

in Canada: the establishment of the Théâtre du Nouveau-Monde in Montreal in 1951 and the launching of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival in a hamlet in southern Ontario in 1953. These professional companies attracted international acclaim and inspired unprecedented artistic growth in Canadian theatre.

In Quebec, *Ti-Coq* by Gratien Gélinas heralded the arrival of the new French Canadian theatre in 1948. The play, performed in Québécois rather than literary French, ran for an unprecedented nine months. It was followed in 1953 by Marcel Dubé's *Zone*, which described the life of a typical working class family from Montreal. This theatrical trend found its culmination in Michel Tremblay's *Les Belles-Soeurs* (1968), which extended the use of "joual", while articulating the separateness of Quebec society. Another French-speaking playwright worthy of mention is Antonine Maillet, whose *La Sagouine* (The Washerwoman) is a bittersweet evocation of Acadia (the French-speaking culture 99

