

Vincent de Tourdonnet

Musical Theatre Writer/Director

Vincent de Tourdonnet has been committed to the musical theatre since 1984. He is currently writing a second musical comedy with composer Jane Miller. The first, *How to Get Rid of a Monster*, based on Chechov's *The Bear*, recently toured Ontario with Smile Theatre. He is also adapting Andrew Moodie's hit play *The Real McCoy*.

His epic musical *Pélagie*, (book & lyrics) co-written with Allen Cole, (book & music) was co-produced in 2004 by CanStage in Toronto and The National Arts Centre in Ottawa. In 2005, Vincent directed a touring production of *Pélagie* with a bilingual cast alternating performances in French and English. Produced by Two Planks and a Passion, the translation is by Antonine Maillet, author of the source novel *Pélagie-la-charrette*.

Vincent's premiere production of *Snappy Tales, Short Satirical Musicals*, (book, lyrics & direction) at the Factory Theatre in Toronto, was nominated in 2003 for 7 Dora awards. In 2004 he directed a second production for *Talk is Free Theatre*.

Book, lyrics and direction for other projects stretch back over 20 years and across Canada. A McGill honours grad, de Tourdonnet taught musical theatre writing at Long Island University in New York City, where he also attended the BMI musical theatre writer's workshop under Maury Yeston.

Critical Excerpts– The Globe & Mail

"It takes some kind of a musical to get Torontonians weeping... large, soaring melodies... genuine dramatic tension ...echoes of *Les Miz*... This project has been six years in the making, and it has been realized with admirable courage, flair and occasional brilliance... by the time *Pélagie* comes home, there wasn't a dry eye in the house."
Ray Conlogue, THE GLOBE & MAIL April 10, 2004

"Surprising and happily ridiculous, a cabaret-styled evening of quirky satirical musicals ... highly creative and broadly entertaining... a delightfully sharp look at moral righteousness... smart, tightly constructed, finely executed ...*Snappy Tales* is a whimsical evening that stages a different kind of musical question."

Rebecca Caldwell, THE GLOBE & MAIL June 10, 2002

"Attempts to horn in on the megamusical market have been, until now, disastrous... Enter *Jeanne*... a surprisingly charming and sellable musical... it has avoided the megamusical trap of taking itself too seriously. It is just dramatic enough to be emotionally moving, and just comic enough to relax the audience without slipping into self-parody..."

Ray Conlogue, THE GLOBE & MAIL May 1, 1995

"Strange Medicine ..is a fascinating piece of work... dark satire of the medical profession filtered through the Brechtian sensibilities of writer de Tourdonnet... his clever lyrics linked to Allen Cole's sprightly mixture of tangos, mock opera and cabaret jazz... the play's style is European... it worked very well with the audience... a crowd pleaser "

Liam Lacey, THE GLOBE & MAIL July 25 1990

"The text has been newly adapted by Montreal-based Vincent de Tourdonnet... it's even tougher and rougher than before... It's different all right, but it works just fine... The shades of truth that come from this adaptation make Threepenny Opera seem like today's brilliant satire rather than yesterday's hallowed classic. "

Stephen Godfrey, THE GLOBE & MAIL March 5, 1988

"There are two elements of note which make you hope the play gets exposure to other audiences. Vincent de Tourdonnet's lyrics, set to J.S. Dodd's music, have the bittersweet carnival gaiety of the Brecht-Weill collaborations."

Liam Lacey, THE GLOBE & MAIL August 1987