



MACHINE DE CIRQUE

LA GALERIE

PHILADELPHIA DEBUT

STAGE DIRECTOR & AUTHOR Olivier Lépine

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CO-WRITER Vincent Dubé

CAST Adam Strom, Antoine Morin, Connor Houlihan, Gaël Della-Valle, Lyne Goulet, Pauline Bonanni, David Trappes, Marie-Michèle Pharand

MUSIC Marie-Hélène Blay

ARTISTIC ADVISORS Frédéric Lebrasseur, Lyne Goulet, Maxim Laurin, Ugo Dario

SCENOGRAPHER Julie Lévesque

LIGHTING DESIGNER Bruno Matte

COSTUMES Émilie Potvin

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Geneviève Ouellet-Fortin

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Mathieu Hudon

OTHER COLLABORATORS Gilles Bernard, Carl D. Jardins

SUNDAY, **OCTOBER 2** @ 7:00 PM

Annenberg Center, Zellerbach Theatre

There will be no intermission.

Creation of *La Galerie* was made possible thanks to the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the cultural development agreement entered into between the Government of Québec and the Ville de Québec, Temal Productions and Cirque au Sommet.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Founded in 2013 under the initiative of Vincent Dubé, Raphaël Dubé, Yohann Trépanier, Ugo Dario, Maxim Laurin and Frédéric Lebrasseur, Machine de Cirque launched its very first production – the company’s namesake show – in May 2015 to rave reviews by both audiences and critics alike. This maiden production, including its cabaret version, has been performed more than 700 times in Europe, Asia and North America. More than 300,000 spectators have attended this show and this number continues to grow.

Since then, four more shows have been added to Machine de Cirque’s roster of productions. In 2018, a traveling show titled *Truck Stop: The Great Journey* told the story of a group of zany campers as they embarked on a wild adventure across the North American continent. Then, in 2019, Machine de Cirque created a third production titled *La Galerie*, in which spectators were taken on a trip to the outer boundaries of art by means of a totally out-of-this-world exhibit where movements from white to color and shifting sets created the most unexpected scenes. In the summer of 2020, despite the pandemic, the company presented a walk-through circus show titled *Fleuve at the Baie de Beauport* (Québec). Most recently, *Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight* made its world premiere at the prestigious Festival du Cirque Actuel - CIRCa in Auch, France. New productions are also currently on the drawing board.

Machine de Cirque is a Québec City-based circus company that packs high doses of dizzying feats, powerful emotions, poetry, intelligence and humor into its innovative and original circus shows. The company’s ingenious and deeply human creations skillfully blend the highest levels of contemporary circus with musical and theatrical performances. Driven by this unifying vision, Machine de Cirque’s unique approach to the circus arts produces shows that dazzle the mind, touch the heart and move the spirit.

Olivier Lépine (Stage Director & Author)

After graduating from the Conservatoire de musique et d’art dramatique de Québec in 2005, Lépine cofounded tectoniK, which he managed until 2011. With this company, he orchestrated the stage direction for Sarah Kane’s *Purifiés*, Jocelyn Pelletier’s *Symbioses* and *Vertiges*, a multidisciplinary choir show for which he was a finalist for the Prix d’Excellence des Arts et de la Culture 2012 for Best Stage Direction. He also oversaw the stage direction for *Le “K”Buster* for 7981 théâtre and was nominated for the Prix d’Excellence des Arts et de la Culture 2008 for Best Stage Co-Direction as well as *!VivaPinoshit!* (Les Exilés), *Barbe Bleue* (Les Écornifleuses), *Coronado* (Des Miettes dans la Caboche/Best Next Generation Show, season 13-14, Première Ovation), Lars Noren’s *Froid*, presented during the final seasons of Premier Acte, and the classic *Roméo et Juliette*, presented at the Théâtre de la Bordée in 2011. In 2013, he founded and directed *Portrait-Robot* and presented *Femme non-rééduicable/Anna P.*, followed by his first solo text, *Architecture du Printemps*, a performance presented at Premier Acte in March 2016. In 2008, Lépine co-founded Les Chantiers – Constructions Artistiques, a spinoff of the Carrefour International de Théâtre de Québec. Since 2011, he has taught at the École de Cirque de Québec. He oversaw the stage direction for the third component of Flip Fabrique’s *Crépuscule*, *Vents & Marées* in 2017. In the summer of 2018, he handled stage direction duties for the Cirque au Sommet in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

Vincent Dubé (Artistic Director & Co-Writer)

For more than 20 years, Dubé has performed on the international scene as a solo artist, as part of the duo Les Vitaminés and as part of the quartet Les Tourisk. He is also a former member of circus Éos and has been invited to perform in Cirque du Soleil’s *Wintuk* in New York. He is the former artistic co-director and principal writer for the cabaret-circus show, *Quebec 2nd Avenue*, presented in GOP theatres in Germany. Since 2013, he has served as general manager and artistic director for Machine de Cirque, of which he is the principal founder. He is the ideas manager behind the shows *Machine de Cirque* and *Truck Stop: The Great Journey*. Alongside his career as an artist, he has completed a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Université Laval. Dubé’s training as an engineer provides him with an overall vision of projects that feature a high degree of technical content and facilitates dialogue between the artistic and technical designers.

Adam Strom (Circus Artist)

Originally from Brisbane, Australia, Strom has studied and performed acrobatics, aerial disciplines and juggling for 11 years as part of Flipside Circus while developing his artistic skills in dance, music and theatre. Since 2014, he has been perfecting his skills with the German Wheel at the École de cirque de Québec. He has performed in several shows, including Flip Fabrique's *Crépuscule: Vents et Marées* and Machine de Cirque's *Truck Stop: The Great Journey*. He has most recently worked with Midnight Circus in a series of performances in the United States.

Antoine Morin (Circus Artist)

Fearing ending up stuck in an office after completing his studies in environmental protection in France, Morin decided to combine business with pleasure by taking to the stage. After graduating from the École de cirque de Québec in 2012, he has worked all over the world as part of various shows in venues or on the street. In recent years, he has mostly turned to busking, for which he has a special interest given the greater access to the public it provides. He loves feeling the sincerity and authenticity of an artist on stage and hopes to be able to pursue his inabilities for years to come.

David Trappes (Circus Artist)

Finding circus as a kid at a small festival north of Brisbane, Australia, Trappes went on to study at L'École de cirque de Québec. Since then, he has had the pleasure of working with companies like Company 2, Gravity and Other Myths, Circus Oz, Circa and Casus. Trappes has worked around the world as a generalist acrobat, base, juggler, highwire walker, coach, musician, vaudeville performer, clown, busker, rigger and creator.

Marie-Michèle Pharand (Circus Artist)

Pharand discovered performing and circus arts when the rigidity of gymnastics no longer appealed to her. Why not move people instead of looking for a score out of 10? Fortunately, it is through her multiple acrobatic, colorful and clownish characters that we discover her funny, sensitive and generous personality. She is an old soul with a child's heart who is not afraid of ridicule. You will also find this acrobat on television shows or in movies as a stand-in or a stuntwoman in several Quebec productions.

Pauline Bonanni (Circus Artist)

After graduating from the École de cirque de Québec in 2012, Bonanni has worked with several Québec companies, including Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil (*Les chemins invisibles*, *Andorra*) and Flip Fabrique (*Crépuscule*). As a result of her fascination with the dynamics of working as a trio, she and two partners founded *Moi et les autres*.

Connor Houlihan (Circus Artist)

Originally from Minnesota, Houlihan developed an interest in the circus at an early age. With a special fondness for group work, he studied Hand to Hand and Banquine at the École de cirque de Québec. After graduating in 2014, he has worked with several companies, including Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil and Circus Monti.

Gaël Della-Valle (Circus Artist)

Della-Valle completed his studies in electronics engineering in 2003. Two years later, he left his native Switzerland and emigrated to Québec to launch into a new career: circus artist. After graduating from the École de cirque de Québec in 2010, specializing in Russian Bar, juggling and Cyr Wheel, he has worked with leading companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize.

Lyne Goulet (Musician & Artistic Advisor)

As a saxophonist with a Bachelor of Music in performance, Goulet developed an early interest in contemporary and current music. Since her graduation, she has stretched her musical wings into funk, jazz, blues and world music. She was a collaborator with the equestrian circus Luna Caballera and several other companies, including Strada, Water on Mars, the Ligue d'improvisation musicale de Québec, the Orchestre d'Hommes Orchestres and the Blaze Velluto Collection, to name only a few.

Marie-Hélène Blay (Composer)

A pianist by training and a multidisciplinary artist, Blay has incorporated acoustic and digital music, audio performance and art, sound design, sound effects and video into her work. She has performed in several festivals and events in Canada, the United States and Eastern Europe. As a member of the collective Les Fermières obsédées, which dissolved in 2015, cofounder of the collective B.L.U.S.H. and vice president of Productions Haut-de-Forme, she has more than one trick up her sleeve. She is dedicated to developing new musical and technical avenues, questioning norms, creative anarchy, producing novel situations and evolution.

Bruno Matte (Lighting Designer)

Matte started out his career as a lighting technician at the Festival d'été de Québec, Woodstock en Beauce and Festivent de Lévis. He was introduced to the circus through his work with Flip Fabrique, Machine de Cirque and Cirque du Soleil. In the world of theatre, he has notably worked on Rick Miller's *BOOM* and Théâtre À Tempo's *Concerto de bruits qui courent*, in addition to serving as lighting designer for Robert Lepage for an updated production of *Hamlet* as well as a revisited version of *Needles and Opium*. He continues to explore the stage setting with various choreographers and loves to face new challenges by getting involved in filming, sports events, fashion shows and breaking new ground through installation art projects such as the Québec City Lights Festival.

Julie Lévesque (Scenographer)

Lévesque, a graduate of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec, is a scenographer with many awards to her credit. Nominated for the Prix d'excellence des Arts et de la Culture in 2008 and 2009, she received the Desjardins/Théâtre Blanc bursary for 2009-2010. She has been involved in a number of projects in various media including museums, film and installation art. Lévesque is interested in visual arts, projection, textiles, photography, painting and computer graphics.

Émilie Potvin (Costumes)

Potvin is a former seamstress who shifted careers in 2012 to devote herself to the world of theatre. Driven by her passion for creating costumes and accessories, her versatility has led to many collaborations with various artists and theatres.

Carl D. Jardins (Collaborator)

Jardins is a musician with a varied professional background. Drums are his specialty. His mastery of a wide variety of musical styles allows him to tailor his performances by listening and responding to the spirit and dynamics of the moment.

Gilles Bernard (Collaborator)

An award-winning pianist and composer, Bernard is a renowned jazz musician who runs his own recording studio, Studio de l'Ours. He also works as a producer and sound engineer in his spare time.