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On Stage at the Cohn



LES BALLETS JAZZ de MONTREAL

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 8 p.m.
 Reg.: \$10/\$9 Stu./Sr. Cit.: \$9/\$8

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Bottom & Company Mum the Dunn



Well-known Québec director Roger Blay is at work on the second show of Dalhousie Theatre Productions' 1983-84 season, Shakespeare's beloved comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

"Every one of us dreams. It's a play about the unconscious. They have to breathe the forest itself," says Blay.

Blay attended the francophone wing of the National Theatre school in its vivid early years, 1961-64. He spent much of the rest of the decade in France, acting and directing in Paris, and touring Canada, Europe, and Africa. In 1970 he accepted an invitation to repeat in English, at the Stratford Festival, a role he had already toured in France: that of the architect in Arrabal's famous and difficult *avant-garde* play, *The Architect and the*

Emperor of Assyria.

Blay has directed and acted in English and French with such companies as Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and Festival Lennoxville, gaining a reputation as one of the most inventive and imaginative of Québec directors. For five years he was also Assistant Director of L'Ecole Nationale de Théâtre in Montreal.

Earlier this year he completed shooting the forthcoming movie version of John Irving's *Hotel New Hampshire* under the direction of Tony Richardson. Blay, who plays the terrorist Arbeiter in the film, shares with Jean-Louis Roux the distinction of being the only Canadians in an international cast.

The DTP *Dream* will be his second production of the play,

but the first Shakespeare he has directed in English, and it promises to be a very fresh and contemporary version of this all-time favourite.

The comic workmen preparing their amateur theatricals will be more like Newfoundland mummers in this production; the fairies are like the elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water—and on Peter Perina's exciting set they will never touch the ground.

"It's all about the season," says Blay, "the Spring, the Equinox. Everything is coming to life, animals, plants—what happens to human beings when they feel that? What would they do if they were free enough of social obligations? And it's about love—love in many ways."

How does he approach this? "Physical movement first of all." A visitor to rehearsal would find some actors practicing their tumbling, others clambering on ropes and ladders, and still others entangling in gymnastic configurations that might suggest a Chinese puzzle—all with an enthusiasm that suggests the results in performance will be both hard work and a lot of fun.

The production plays November 30th to December 3rd at 8 p.m. in the Sir James Dunn Theatre, Dalhousie Arts Centre, with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.



Dialogue on drinking
 Think about it. Talk about it.
 Take action.

TAKE ACTION ON OVER-DRINKING.

"I like the taste of a cold beer on a hot day, but I certainly don't think you have to get the gang together with a couple of cases of beer just to celebrate the fact you've had a bit of exercise."

JOHN WOOD
 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALLIST

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