Natalie Tannous talks about playing the larger-than-life role of Carole Coach in the upcoming Talisman/Other Theatre Production PROVINCE by Mathieu Gosselin/Translation by Nadine Desrochers

Born and raised in Montreal, and a proud Dawson grad, you may recognize Natalie from stage hits like *State of Denial, Refuge*, and coming up in the much anticipated *La Recette Du Baklava*. I sat down with this active bilingual actor of television and stage to discuss the upcoming production of PROVINCE.

What were you first impressions of your character Carol Coach?

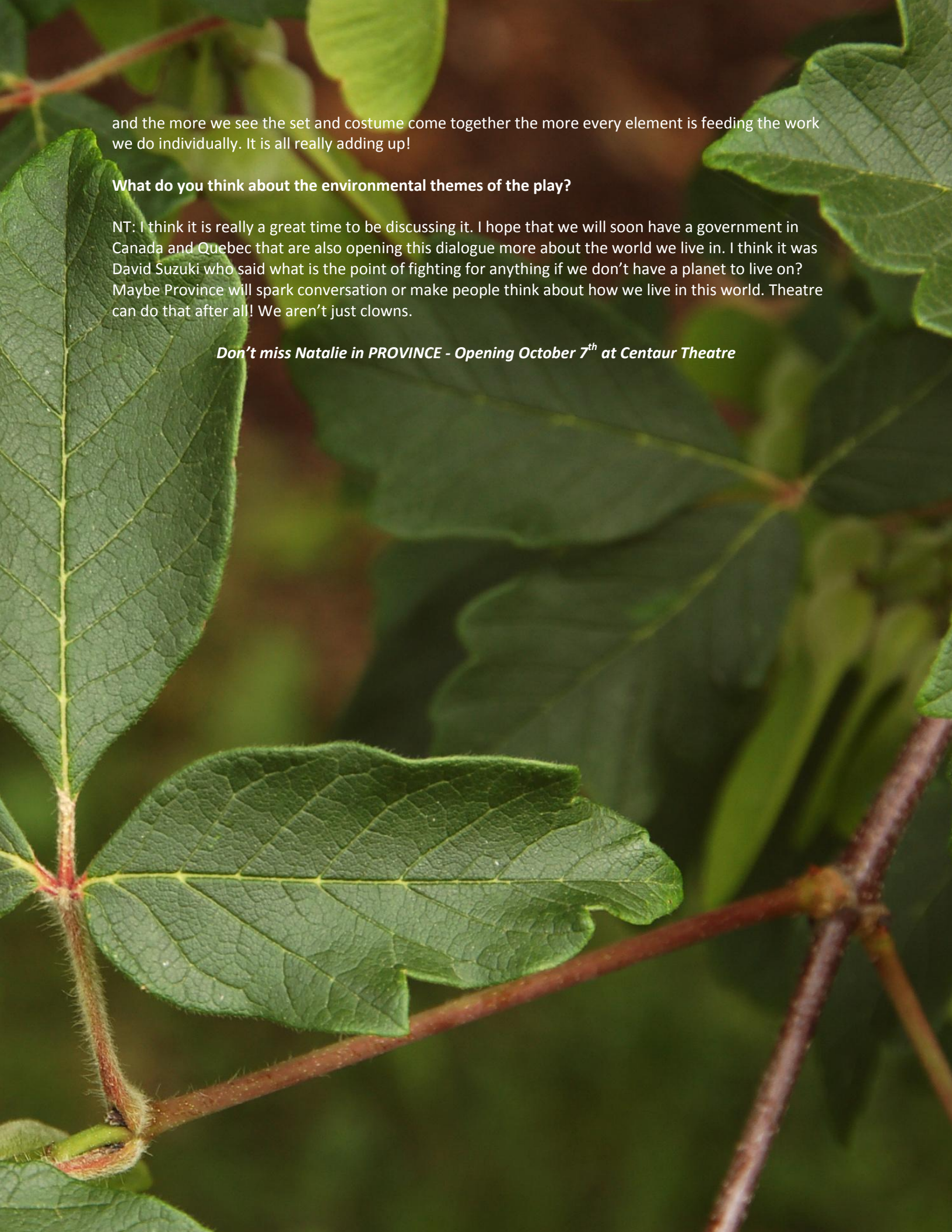
NT: This play has a tone that is very unique, it is a combination of comedy, tragedy and the absurd. I thought to myself as I first read; "what am I getting myself into?" but as I read on I began to dive in deep and realize this character is a challenge I want to rise up to. She is larger than life, and that scared me at first. I don't recognize myself as sensual and sexy like Carol so naturally is.

What are you doing to prepare for the role?

NT: I started by watching some videos of a British cook who is larger and proud of it, and watched how she was able to be so naturally radiant and sensual in her body and movements. I'm searching for ways to be sensual without putting it on, and I'm preparing myself to be as brave and give as much as possible. Within the second or third scene my character is already taking some huge risks on stage, so I want to be prepared for that. Let's just say it starts off with a bang.

What is it like working with such a big cast?

NT: I think it is fun, and very rare as a theatre experience. We are really starting to fuse all the separate pieces together and that is exciting. Having this full and talented cast is really helping us know the show,



and the more we see the set and costume come together the more every element is feeding the work we do individually. It is all really adding up!

What do you think about the environmental themes of the play?

NT: I think it is really a great time to be discussing it. I hope that we will soon have a government in Canada and Quebec that are also opening this dialogue more about the world we live in. I think it was David Suzuki who said what is the point of fighting for anything if we don't have a planet to live on? Maybe Province will spark conversation or make people think about how we live in this world. Theatre can do that after all! We aren't just clowns.

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