

# A Myth No Longer

FRANCIS REID

A professional English theatre in Montreal, with an adventurous repertoire from established classics to contemporary creations, enjoying a critical and popular success for a decade . . . The Centaur is obviously a myth!

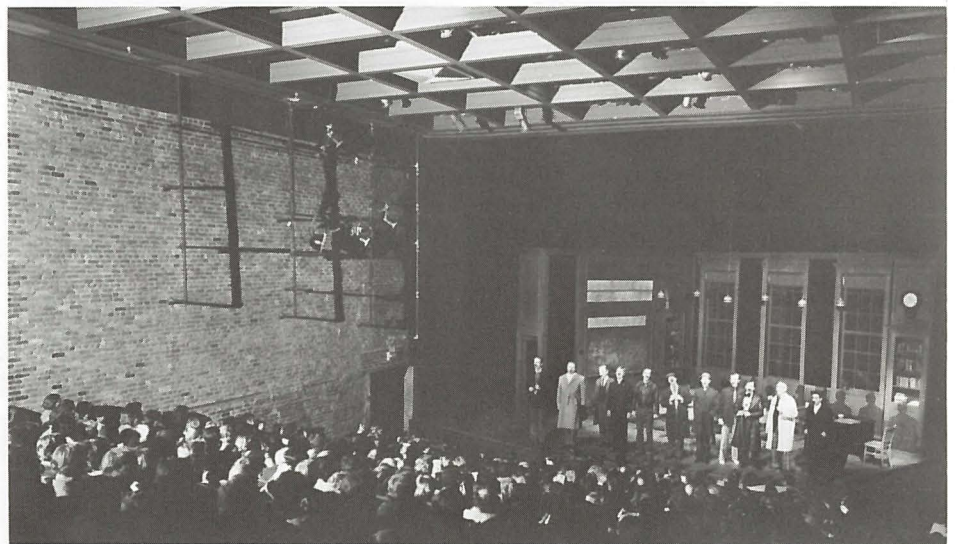
*The Canada Council*

Montreal is aggressively French. Her superficial topography may have more affinity with New York than with Paris, but her culture is unmistakably French . . . including a French theatre tradition with little place for drama in English.

Except at *Centaur*.

Centaur is little more than ten years old. Physically, converted from the old Montreal Stock Exchange. Conceptually, godfathered artistically by Maurice Podbrey and administratively by Herb Auerbach. Their priorities appear to be audience, then writers, then actors, then peripherals like designers and technologists. The pecking order is correct. So Centaur works.

Centaur is Podbrey's theatre. Sometimes he directs, sometimes he acts, sometimes he is just around. Softly softly but always there. He is a South African Canadian so Centaur has done all the Fugards. But the first decade saw — to take but a couple of dozen authors — Albee, Arrabal, Arbusov, Beaumarchais, Bond, Brecht, Brenton, Chekov, Euripides, Genet, Griffiths, Hampton, Leonard, Miller, Osborne, O'Neill, Pinter, Shakespeare, Shepard,



*The two theatres in the Centaur complex are shown here, the one above is the larger Centaur 1 theatre.*

