

# Vinegar Tom

By Caryl Churchill  
Directed by Rose Plotek

## Director's Note

On December 6th, 1989, at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal Quebec, fourteen women were shot and killed at the hands of a man, merely for being women. Marc Lepine's actions galvanized Quebec society and the repercussions were felt across the entire country.

Mais plus ça change, plus reste pareil: twenty-one years later, the Quebec Government recently released a survey stating that 28% of men in the province do not consider conjugal abuse as a crime against women. And in other significant social realms, such as employment prospects and economic status, women continue to lag behind men. In situations of war and societal crisis women suffer doubly, as victims of rape and physical violence.

Therein lies the continued relevance of Caryl Churchill's *Vinegar Tom*. Written in 1976 at the height of the first wave of the feminist movement, Churchill's play examines gender and power relationships through the lens of a 17<sup>th</sup> century witchcraft trial. But just how much has really changed from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to today?

This performance is dedicated to the memory of those fourteen women, and to all women who suffer at the hands of prejudice and violence.

-Rose Plotek

## About the author of the play

Born in London in 1938, Caryl Churchill is an English dramatist and feminist writer whose works often introduce feminist themes, sexual politics and themes relating to the abuses of power. She experiments throughout her work with form, and often employs dramaturgical techniques established by the German theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. Surrealistic narratives characterize her work as postmodernist. Caryl Churchill has written numerous plays, from which many have proven to be indeed, quite influential.

## Cast:

**Alexandra Birkhoff.....Alice**  
**Bianca Di Quattro..... Joan**  
**Zephra D’Souza.....Margery**  
**Max Morrow..... Jack**  
**Rosemary Richings..... Betty**  
**Brooke Morris..... Ellen**  
**Arielle Maraj.....Susan**  
**Kendel Deonarine..... Man**  
**Chanelle Larocque..... Goody**  
**Cora Chun Zi..... Packer**  
**Edward Jing Huang.....Doctor**  
**Edward Jing Huang.....Sprenger**  
**Tatsiana Lastouskaya .....Bellringer**  
**Tatsiana Lastouskaya ..... Kramer**

Director ..... Rose Plotek  
Stage Manager ..... Christina Helvadjian  
Set Design & Production Manager ...Duncan Appleton  
Lighting Design & Technical Director ..... Mat Kensett  
Assistant Lighting Design..... Lillian Ka Li  
Sound Design.....Julia Heximer  
Costume Design .....Catherine Garisto  
Props & Assistant Set Design ..... Shirley Seni  
Publicity ..... Shirley Seni  
Poster Design.....Geneviève Melanson  
Lobby Display..... Shirley Seni

**Special Thanks To**

Rob Clarke  
Jim Constable at Centre in the Square  
Janelle Rainville  
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(Good morning Juliet)**  
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Guillaume Bernardi	Coordinator of Drama Studies
Duncan Appleton	Technical Coordinator
Mat Kensett	Assistant Technical Coordinator

Théâtre **TGT** Theatre  
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by Caryl Churchill

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December 7 - 11, 2010  
at 7:00

Student 5\$  
Adult 10\$



2275 Bayview Avenue at Lawrence  
Reservations: 416-487-6822  
[www.theatreglendon.com](http://www.theatreglendon.com)

Design by Genevieve Robinson