

## MONIQUE MERCURE

Member: Canadian Actors' Equity  
ACTRA  
UDA

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

One of Canada's most distinguished actresses, Monique Mercure was decorated with the Order of Canada, the country's highest honour, for her contribution to the arts. She was the General Director of Montréal's National Theatre School from 1991 to 2000.

Working both in French and in English, Monique Mercure has appeared in more than 30 films and starred in such classics as Claude Jutra's **Mon oncle Antoine** and Jean Beaudin's **J.A. Martin photographe**, which won her a Best Actress Award at the Cannes Film Festival and at the Canadian Film Awards in 1977. Her role in **Conquest** won her a Genie for best supporting actress in 1999. A selection of her other pictures include Claude Jutra's **La dame en couleurs**, **Take It All** and **For Better or Worse**, in which she played the cello. She used her musical talents again when she played the piano in Jean-Claude Labrecque's **The Vultures**. Other credits include Robert Altman's **Quintet**, Claude Chabrol's **The Blood of Others**, Claude Fournier's **Deux femmes en or**, and more recently, **Tramp at the Door**, **Qui a tiré sur nos histoires d'amour**, Yves Simoneau's **In The Belly Of The Dragon**, David Cronenberg's **Naked Lunch** (won her a Genie for best supporting role in 1992), and François Girard's **The Red Violin**.

Her innumerable television credits include **Le piano rouge**, **Monsieur le Ministre**, and **L'héritage**, for Radio-Canada. She appeared in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's TV series, **Mount-Royal** and **Private Capital**. She interpreted Jeanne-Mance in **Shehaweh**, directed by Jean Beaudin and worked again with him in **Miséricorde**. She played Rachel in **Le Retour**.

Monique Mercure's stage credits are myriad. She acted in **Les belles-soeurs** by Michel Tremblay, **Night of the Iquana** in Atlanta, and performed, over the years, the parts of three characters of different ages in Bertolt Brecht's **The Threepenny Opera**, as well as interpreting Bertolt Brecht's **Man's A Man** in French and English. Her illustrious career encompasses major roles in plays by Michel Tremblay, Strindberg, Tennessee Williams, Genet, Beckett and Shakespeare.

Born in Montréal, Monique Mercure obtained a Music BA from Montréal's Vincent d'Indy Advanced School of Music, where she studied cello and singing. In France, she studied under the famous mime and movement teacher, Jacques Lecoq, and took dramatic art lessons at Théâtre National Populaire and l'École Dullin. Returning to Canada, she continued her studies in English, working three years at the Montréal Drama Studio, a branch of the Actors' Studio.