

Whodunit sets suspense in old folks' home

HIGH INFIDELITY PLAYWRIGHT'S SIXTH
Three-performance run takes place
in remote and beautiful new drama venue

MATT RADZ
GAZETTE THEATRE CRITIC

After cheating on his wife and deceiving several fellow residents at the old folks' home, Moishe is poisoned. Efforts to finger his killer from a long list of highly motivated suspects drive the plot of *High Infidelity*, a do-it-yourself stage show by Montreal playwright/producer Robert Soroka.

Starring a cast of local drama veterans under the direction of Dawson's W. Steven Lecky, *High Infidelity* opens a three-performance run tonight at what is certainly the city's most remote and beautiful new venue for live drama – the 535-seat Mirella & Lino Saputo Theatre at the Leonardo Da Vinci Centre in St. Léonard.

Soroka, 41, a business and law professor by day, has written five other plays in an accessible style he compares to that of Norm Foster, Canada's most popular playwright.

Thesis of Life, Soroka's dramatic comedy about personal growth, seen in a Lakeshore Players café-theatre production and at the 2002 Montreal Fringe, could soon be a major motion picture.

Soroka has been offered a contract for *Thesis of Life* by an independent film producer and will make his final decision early in the new year.

The latest play, *High Infidelity*, was inspired by life in the Caldwell Residences, the Côte des Neiges district old folks' home where Soroka's grandparents lived.

The author describes his

latest work as "a fast-paced comedy/mystery/whodunit that will keep the audience in suspense until the surprise ending."

"Society often chooses to ignore, minimize or diminish the emotional needs of older folks," said Soroka, who used to visit his grandparents several times a week. "Passion does not grow stale with age."

"Specific references in the play to Italian, Jewish and New York cultures reflect some of my life experiences – I'm a Jew married to a woman of Italian descent, and I have practised law in the state of New York."

The cast of *High Infidelity* includes Lou Vani, who

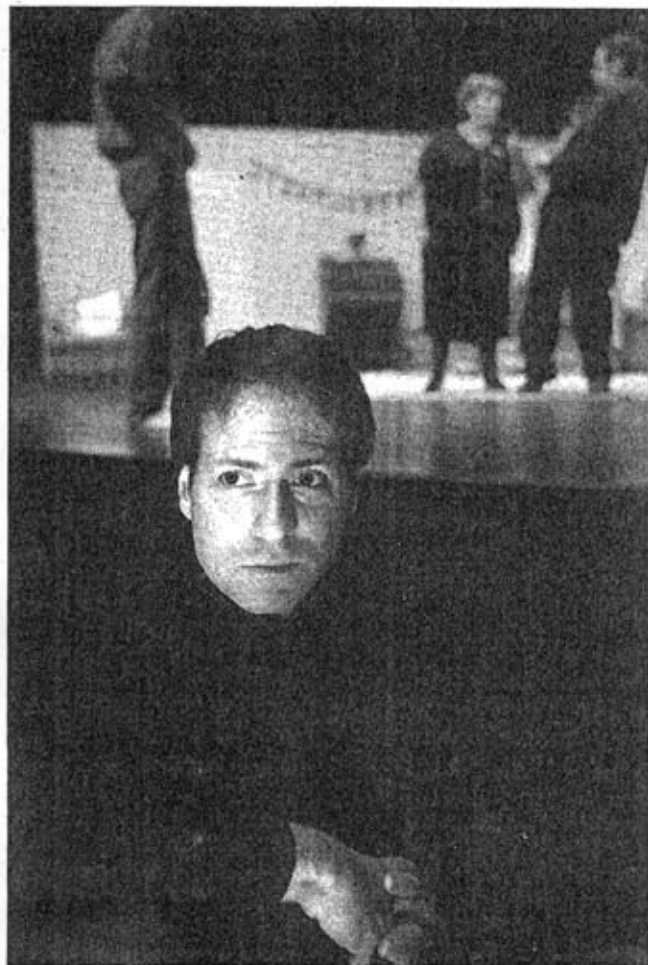
**"Passion does not
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Playwright Robert Soroka

played the role of Marco in the screen version of *Mambo Italiano*; Village Theatre West regulars Karen Cromar, Glen Bowser and Tara Amstel, as well as independent theatre stalwart Doreen Fagen.

High Infidelity by Robert Soroka, directed by W. Steven Lecky, is on at 8 p.m. today, tomorrow and Thursday at the Mirella & Lino Saputo Theatre, Leonardo da Vinci Centre, 8350 Lacordaire Blvd., St. Léonard; (514) 955-8370. Tickets cost \$20.

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MARIE-FRANCE COALLIER THE GAZETTE

Robert Soroka, at a rehearsal for *High Infidelity*, describes the play as "a fast-paced comedy/mystery/whodunit"