



BELLES SŒURS: THE MUSICAL

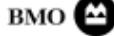
Based on the play *Les belles-sœurs* by MICHEL TREMBLAY
 Book & Lyrics RENÉ RICHARD CYR
 Music DANIEL BÉLANGER
 English Book Adaptation BRIAN HILL
 English Lyrics Adaptation NEIL BARTRAM
 Music Adaptation and Additional Music NEIL BARTRAM
 Directed by RÉNE RICHARD CYR

A Copa de Oro Production by the Segal Centre for Performing Arts



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PRODUCTION
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**2014
 19 > 09
 OCT NOV**



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH RENÉ RICHARD
 CYR & MICHEL TREMBLAY



**PREMIERE ENGLISH ADAPTATION
 RE-IMAGINED TO TAKE ON THE WORLD**

Montreal, September 24th, 2014 – The Segal Centre is proud to present the World English Premiere of *Belles Sœurs: The Musical*, a Copa de Oro Production based on Michel Tremblay's *Les belles-sœurs* and René Richard Cyr and Daniel Bélanger's Quebec musical sensation. Tremblay's landmark play is re-imagined in this explosive new musical adaptation set to premiere at the Segal Centre for Performing Arts from **October 19-November 9, 2014**.

THEY WANT IT ALL... THEY WANT IT ALL... FOR FREE!

Germaine Lauzon, a wife and mother, lives a life of dreary domesticity. Her luck finally changes when she wins 1,000,000 trading stamps from her local grocery store (redeemable for a tantalizing array of consumer goods). Feeling on top of the world, she invites the neighbourhood women, family and friends, over for a stamp-licking party to help her redeem her prizes. But far from the occasion for bonding and fun that she imagines, the evening is quickly clouded by the realities of jealousy, gossip, competition and bitter longing. So distracted by what she's won, Germaine must re-gain sight of all she stands to lose.

Twelve women: mothers, daughters, sisters and neighbours, each with their own poignant voices, invite you into the heartbreaking and often hilarious world of *Belles-sœurs*, a gripping tale of jealousy and a timeless exploration of working class strife set against a backdrop of 1960s Quebec.

THE PLATEAU UNDER THE LIGHTS OF BROADWAY

Michel Tremblay's quintessential tragicomedy has been an unstoppable force in Quebec theatre since its 1968 premiere; its musical counterpart, *Belles-sœurs théâtre musical*, became one of the most successful musical productions to come out of the province in recent years.

Inspired by the original play and the 2010 musical with book, lyrics and direction by acclaimed theatre artist **René Richard Cyr** and music by Juno Award-winning recording artist **Daniel Bélanger**, an English-language musical adaptation is born, infused with lyrics and new music by **Neil Bartram** and book by **Brian Hill**. Award-winning New-York based Canadian duo Bartram and Hill are currently one of the most in-demand creative teams in the theatre world after such hits as *The Story of My Life*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and the upcoming *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*. René Richard Cyr returns to direct this new production.

"Our task in adapting the French musical to English has been to combine the essence of our original production with the structure of the Broadway-style musical while ensuring that the story and the characters remain quintessentially Quebecois," stated director and creator **René Richard Cyr**.

CAST

VALERIE BOYLE
 YVETTE LONGPRÉ
 LILI CONNOR
 DES-NEIGES VERRETTE
 ÉLISE CORMIER
 LINDA LAUZON
 LISA HORNER
 LISETTE DE COURVAL
 GENEVIEVE LECLERC
 PIERRETTE GUÉRIN
 ANIK MATERN
 THÉRÈSE DUBUC
 GENEVIÈVE ST LOUIS
 MARIE-ANGE BROUILLETTE
 STÉPHANIE MCNAMARA
 ROSE OUMET
 MARCIA TRATT
 RHÉAUNA BIBEAU
 ASTRID VAN WIEREN
 GERMAINE LAUZON
 PAULA WOLFSON
 ANGELINE SAUVÉ
 JOCELYNE ZUCCO
 OLIVINE DUBUC

CREATIVE TEAM

ORCHESTRATIONS AND MUSICAL
 DIRECTION
 CHRIS BARILLARO
 SET DESIGN
 JEAN BARD
 COSTUME DESIGN
 MÉRÉDITH CARON
 LIGHTING DESIGN
 MARTIN LABRECQUE
 STAGE MANAGER
 ELAINE NORMANDEAU
 ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
 SARAH-MARIE LANGLOIS
 APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER
 ISABEL FAIA

TOUCHING A NEW CHORD

Richly textured and outrageously fun, *Belles Sœurs: The Musical* will sweep you through joy and drama, laughs, tears and the heights and depths of the human condition, all resonating through the medium of the modern musical. Audiences will fall in love with hits from the original musical such as “Bingo,” and “Johnny,” that will have them humming for days.

“Neil Bartram and I were asked to bring our expertise and knowledge of a somewhat more traditional musical theatre form while maintaining the tone and sense of the brilliant original version. Michel Tremblay’s universe is so specific and rich and we’ve tried to retain that. The characters that appear in this version will all be completely recognizable to fans of the original,” stated the English book-writer, **Brian Hill**. “We hope that the new musical will introduce this wonderful material to an even broader audience. A story about a group of women trapped in their lives wishing for more should touch a chord with anyone who comes see it,” he added.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF A MILLION HELPLESS WIVES

“The relationship between a mother and her daughter, jealousy, envy and the humanity on display in this show... it goes beyond the Plateau Mont Royal in 1965. *Belles Sœurs: The Musical* paints an extraordinary portrait of women. Twelve women together on stage is rare, and powerful!” stated director **René Richard Cyr**. The preeminent Quebec theatre, film and opera director makes his English theatre directorial debut at the Segal Centre with this anticipated fall production.

Dora Award-winning actress **Astrid Van Wieren**, star of *Mamma Mia*, is part of the stellar ensemble cast of twelve, which also includes: **Valerie Boyle**, **Élise Cormier**, **Lili Connor**, **Lisa Horner**, **Anik Matern**, **Geneviève St Louis**, **Marcia Tratt**, **Paula Wolfson**, **Jocelyne Zucco** as well as Segal returnees **Stephanie McNamara** and **Genevieve Leclerc**, who recently starred as Fantine in the World Premiere of the new production of *Les Misérables*.

The original award-winning design team of **Jean Bard** (Set), **Méridith Caron** (Costumes) and **Martin Labrecque** (Lighting) will continue to bring their talents to the English incarnation, with orchestrations and musical direction by **Chris Barillaro** and Sound by **Peter Balov**.

A PRODUCER’S DREAM

Belles Sœurs: The Musical is the brainchild of Montreal producer **Allan Sandler**, CEO of Copa de Oro Productions. Sandler has been at the helm of successful theatrical productions in both the English and French languages, including *Chicago: The Musical*, *Grease*, and the Mirvish production of *War Horse*. Sandler invites Montreal audiences to be among the first to see this new musical creation that is poised to take on the world stage:

“It has been both an honour and a blessing to have been entrusted by iconic author Michel Tremblay, René Richard Cyr, and Daniel Bélanger with the task of re-adapting the show in English for the worldwide markets. After four years of hard work we have succeeded in adapting and structuring this new musical, while still holding on to the wonderful spirit of the Michel Tremblay play,” said Allan Sandler.

Playwright Michel Tremblay’s impressive body of work continues to transcend all cultural and language barriers. His most successful play, *Les Belles-Sœurs*, has been translated into more than 30 languages and presented in over 25 countries. With productions in places as far flung as Tokyo and Tel Aviv, Budapest and Bangkok, Dublin and Des Moines, it is the most produced Québécois play on the world stage.

Belles Sœurs

THE MUSICAL

MEDIA CALL

Wednesday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Segal Theatre

Opportunity for interviews, video and photo ops
with cast, director René Richard Cyr and playwright
Michel Tremblay

PERFORMANCES

October 19 – November 9, 2014

PREVIEWS

October 19 – 22, 2014 – 8:00 p.m.

REGULAR RUN

Tuesday – Saturday (except for Fridays) – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, Monday – 7:00 p.m.

MATINÉES

Sunday, October 19 – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays October 29 & November 5 – 1:00 p.m.
Sundays – 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$32-\$64*

Season Subscriptions, Group, Senior, Student,
Under 30 discounts available

514.739.7944
segalcentre.org

WHERE: 5170 chemin de la Côte-Ste-Catherine,
Montreal, H3W 1M7

*Ticket prices may be subject to change dependent on demand
& discounts may be restricted for any performance at the
Segal Centre’s discretion.

GO BEYOND THE STAGE!

Discover one of the many fun and enriching SEGAL+
offerings around the production

Sunday-@-The Segal

Sunday, October 19 – 11:00 a.m.

In the Segal Theatre

Guests: Playwright **Michel Tremblay** and Producer **Allan Sandler**, talk animated by **Dennis Trudeau** in English,
followed by a bilingual Q&A

Entrance is free

Monday Night Talkbacks

Mondays October 27 & November 3 after the 7:00 p.m.
performance

Post-show conversation with members of the cast

**Broadway, QC: The many lives of a Quebec master-
piece that transcends cultures**

A Segal Centre Young Leaders Cocktail

The Segal’s own Young Professionals initiative
dedicated to the promotion of social and philanthropic
responsibility for the arts, presents the next installment
of its Networking Series

When: Thursday, October 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Panel: **René Richard Cyr** (Director), **Nathalie Goodwin** (Agence
Goodwin), **Allan Sandler** (Producer) and special guests.

Tickets: \$30 (free for SCYL members)

Info: ehervieux@segalcentre.org

BUILDING BRIDGES

The Segal Centre is thrilled to continue its longstanding association with Copa de Oro Productions with *Belles Sœurs: The Musical*, a highlight of its 2014-2015 Season. Recent collaborations include *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Mahalia Jackson Musical* and the upcoming re-mount of the Off-Broadway classic *Forever Plaid*.

"This is a passion project three years in the making for us and our dear friend and collaborator, Allan Sandler. We are thrilled to play an integral role in the initial creation of this exciting new Canadian musical and we look forward to seeing it take flight on our stage," said Segal Centre Artistic and Executive Director **Lisa Rubin**.

With a proud tradition of bringing new creations, adaptations and accessible theatrical works to its stage, the Segal Centre continues its efforts to reach out to all performing arts loving audiences while shining a spotlight on artistic excellence.

Belles Sœurs: The Musical marks the first new Canadian musical to hit the Segal stage this season. *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz: The Musical*, with music by eight-time Oscar Award-winning composer Alan Menken, will make its world premiere at the Segal Centre this Spring.

The original French production of *Belles Sœurs: The Musical* was presented in Montreal, on March 29, 2010 as a co-production of Le Centre du Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui and Le Centre culturel de Joliette in collaboration with Loto-Québec. *Belles Sœurs: The Musical* is presented by arrangement with B-14 Productions Inc. and Agence Goodwin.

About the Segal Centre for Performing Arts

The Segal Centre is a meeting place for all of the performing arts, showcasing the best professional artists from here and abroad and playing a leading role in the artistic development of Montreal's youth and the creation of its cultural legacy. Through theatre, music, dance, cinema and the Academy, the Segal Centre is setting a broad vision by recognizing the importance of building bridges through the arts and supporting multicultural projects in Montreal. The Centre's commitment is to ensure that creativity resonates within our community and that it remains accessible and inspiring each and every day. segalcentre.org

About Copa de Oro Productions

The creative team at Copa De Oro Productions boasts over 100 years of combined experience at all levels of the entertainment industry creating and producing shows in Montreal, Toronto, New York, London and Paris. This experience results in delivering to our customers the very best quality of entertainment. We feel that time spent at the theatre should be an enjoyable escape from the worries and stresses of our daily lives. Copa's focus has always been to present musical productions and comedy plays to deliver enjoyment to audiences and take them away from those stresses, even if only for an evening. copadeoro.ca

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#BELLESOEURSMUSICAL

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 FOR TRAILERS AND
BEHIND THE SCENES!

DREAM BIG!

Belles Sœurs: The Musical is part of the Segal Centre's 2014-2015 Subscription Theatre Season. [Discover](#) the full season programming.