

Westmount, Que., Canada, Thursday, August 20, 1998

## Wordly thespian returns to teach kids drama

*Drama is a great way for children to interact with each other: King*

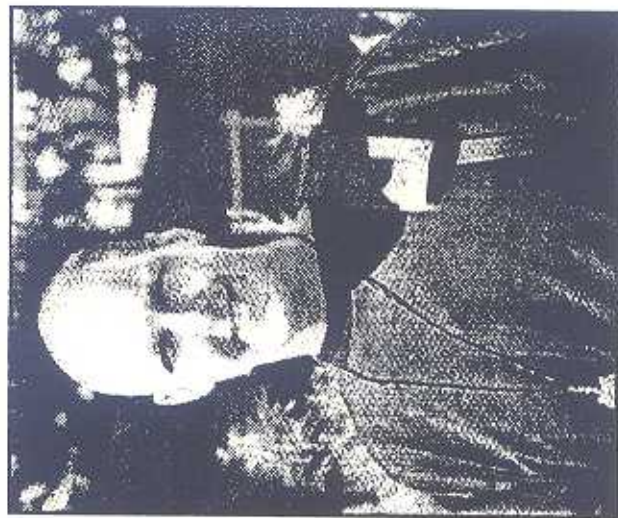
BY WAYNE LARSEN

From scaring tourists as a mad doctor in the London Dungeon to splashing around a New Zealand swimming pool as Caliban in Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', Westmounter Donovan King has spent the past three years working on several theatrical projects around the world.

Now he's home from his global wanderings and ready to pass along some of his skills to novice thespians. Starting in September, King will be back on familiar ground—teaching a drama course for six to 12-year-olds at Centre Greene.

"Drama is a great way for children to interact with each other," said King, 26. "And with the current popularity of television and video games, many kids just aren't interacting enough."

After studying drama and education at Concordia University, King was involved in the Wahoo Family Theatre and taught drama at Centre Greene. He left Montreal in the spring



**Actor and teacher Donovan King**

of 1995 and headed for Europe, where he landed a job at the legendary Shakespeare & Co. book store in Paris. From there he worked at a

radio station in Dublin, and the Dungeon, a macabre tourist attraction in London. His work at the Dungeon, where he played the demented Dr. Maggot, drew the attention of the CBC, which sent a film crew to London to report on his success.

From London he traveled across Asia, through India and Nepal, and eventually wound up in New Zealand, where he taught at Auckland's Dolphin Theatre and performed in the aquatic version of 'The Tempest' at the Auckland YMCA's Tepid Baths.

"That was really...interesting," King said of the underwater production that raised some eyebrows but received favourable reviews.

Although he plans to eventually pursue a Masters degree in directing, King's attention has been focused on this drama course since he landed back in his native city last month.

"This course isn't going to be performance-oriented," King said. "Instead it's designed to help develop communication skills and

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## King returns

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problem-solving through role-playing. Development is more important for children."

While stressing development, King maintains that it's equally important not to turn young drama students off by pushing them too far. "They can participate as much as they feel comfortable," he said.

King's Saturday afternoon drama course for six to 12-year-olds begins September 19 at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave., from 4 to 5 p.m. It runs for 12 weeks and costs \$75 per child. To register, call Donovan King at 428-9456. He will also be available to answer questions between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 during Centre Greene's open house.