

MICHAEL COOK has been developing dramatic literature combining his heritage of the great poetic tradition of Irish drama with the bleak and barren Newfoundland landscape and the struggles of the people to survive, since he emigrated from England in 1965 to Random Island on the coast of Newfoundland. His most widely produced works are Head Guts and Soundbone Dance, a compassionate portrait of a fishing culture, and Jacob's Wake, chronicling the collapse of a culture confronting the 20th Century.

DAVID FENNARIO comes from the English-speaking Montreal working class and was drawn to the street culture of the '60's. A journal he wrote recording this period in his life was published and it was read by a regional theatre artistic director in Montreal who asked Fennario to write a play: On the Job was premiered in January 1975 and since then Fennario has produced five plays mostly reflecting the experience of working class life for the English speaking Canadians in Quebec.

KEN GASS was the founding and first artistic director of the Factory Lab Theatre in Toronto, the first theatre created to produce only Canadian plays. Also a playwright, Gass' work includes Hurray for Johnny Canuk, about the World War II comic book character that presented the image of Canada to the world, The Boy Bishop, a sprawling majestic piece about coping with the expectations and frustrations of nationalism in Canadian culture, and Winter Offensive, a comically stylized treatment of the decline of Nazi Germany which shattered the sensibilities of local critics. Gass toured Britain with Factory Lab two years ago.

KEN MITCHELL is a prolific and versatile prairie writer, story-teller and poet whose work reflects his farming roots and the historical struggles of that community. Recipient of the Canada-Scotland Writers-in-Residence Exchange Fellowship, Mitchell will take up residence at a Scottish university for the period from October 1, 1979 to June 30, 1980. He has published a novel, numerous short stories, plays, poems, articles and radio and TV scripts. His most recent production Cruel Tears, a country and western musical based loosely on Othello and set in a Saskatchewan farming town, toured every major community in Canada last season.

RICK SALUTIN is a playwright, journalist and trade union organizer who has been a major force in the development of the movement in Canadian cultural and economic independence. His 1837-The Farmers' Revolt is currently being toured in Scotland by Theatre Passe Muraille, a Toronto theatre company. His version of Fanshen was his first major theatrical work, and most recently, Les Canadiens a historical treatment of French-English relations as seen through the metaphor of Canadian hockey, has been produced throughout Canada over the last two years.