

poet

a theatrical journey through the poetry of Daniel Jones

**Conceived and Directed by
Robert Wallace**

For Antonin Artaud, the iconoclastic writer and director best known for *Le Théâtre et son double*, theatre is "poetry in space"-a corporeal expression of the artist's soul. Those charged to communicate this expression are "athletes of the senses," a term used by both Artaud and Jean Cocteau, his friend and contemporary, to recast actors as physical poets who utilize their entire bodies to explore not only words but space as well. In this production, I have worked from ideas like these to realize the poetry of Daniel Jones in visual and aural terms, relying heavily on the actors' verbal and physical expression, and a scenic design composed almost exclusively of music and lighting. Hopefully, the imagism of this approach conveys something of the feelings that inspire a poet to write, as well as extends the moods that particular poems evoke. My thanks to the actors who have undertaken this difficult assignment with alacrity and *élan*.

-- Robert Wallace

Cast:

Jason Babb
Sevan Kelian
Ève Picard
Michael Tong

Christopher Floyd
Mark Nimeroski
Valérie Roy
Chris Welsh

Director Robert Wallace
Technical Coordinator Duncan Appleton
Assistant Technical Coordinator Mat Kensett
Stage Manager Chelsea Ireton
Assistant Stage Mgrs..... Marie Dorgan &
..... Nicole Vaughn
Set Co-ordinator Mark Manalo
Lighting Design Duncan Appleton
Lighting Operation..... Kathy Kaminska
Sound Design Robert Wallace &
..... Anastacia Nixon
Sound Operation Marie Dorgan
Costumes & Makeup Co-ordinator Varsha Deokaran
Props Nicole Vaughn
Graphics Design & Operation..... Morgan Roddick
Poster Design Duncan Appleton &
..... Daniel Freiberg
Publicity Robert Wallace
Lobby Display..... Mark Manalo &
..... Nicole Vaughn
Choreographic Assistant Chelsea Ireton
Set Construction..... Geoff May
Production Assistant Daniel Freiberg

Daniel Cameron Jones – A biography

Daniel Cameron Jones was born in a working-class district of Hamilton, Ontario, in 1959. While attending High School, he wrote two plays whose successful production led him to begin studying drama at the University of Toronto in 1977. Disillusioned with the program there, he soon switched to English Literature, then left the university altogether in 1980. Later, he resumed his studies as a part-time student, graduating from U of T in 1988 with a BA in Canadian Studies.

After travelling extensively throughout North and Central America in the early 80s, Jones returned to Toronto where he held a succession of jobs-dishwasher, janitor, grill cook, dispatcher in a psychiatric hospital, landscaper, security guard, editor and bookstore clerk. In 1982, he worked briefly as an assistant at the League of Canadian Poets. By this time, he had begun to write poetry, some of which was published by Unfinished Monument Press and HMS Press, two of Canada's most marginal publishers, between 1981 and 1984, as well as by small literary magazines such as *Piranha*, *Swift Current*, *Inkstone* and *Poetry Canada Review*. In 1985, Coach House Press published a comprehensive collection of Jones' poems in *the brave never write poetry*, a book that has long been out-of-print.

In 1985, Jones abandoned poetry for fiction, proceeding to write six volumes of novels and short stories, a number of which are published by small Canadian presses. Of these, *Obsessions*, and *The People One Knows* (both published by Mercury Press) were the best known until, in 1998, Rush Hour Revisions reissued *1978*, an early novel by Daniel Jones, with an introduction by Kevin Connolly, one of Jones' friends

and colleagues. For Connolly, 1978, which Jones subtitled "an anti-literary scream," is "a rare literary phenomenon—a genuine punk novel, a modern variant on hard-boiled and Beat fiction" that has only two Canadian comparisons: Tom Walmsley's *Doctor Tin*, and Juan Butler's *The Garbageman*.

Daniel Jones died by his own hand in February 1994, just short of his 35th birthday. Since then, he has become something of a cult figure in Canadian literature, partly the result of Moira Farr's *After Daniel: A Suicide Survivor's Tale* that Harper Collins published to considerable acclaim in 1999. Jones' fiction continues to appear in magazines and anthologies such as *Concrete Forest: The New Fiction of Urban Canada* (McLelland & Stewart, 1998) and *Burning Ambitions: The Anthology of Short-Shorts* (Rush Hour Revisions, 1998). His poetry, however, has been largely forgotten.

ENGL/DRST 2630 6.0

In ENGL/DRST 2530.06, the study of dramatic texts begins *after* the students produce a play in Theatre Glendon, the premise being that plays are best approached as "pre-texts" for production. In learning the process by which a script transfers from the page to the stage, students experience how sound, light, space and movement facilitate and extend a script's potential meanings. They also develop an ability to work together as a team in an exercise that demands considerable patience and precision. Ultimately, the self-confidence, camaraderie and respect for detail that the students achieve in the production process is as important as the knowledge they learn about theatre.

Special Thanks To:

Therese How, Paul Leonard, M. Janet Aarons and
Erskine Candleshoe

Upcoming Productions in Theatre Glendon

Moving States Presentation #3:
Uyghur Night: Dances from the Silk Road
presented by
Muhtar, Buhalqam and Arkin

Monday, November 17, 2003 at 7:00 PM

"Alice"

Written and Directed by Srimoyee Mitra

November 26th until the 29th, 2003 @ 8:00 p.m.

Théâtre **TGT** *Theatre*
Glendon *Glendon*

Robert Wallace
Duncan Appleton
Mat Kensett

Coordinator of Drama Studies
Technical Coordinator
Assistant Technical Coordinator

Theatre Glendon - 2275 Bayview Avenue -Toronto, Ontario

The Drama Studies Program presents

poet

a theatrical journey through
the poetry of daniel jones

Conceived and directed by Robert Wallace
with the students of ENGL/DRST 2630

November 11-15, 2003 at 8:00pm
Tickets: \$3 & \$6 - Reservations: 416-487-6822