Costume Designer Fruzsina Lanyi shows us some insight into her wild work on the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers

Fruzsina was kind enough to let me into her sewing room to have a look at the costumes she is creating for the upcoming play, and discuss how her process has been behind the scenes and seams of this large-cast production.

What were you first impressions of the play?

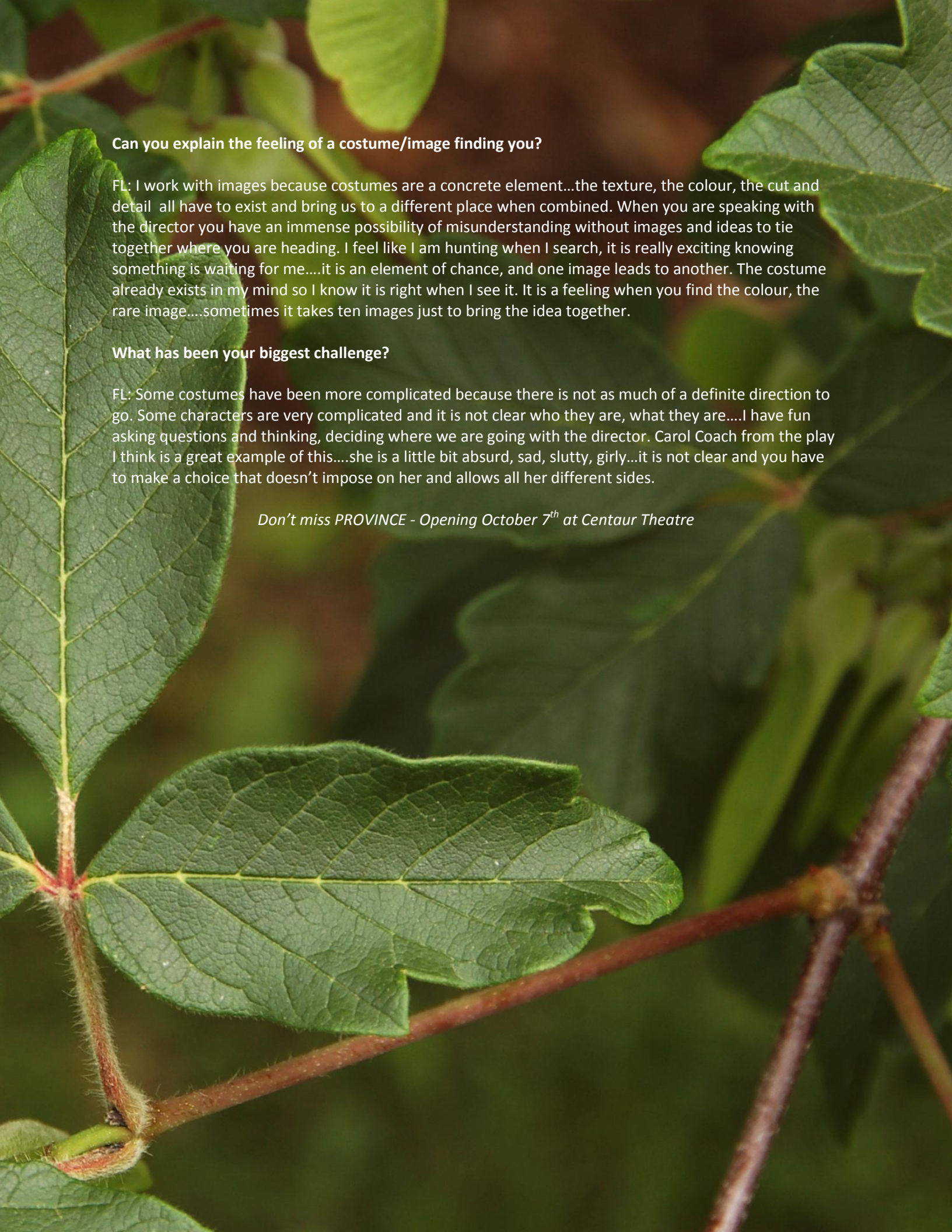
FL: I was completely in love with the text. It was like rude poetry, truly touching. The characters are larger than life, bigger than nature, and yet vulnerable anti-heroes. This mixture was so human and really inspired me. I went right to my computer and I was tripping like hell on ideas.

What makes the design of this show unique?

FL: I was really able to go outside of reality….I have been playing with so many textures and colours which is always fun. I think the text is so unique, and the people in the play are such odd characters, that I have had a lot of fun translating that into the clothes.

Have you had a central/starting image to work with?

FL: With such a large cast I've gathered central images for each of them. The first image I found was for the brothers….there was a picture of Hungarian street youth that found me and that was the way I dreamed of them….the clothing they wore wasn't fashion but were…. wasn't like us but was so real. Real but not from our life…I'm not sure if I've reached that yet in this production but that is my final goal. Still "costumes" but not exactly….it is a big inspirational idea I am pursuing.



Can you explain the feeling of a costume/image finding you?

FL: I work with images because costumes are a concrete element…the texture, the colour, the cut and detail all have to exist and bring us to a different place when combined. When you are speaking with the director you have an immense possibility of misunderstanding without images and ideas to tie together where you are heading. I feel like I am hunting when I search, it is really exciting knowing something is waiting for me….it is an element of chance, and one image leads to another. The costume already exists in my mind so I know it is right when I see it. It is a feeling when you find the colour, the rare image….sometimes it takes ten images just to bring the idea together.

What has been your biggest challenge?

FL: Some costumes have been more complicated because there is not as much of a definite direction to go. Some characters are very complicated and it is not clear who they are, what they are….I have fun asking questions and thinking, deciding where we are going with the director. Carol Coach from the play I think is a great example of this….she is a little bit absurd, sad, slutty, girly…it is not clear and you have to make a choice that doesn't impose on her and allows all her different sides.

Don't miss PROVINCE - Opening October 7th at Centaur Theatre