

In Act 2, Scene 7 of *As You Like It*, Shakespeare wrote:

**All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,...**

In 2018, I would add that theatre is a microcosm of the universe, of the visible and the invisible, the tangible and the intangible. It is a provider of joy, of emotion, of food for thought. It is a constantly changing living art that encompasses all the other arts, bringing the world to life, both on and off the stage. To the average person, we are play-acting.

The word "play" is an integral part of our vocabulary... We put on plays... We love to play a role. Correction: We work for years to hone our acting skills, to bring our roles to life in the most diligent and sensitive way we can, before blending back into the team of directors, designers, artists, and craftspeople who make theatrical productions possible.

**You may be charmed, you may be outraged,  
You may learn, you may realize,  
You may laugh, you may cry,  
You may reflect, you may affirm,  
You may doubt, you may disagree,  
And it doesn't stop when the curtain falls.**

The theatre is a place to learn, to experience, to experiment. It's a place to reflect and discover. Love it... Hate it... Question it... Question the rest. Get passionate... Be moved... Moved to tears... Move others to tears... Laugh... Make others laugh. The theatre is a fusion of what we are, what we'd like to be; it's a critical take on society, an homage to love, and so much more.

Experimental theatre is risky theatre. It's about daring to go beyond tried and tested formulas. That's what I find so fascinating about it and what attracts me to the theatre companies that strive for excellence and that deserve to be supported for it, encouraged not only by their directors and fellow artists — who so often work for peanuts — but also by the community, which has a role to play too. After all, today's experimental theatre is our cultural heritage of tomorrow. It's up to us — as an active and generous public — to nurture and nourish it.

Every performance, each so unique and different, conveys a vision of well-being or unease. When theatre gets us thinking and sparks discussion to change or improve things — all while entertaining us — then we will have fulfilled our roles as actor and spectator alike.

JOURNÉE  
MONDIALE  
DU  
**THÉÂTRE**

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Le **Conseil québécois du théâtre** honore l'art théâtral si essentiel à l'identité et la culture d'une nation. Il confie la rédaction du message québécois à une personnalité de théâtre et salue ainsi la contribution du théâtre québécois au rayonnement international du Québec et du Canada.

En 2018, **Béatrice Picard**, comédienne, signe le message québécois.