

PRESS RELEASE

THEATRE GLENDON PRESENTS

***LES FRIDOLINADES* by GRATIEN GÉLINAS**

The Glendon Drama Studies program presents three sketches by Gratien Gélinas, famous playwright and one of the founders of Canadian theatre.

Starring: Eleni Alexandris, Liana Cross, Jonathan Derosiers, Ericka Epstein, Andrea Grant, Anne-Sophie Grosdoit, Geneviève Lip, Alexandre St-Denis-Yowfoo and Lindsay Thistle

Costumes: Raquel Shulman

Stage Management: Paulo Dos Santos

Directed by: John Van Burek

***Les Fridolinades* is presented at Theatre Glendon on March 20, 21, 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and on March 22 at 5:30 p.m.**

Written in the 1940s, ***Les Fridolinades*** would become the theatre event of the year in Montreal for nearly ten years. **Gratien Gélinas**, who created the character **Fridolin** for CKAC radio during the Depression, transformed his success into an annual theatrical review which played at the famous **Monument National** theatre at the corner of rue St-Laurent and boulevard Dorchester (today called boulevard René-Levesque). These sketches were zany, yet sharp commentaries about the social and political issues of the time and provided laughter and enjoyment to a population in the midst of a war, preoccupied with the worries of everyday life and concerned by the continuing tension between the French and English in Canada. **Gélinas** had the gift to see through politician's stances, pretentious citizens and the hypocrisies, big and small, which are inherent to human nature. "**Les Bingomanes**" explores the social cancer that is gambling. In this piece, gambling is promoted by the Catholic Church because the Church is profiting from its revenues, much in the same way that today's government coffers are being filled by money being spent on lotteries. "**Le Départ du Conscrit**", which served as an inspiration for ***Tit Coq***, one of **Gélinas** greatest pieces and one of the most of important in the history of Canadian theatre, shows us the heroism of simple soldiers who were heading to the front lines. "**Le Candidat du Peuple**" reminds us that political corruption and the thirst for power are as old as the earth. In ***Les Fridolinades***, comprised of more than one hundred sketches, **Gélinas** has the ability to make people laugh even though he was making serious observations, all in the hopes that people would see themselves in a better light. The central character and master of ceremonies was **Fridolin**, a sort of hobo who was likeable and quick-witted. He knew all of the alleys in his popular Montreal neighbourhood and kept up-to-date on the local housewives' gossip. He was also very aware of political plots of his time. In addition to a pleasant experience, we hope this production provides the audience with a sampling of the history of our country's theatre which teaches us that changes in history and society do not affect human nature.

Box Office: 416.487.6822

Theatre Glendon

2275 Bayview Avenue (at Lawrence)