



THE BALLAD OF

Georges Boivin

BY MARTIN BELLEMARE

TRANSLATED BY JACK PATERSON

WITH JOHANNA NUTTER



April 16 - May 5, 2024



410-131 9th AVE SW - 403.265.4292 - Lunchboxtheatre.com

The Ballad Of

Georges Boivin

By Martin Bellemare

Translated by Jack Paterson
With Johanna Nutter

CAST

Duval Lang Georges Boivin

CREATIVE

Anton deGroot Sound Designer

Beth Kates Set & Lighting Designer

Ralamy Kneeshaw Costume Designer

Michael Luong Apprentice Stage Manager

Ashley Rees Stage Manager

Bronwyn Steinberg Director

We at Lunchbox Theatre are grateful to live and create here in Mohkinstsis,
and the Treaty 7 region of Alberta.

We acknowledge the traditional caretakers of these lands including the people
of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Tsuu t'ina, and Stoney Nakoda Nations, as well
as the people of the Métis Nation of Alberta, districts 5 and 6.

Special Thanks To

Calgary Opera, Calgary's Young People's Theatre, Inside Out Theatre,
Marlene Mckay, Old Trout Puppet Workshop, Theatre Calgary.

A Note From Our Artistic Director — Bronwyn Steinberg



Welcome to the final production of our 49th season at Lunchbox Theatre! *The Ballad of Georges Boivin* finds us at a time where we are simultaneously looking back at 5 decades of lunchtime theatre and looking to the future as we gear up for our 50th season. And I couldn't imagine a better play for this moment, both for Lunchbox and for us all.

At its heart, this play is about love. Our first love as teenagers, the love we build our adult lives around, the love that sustains into our golden years, and the love of our friends that

accompany us on the journey through all stages of life. And love is inextricably linked with grief. When you experience a great love, you open yourself to deep and profound grief. But at the same time, love can also bring healing after loss.

Love, grief, friendship, aging—these are experiences we all share. And Martin Bellemare's script is so deeply relatable as we accompany Georges on his journey. I mean, who doesn't love a road trip buddy comedy? Especially one that is also a love story?

I began French immersion at elementary school in Lethbridge, and although I'm not particularly fluent now, French language and culture have always been a part of my life. Going to grad school for directing in Ottawa (in a program I took partially in French) opened my eyes to the unique character of French-Canadian theatre. Before that time, I hadn't known the incredible richness of the French theatre scene in Canada, and I am so grateful now to work on this play in translation. Jack Paterson has truly captured the poetry, spirit and comedy of this piece while also rendering it clear and relatable for anglophone audiences. *Quel beau cadeau!*

I'm so grateful to Martin and Jack for their generosity in letting us take Georges out for another adventure. When asking Martin about something for our production, he expressed confidence in our choices and shared that "Georges watches over the play."

I'm also truly grateful to be working with such a terrific team on this piece. Of course, our brilliant actor Duval Lang has not only contributed hugely to theatre in Calgary, but also has shepherded Lunchbox through challenging times through his work on our board of directors. But all the while, he hasn't been seen on our stage since the days in Bow Valley Square, and we are all so pleased to welcome him back.

And finally, thank you for joining us on this journey! These days, I think we can all benefit from some love and healing, and I hope that spending some time with Georges and his friends brings you the sense of life and hope that we've found working on this play.

Our 50th Season will be announced Monday June 10th at 12pm. We can not wait to share this season of nostalgia with you along with the celebration of 50 years of Lunchbox Theatre!

Playwright's Notes — Martin Bellemare



I'm very attached to this work. This is my first professional play. I was then asked for a solo. As we rarely saw them on stage, I wanted to give voice to an elderly person, thinking of a person I cherish, and who watches over me.

First of all thank you so much Jack Paterson for translating this work, and helping Georges complete his important trip, the kind of trip that guides you to yourself. Bronwyn, thank you for taking the wheel and driving all your team to this moment. Finally, thanks to you, dear attendants, for being here, ready to make it happen. Keep the road Georges.

Love.

Translator's Notes — Jack Paterson



Francophone playwrighting is a uniquely Canadian form. Born from different circumstances and cultural needs, there is nothing quite like it in Western English Language practice. The poetic, abstract and expressionistic live side by side with gritty realism and the mundane often becomes the fantastical.

It is no secret that elder artists face barriers to participating in the performing arts due to our professional structures and the natural process of ageing. A great joy of developing this translation was bringing artists together across cultural, lingual, and physical distances in an intergenerational creative conversation. It would not have been possible without the generosity of playwright Martin Bellemare, insight of translation dramaturg Johanna Nutter, and the input by remarkable senior artists Paul Beckett, Jay Brazeau, Micheal Grinter, Allan Morgan, John Innes, and Charles Roe.

It's rare for a Canadian work to resonate beyond initial production. I'm thrilled the Lunchbox Theatre team has brought Georges to Calgary!

This translation was commissioned by Western Gold Theatre (Vancouver) and developed by Bouche Theatre Collective (Vancouver). The English Language premiere of *The Ballad of Georges Boivin* was produced by Western Gold Theatre (PAL Vancouver Theatre, 2021) featuring Jay Brazeau and John Innes as Georges, directed by Jack Paterson. We gratefully acknowledge the support of Canada Council for the Arts.



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The Ballad Of Georges Boivin

Liam & Mary Christie Duval Lang
Shirley Steinberg Beth Kates

We would like to offer our gratitude to our Adopt-An-Artist donors and the artists who participate in this program.

If you are interested in what our Adopt-An-Artist program is about or are wanting to adopt one of our available artists please reach out to Executive Director Patti Neice at admin@lunchboxtheatre.com

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Duval Lang - Georges Boivin

Duval has been very active in the dynamic growth of the Calgary and Alberta theatre community for close to 50 years. He was a co-founder and Artistic Director of Quest Theatre, a prominent Canadian theatre for young audience company for 25 of those years.

In 2019 he co-founded Black Radish Theatre and starred in its inaugural production of *Waiting for Godot*. He is now busy as a freelance actor and director across the country. He has taught and mentored countless aspiring theatre artists over the many years. He has served on National Boards including the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and ACTRA National and continues to serve on Calgary Arts Boards. He is listed as one of the *100 influential theatre builders/practitioners in the History of Theatre in Alberta*. Duval is also a recipient of the prestigious *Harry and Martha Cohen Award for significant and long-term contribution to theatre in Calgary*. He has toured Canada many times as well as the US, the UK and Australia and has performed at the Olympic Arts Festival in Calgary in 1988 and Vancouver in 2010. He has been awarded and nominated several times for his acting and directorial work on stage in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Whitehorse. He is delighted, (and a bit nervous, being all on his own) to return to the Lunchbox stage. His last appearance was in Bow Valley Square in a play titled *Trance Canada*, an apt phrase that is echoed in this production. Like Georges, he is a firm believer that "The Future is Alive!"



Martin Bellemare - Playwright

Martin Bellemare is a Canadian playwright. He has received several distinctions for his work (*Gratien-Gélinas Prize* in 2009 for *Le Chant de Georges Boivin*, *Michel-Tremblay Prize* in 2018 for *Moule Robert*, *SACD Prize* for French-speaking dramaturgy in 2018 for *Maître Karim la perdrix*, *Jeunes Textes en Liberté selection* in 2018 and the 2020 *French theater Governor-General Prize* for *Coeur Mineral*, Finalist for the 2023 *French theater Governor-General Prize* for the *TYA pentalogy Charlie, du vent derrière le nombril*). He was a finalist for the 2020 *Siminovitch Prize*, which rewards excellence and innovation in contemporary Canadian theater. His work is published by *Dramaturges Éditeurs (Canada)*, by *DramÉdition (Poland)* and by *Lansman (Belgium)*, and has been translated in many languages.



Anton deGroot - Sound Designer

Anton is a set, light and sound designer based here in Calgary, and an occasional instructor of all things scenography at the University of Calgary. He has worked with Lunchbox since the Emerging Directors' Program for the 2010-2011 season. For Lunchbox: *Krapp's Last Tape*, *Aviatrix*, *Peril in Paris*, *Book Club*, *Countries Shaped Like Stars*. Elsewhere: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Christmas Carol 2023*, *Noises Off!* (Theatre Calgary); *Heist*, *Misery*, *Clue* (Vertigo); *Struck*, *Giant* (Ghost River); *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Macbeth* (Shakespeare Company); *Chapter Two*, *Jersey Boys*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Stage West). Up next: *Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Shakespeare Company, *Hound of the Baskerville* at Theatre Northwest, and if you're reading this before April 20th: catch *Frankenstein* at Central Memorial High School.



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Thank you to everyone who bid during our spring auction fundraiser. Not only did we meet our goal but we exceeded it!



Jack Paterson - Translator

Jack (he/him) is a Vancouver theatre maker, translator, and creative producer whose practice has taken him across Canada, UK, EU, and Asia. His work ranges from cross-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-disciplinary creations to new texts and translations.

Jack trained at Circle in the Square (NYC, USA), The University of Performing Arts (Moscow, RU), Indonesian Institute of the Arts (Denpasar, ID) and received his MFA from East 15 Acting School and University of Essex (London, UK).

Recent projects include: *The Creatus Project - Creative access for senior artists* (PAL Vancouver); *New Translation Canada - connecting artists across Canada's lingual divides* (Inter-Provincial); *Variations in Light inspired by the Ramayana* (Sanggar Paripurna, ID); *Palazzo del Mondo with Signdance Collective* (Farnese Palace, IT); *Flausen+ International Catalyst* (Tor6, DE).
www.JackPatersonTheatre.com



Ashley Rees - Stage Manager

Ashley is overjoyed to be back with Lunchbox Theatre! Past Lunchbox credits include: *Countries Shaped Like Stars*, *After Jerusalem*, *Dad Day One*, *Dad's Piano*, *Dads in Bondage*, *He Said, She Said*, *If I Weren't With You*. Other credits include: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Extractionist*, *Murder on the Orient Express* (Vertigo Theatre); *Fiddler on the Loose* (Drayton Entertainment); *Teenage Dick*, *In Wonderland* (ATP); *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Sage Theatre); *Mamma Mia!*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Jersey Boys*, *Legally Blonde*, *Chicago*, *Spamalot* (Stage West). Much love to my family, for their unending support.



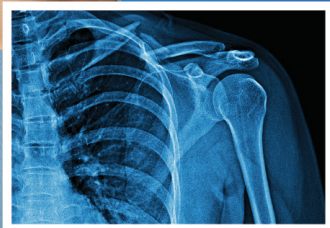
Bronwyn Steinberg - Director

Bronwyn is thrilled to get to direct this production of *The Ballad of Georges Boivin*. Since coming to Lunchbox in 2020, she has directed *Dark Lady*, *Home for the Holidays*, *Raising Stanley / Life with Tulia* and *All I Want for Christmas*. She has also directed many new play development workshops as part of the Lunchbox Stage One Festival of New Canadian Work and Stage Two. Bronwyn approaches her work in theatre as a community builder; she's passionate about making theatre an inclusive gathering space where stories are shared that celebrate the diversity of human experience. She is the founding Artistic Director of Ottawa's indie series TACTICS, and favourite credits as a freelance director include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Theatre Calgary), *The Drowning Girls* and *Bang Bang* (Great Canadian Theatre Company), *The Revolutionists*, *Miss Shakespeare*, and *Desdemona: a play about a handkerchief* (Three Sisters Theatre) and *Twelfth Night* (A Company of Fools). She is also currently developing two new Shakespeare adaptations with collaborators, *The Game of Cardenio* and *Mad Margaret*.



Photo Credit: Hannah Kerbes

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