

# Centre des auteurs dramatiques (CEAD)

## NEW TRANSLATIONS

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This message is sent to you because you have been selected as one of our contacts in Canada and abroad. You probably already know that Centre des auteurs dramatiques (CEAD) is a centre for the development and promotion of French new plays from Québec and Canada. We are pleased to provide you with this second issue of *New Translations*, presenting translations CEAD has recently received from some of its 250 playwrights members. The newsletter also includes information on recent translations of plays into languages other than English. For more information or to inquire about obtaining a script, please contact CEAD's Resource Centre: Tel. 514 288-3384, # 222, [lavoie@cead.qc.ca](mailto:lavoie@cead.qc.ca) or Marie-Christine Lesage, in charge of International Development and Foreign Languages Promotion, at # 229, or at [lesage@cead.qc.ca](mailto:lesage@cead.qc.ca).

Please note that we also sell the works listed. We invite you to visit our Website at [www.cead.qc.ca](http://www.cead.qc.ca) where CEAD's database can be accessed online.

### DE LA CHENELIÈRE, Évelyne, *Bashir Lazhar* [2008]

English translation by Morwyn Brebner.

Original title : *Bashir Lazhar* (Éditions Théâtrales, Paris, 2003).

First production : Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui, Montréal, January 16, 2007.

A man of Algerian origin is hired in a Québec school as a substitute teacher. Beyond the culture shock of meeting with the sixth grade students, he is confronted to a violent event he recently went through. Busy with the rebuilding of his personality, he suffers the injustice and incomprehension of the school authorities. A gentle and humorous ode to courage and survival.

Running time: 1 hour

Cast: 1 M and the voice of a child

**Also available in German**

**Excerpt:** « BASHIR, to the Principal: *Alice Lecuyer's work seemed essential to a particular lesson. I paid for the photocopying, I sent it under my own name, I don't know what rule I disobeyed, my letter wasn't official school mail, but a way to communicate with my students' parents...* »

### FRÉCHETTE, Carole, *Earthbound* [2008]

English translation by John Murrell. To be published in *Anthology of Quebec Women's Plays In English Translation Vol. III, 2004-2008*, by Playwrights Canada Press, Fall 2009.

Original title : *Violette sur la terre* (Leméac / Actes Sud – Papiers, 2002)

First production : Coproduction of Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, Théâtre du Tandem and Théâtre en Scène (France), Sudbury, January 25, 2002.

No one knows exactly when Violette appeared. No one knows where she comes from. She's standing next to the abandoned mine shaft, silent. Paul, Étienne, Marie-Jeanne and Judith come to see her and share their disappointments, their doubts, their hopes, their strong desire for life...

Running time: 1 hour 30

Cast : 3 W, 2 M

**Excerpt:** « MARIE: [...] *What do you miss the most? The smell of your kitchen, your husband's quirks, his shirttail hanging out, his footsteps, his shouting, his silence?* (Silence.) *What did you say when you walked out? Did you find some way to explain? You probably found the right words. The right couple of words. Tell me.* (Silence.) *Please.* »

**HARRISSON, Sébastien, *Alexander Leon Grand*** [2008] Young Audience (8-12 year old)

English translation by Shelley Tepperman.

Original title : *Stanislas Walter LeGrand* (Dramaturges Éditeurs, 2008)

First production : L'Arrière-scène, Beloeil, October 21, 2007.

Alexander is reluctantly beginning a new life in a war-damaged country in the company of an old man he barely knows. Refusing to connect with anyone, he spends his time alone, bouncing his ball against an ancient stone wall. One day, a mysterious voice comes from the wall that claims to be the memory of centuries past, and shares its fears of demolition. The stories the wall tells will have an impact on Alexander and his future.

**Excerpt:** « *ALEXANDER: No one can survive inside a wall... / VOICE OF THE ARAB CHILD: I made myself small / ALEXANDER: You'd suffocate, there's no air! / VOICE OF THE ARAB CHILD: Small and slender enough | To fit between two stones | As small as a whisper / ALEXANDER: A whisper? / VOICE OF THE ARAB CHILD: Yes | So when it feels like all is about to end | That even this tiny whisper | Will be silenced | It's worth attempting | A word to a stranger | In the hope of making a friend. »*

Running time: 1 hour

Cast : 3 M

**KEMEID, Olivier, *The Aeneid*** [2008]

English translation by Judith Miller.

Original title : *L'Énéide* (Lansman Éditeur, 2008)

First production : Trois Tristes Tigres, Montréal, November 29, 2007.

Civil war runs amuck in a city where people have kept on dancing instead of heeding the portents around them. A modern day Aeneas flees - with his past (his father Anchises) and his future (his son), his wife (Creusa) and his best friend (Achates) in tow. Their exile, gathering other lost ones but losing Creusa and Anchises in the fray, takes them to a land where plants leak blood, to a beach where well-off vacationers cannot face the horror they represent, to a refugee encampment where all hope has disappeared, to a momentary halt in an unwelcoming city where Aeneas runs out of will power. A highly physical and richly imagistic epic of violence, courage, doubt, and tenacity, Kemeid's *Aeneid* grapples with the most awful realities of the twenty-first century.

**Excerpt:** « *COMPATRIOT: Protect your son | Love him cherish him don't bring him up on hate or resentment | Don't name our enemies | Let him know what we've suffered that yes but keep him from coming back | Find him a land that will gather him in a welcoming land a safe land and we the barely alive we'll live in his memory like shades without haunting him no we will not haunt him like vulgar | vengeful ghosts | You know | The day when he'll have his land a wife from that land work a roof and a first-born child who'll be part of that new nation | Then we'll have won the war | And the gods themselves will have to bow down to it »*

Running time: 2 hours

Cast: 25 characters (11 F, 14 M) played by 3 W and 4 M

**LEBEAU, SUZANNE, *Shoes of Sand*** [2008] Young Audience

English translation by John Van Burek.

Original title : *Les souliers de sable* (Leméac Éditeur, 2006)

First production : Coproduction of Théâtre du Carrousel, Théâtre du Vieux-Terrebonne and Grand Théâtre de Lorient (France), Longueuil, September 23, 2006.

Élise and Léo live in a closed environment, trapped by fear of the unknown and of rigid time, calculated one grain of sand at a time. One morning, because of an exquisite dream, of the desire to do something good, of the excitement of shoes kept on a tight leash for too long, time goes wild and the door opens ... the sky and the Earth switch places ... the daily oranges have a different taste. The great question of the escape out in the world is asked ...

**Excerpt:** « *VOICE OF ÉLISE: But those who run, fall. Be careful! | Léo stops suddenly. | LÉO: A mountain rises before me | and the shoes run up the mountain. | I have to run. | Don't worry, | the grass is green, | the earth is warm beneath my feet. | I run... I run... I run... and I don't fall. | I run... »*

Running time: 1 hour

Cast: 1 W, 1 M

**Also available in Spanish**

**ROY, Emmanuelle, *Shards* [2005]**

English translation by Don Druick. Published in *Anthology of Québec Women's Plays in English Translation, Vol. II 1987-2003*, by Playwrights Canada Press, 2008.

Original title : *Far West* (2003)

First production : Théâtre Face public, Sept-Îles, February 2002.

The play is set in a decrepit bar somewhere on the edge of a northern reserve. It's summer and it's hot. Time seems to have stopped for the four characters who are bound together by the painful memories they share. Memories haunt them and the place. Nothing seems to have budged in this bar for years. There is no music, no customers. There are only these people frozen in their pain; that is until Anath arrives and stirs everything up. Anath, a young archaeologist, treasuring the items she found in Louisiana but lamenting the irretrievable loss of these people who once lived: their voices, their names, and the names they gave the land.

Running time: 1 hour

Cast: 3 W

**TREMBLAY, Larry, *Abraham Lincoln Goes to The Theatre* [2008]**

English translation by Chantal Bilodeau.

Original title : *Abraham Lincoln va au théâtre* (Lansman, 2008)

First Production : Théâtre PàP, Montréal, April 22, 2008.

An actor—John Wilkes Booth—assassinates Abraham Lincoln during a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in Washington. It is April 14, 1865, Good Friday. Mark Killman—a feared but much admired director—draws inspiration from this historical fact to create a show about the schizophrenia of America. He hires two actors to reenact the Presidential assassination through the comic characters of Laurel and Hardy. And he keeps for himself the role of Abraham Lincoln's wax figure. Why is Mark Killman interested in this political assassination? Why does he want to stage a tragedy using the means of a comedy? And by the way, who is really hiding behind Abraham Lincoln's wax figure?

Running time: 1 hour 30

Cast: 3 M

**Excerpt:** « *In the rumbling silence, I heard voices. | Tears, cries, screams, a long deep moan. | I heard the earth | With all its bodies that need healing... | All along that long long road I heard | The voices of all of those who shout in silence | That their land is dying. | North of Ohio, by the Great Serpent | The cries changed to drops of laughter | Which touched the pick-up, refreshing me [...]| I knew, as the laughter flowed that my terror would disappear. [...]| That though it has taken two thousand years finally I am on the right road. »*

**Excerpt:** « *LAUREL: He said: "I'm going to ask for the impossible." I didn't believe him. At least not at first. He probably meant: "It won't be easy with me. You'll often regret having started on this journey."/ HARDY: He said: "You're going to hate me, cry it's unfair. After work, you'll have only one thought: To go to sleep to forget what a monster I am." »*

## Recent Translations in languages other than English

### FLEMISH

**BLANCHETTE, Frédéric, *Perimeter***, trad. Michael De Cock, 2008.

### GERMAN

**CHOINIÈRE, Olivier, *Glückseligkeit***, trad. Hinrich Schmidt-Henkel, Rowohlt Theater Verlag, 2008.

**DANIS, Daniel, *Kiwi***, trad. Gerda Gensberger, Scène 10, Theater der Zeit, 2008.

**DE LA CHENELIÈRE, Évelyne, *Bashir Lazhar***, trad. Gerda Poschmann-Reichenau, Per H. Lauke Verlag, 2003.

**LEBEAU, SUZANNE, *Das Geräusch knackender Knochen***, trad. Frank Heibert, Pegasus Verlag, 2008.

**MOUAWAD, Wajdi, *Küstenlinie***, trad. Uli Menke, 2008.

ITALIAN

BILODEAU, Chantal, *Il piacere e il dolore*, trad. Mirna Molli, 2007.

BOUCHARD, Michel Marc, *Sotto lo sguardo delle mosche*, trad. Francesca Moccagatta, 2008.

LITHUANIAN

FRÉCHETTE, Carole, *Zanas ir Beatrice*, trad. Aleksandras Robinovas, 2007.

MANDARIN

LEBEAU, SUZANNE, *Xiao Pi er*, trad. Camille Yih-Chia, 2008.

PORTUGUESE

FRÉCHETTE, Carole, *Os Sete Dias de Simão Labrosse*, trad. João Lourenço et Vera San Payo de Lemos, 2006.

SPANISH

LEBEAU, SUZANNE, *Zapatos de arena*, trad. Cecilia Iris Fasola, 2008.

SPANISH FOR MEXICO

BILODEAU, Chantal, *Placer y Dolor*, trad. Silvia Peláez, 2008.

TURKISH

FRÉCHETTE, Carole, *Jean ve Béatrice*, trad. Ece Okay Isildar, 2007.

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