Lyne Paquette talks about set designing and co-producing the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre Production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers.

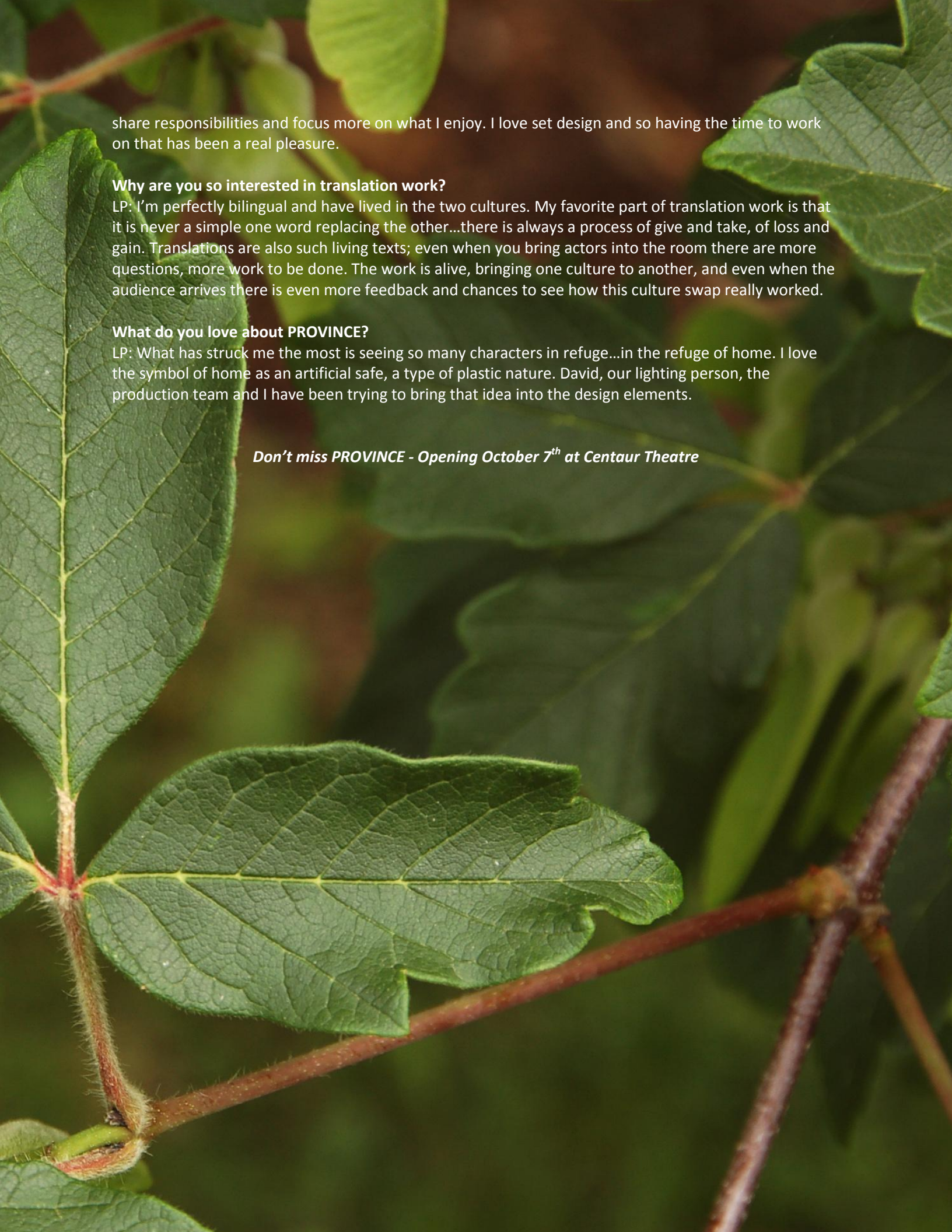
Artistic director of Talisman theatre, and well known for her crafty set designs, I was fortunate enough to have a sit-down with this staple of the English theatre community for a chance to discuss the upcoming co-production PROVINCE.

Let's start with your first impressions of the script/play
LP: I have to admit when I first read it I did not latch on at first. The play is really poetic and has a lot of subtext; I think it is one of those plays that has to be performed and heard in multiple voices to really understand its brilliance. There is so much irony, and so much in the silences that is exaggerated by actors.

What made you want to co-produce?
LP: Stacey *(artistic director of the Other theatre)* had seen the play in French and was very interested in the translation. She was so enthusiastic I thought it was worth really considering, and with a cast of nine Equity actors a co-production is really the only way we could afford it. When we workshopped the play and Stacey got the chance to get people on their feet I began to really see this was going to be a great experience.

What was it like working with Nadine as a translator?
LP: We are so proud of Nadine Desrochers and the recognition she is receiving from the community. She has now completed 5 translations for our company, and we have had great times at Playwrights' Workshop Montreal brining these important works to life.

Have you learned anything about co-production from this venture?
LP: I am very used to working alone, and taking it all on. This has been a really excellent opportunity to



share responsibilities and focus more on what I enjoy. I love set design and so having the time to work on that has been a real pleasure.

Why are you so interested in translation work?
LP: I'm perfectly bilingual and have lived in the two cultures. My favorite part of translation work is that it is never a simple one word replacing the other…there is always a process of give and take, of loss and gain. Translations are also such living texts; even when you bring actors into the room there are more questions, more work to be done. The work is alive, bringing one culture to another, and even when the audience arrives there is even more feedback and chances to see how this culture swap really worked.

What do you love about PROVINCE?
LP: What has struck me the most is seeing so many characters in refuge…in the refuge of home. I love the symbol of home as an artificial safe, a type of plastic nature. David, our lighting person, the production team and I have been trying to bring that idea into the design elements.

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