



Place des Arts
Québec



Tickets go on sale Saturday, May 15.
Trilogia della villeggiatura
Piccolo Teatro (Milan) / Teatri Uniti (Naples)

**A MAGICAL, FESTIVE EVENING OF ITALIAN THEATRE,
A TRUE DELIGHT!**

Montreal, May 13, 2010 — The **Théâtre du Nouveau Monde**, in association with **Place des Arts**, is pleased to open its 59th season with the prestigious and much celebrated production of **TRIOLOGIA DELLA VILLEGGIATURA** (The Holiday Trilogy) by **Carlo Goldoni**. After the resounding success of its *Arlecchino, servitore di due padroni* in 2008, the legendary **Piccolo Teatro in Milan** will be back in Montreal from **September 22 to 26, 2010**, for five exceptional performances of this masterpiece. The company's return is the fruit of a fortunate encounter with one of the most dynamic groups of artists in the Italian peninsula - **Teatri Uniti** from **Naples**. Seize this opportunity to discover the impressive staging of the piece by actor **Toni Servillo**, a key figure in Italian theatre and cinema. He has adapted this three-part romantic comedy by the famous Italian playwright, and also brilliantly portrays the grouchy freeloader Ferdinando. In addition to the pleasure of hearing the text in its original musicality, there is also the pleasure of seeing the inspired acting of fifteen Neapolitan and Milanese performers!

"What a privilege to hear Goldoni in his native tongue! What a privilege to discover the highly original manner, as powerful as it is subtle, in which Toni Servillo has captured the three plays that, adapted and tightened up, compose the famous Trilogia della villeggiatura by Carlo Goldoni... For three hours you laugh, laugh so much, and are then choked up with emotion... Toni Servillo is an artistic director and a stage director of keen intelligence." **Le Figaro** (Paris), June 2009

A WALTZ IN TRIPLE TIME

The three parts of the trilogy - *Off to the Country*, *Adventures in the Country*, *Back from the Country* - have been condensed into a delightful satire of manners. This waltz in triple time - presto, andante, largo - shifts from hilarious comedy to heartbreaking drama and on to a final Chekhovian disenchantment. In a fashionable seaside town, the upper class and the middle class who try to imitate them will do anything to spend the summer taking it easy, enjoying the idle high life in a decadent holiday resort. Young girls in the bloom of youth, passionate youths, preoccupied gentlemen, hysterical ladies - they wish to see and be seen, and are fearful of what others might say about them. They spend a fortune in order to be the centre of attention, trivialities their only interest as they watch their lives slip by! Only the servants come out unscathed, cool and nonchalant in the face of their masters' extravagances.

As it moves between comedy and drama, the ***Trilogia della villeggiatura*** speaks in a gentle tone of serious matters. The comic undercurrents emphasize the complexity of the situations, for it is because of their rash, careless behaviour that the characters lose their way. It has been said that with this piece Goldoni had no cause to be jealous of Marivaux, what with the nimble writing, the clear dramatic stakes, graceful introspection, language that penetrates to the heart of the matter and an exceptional dramatic structure.

"...absolutely masterful staging, an incredible sense of rhythm and a vitality very much in keeping with the great Piccolo tradition. An unforgettable theatrical celebration." **La Vanguardia** (Barcelona), December 2009

“Toni Servillo’s staging appeals to the intelligence of the audience. There is intelligence apparent in the elegance of each line, each scene, each movement...” Neues Deutschland (Berlin), November 2008

MAN OF THE THEATRE

A film and stage actor, **Toni Servillo** is a star of Italian cinema, acclaimed for his role in *Gomorra* and for playing a famous prime minister of Italy in *Il Divo*. For both performances he received the European Film Award for best actor in 2008. The co-founder of the Teatro Studio de Caserta, he established the collective Teatri Uniti in Naples, an exciting theatrical adventure that he continues to pursue. From Molière to Marivaux, from Pirandello to De Filippo by way of contemporary Neapolitan plays, Servillo acts and directs brilliantly, sometimes doing both at once, as is the case with *Trilogia della villeggiatura*. A key figure in Italian theatre, Toni Servillo is also a renowned director of opera, mounting works by Mozart, Moussorgski, Strauss, Beethoven and other masters.

“... A pleasure, a real pleasure – simple, direct and unpretentious – this performance of Trilogie de la villeggiature presented in Italian... The strength of this Villégiature lies in its delight in acting, which Toni Servillo takes to dizzying heights, supported by a troupe in top form.”
Le Monde (Paris), June 2009

ELEGANT, GENEROUS THEATRE

A firm believer in popular theatre that seeks above all to reach out to the audience, Toni Servillo skilfully orchestrates this “dance of feelings”, distilling all the nuances, from the first burst of laughter to the deeply moving emotion of the final moments. Schemes, love affairs, lies or sudden reversals – everything is in place to make us feel that behind the ridicule and the frills and flounces, the bustling and swirling of the characters mask their despair. Under its surface cruelty, Goldoni’s writing is imbued with humour and tenderness, and the audience feels more compassion for his characters than rejection, and has the impression that in the same situation, they would behave exactly like the characters!

“...it is enough to convince us that Strehler is still alive and well, and that his ‘method’ is still being applied to Goldoni’s plays.”
Kommersant (Moscow), December 2008

COMMEDIA ALL'ITALIANA

In this superb and attractive production, the troupe presents the adventures of this microcosm of society with real Italian flair, virtuoso actors playing their parts at breakneck speed but with dazzling precision. The director has chosen his cast with care, in particular for their total commitment not only to character and story, but commitment also to the audience and the performance itself. “If theatre is a community, its members must be able to work in unison. Our troupe is composed of a diverse group of individuals, actors from 20 to 60 years of age, who thus represent the wonderful complexity of the world we live in.” This is theatre for the eyes, the ears and the heart.

Italy at the Nouveau Monde – A Festive Event, 5 performances only!

September 22 to 26, 2010

TRILOGIA DELLA VILLEGGIATURA by Carlo Goldoni

Adapted and directed by Toni Servillo

Co-produced by Piccolo Teatro (Milan) / Teatri Uniti (Naples)

Performed in Italian, with French and English surtitles

At Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts



laplacedesarts.com

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**Co-presented by Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and Place des Arts,
in collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Montreal**