

Conversations with George Luscombe

Theatre
\$27.95 Can
\$24.95 US • £15.95

"I don't train actors. I train citizens." – George Luscombe

"A theatre without opinion is not a theatre." – George Luscombe

"If you don't make enemies, you're probably no damn good!" – George Luscombe

This is a major book, a genuine document about the evolution and character of Canadian theatre. It is also extremely valuable for anyone interested in the intersection of theatre, politics and society.

From the late 1950s, George Luscombe was at the creative centre of theatre in Toronto. As director of Toronto Workshop Productions, his visual creativity, his exciting use of stage space and his ensemble approach to acting inspired Canadian theatre for three decades.

"Luscombe found theatrical fodder in virtually every social issue of the day ... Time and again, Luscombe proved that strong socialist themes were not incompatible with a highly theatrical style."

– Ken Gass

"George Luscombe made theatre that left indelible imprints on the memories of those who were there ... theatre that was bold, strongly shaped, unashamedly partisan, unafraid to stand, never mealy-mouthed. Ultimately, George paid a big price for the virtue of intolerance that helped make his work so distinctively his own."

– Steven Bush

"George was deeply proud of his working class roots, and he believed strongly that working class art must claim as its own the entire heritage of theatre history ... To the rest of my days I will remember the stunning force of his imagery: the hobos jumping trains in *Ten Lost Years*; the dehumanized mill in *The Wobbly*; the battlefields of Spain in *The Mac Paps*. All done on a bare stage, with actors who moved with clarity, purpose and passion."

– Alan Filewod

STEVEN BUSH is a Senior Lecturer at UC Drama, University of Toronto. He has over forty-five years professional theatre experience.

MOSAIC PRESS, Publishers
ISBN 978-0-88962-957-8
eBook 978-0-88962-958-5

www.mosaic-press.com

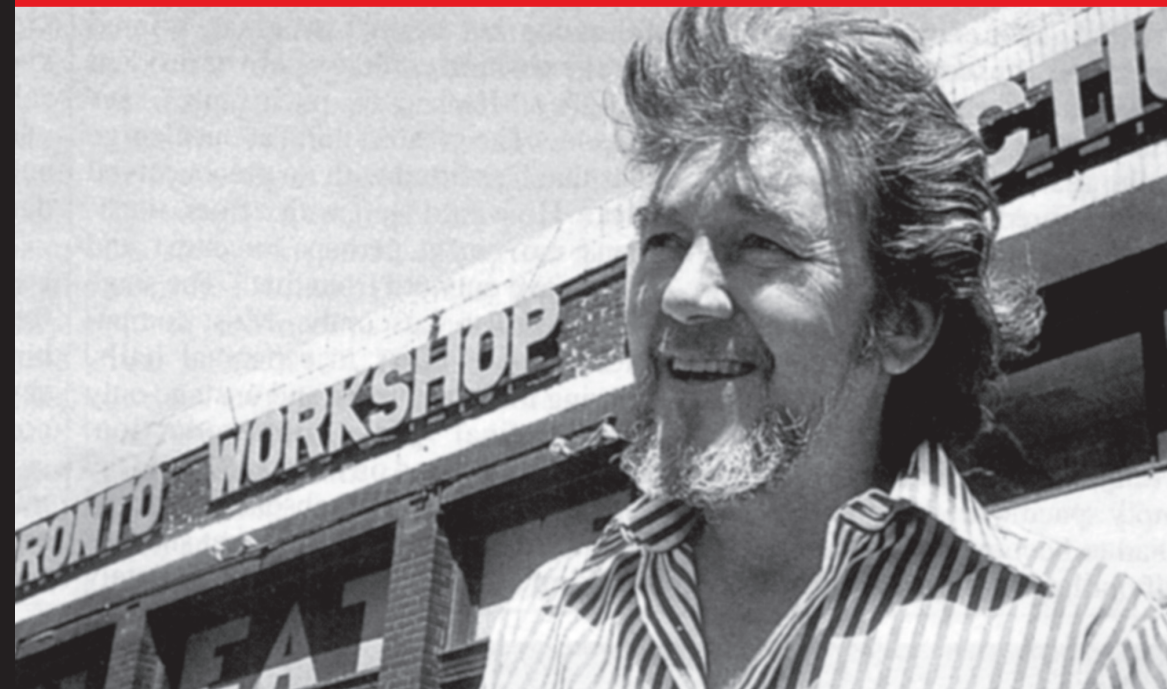


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Steven Bush in
conversation with the
Canadian theatre visionary

Audio CD included