



Capitol School of Performing Arts  
*L'école des arts de la scène* presents

# DIARIES from the ASYLUM

Written by Normand Robichaud  
Directed by Tim Borlase

Featuring Line Pelletier  
& Janice LeBlanc

Based in part on a diary written by  
Mary Huestis Pengilly in 1883-1884

**April 19 & 20, 2008 - 8 pm**

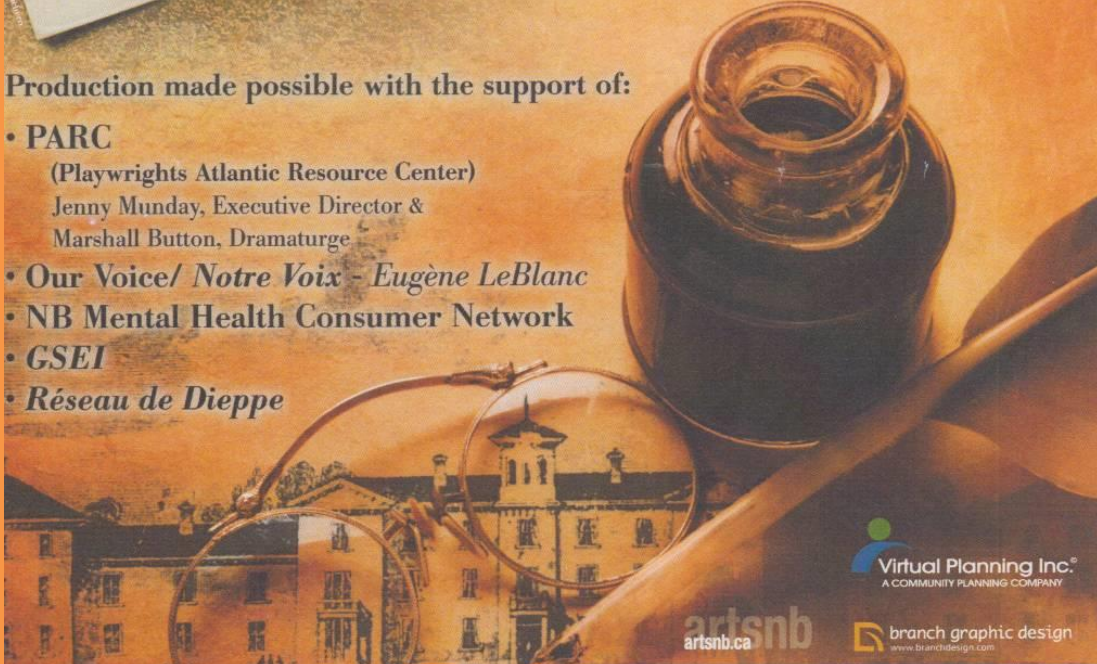
Théâtre Capitol Theatre, Moncton  
811, rue MAIN Street

To purchase tickets visit [www.capitol.nb.ca](http://www.capitol.nb.ca)  
or call the **Box Office 856-4379**

Adults: \$15 - Students & Seniors: \$12

Production made possible with the support of:

- **PARC**  
(Playwrights Atlantic Resource Center)  
Jenny Munday, Executive Director &  
Marshall Button, Dramaturge
- **Our Voice/ Notre Voix** - *Eugène LeBlanc*
- **NB Mental Health Consumer Network**
- **GSEI**
- **Réseau de Dieppe**




Virtual Planning Inc.  
A COMMUNITY PLANNING COMPANY

artsnb.ca

branch graphic design  
[www.branchdesign.com](http://www.branchdesign.com)

Capitol School of Performing Arts / *L'école des arts de la scène* presents  
**DIARIES from the Asylum**  
 Written by Normand Robichaud | Directed by Tim Borlase  
 Featuring Line Pelletier & Janice LeBlanc  
 Based in part on a diary written by Mary Huestis Pengilly in 1883-1884  
**April 19 & 20, 2008 - 8 pm**  
 Théâtre Capitol Theatre, Moncton



Production made possible with the support of:

- PARC (Playwrights Atlantic Resource Center)  
 Jenny Munday, Executive Director & Marshall Button, Dramaturge
- Our Voice/ *Notre Voix* - *Eugène LeBlanc*
- NB Mental Health Consumer Network
- *GSEI*
- *Réseau de Dieppe*





To purchase tickets visit [www.capitol.nb.ca](http://www.capitol.nb.ca) or call the Box Office 856-4379 - Adults: \$15 - Students & Seniors: \$12

Capitol School of Performing Arts  
 L'école des arts de la scène  
 Presents - présente  
**DIARIES from the Asylum**  
 April 20 avril, 2008  
 8pm - 20h00  
 Théâtre Capitol Theatre  
 811 rue Main Street, Moncton NB

Niveau - Level	Rangée - Row	\$15.00 + \$2.50 = \$17.50
ORCH.	H	REG TAX. INCL.
Section	Siège - Seat	HST: \$2.15
CENTRE	14	

21 31 V1211DIAR0420 0205107 56 1750 x2

NON REMBOURSABLE - NON ÉCHANGÉABLE

Capitol School of Performing Arts  
*L'école des arts de la scène* presents

# DIARIES from the ASYLUM

Written by Normand Robichaud  
Directed by Tim Borlase

Featuring Line Pelletier  
& Janice LeBlanc

Based in part on a diary written by  
Mary Huestis Pengilly in 1883-1884

April 19 & 20, 2008 - 8 pm  
Théâtre Capitol Theatre, Moncton

To purchase tickets visit [www.aspitelab.ca](http://www.aspitelab.ca)  
or call the Box Office 856-4479  
- Adults: \$15 - Students & Seniors: \$12

Production made possible with the support of:

- PARC  
(Playwrights Atlantic Resource Center)  
Jenny Munday, Executive Director &  
Marshall Button, Dramaturge
- Our Voice/ Notre Voix - Eugene LeBlanc
- NB Mental Health Consumer Network
- GSEI
- Réseau de Dieppe

Virtual Planning Inc.  
A COMPANY WITH PLANNING CLOSURE

branch graphic design

## AFTER THE DIARY

At 12:30 on the afternoon of Tuesday March 9, 1999: the walls of Centracare *came tumbling down!* The New Brunswick government had finally decided to tear down the building that once imprisoned, and treated those who viewed it as a “*castle on the hill*” from the outside but a “*dungeon*” within. While brick and mortar were being whisked away to be erased from sight and mind, it seemed as if emptiness had filled this piece of real estate forever. The tears of hopelessness by those who went through the doors of the Lunatic Asylum and then Centracare are just now being recorded in the annals of history. Let there be no doubt: despite the fall of the institution, human rights violations still do happen to people living with a mental illness.

In the late 1980's, the provincial government began listening in part to the frustrations of people receiving psychiatric care. The Province adopted a policy to assist them in forming their own grass roots version of services. Today, New Brunswick has 25 activity centers, a provincial mental health network and the *Our Voice/ Notre Voix* magazine. On this path of liberation still lies the quest by some to dominate and to wield their powers over our destiny. Control, as history exposes, can masquerade itself through many costumes.

Remaining barriers preventing us from being able to fully participate in Canadian society are extreme poverty, safe and affordable housing, meaningful and fulfilling employment or vocational tasks. Attempts to fend off the stigma of mental illness maintained by a nonchalant culture, and propelled by an obsessive mental health labeling industry are still prevalent.

A book will soon be published in reference to 185 years of mental health history in New Brunswick; it will chronicle this history from the viewpoint of those who have experienced it. A provoking conclusion in it shows that psychiatry is the only specialty in the medical field; whereby, all civilized governments of the world have various policies in place to assist recipients of psychiatric care to create their own self-help rendering of advocacy, programs and services. We should all ponder on the reasons for this.

It is only through telling our story in a firsthand account, and by taking command of the vocabulary that we will prevail with autonomy and understanding.

For the *lunatics* became *idiots*, and the *idiots* became *inmates*, and the *inmates* became *patients*, and the *patients* became *clients*, and the *clients* became *psychiatrized*, and the *psychiatrized* became *consumers*, and some *consumers* became *survivors*, and some *survivors* became full participating *citizens* who shall be used as vessels to convey to the masses that suffering and overcoming are a vehicle by which we can aspire to greater and better things. It is only when pain is mutually acknowledged that an equal footing of understanding and respect can flourish. An Australian activist, Lilla Watson, once said to a gathering of social workers, “*If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time; but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.*”

**Eugène LeBlanc**  
*Our Voice / Notre Voix*

## SUITE AU JOURNAL

À 12 h 30, le mardi, 9 mars 1999, les murs du Centracare se sont effondrés! Le gouvernement du Nouveau-Brunswick avait finalement pris la décision de démolir l'édifice qui avait emprisonné, et traité, ceux qui y réfugiaient comme le « château sur la colline » de l'extérieur mais un « donjon » à l'intérieur. Alors que les briques et les décombres furent transportés ailleurs, il semblait que le vide avait toujours occupé cet espace. Après toutes ces années, on commence maintenant à entendre les pleurs de désespoir de ceux et celles qui sont passés par les portes du Lunatic Asylum puis ensuite Centracare. Il ne faut pas se tromper – malgré la chute de l'institution, la violation des droits de la personne vivants avec une maladie mentale existe toujours.

À la fin des années 80, le gouvernement provincial a commencé à tendre l'oreille aux frustrations des personnes recevant des soins psychiatriques. La province a alors adopté une politique dans le but d'aider ceux-ci à développer leurs propres programmes qui répondent mieux à leurs réalités. Aujourd'hui, le Nouveau-Brunswick compte 25 centres d'activités, un réseau provincial de santé mentale et la publication *Our Voice / Notre Voix*. Sur le chemin d'une telle libération, on retrouve toujours le désir de certains de dominer et d'exercer leur pouvoir sur notre destin. Le contrôle, comme l'histoire le démontre, peut se camoufler sous bien des costumes.

Les obstacles nous empêchant de pleinement participer à la société canadienne sont la pauvreté, l'accessibilité aux logements salubres et abordables ainsi que des emplois ou des tâches vocationnels adéquats. Malgré les tentatives d'éliminer les préjugés qui viennent avec les maladies mentales, la culture nonchalante et l'industrie du diagnostic psychiatrique font que les préjugés sont encore chose communes.

Un livre sur 185 années d'histoire de la santé mentale au Nouveau-Brunswick sera bientôt publié. Cet ouvrage sera raconté selon le point de vue de ceux et celles qui l'ont vécu. Une des conclusions choquante tirée de ce livre est que la psychiatrie est la seule discipline du domaine médical où tous les gouvernements du monde civilisé ont différentes politiques en place afin d'assister les bénéficiaires de soins psychiatriques à créer leurs propres programmes de revendications et d'entraide. Nous devrions tous nous questionner sur la raison d'être de ce fait.

C'est en racontant notre histoire nous-mêmes, et en maîtrisant le vocabulaire du milieu, que nous atteindrons l'autonomie et la compréhension.

Car les lunatiques sont devenus idiots, et ces idiots sont devenus détenus, et ces détenus sont devenus patients, et ces patients sont devenus clients, et ces clients sont devenus psychiatisés, et ces psychiatisés sont devenus consommateurs, et certains consommateurs sont devenus des survivants, et certains survivants sont devenus des citoyens actifs qui deviendront porte-parole pour dire aux masses que surmonter la souffrance nous permet de vivre une meilleure vie. La compréhension et le respect ne peuvent grandir que lorsqu'on reconnaît mutuellement la douleur. Une activiste australienne, Lilla Watson, a autrefois dit à un groupe de travailleurs sociaux, « Si vous êtes venus ici pour m'aider, vous perdez votre temps; mais si vous êtes ici parce que votre libération est rattachée à la mienne, travaillons-y donc ensemble. »

**Eugène LeBlanc**  
*Our Voice / Notre Voix*

## **NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT**

I feel fortunate to have been involved in such a wonderful project. The stars were aligned for me to be invited to write this script. I guess I had the experience and the knowledge to be the right person to be a scribe for this drama. The story of Mary's diary, written in 1883-1884, is mesmerizing; to capture her words was relatively easy, she expressed herself so eloquently. It was a challenge for me to write the second half of the script to align her message closer to the present and to make it theatrical. This involved hundreds of hours of research to be able to bring to life the feeling of being incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital and to transmit Mary's message in today's terms. The main character I created, Marie-Hélène, is very different from Mary and yet her plight is similar 100 years after.

I feel fortunate to have had the help and support of all the people involved in this production, directly and indirectly. They are too numerous to list here but some are mentioned in the program, I express my gratitude to all of them. It is my hope that you will have a pleasant evening of entertainment and will hopefully have a better understanding of mental wellness as it affects all of us.

*Normand Robichaud*

---

## **MESSAGE DE L'AUTEUR**

Je me sens privilégié d'avoir été impliqué dans un projet si spécial. Les étoiles se sont alignées pour que je puisse écrire ce scénario. Je crois que j'avais l'expérience et le savoir requis pour écrire cette pièce dramatique. L'histoire du journal de Mary, écrit en 1883-1884, est fascinante et si bien écrite, que capturer ses paroles fut relativement facile pour moi. Le défi était plutôt d'écrire la deuxième moitié du scénario, afin de rendre son message plus actuel dans un style théâtral. J'aurai passé plusieurs centaines d'heures de recherche pour arriver à exprimer le sentiment d'être incarcéré dans un hôpital psychiatrique et ainsi transmettre le message de Mary dans le présent. Le personnage principal que j'ai créé, Marie-Hélène, est bien différent de Mary et pourtant, son sort est très semblable, 100 années plus tard.

Je suis également privilégié d'avoir reçu l'appui et l'aide, directement ou indirectement, de tout le monde impliqué dans cette production. Ils sont trop nombreux pour les nommer ici mais certains sont mentionnés dans ce programme et j'exprime mes remerciements envers eux. J'espère que vous passerez une soirée divertissante et que vous aurez une meilleure compréhension de la santé mentale, puisque cela nous concerne tous.

*Normand Robichaud*

## **ABOUT THE CAST...**

### **Ali Arsenault**

*Ali Arsenault est étudiante au département d'arts visuels à l'Université de Moncton. Her first theatrical endeavor was at the age of 13, playing the lead role in a school production entitled "Volte face et la fameuse poutine" in collaboration with Le théâtre l'Escaouette. Après, plusieurs années d'inactivité au sein de la communauté théâtrale de Moncton, elle resurgit en tant qu'actrice par l'entremise de l'École des arts de la scène du Capitol.*

### **Sarah Barnes**

*Sarah discovered acting a few years ago at ABU and was immediately hooked! Some of her theatrical credits include Miep in The Diary of Anne Frank (2004), and Lydia in The Rivals (2005). She also had the distinct honour of playing Raja in I Never Saw Another Butterfly (2006-07) for ABU and the Holocaust Memorial Service.*

### **Florence Albert**

*Florence Albert, originaire de Caraquet, a baigné dans le théâtre depuis son enfance mais n'a jamais joué auparavant. Fille d'une comédienne amateur et frère maman d'une fille qui a joué dans plusieurs pièces scolaires, elle souhaitait suivre leurs traces. Aujourd'hui son rêve de monter sur les planches se réalise.*

### **Lidia Branch**

*Lidia Branch was born and raised in the Netherlands. She is a mother of 2, and guides and empowers parents to be in her profession as a Birth doula. After only one acting lesson she was hooked. And now she realizes, in a strange but beautiful way that she is learning more and more about herself by pretending she is someone else.*

### **Pauline S. Cormier**

*Pauline S. Cormier est à la retraite, mariée 40 ans et mère de trois enfants. She was fortunate to enjoy many different options in her career during her professional life. Très créative et animée, elle participait dans des pièces de théâtre, chorale et troupe de danse durant ses années au primaire et au secondaire. She loves being part of this wonderful world of magic and has secretly dreamed of becoming an actor all her life! She has very strong communications and teambuilding skills which she honed during her last ten years as a lifeskills coach trainer and a workshop facilitator.*

## **ABOUT THE CAST...**

### **Michael Ford**

*Michael Ford is a Grade 8 student at Bessborough School. He loves acting and has been enrolled in the Capitol School of Performing Arts over the last four years. He is interested in playing all kinds of characters but his favorite would be to play the romantic lead.*

### **Gabrielle Gagnon**

*Gabrielle Gagnon is a 5th grade student at l'École Anna-Malenfant in Dieppe. Passionnée de voyages, son intérêt pour les arts et la culture l'a porté vers le dessin, la musique, la danse et le théâtre. Après avoir participé dans plusieurs pièces de théâtre et plusieurs concerts avec son école de musique, Gabrielle is participating in her first theatre play for the general public.*

### **Eric Goguen**

*Eric Goguen est étudiant en Sieme année à l'École Champlain. He is a bright and creative 11-year-old with a relentless passion for the performing arts, on stage, on film and with friends. Il participe au programme " Jeunes vedettes " du Théâtre Capitol depuis deux ans. Eric was very eager to take on new roles in his first public theatre performance Departures and Arrivals. Il a récemment joué dans le court métrage Diplomatic Relations. Eric is an aspiring guitarist and dreams of going on a world tour with his friends.*

### **Audrey Hayward**

*Audrey Hayward, originally from Bateman, Saskatchewan, is a Kindergarten/Grade one teacher in Moncton's School District 2. She has acted in a few high school and community dramas. She has a great passion for storytelling to younger audiences and has plans to pursue this as a 'retirement' career. She lives with her husband, Randy, in Notre-Dame, N.B. They have three children.*

### **Nicholas Jarche**

*Nicholas Jarche is a Grade 10 high school student who is currently attending Tantramar Regional High School in Sackville. Nicholas has been acting for the past two years, and is considering a career in it. He has been involved in several plays including Romeo and Juliet and the Trial of the Big Bad Wolf. He likes playing computer games and listening to music.*



## ABOUT THE CAST...

### **Alexandre Koundé**

*Alexandre Koundé, 26, was born in France where he spent most of his life. Moving to Moncton 8 months ago, he currently works as a translator in Dieppe. He developed an interest in theatre in high school while studying comedies from famous French playwright Molière. Majoring in Foreign languages, he kept nourishing his artistic talent by taking courses in acting, filmmaking and creative writing. He loves going on the stage and indulging fully in the art of acting.*

### **Janice M. LeBlanc**

*Janice M. LeBlanc est à la retraite. Mother of two boys mais aussi grand-mère. At age 13 she wrote and directed her first play that was presented to a sold-out crowd. Son intérêt pour le théâtre s'est poursuivi à l'école secondaire Vanier. For two years, in the early 70's, she hosted a cable television show in Louisiana. Elle a été enseignante et conférencière. She enjoys teamwork and interacting with a live audience.*

### **Jessica Noël**

*Jessica Noël est étudiante en 8e année à l'école Le Mascaret de Moncton. She started her acting classes at the Capitol School of Performing Arts last year and really enjoys acting. Elle aime aussi chanter et est concurrente dans Maritime Idol. Elle fut gagnante de la première semaine de compétition.*

### **Line Pelletier**

*Line Pelletier est originaire d'Edmundston NB. Mother of two girls et ex-militaire. This is her very first play. Elle a commencé dans le domaine des arts as a Hair Stylist and Make-Up Artist. Elle a fait plusieurs films and in 2006 was nominated for best actress for her lead role in the film A Dream Of Life at the SilverWave film festival. Elle est maintenant mordue du théâtre et de l'interaction directe avec le public.*

### **Danielle Poirier**

*Danielle Poirier was born in Halifax, N.S. She spent one year in Rimouski, Que., 7 years in Borden, Ont., and has resided in Moncton for 8 years now and is thrilled to call it home to her bilingual family. An honors graduate of the Toronto School of Business, she has been a Bank Manager and a Call Centre Manager and now enjoys being a stay-at-home mom. She began theatre in the fall as a hobby.*

## **ABOUT THE CAST...**

### **Ralph Pritchard**

*Ralph Pritchard lives with his wife Jan in Shediac, NB and has been writing, directing and producing short films for the past two years. His first film won two awards for writing and his second won a best actress nomination. He is currently working on his fourth and fifth high definition film which he plans to show at the New Brunswick Silverwave Film Festival in the fall. He played a principle role in "Black-Eyed Dog" (2006) and is a student of the Capitol School of Performing Arts.*

### **Emily Reviczky**

*Emily is a 17-year-old student at Petitcodiac Regional School. She will be attending Bishop's University next year to study Drama. She has taken part in two Capitol Theatre summer camps and one fall class. Emily loves all aspects of the dramatic arts and hopes one day to be thanking the Capitol Theatre at the Oscars!*

### **Line Rioux**

*From singing, dancing and acting, Line Rioux wants to do it all. With her music bachelor from the Université de Moncton, she got her acting experience in the opera workshops. Partant du rôle de la petite Flora de l'opéra The Turn of the Screw (Benjamin Britten), à la première dame de Die Zauberflöte (Amadeus Mozart), Line est passionnée par la découverte de nouveaux personnages.*

### **Danny Thebeau**

*When not managing IT projects, Danny Thebeau writes, directs, and produces short films. He's an alumni of the Canadian Screen Training Centre in Ottawa, obtains a Film Certificate, and sits on the board of directors at the New Brunswick Filmmaker's Coop. He is a recipient of the 2007 Short Film Venture Program with New Brunswick Film. In addition to producing short films, he's appeared as an extra in Trailer Park Boys, Black Eyed Dog, and Growing Op. He is a student of the Capitol School of Performing Arts.*

### **Dominique Tremblay**

*Dominique Tremblay est une élève de 8e année à l'École Marée-Montante de Saint-Louis-de-Kent. Elle est passionnée du théâtre depuis l'âge de 11 ans et participe aux classes de l'École des arts de la scène du Capitol depuis 3 ans. Elle a participé deux ans au Méga spectacle de L'Odyssée 1604-2004, au Pays de la Sagouine, ainsi qu'à la nouvelle présentation en 2007 de Pélagie la charrette. Elle rêve de faire carrière un jour dans les arts de la scène.*

***Many, many thanks to the following for their belief in this project and their Financial and Logistical Support.***

***De nombreux remerciements aux groupes et individus suivants pour leur aide (financière, logistique ou autre) envers ce projet.***

Brenda Boyd  
Brian Branch / Branch Graphic Design  
Capitol Theatre Staff / Employé(e)s du Théâtre Capitol  
Capitol Board and Foundation / Fondation et conseil d'administration du Capitol  
Capitol School Advisory Board - John McMaster, Glen Nichols  
Our Voice / Notre Voix -Eugène LeBlanc  
New Brunswick Mental Health Consumer Network / Réseau des bénéficiaires en santé mentale du Nouveau-Brunswick  
Réseau de Dieppe  
Groupe de Support Émotionnel inc.  
Virtual Planning Inc - Armand Robichaud  
Institut jon rayMond Institute - Marie Cormier  
Moncton High School - Michael McArdle  
Bernice MacNaughton High School - Blair Lawrence  
Université de Moncton - Département de musique  
Greater Moncton International Airport / Aéroport international du Grand Moncton - Janic Comeau  
EconoLodge - Hammond and Manju Varma-Joshi  
Heritage Developments Limited  
Arts New Brunswick  
Province of New Brunswick / Province du Nouveau-Brunswick  
City of Moncton - Collette McLaughlin  
Heritage Developments Limited  
St. Bernard's Church  
Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada  
PARC Playwright Atlantic Resource Centre – Jenny Munday  
InColor Inc.







**Janice LeBlanc**

**Line Pelletier**

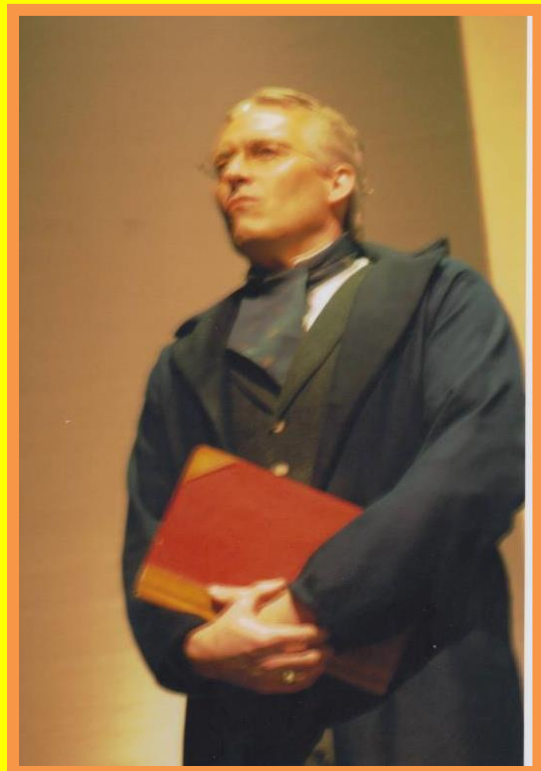




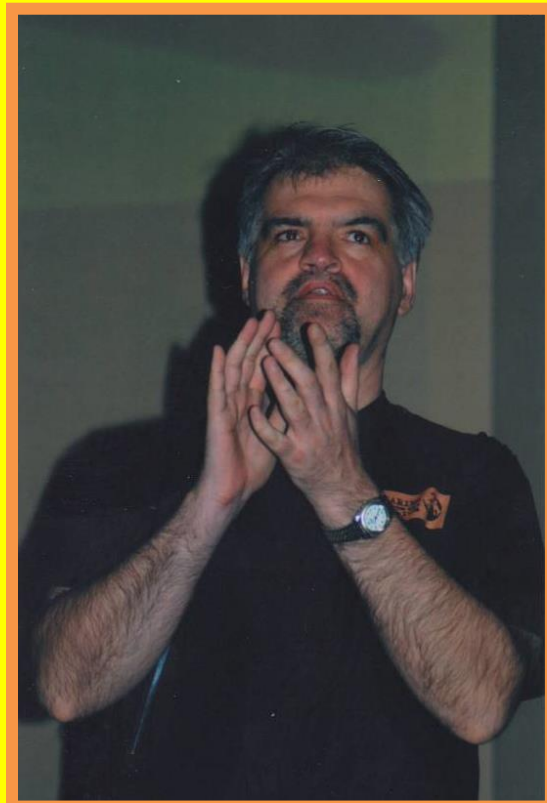
**Tim Borlase**



**Ralph Pritchard**







**Eugène LeBlanc**

