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.

Department of Theatre

FULL-TIME FACULTY

Peter Batakliev    Assistant Professor
Sandeep Bhagwati    Associate Professor
Raymond Marius Boucher    Assistant Professor, Artist director
Kit Brennan    Associate Professor
Ana Cappelato    Assistant Professor
Veronica Classen    Assistant Professor
Marjia Djordjevic    Assistant Professor
Bryan Doubt    Assistant Professor
Gene Gibbons    Associate Professor
Nancy Helms    Professor
Amy Keith    Assistant Professor
Cristina Iovita    Assistant Professor
Edward Little    Professor
Eric Mongerson    Professor
Ursula Neuerburg-Denzer    Assistant Professor
Robert Reid    Associate Professor, Chair
Mark Sussman    Associate Professor

ADJUNCT AND PART-TIME FACULTY

Sarah Stanley    Adjunct Professor
Kate Bligh, Denise Boulanger, Elisabeth Couture, Florence Figols, Jean-François Gagnon, Shauna Janssen, Corinne Merrell, Joel Miller, Rea Nolan, Cathia Pagotto, Annabel Soutar, Harry Standjofski, Liz Valdez, Rachael Van Fossen

PRODUCTION STAFF

Norberts J. Muncs    Director of Performance Production
Peter Cerone    Assistant to Director of Performance Production
Jan Stahl    Stage Management Supervisor
Marlène Lucas    Head of Scene Shop
Main Robertson    Head of Properties Shop
Brie Birdsell    Head of Costume Shop
Ted Stafford    Stage Supervisor, D. B. Clarke Theatre
Keri Matthews    Depot Technician
Jennifer Johnson    Front of House Coordinator

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ellen McDill    Department Administrator
Avi Bendahan    Department Assistant
Nancy Boniello    Department Assistant
Nicoletta Pasquino    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.
**Performers**

- Natasha Perry Fagant
- Miranda Abraham
- Jake Zabuksky
- Miriam Cummings
- Emily Tognet
- Claire Hogan
- Greg Walker
- Daniel Lister
- Graham Berlin
- Christian Jadah
- Tasha Davidson
- Harper Duffy
- James Butlin
- Benoit Trudeau
- Robert d’Entremont
- Michael Mercer
- Mehrnaz Mohammadi
- Casey Stainsby
- Vanessa Nostbakken
- Marcos Santiago
- Parker Dorris

**Design and Production**

- **Director**: Dominique Coughlin-Villeneuve
- **Assistant Director**: Hannah Gorham-Smith
- **Principal Dramaturg**: Danielle Laurin
- **Dramaturg**: Michela Fisher
- **Dramaturg**: Matthew Kolaitis
- **Dramaturg**: Kyle Purves
- **Choreographer**: Chloe Garner
- **Costume and Lighting Design**: Maude Emilie Bourque
- **Assistant Set Design**: Véronique Van Houtte
- **Set Design**: Sonya Vallis
- **Stage Manager**: Jessilyn Leckie
- **Assistant Stage Manager**: Sara Rodriguez
- **Dialect Consultant**: Ariell Lise Loraine
- **Assistant Dialect Consultant**: Jennifer Spiegel
- **Assistant Props Design**: Julia Lenardon
- **Props Design/Poster Design**: Kyle Purves
- **Make-up Design**: Michal Set
- **Video Consultant**: Nika Khanjani
- **Stage Manager**: Julian Stein
- **Assistant Set Design**: Adam Rosadiuk
- **Assistant Costume Design**: Roch Michel
- **Assistant Lighting Design**: Julian Menezes
- **Assistant Costume Design**: Kate Lecours
- **Videographer and Editor**: Carlan Lonsdale
- **Assistant Set and Lighting Design**: Mireille Tremblay
- **Assistant Props Design**: Erin Whitney
- **Set Design**: Sonya Vallis
- **Dressers**: Gabrielle Desjean, Sarah Marchand
- **Assistant Stage Manager**: Emily Schon, Elly Low
- **Stage Manager**: Wilkin
- **Assistant Stage Manager**: Fatheringham
- **Vocal Coach/Composer**: Danile Laurin
- **Props Design**: Vergenelle
- **Videographer and Editor**: Sara Rodriguez
- **Make-up Design**: Jessilyn Leckie
- **Stage Manager**: Nika Khanjani
- **Assistant Set Design**: Julian Stein
- **Assistant Costume Design**: Adam Rosadiuk
- **Assistant Lighting Design**: Roch Michel
- **Assistant Props Design**: Julian Menezes
- **Vocal Coach/Composer**: Kate Lecours
- **Assistant Set and Lighting Design**: Carlan Lonsdale
- **Assistant Props Design**: Mireille Tremblay
- **Set Design**: Erin Whitney
- **Props Design**: Sonya Vallis
- **Music**: Vergenelle
- **Stage Manager**: Sara Rodriguez
- **Assistant Stage Manager**: Emily Schon, Elly Low
- **Vocal Coach/Composer**: Wilkin
- **Props Design**: Fatheringham
- **Music**: Danile Laurin
- **Stage Manager**: Danile Laurin
- **Assistant Stage Manager**: Vergenelle
- **Vocal Coach/Composer**: Sara Rodriguez

**Special thanks:**


**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**

- 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 (Ortiza), and Arts Management (HEC-Montreal).
- 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 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.
- 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 Cleo 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.