

## Synopsis

Joanna Baillie (1762 - 1851). Joanna Baillie was a successful playwright during her lifetime, certainly in terms of her cultural importance and the reputation of her plays, if not for their success on the stage. She wrote 27 plays, and her *De Monfort* was performed in 1800 and 1821 at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane by the leading actors of the day. Her 1836 gothic drama *Witchcraft: A Tragedy* revisits the history of witchcraft trials in her homeland, Scotland, through a conventicle of destitute female characters seeking power, love, and retribution in an elusive and illusory dark devil. Baillie explores mass hysteria and paranoia in witches and their accusers, in women and men, and examines how individuals struggle to navigate and negotiate in a culture of fear.

## About the project

This production of *Witchcraft* marks the culmination of a three-year process of critical engagement with the text as part of an FQRSC-funded research creation project—*Hypertext & Performance: A Resonant Response to Joanna Baillie's Witchcraft*. The principal grant-holder is Concordia's Dr. Louis Patrick Leroux; other colleagues include Dr. Michael Sinatra (Université de Montréal) and Dr. Fiona Ritchie (McGill).

The first year featured a series of dramatic responses each created in reaction to a Baillie scene, which fostered both creative and scholarly dialogue with the play. This was presented at Hexagram as part of Congress for the Humanities in 2010. The second year focused on Romantic gestural codes and concluded with a live public performance at the CISC Melodrama Conference in 2011. Tonight's production offers the play in its full-length, though slightly truncated, form, drawing upon the previous two years' experimentation.

This production is presented thanks to the support of Concordia's Hexagram Institute for research/creation in media arts and technology, matralab, and the FQRSC: *Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture*.

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*Amy Keith*  
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*Eric Mongerson*  
*Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer*  
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*Mark Sussman*

*Assistant Professor*  
*Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair*  
*Assistant Professor, Artist director*  
*Associate Professor*  
*Associate Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Associate Professor*  
*Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Professor*  
*Professor*  
*Assistant Professor*  
*Associate Professor, Chair*  
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*Rea Nolan, Cathia Pagotto, Annabel Soutar, Harry Standjofski,*  
*Liz Valdez, Rachael Van Fossen*

### PRODUCTION STAFF

*Norbets J. Muncs*  
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*Marlène Lucas*  
*Mairi Robertson*  
*Brie Birdsell*  
*Ted Stafford*  
*Keri Matthews*  
*Jennifer Johnson*

*Director of Performance Production*  
*Assistant to Director of Performance Production*  
*Stage Management Supervisor*  
*Head of Scene Shop*  
*Head of Properties Shop*  
*Head of Costume Shop*  
*Stage Supervisor, D. B. Clarke Theatre*  
*Depot Technician*  
*Front of House Coordinator*

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

*Ellen McDill*  
*Avi Bendehan*  
*Nancy Boniello*  
*Nicoletta Pasquino*

*Department Administrator*  
*Department Assistant*  
*Department Assistant*  
*Department Assistant*



# Witchcraft

Written by Joanna Baillie

Directed by Cristina Iovita and

Louis Patrick Leroux

November 30 to December 3, 2011 at 8 p.m.

December 3 and 4 at 2 p.m.

D. B. Clarke Theatre • 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.



## Witchcraft

Cristina Iovita *Director*  
Louis Patrick Leroux *Director*  
Darien Pons *Assistant Director*  
Joanna Donehower *Principal Dramaturg*  
Manon Manavit *Dramaturg*  
Alex St-Laurent *Dramaturg*  
Anna Siegg *Dramaturg*

## Performers

Natasha Perry Fagant *Annabella*  
Miranda Abraham *Violet Murrey*  
Jake Zabusky *Robert Kennedy of Dungarren*  
Miriam Cummings *Grizeld Bane*  
Emily Tognet *Mary MacMurren*  
Claire Hogan *Elsby Low*  
Greg Walker *Wilkin*  
Daniel Lister *Anderson*  
Graham Berlin *Black Bawldy*  
Christian Jadah *Murrey*  
Tasha Davidson *Phemy*  
Harper Duffy *Lady Dungarren*  
James Butlin *Rutherford*  
Benoît Trudel *Baillie*  
Robert d'Entremont *Sheriff*  
Michael Mercer *Fatheringham*  
Mehrnaz Mohammadi *Jessie and Young Woman*  
Casey Stainsby *Jessie*  
Vanessa Nostbakken *Nurse*  
Marcos Santiago *Gaoler*  
Parker Dorris *Clergyman, Landlord*

## Design and Production

Dominique Coughlin-Villeneuve  
Hannah Gorham-Smith  
Danielle Laurin  
Michela Fisher  
Matthew Kolaitis  
Kyle Purves  
Chloe Garner  
Maude Emilie Bourque  
Véronique Van Houtte  
Sonya Vallis  
Jessilyn Leckie  
Sara Rodriguez  
Ariel Lise Loraine  
Jennifer Spiegel  
Julia Lenardon  
Kyle Purves  
Michal Seta  
Nika Khanjani  
Julian Stein  
Adam Rosadiuk  
Roch Michel  
Julian Menezes  
Kate Lecours  
Carlan Lonsdale  
Mireille Tremblay  
Erin Whitney  
Sonya Vallis  
Gabrielle Desjean, Sarah Marchand  
Emily Schon, Elly van der Veen  
Yasmine Dalloul, Sarah Marchand  
Mary Mauleon, Heather Rimington  
Emily Schon, Jill Wilkie  
Samantha Megarry  
Fae Reinhart  
Jeremy Gordaneer, Nadia Lombardo, Paola Ridolfi  
Deanna Fong

*Set Design*  
*Props Design/Poster Design*  
*Costume Design*  
*Lighting Design*  
*Sound Design*  
*Make-up Design*  
*Assistant Set Design*  
*Assistant Set and Lighting Design*  
*Assistant Props Design*  
*Assistant Costume Design*  
*Assistant Lighting Design*  
*Stage Manager*  
*Assistant Stage Manager*  
*Acrobatics Coach*  
*Dialect Consultant*  
*Assistant Dialect Consultant*  
*Video Consultant*  
*Videographer and Editor*  
*Video Operator and Sound Operator*  
*Second Camera and Video Lighting*  
*Second Camera and Video Lighting*  
*Vocal Coach/Composer*  
*Prop Shop Assistant*  
*Prop Shop Assistant (student)*  
*Stitcher*  
*Stitcher*  
*Stitcher*  
*Dressers*  
*Dressers*  
*Shop Volunteers*  
*Shop Volunteers*  
*Shop Volunteers*  
*Fly Operator*  
*Backstage Crew*  
*Scenic Painters*  
*Promotions*

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## Directors' biographies

**Cristina Iovita** *Director, Playwright, Founder and Artistic Director of Le Théâtre de l'Utopie, student in the PhD Humanities program, Concordia University, Montreal.* After her graduation with honours from the I.L. Caragiale Theatre and Film Institute at Bucharest, Romania (1984) Cristina developed a decade-long career as a director, author in residence and artistic director of various theatre companies in her native country. She was awarded the Best Director Prize at the national and international festivals of Braila (1989) and Skopje (1991). Between 1993 and 1996 Cristina studied and worked in Boston, and, along with earning her Master's Degree from Emerson College and directing and teaching at various theatre schools in Massachusetts and Maine, obtained awards for playwriting at the New England and Emerson One Acts festivals. In Canada she continues to direct and write for le Théâtre de l'Utopie, the independent company she founded in 1999, to which she has given fourteen successful productions.

**Dr. Louis Patrick Leroux** is an Associate Professor in both the Department of English and the *Département d'études françaises* at Concordia. He is a member of the Hexagram Institute for Research/Creation in Media Arts and Technology and an artist-in-residence with matralab. In 2009, he earned his doctorate in Theatre from the Sorbonne nouvelle and has degrees in Theatre (Paris, Ottawa), French Literature (Ottawa), and Arts Management (HEC-Montréal).

His academic research has focused on self-representation in Québec drama, cultural discourse, literatures on the margins, and the Cirque du Soleil. His research-creation focuses on multidisciplinary theatre production and playwriting. While teaching at Concordia, he has held artist residencies at Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, Collective Sigh and matralab. This production of *Witchcraft* is part of the current three-year (2009-12) *Fonds de recherches scientifiques (FQRSC)*-funded research-creation project, "Hypertext and Performance: A Resonant Response to Joanna Baillie's *Witchcraft*," a project he has undertaken in collaboration with faculty members from McGill University and Université de Montréal.

A playwright, producer, and director, he founded Ottawa's Théâtre la Catapulte and co-founded La nouvelle scène, a theatre production space. Over thirty of his plays, radio plays and film scripts have been performed at various venues in Canada.

In 2010, Concordia awarded Dr. Leroux its Emerging Scholar Award in the Strategic Cluster "The Person and Society". He was also awarded the 2010 Prix Jean Cléo Godin for exceptional scholarship in theatre and performance studies published in French, and the 2009 Faculty of Arts and Science Dean's New Scholar Award. In April, he will be a Visiting Scholar at Duke University's Centre for Canadian Studies.

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