriel got his first taste of theatre at Collège Saint-Boniface followed by The Cercle Molière as an actor, stage manager, props man, and assistant director. He was a radio producer at Radio-Canada's CKSB Saint Boniface from 1972-1978, then at CJBC from 1978-2006. For TfT's 35th anniversary, he recorded a compact disc commemorating the production *La, la, la, mine de rien*. At the beginning of the 1980s, he was a member of TfT's board of directors. Today he works in the entertainment and communications fields as a director, consultant, and event coordinator. Last season, he stage managed TfT's *Et si on chantait...*

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