

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONTREAL, NOVEMBER 29, 2011
CENTAUR THEATRE COMPANY

URBAN TALES

Cuvee 2011
December 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17, 2011
Direction & music by Harry Standjofski.

Indulge your inner Grinch! Take a break from holiday parties, glittering Christmas lights and the cheery sound of sleigh bells! Attend the 5th edition of *Urban Tales*, the naughty, anti-holiday storytelling extravaganza at Centaur Theatre. Funny, dark and risqué, the 2011 cuvee features five local Anglophone writers and a classic by Yvan Bienvenue, the creator of *Contes Urbains/Urban Tales*.

Bienvenue won the Governor General Award in 1997 for *Dits et Inédits*, the first collection of his *Contes Urbains*. Two other volumes have since been published.

This Season's Fantastic Urban Tales Line-Up!

Vertip by Joseph Shragge, as told by: Andreas Apergis

"My name is Vertip and I live in the basement of the Ukrainian community centre on St. Urbain street. Every year I curate and direct the Christmas pageant. My inheritance from my parents was the puppets, costumes and props. I store them all in my room and before I go to sleep, the last people I see are Kozak the Cossack, Liakh the Polack, Tyshan the Gypsy, Krapmus the Christmas creature-demon, Shwarte Piet the Moore and Zhyd, the Jew, hunched, bearded, clutching a bag of shekels..."

The Hose and Dry Goods Specialty Store by Simon Sachs, as told by: Danette Mackay

"People like me ... don't sleep... I mean we do fall asleep. And even occasionally stay that way for an hour or two. But a deep, calm, thoughtless, memory-less sleep, with your heart beating so slowly it seems almost to have forgotten itself - the kind of plump, self-satisfied sleep that awaited my late husband Paul every night of his life, including his last one, the night before that cold, snowy morning that Aaron, my lovely, little Jew and I smothered the life out of him in the basement of our house - I really think you need to be comfortably settled in yourself to sleep like that."

Death & Co. (La mort et le mort) by Yvan Bienvenue (translation: Standjofski), As told by: Tristan D. Lalla & Guest

"I'm Death. Well, no, not Death exactly. More like a representative. Like an elf. An imp, a lutin. Like Santa Clause has. I'm like one of Santa's Little Helpers. But for Death. Yup. I'm Death's Little Helper"

two phone calls by Harry Standjofski, as told by: Alex Bisping

"It's funny to think that my best Christmas ever would have been spent quite alone and in prison. Christmas 2010. Astonishing..."

Three Hobgoblins by Jim Burke, as told by: Harry Standjofski

"An angry imp came in here out of the forest. This was years ago. Boy, was he angry. Most of all, angry about being kept waiting at the bar for twenty minutes and no sign of service... and he cooked up a spell right there. Dropped a megaton of malevolence on the place. "For years - years - to come, this shithole will remain just as it is. A nuclear winter it'll be. Frozen. Everything. In this exact moment. And that goes for every bastard in here." ... Late '70s, this was. Height of punk. And for thirty years or more, this bar has had the same crappy decor, the same bleary clientele, the same frazzled old fart dropping the same crackly tunes on the juke box ..."

Virgin by Joanne Sarazen, as told by: Lindsay Wilson

"My name is Mary-Margaret White and I have never looked like a virgin. In the face. Literally. My face, I guess, has never looked like a virgin's...face."

MEDIA CALL : THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2011 at 12:30 PM

Regular : \$22.

Subscribers / Seniors / Under 30 / Theatre : \$18.

Students : \$16

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