

Chez Nous (Two): A Staged-Reading Series
Showcasing English-Language Drama in Quebec (1980-2010)

Produced by Professor Erin Hurley, Department of English, McGill University in collaboration with Playwrights' Workshop Montréal, Alexis Diamond (series Literary Manager) and Dr. Alison Bowie (dramaturg and research assistant)

EVENING THREE: "Recounting Resistance"

Director: Gabe Maharjan*

Stage Manager: Zoe Daca

CAST:

Chadia Kikondjo

Nicola Saffren

Reading selections from the following plays:
Consolation of Philosophy by Michael Springate
The Baroness and the Pig by Michael Mackenzie
Je me souviens by Lorena Gale

*The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance•Opera•Theatre Policy.

***Consolation of Philosophy* by Michael Springate (1989/1990)**

Synopsis:

This play is based on *Consolation of Philosophy* written by Boethius in 523BCE during his imprisonment (subsequently executed for treason). The original text was a discussion between himself (Boethius) and the personification of philosophy in female form, and it became a very important work in medieval theology. The play – an oratorio – takes place over five chapters, or Books, that deal with themes of ethics and morality and theodicy (how evil can exist with a good God), as well as predestination and freewill, human nature, and justice.

About Michael Springate:

Michael Springate is the author of the novel *The Beautiful West & The Beloved of God* (Guernica Editions, 2014), translated and published as *L'engrenage des apparences* (Les éditions Sémaphore 2017). His collection, *Revolt/Compassion: Six Scripts for Contemporary Performance* (Guernica Editions) was published in 2019. He wrote the screenplay for Carolyn Combs' debut feature film, *Acts of Imagination* (2006), as well as for her most recent feature, *Bella Ciao!* (2018). Michael is a past Artistic Director of Playwrights Workshop Montreal, Prairie Theatre Exchange in Winnipeg, Factory Theatre in Toronto, and Dramaturg and Artistic Associate with Full Circle: First Nations Performance in Vancouver. He has taught acting, directing, and play development at both Simon Fraser and Concordia Universities, and was invited as Researcher/Lecturer to Gwangju National University in South Korea. He is a founding member of the Vancouver Latin American Cultural Centre, as well as of the film group Commercial Drive Productions, and is active in issues related to cooperative housing. He considers writing a life-long discipline rooted in independent research and reflection.

from: <https://www.guernicaeditions.com/author/205>

***The Baroness and the Pig* by Michael Mackenzie (1997)**

Synopsis:

Paris, end of the 19th century: an idealistic baroness decides to socialise a “savage” child (raised by pigs) to replace her last maid. The baroness lives through photographs of her experiences, while “the pig” has never even seen her reflection in a mirror. What follows is a humorous and shocking encounter between nature and civilization.

About Michael Mackenzie:

Michael Mackenzie is a Canadian film director, screenwriter, theatre director, playwright and dramaturge. He has directed two feature films, both theatrically released in Canada. His plays have been staged across Europe and North America and have variously been published in English, French, German and Hungarian. Mackenzie has directed for the professional theatre at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal, as well as in Ottawa, (National Arts Centre Atelier), Toronto, (Tarragon, Toronto Theatre Centre) and New York City (Vine Tree Theater).

He has a Ph.D in the Economics and History of Science from L'Université de Montréal. His past teaching and academic appointments include the National Theatre School of Canada, the Humanities Department at Vanier College, Visiting Fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and consultant at the United Nations.

from: https://performancewiki.ca/index.php?title=Michael_Mackenzie&setlang=fr

***Je me souviens* by Lorena Gale (2000)**

Synopsis:

Je Me Souviens is a one-woman autobiographical play about the experience of the African diaspora living in, and then leaving, Québec. Written in a non-linear structure, the play is told from the perspective of the narrator, Lorena, and features key memories from Lorena's past in Montreal and her present on the West Coast. *Je me souviens* was a finalist for the Governor General's Award in 2002. It received three Jessie Richard Awards nominations in 2003, and was selected by the Vancouver Sun as one of the ten best plays of 2000. It was published by Talon in 2002.

About Lorena Gale (1958-2009):

Lorena Gale was a writer, actress, and director born in Montreal in 1958 who worked in theatres across Canada. Her stage performances included Normal Jean in *The Coloured Museum*, and Hecuba in *Age of Iron* at the Firehall Theatre, Vancouver, for which she received a Jesse Richardson Award.

Her first play, *Angélique*, premiered at Alberta Theatre Projects' playRites Festival in 1998, and was nominated Outstanding New Play in Calgary's Betty Mitchell Awards. In 2019, the play received its Montreal premiere at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts in a production by Black Theatre Workshop and Tableau D'Hote, with subsequent productions at Factory Theatre and the National Arts Centre.

from: <https://www.canadiantheatre.com/dict.pl?term=Gale%2C%20Lorena>

Pre-show music from “Songs of the Resistance” (1980) by Barry Lazar, produced by David Gélinas; *Anglo! The Musical* (1984) by Rod Hayward; and *Ride* (2010) by Alexis Diamond (librettist) and Nick Carpenter (composer). Thanks to all for permissions to play these tracks. Moyse Hall is SOCAN licensed.

Thanks to: The research project team: Alexis Diamond (literary management), Alison Bowie (dramaturgy), and Emma Tibaldo (production and professional guidance). To Pascale Théorêt-Groulx for designing the posters and programmes; and Corinne Deeley for her production guidance and her supervision of the student stage-managers. Keith Roche for technical direction; and Stewart McCombie for live streaming.

Bon spectacle!