

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Antonine Maillet's LA SAGOUINE opens in Paris on September 21st, at the beginning of a 2½ month tour in Europe. The tour will cover 27 cities in France, Belgium and Switzerland for a total of nearly 40 performances. LA SAGOUINE, a production from "Le Théâtre du Rideau Vert", Montreal, is sponsored by the Department under its programme of cultural relations with foreign countries.

The play, consisting of a series of monologues, was written as a one-woman show by Acadian novelist and playwright, Antonine Maillet. Actress, Viola Léger, who is La Sagouine, has performed this role since November 1971. The stories she tells "in rough, crude French dating from the 16th century" (A. Maillet) are of the price paid for a life truly lived and of her love for her native Acadia. As La Sagouine, Madame Léger has talked her way all over Canada and Europe where she performed four shows in Paris and appeared at the world festival of theatre in Monaco in 1974. 500 presentations have been given since 1971, in theatres and on Radio-Canada TV, with a constantly changing series of monologues.

In Europe, La Sagouine will talk of Le Métier (Work), Les bancs d'église (Church pews), Le Recensement (The census), Le Printemps (Spring), and La Mort (Death).

The European tour opens at the prestigious Théâtre Petit Orsay of Jean-Louis Barrault-Madeleine Renaud in Paris, where the Canadian show will run for 2½ weeks. La Sagouine continues to major centres in France, Belgium and Switzerland, including Bordeaux, Lyon, Marseilles, Brussels and Geneva.

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