

Les Productions du Garage presents



Everything is Beautiful

Written, translated and directed by France Levasseur-Ouimet
Starring: André Roy and Gilles Denis

☆☆☆☆ out of 5 stars, Edmonton International Fringe Festival

*...they're closer to the spirit of Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon, irascible and sharp-tongued, winding each other up in the way that only two long-time friends can. (...) By turns funny, soulful, and sobering, with only the slightest hint of sentimentality, **Everything is Beautiful** hits all the right notes all the way to the end, playwright France Levasseur-Ouimet barely softening her characters' sharper edges.*

~Tom Murray, Edmonton Journal, August 15, 2021

Born and bred in Saskatchewan, now living in Alberta, André and Gilles have toured French communities across the prairies and Ontario over the last 10 years. They have presented a variety of plays and theatre workshops to great acclaim. Gilles is a multi-faceted performer, comedian, teacher and director. André has recently been awarded the *Prix Lumière* by the *Regroupement artistique francophone de l'Alberta*, a group dedicated to the promotion of professional cultural and artistic activities in French. In 2018, the duo received the Eugène C.-Trottier Prize for Visibility from the *Association Canadienne-française de l'Alberta*. France is a prolific writer and composer who is recognized internationally and has received the YMCA Community Service Award and the prestigious *Ordre des francophones d'Amérique*. Together they continue to explore the theme of aging with grace and vitality, and are thrilled to bring their particular brand of gallic curmudgeonliness to English speaking audiences.

A note from André and Gilles

To perform in the Fringe after COVID promises to be extra special because our play really speaks to seniors who have suffered greatly during the pandemic. "We have a decision to make, either we give up or we choose to live in the light." These two grizzled actors have chosen the light just as their characters do in this magnificent play.

ARTIST BIOS

Gilles Denis, Actor (Jean)

Gilles is an accomplished teacher, actor, mime, monologist, clown and director. He is a founding member of *La Boîte à Popicos*, a French professional theatre for kids. He has entertained audiences young and old over the years with his monologues, mimes and his clowns *Ayoye* and *le Docteur Bien-Être*, a clown who addresses mental health in children.

André Roy, Actor (Robert)

André's career in theatre spans a lifetime. He has played a multitude of roles from Molière to Ionesco to his own creations and everything in between. André spent many years in radio and television at Radio-Canada in Edmonton, all the while enjoying playing different roles in numerous productions of the *Théâtre français d'Edmonton*.

France Levasseur-Ouimet Ph.D. Dr. Let. (Playwright, director)

France holds a Ph.D in Education and an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Alberta. She taught at the francophone Campus Saint-Jean at the U of A for many years and served as writer in residence there from 2004 to 2013. She has always been a very active member of the Franco-Albertan community completing a variety of projects with and for the community: historical tours, presentations, workshops, radio programs, films, historical brochures, and books on the history of Alberta's francophone community. She has written many plays including three musicals. France has also written many songs for Franco-Albertan artists and choirs, as well as Montreal based *Artimis* and *Les Petits chanteurs de Saint-Marc de Lyon*. Her works have been performed across Canada and she was awarded *L'Ordre des francophones d'Amérique* in 2003 by the Government of Québec.

André and Gilles toured the French version of this play in theatres and seniors' residences across Canada to great acclaim. If you or your community would like to be included in any future tour please contact Mireille with *Productions du Garage* at info@mireillerijavec.com. To find out more about André and Gilles' body of work, head to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/productionsdugarage/>.