

CIRQUE
ÉLOIZE

Press Kit



DIRECTED BY JEANNOT PAINCHAUD

Éloize Pronounced [EL-WAZ]

Éloize is a word that comes from the Magdalen Islands and means "flashes of heat lightning seen on the horizon".

An inspiration for the troupe's founding members, this lightning symbolizes the heat and energy which feeds the troupe's spirit.

CIRQUE
ÉLOIZE

THE COMPANY



Positioned at the heart of the renewal of circus arts, Cirque Éloize has been creating moving performances filled with magic and emotion since 1993. Continually striving for artistic perfection, it is one of the leaders in contemporary circus arts. Based on the multidisciplinary talents of its artists, Cirque Éloize expresses its innovative nature through theatricality and humanity, and combines circus arts with music, dance and theatre in a path-breaking and original manner.

With eleven original productions to its credit, Cirque Éloize has presented more than 4,000 performances and visited some 500 cities in more than 50 different countries. Cirque Éloize has taken part in numerous prestigious international festivals. Its shows have seduced Broadway and the West End. In addition to its touring shows, Cirque Éloize develops custom-made concepts for international events. To date, more than 1,300 events have taken place.

In 2004, Cirque Éloize's head office and creative studio moved to the former Dalhousie Train Station, a historic building in the heart of Old-Montréal. It remains a place for dialogue and encounters for the circus community and the doors are always open to up-and-coming artists. Today, the company employs more than 100 people.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded in 1993;
- 11 original productions:
 - 1993 - Cirque Éloize
 - 1997 - Excentricus
 - 1999 - Cirque Orchestra
 - 2002 - Nomade - At night, the sky is endless
 - 2003 - Typo
 - 2004 - Rain
 - 2007 - Nebbia (coproduced with Teatro Sunil)
 - 2009 - iD
 - 2012 - Cirkopolis
 - 2013 - Le Music-Hall de la Baronne
 - 2016 - Saloon
- Currently touring: *iD* since 2009, *Cirkopolis* 2012 and *Saloon*, August 2016;
- The company has more than 4,000 performances to its credit in over 500 cities and 50 countries;
- Over 3,5 million spectators have seen a Cirque Éloize show;
- More than 100 collaborators are working on various projects;
- We have taken part in many festivals and events, and were presented in prestigious venues such as: Edinburgh Festival, Israel Festival, Hong Kong Festival, Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogota, Beiteddine Festival, Recklinghausen Festival, Bergen Festival, Sadler's Wells, Sydney Opera House, NY Lincoln Center, Théâtre du Rond-Point, Bunkamura Orchard Hall, Hollywood Bowl, Folies Bergère, Toronto Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Wales Millenium Center, Chekhov International Theater Festival, 2007 Universal Forum of Cultures in Monterrey, and toured in the US Broadway network.
- We develop creations for proscenium stages, but these can be adapted to big tops as well;
- Our circus productions are created for the general public and pose no language barrier;
- Our performances have been featured in clips and documentaries on Radio-Canada, CBC, ARTV, Prime Nights, Bravo, Indigo and NTV (Japan). Nominated for the "Rose d'Or" of Montreux (France), the NY Film Festival (USA), ARTE (France) and TFO (Canada);
- Cirque Éloize ranks amongst the top 150 companies most admired by Quebecers, based on the Leger Marketing 2014 Reputation Study.
- Jeannot Painchaud was the recipient of the 2011 "Prix Samuel de Champlain" for his lifetime achievements;
- Winner of the 26th Grand Prix du Conseil des Arts de Montréal in 2010 for *iD* and its exceptional exposure;
- Recipient of twelve (12) medals and prizes at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de demain in Paris (France):
 - 1992: Jeannot Painchaud - Artistic Bicycle / Bronze
 - 2002: Symbiose - Hand Balancing act / Silver
 - 2003: Daniel Cyr - Cyr Wheel act / Silver
 - 2005: Typo, produced by Cirque Éloize, collected 5 awards;
 - 2010: Leilani Franco and Sancho Garmatter - for their contortion and hip hop act in *iD* / prix coup de coeur du festival
 - 2013: Angelica Bongiovanni collected 3 awards for her Cyr Wheel act in Cirkopolis - Silver Medal, Best Costume and Moulin Rouge Awards
- Nominated in 2004 Best Touring Production of the Year Theatre Award category for the serie of shows presented at the Whales Millenium Center for Rain;
- Winner of a GEMINI AWARD for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series in October 2003 for the TV presentation of Cirque Orchestra live on tour in 2003 and for Nomade - At night, the sky is endless in 2005;
- Rain : Ranked as one of the 10 best shows of the year by the 2005 IN REVIEW - San Francisco Chronicle Theater Robert Hurnwitt;
- Winner of a Drama Desk Award 2014 for "Unique Theatrical Experience" for Cirkopolis
- Nominations at New York's Drama Desk Awards :
 - "Unique Theatrical Experience" - Typo (2005)
 - "Unique Theatrical Experience" - Rain (2006)
 - "Outstanding Director of a Musical" - Daniele Finzi Pasca, Rain (2006)
 - "Outstanding Lighting Design" - Martin Labrecque, Rain (2006)
 - "Unique Theatrical Experience" - Cirkopolis (2014)
 - "Outstanding Projection Design" - Robert Massicotte et Alexis Laurence, Cirkopolis (2014)
- Nomination for an Off-Broadway Alliance Award :
 - "Best Unique Theatrical Experience" - Cirkopolis (2014)



WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

At Cirque Éloize, we have always nurtured our shows through encounters with creators from different horizons. We have also always favored a multidisciplinary artistic approach, which is enriched with artists of several nationalities.

No exception lies in this new creation.

Fifteen artists on stage, twelve circus disciplines, and then the discovery of a world which is new to us, that of urban dances such as breakdance and hip-hop.

I imagined this show at the heart of a city, where the omnipresence of image causes us to lose our reference points. I sought to create an estheticism at the crossroads of comic books, science-fiction movies and the rich universe of graffiti.

The decidedly rock, electronic and poetic music, coupled with the presence of video projections, highlight the show's playful, energetic, youthful and urban aspects.

In the middle of this city exists a public place. A public place, as a spot where one can seek refuge and escape anonymity, to express one's individuality and affirm one's identity, in order to reclaim possession of public space, and to dance the city.

An area for encounters, a site of passage, a hood where clans confront one another, where friendships are woven. Where love is created, and dissolved.

I am proud to invite you to join us on this new adventure.



Jeannot Painchaud

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES



JEANNOT PAINCHAUD
President and Artistic Director - Cirque Éloize
Director

It all started with a backpacking trip. 1984. Jeannot Painchaud left his native Magdalen Islands to see the Tall Ships in Quebec City. On the way, he stopped in Gaspé where Cirque du Soleil was presenting its first show. This was in June. In September, in Montreal, he discovered the National Circus School. A unique, mysterious, exotic and totally wonderful world. It was love at first sight.

While he worked on getting his diploma, he took up street performance: juggling, unicycling, acrobatic cycling...what better training than being interesting enough to convince passersby to stop, watch and toss a coin into the hat? He continued to perform on the streets for 12 years, even after founding Cirque Éloize.

1992 was a big turning point. He went to Japan with the Cirque du Soleil show Fascination and won a bronze medal at the Festival mondial du Cirque de demain in Paris for an artistic cycling act. A few months after his return to Canada he founded his own circus. In the early years, he performed as an acrobat, juggler and comedian while simultaneously serving as artistic director, but he left the ring for good in 1998 to focus on the development and artistic direction of Éloize and staging performances.

An adventurer at heart, Jeannot believes that risk is the core of every good number. If the spectators hold their breath, you've succeeded. But the circus is also poetry, humour, energy and sensitivity. As a pioneer in the modern circus movement, he draws freely from other art forms: dance, classical music, theatre. He also works with designers from other worlds: from Daniele Finzi Pasca (Nomade, Rain, Nebbia) to Dave St-Pierre (Cirkopolis) to Alain Francoeur (Cirque Orchestra) and Jamie Adkins (Typo). Multidisciplinarity is a crucial quality for any artist who wants to take part in a Cirque Éloize show.

Jeannot has two passions: the ring and the Magdalen Islands. In 2003, he brought the two together by founding North America's first circus festival in the place he grew up. In 2006, he was in charge of the acrobatic numbers at the closing ceremonies for the Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. As the company prepared to celebrate its 20th anniversary, Jeannot Painchaud branched out into other activities. In 2011, he took part in the Big-Bang exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The Musée de la civilisation de Québec asked him to take charge of the artistic direction of its exhibition Paris on Stage. 1889-1914, in summer 2013. Also in 2013, he served on the board of the Montreal Fashion Week.

In 2012, Jeannot assumed the roles of artistic director and, along with Dave St-Pierre, co-director for Cirkopolis, Cirque Éloize's ninth original creation.



CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

JONATHAN ST-ONGE

Executive Producer

A lawyer by trade and an entertainment producer, Jonathan St-Onge joined Cirque Éloize in 2001. Following his brief employment as an attorney in 2000 with the provincial crown prosecutor's office, he began his career in the world of entertainment with the Just For Laughs Festival and its production management department. During his last festival, he was the assistant to the executive producer. He and other partners managed artists while producing shows and special events; Jonathan then took on a full-time position with Cirque Éloize in 2004. He has since managed and overseen all of Cirque Éloize's operations, along with those of its affiliated companies, particularly as the delegate producer of shows on tour, and of special projects and events. He has provided Cirque Éloize with a solid and effective organizational foundation, enabling it to respond quickly to its continuous international growth and artistic development. He also supervises the activities of the Dalhousie Station, where Cirque Éloize's head office is located in Old Montréal. Jonathan received the Volunteer of the Year title in 2006 from the Quebec Junior Bar Association after having been active with them for several years. From 2006 to 2009, he sat on the board of directors of the organization En Piste, the national circus arts grouping, where he played an active role increasing awareness and improvement of conditions for the circus arts in Quebec and in Canada, more specifically with respect to major financial incentives such as tax credits. He has been an associate and a member of Cirque Éloize's board of directors since 2008. His involvement with the circus universe has not prevented him however from working closely for several years with charitable organizations in Montréal, including the Sainte Justine Hospital Foundation.

ROBERT MASSICOTTE

Set Designer, Illustrator and Video Images Co-Designer

A multit talented visual artist, Robert Massicotte has worked in the entertainment industry for nearly 25 years. He has applied his creativity, passion and sensitivity to circus, theatre, television, movies, exhibitions and major music shows. A graduate of the Université de Montréal's school of industrial design, he was captivated by comics from a very young age. Drawing soon became his main means of artistic expression and has served him daily since the beginning of his career. After obtaining his Bachelor's degree in 1987, he collaborated on a dozen Cirque du Soleil shows, either as a draftsman, illustrator, storyboard artist or designer. The shows included Alegria, O, La Nouba, Kooza, Love, Corteo, Zarkana and the Michael Jackson Immortal Tour, to name but a few. From 2001 to 2011, Robert Massicotte also worked on a dozen major shows and projects. He was the set designer for the Backstreet Boys' Black and Blue tour and helped create and produce Ulalena, performed for over 10 years in Hawaii. He was also involved in designing projections for shows by artists like P!nk, Bette Midler and Alicia Keys. In 2009, he produced the set design and video content for iD, Cirque Éloize's eighth creation, which premiered at the Global Fair and Festival in South Korea. Acclaimed from day one by a vast public and critics around the world, iD namely won the Grand prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal in 2010. In 2012, Robert is once again collaborating with Cirque Éloize, this time plunging into the fascinating world of comic books. In charge of the set design and video content for the company's 8th creation, he is working closely with the other members of the design team to create a show that will bring the performers and public on a journey from dream to reality... and back again.

KRZYSZTOF SOROCZYŃSKI

Show Acrobatic Designer, Head-trainer – Trampowall Act Designer

The circus arts have been an integral part of Krzysztof Soroczynski's life for more than forty years. He began his acrobatic career in Poland in 1965. He completed his degree in circus arts at the famous Polish State Circus Academy in Julinek, after which time he worked in traditional circuses around the world. In 1980, he won a silver medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris as part of the Budzyn Troupe performing a Russian Swing act. After coming to Canada, he worked with Cirque du Soleil first as a performer and then as an acrobatic consultant and trainer on Saltimbanco, Mystère, and Alegria shows, all directed by Franco Dragone. In 1991, he was one of the founding members of the École de cirque de Verdun in Montréal. Today, he still works with the talents he introduced to and trained in the circus arts, who moved on to become professional circus performers. Cirque Éloize asked him to join its troupe in 1999 to develop acrobatic acts for the show Excentricus presented at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Since then, he has worked for the company as head trainer and talent scout. More particularly, he was in charge of designing acrobatic performances for the show Cirque Orchestra in 2001 as well as for the three shows directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca forming the Sky Trilogy: Nomade in 2002, Rain in 2004 and Nebbia in 2007. In 2008, the hand-to-hand duet, formed by Jacek Wyskup and Bartek Pankau, discovered in Poland by Krzysztof and trained at Cirque Éloize, won the polish TV-show "Mam Talent!", and became "The Best Talent 2008". The duet that was part of the show Rain for 5 years managed to touch the audience worldwide and clearly enabled the recognition of the circus arts in their country. Continuously thinking and working on the elaboration of new acrobatic concepts with Éloize, his latest implication on the highly acclaimed show iD enabled the creation of an amazingly impressive trampowall act in 2009-2010. His involvement with up-and-coming circus stars and his appreciation of the work of circus artists worldwide has greatly contributed to the creation of unique solid multidisciplinary troupes. His work alongside performers makes it possible to constantly improve the technical aspect of the company's shows. Krzysztof Soroczynski has passed on his talent to his son Bartek who performed in the show Nomade – At night, the sky is endless, with Cirque Éloize, for nearly 5 years. First and foremost, he is passionate about circus and this passion has motivated him throughout his entire life. He passes this passion on to all of those with whom he works, and he is very proud to have passed it on to his own son.

MOURAD MERZOUKI

Artistic Contribution

Born in Lyon (France) in 1973 and of Kabyle origin, Mourad Merzouki started learning martial and circus arts ever since he was 7 years old. At the age of 15 years old, his discovery of the hip hop culture led him towards the dance world. He soon decided to develop his hip hop movements with more professional goals. He also didn't hesitate to confront himself with other choreographic languages, particularly those of Maryse Delente, Jean-Francois Duroure and Josef Nadj. The wealth of his path strongly made him want to carry out his artistic projects, mixing hip hop to his experience of learning how to work on stage and produce spectacular exercises. And that's what he did in 1989 when he created his first company with other dancers. In 1994, the company performed Athina at the Dance Biennale of Lyon. The piece was a real success that managed to transpose the street hip hop to the stage, without letting the urban movement lose its real identity. His first tour took place in the refugee camps of Croatia during the war. There, he realized that dance could be a powerful mean to communicate in difficult and extreme circumstances. In 1996, in order to develop his own artistic universe linked to his story and sensibility, Mourad Merzouki decided to found his own company, KÄFIG. iD is his first collaboration with Cirque Éloize.

JEAN-PHI GONCALVES & ALEX McMAHON

Co-Composers of the iD soundtrack

Here are two artists, with two distinct creative paths, who began working together in 2001.. Alex McMahon learned the organ for 5 years, and later sang in choirs while playing classical piano. He discovered jazz and big band, studied music in college and started working professionally with African, jazz and pop performers. He was part of several international tours with renowned artists such as Daniel Bélanger, Lhasa de Sela, Arianne Moffatt and Yann Perreau. He produced Catherine Major's Rose sang album, and won the Félix for Best Producer in 2008 at the ADISQ. He created arrangements for Ariane Moffatt's album, winning that same year the Félix for Best Arrangements. He produced the album First Aid Kit by Plaster, the electro-funk trio he founded with Jean-Phi Goncalves in 2001, the band receiving the Félix for Best Electronic Album in 2006. Drummer Jean-Phi Goncalves is a true musical chameleon. Always in movement, he moves from project to project, each one more eclectic than the other. After Plaster, and then Afrodizz, an afrobeat collective often compared to The Herbaliser, he now performs with Beast, a trip-rock duo where his sharp beats carry Betty Bonifassi's powerful voice. In his professional career, he has performed with respected artists like Lauryn Hill, Jean-Pierre Ferland on Jaune 2005, Ariane Moffatt on Tous les sens, and Pierre Lapointe on La forêt des mal-aimés.

LINDA BRUNELLE***Costume Designer***

A costume and a set designer for theatre, dance, film, as well as for opera and circus, Linda Brunelle has worked with several well known directors such as Martin Faucher, Claude Poissant, Dominic Champagne and Jasmine Dubé. In the world of dance, she has collaborated with choreographers Marie-Claude Poulin, Hélène Langevin and Laurence Lemieux. She created the Red Carpets (VIP tents) for the Cirque du Soleil shows Varekaï, Dralion and Alegria. In 2007, she created the costumes for Cirque Éloize's show, in co-production with Teatro Sunil, Nebbia. She worked on the opera A Chair in Love, which toured in Canada and in Europe. She taught costume creation at the National Theatre School from 2004 to 2007, where she continued as a set design and costume coach.

In 2008 and 2009, she created, notably, the costumes on the shows Rêvez, montagnes! by Frédéric Dubois and Lorraine Pintal's La petite pièce en haut de l'escalier. Linda Brunelle has received numerous prestigious prizes for her work in theatre.

NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX***Light Designer***

A graduate from the theatre program at Collège Lionel-Groulx in Ste-Thérèse, Quebec since 1992, Nicolas Descoteaux works as a lighting designer and has created over sixty designs in addition to having worked on several international tours. His technical and artistic knowledge has enabled him to collaborate with world-renowned creators such as Robert Lepage, Marie Chouinard, Denis Marleau, Daniele Finzi Pasca and Kristian Fredric. His collaboration with Cirque Éloize and Cirque du Soleil on their creations has made him an important lighting designer and director in the Montréal theatre and events scenes. His work was nominated for awards by the Academy of Theatre in 1995 and 1998, and he won the CALQ grants in 1999 and 2001 for research in stage lighting appliances. Nicolas Descoteaux continues to perfect his art in Montréal as well as on international stages.

ALEXIS LAURENCE***Video Images Co-Designer***

For more than 15 years, Alexis Laurence has worked as a creator and artistic director of multimedia set design for live productions. Projections, videos, lighting and image content have been his specialties on many events throughout his career. He worked on Festival Mutek in Montréal from 2004 to 2008, an electronic music show. In 2009, he was the assistant of Raymond Saint-Jean, projections designer for Cirque du Soleil's permanent show Zaia in Macao, China. Alexis created the multimedia set design for Montréal's IglooFest from 2007 to 2009. He also created the visual environment for the American tour of DJ Sasha in 2008.

SUZANNE TRÉPANIÉ***Make-up Designer***

Suzanne has been performing modern dance for the past two decades. Over the years, she developed a deep interest in the art of make-up application. While today she works both in television and in film, her preference for the stage arts has led her to concentrate primarily on theatre. Recently she has been the makeup designer for a number of theatrical productions, including Coma Unplugged et Les points tournants (Théâtre de la Manufacture), Corps étrangers et Vincent River (Théâtre de Quat'sous), Le Périmètre (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui) and Au retour des oies blanches (Rideau Vert). In 2001 she created the make-up for Cirque Orchestra followed by Nomade - At night, the sky is endless in 2002 and Rain in 2003. This new creation marks her fourth collaboration with Cirque Éloize.

ANTONIO AGUADO (SPAIN)

Urban Dances

Antonio Aguado has always been passionate about dance. His first notable achievement was winning the Battle of the Year Iberica with Arcopom Crew in 2005. That victory gave him the opportunity to travel in Europe, representing Spain. Antonio discovered the circus world when he joined the English tour of Cirque du Soleil's Michael Jackson Tribute Show. His career path has included performing in videos, international battles and festivals, as well as giving courses and participating in workshops.

ANGELIKA KOGUT (POLAND)

Hand to Hand

Originally from Poland, Angelika has over 12 years of experience in Acrosport. She has competed in mix pair, trio and women's duo since 19 years of age. Her main practice has always been hand to hand. After joining Cirque Eloize Rain, she performed on various productions including notorious Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

JAMES EDDIE CRANE (USA)

Trampowall, Power Stilts

James Eddie Crane was born in Washington D.C. He performed in competitive gymnastics for 17 years, was 8 times junior Olympic nation qualifier, 2 times regional team member and... the first ever African American to land a triple back in competition on floor exercises. His artistic career began in 2011 when he joined Cirque du Soleil's Viva Elvis. He loves learning new tricks and setting goals that seem impossible to achieve. Dancing, shopping, drawing, DJing and snowboarding are some of the activities he enjoys doing in his time off. He doesn't have one greatest moment to share, rather he enjoys every single minute he spends on stage. Before performing, James gets into his bubble by listening to music.

JEAN-PHILIPPE DELTELL (CANADA)

Juggling, Trampowall

Jean-Philippe has been immersed in the circus environment for over ten years. He began performing in front of a public at the age of twelve in theatre and improvisation. Soon, he was drawn to the circus and discovered the trampoline, which quickly became his passion. Self-taught and multitasking, Jean-Philippe is also equally at ease juggling rings on firm ground as he is flying through the air doing trapeze and teeterboard acts. He is an accomplished circus performer who constantly trains to perfect his technique. Although Jean-Philippe has many years of practice under his belt, the trampoline wall still makes him as nervous as ever. To psych himself up before going onstage, he pictures himself as a wrestler anticipating a match!

DIANA GONZALEZ (MEXICO)***Cyr Wheel, Aerial Hoop***

Since her earliest day, the love of the stage has captivated Diana Gonzalez's soul, making her literally run away with the circus. When she was 17, Diana decided to learn how to fly professionally and entered at the National Circus School in Montreal. After three years learning and training Cyr Wheel, she joined Peter James for an original creation in Argentina, where she worked as a performer while creating her own show. In search of international experience, she followed with a traditional circus in France. Before coming to Cirque Éloize, she was the first Mexican performing on Cirque du Soleil production Joyà presented on the Riviera Maya in Mexico.

MATEUSZ RZEZNIKIEWICZ (POLAND)***Hand to Hand***

Born in Poland, Mateusz was initially formed in a cooking school. Then, he learned Acrosport for 14 years and devoted his career to the hand to hand. He gained relevant experience on various productions including the Cruises Grand Holiday, Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi and Dubai along with Angelika Kogut. He is also passionate about kick boxing and muay thai.

JON LARRUCEA (SPAIN)***In-line Skating***

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Jon is a sportsman through and through. From an early age, he enjoyed several sports, including mountain biking and swimming, but rollerblading quickly became his passion and he specialized in «Inline freestyle slalom». Throughout his studies in International Business Economics, he continued to skate, and in 2011 he finished in third at the World Championship, which earned him the double European champion title in «Freestyle Slalom Classic and Battle.» Jon is constantly developing and promoting his discipline and he always stands out during competition thanks to his unique style. His stage debut was in 2008 when he presented a variety of combinations and figures he choreographed himself. When he was only 16, his talent for the sport already allowed him to land a job delivering pizza, the only delivery man on rollerblades in Barcelona.

FORTY NGUYEN (CANADA)***Urban Dances***

Forty Nguyen started taking breaking classes at the age of 18. He became serious about his dancing career when he performed his first solo at Definition on applicable Urban Dance Festival at the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) in 2004. From then on, he continued to do shows for the Jazz Festival (2005), Usine C (2005) and TOHU (2006). In 2006, he was part of the cast of «Demain», a piece by the choreographer Paula de Vasconcelos of Pigeon International, with whom he performed in Montreal and toured in Columbia. Forty's style is a mixture of bboying, ballet technique, acrobatics and hip hop. Recently graduated from Concordia's Contemporary Dance Department, Forty has worked as an interpreter for the company Destins Croisés and is now working as a dancer for Cirque Éloize.

MARIE PANDORA (USA)***Urban Dances***

Pandora's journey in dance traces back to her years in high school, when she first witnessed different styles of street dance at raves, underground parties and Hip-Hop functions. This Native American is a multi-disciplinary artist who has built – over the past 13 years – a solid reputation as a champion at various high-level, international competitions. Over the years, she's toured throughout the US, Europe, Japan, and Canada. She even landed a breakthrough role in Disney's feature-film Step Up 3D and received a standing ovation when she appeared on Fox's So You Think You Can Dance. In addition to her love of dancing, she recently delved into music, poetry, photography, film, and other forms of artistic expression. She truly believes that the human spirit can indeed triumph over the most difficult of times.

THIBAUT PHILIPPE (FRANCE)***Trial Bike, Trampowall***

Born in France, a country well known for its trial bike champions, Thibaut began practicing 26-inch trial bike when he was 14. With his brother, he learned the ins and outs of the sport, climbing with their bikes over obstacles of all kinds—boulders, trunks, cables, train tracks and even car wrecks—without allowing their feet to touch the ground. With his brother, he created a show in which a 20 to 30 sq. meters trial zone is laid out and covered in the hardest possible obstacles to mount on a bike. They performed the show for five years in the Paris and Clermont-Ferrand regions, at municipal sporting events, business openings and even on television. On their bikes, the brothers crossed the trial zone followed by a third rider on a monocycle. Having completed his bachelor's degree in marketing at Pigier, he is now pursuing a master's degree, Thibaut remains as active in his foundation as with his entrepreneurial skills.

OLIVIER POITRAS (CANADA)***Chinese Pole, Trampowall***

Olivier has always love the circus, performing on stage since the age of 10. He began his career at the National Circus School in 2002 where he stayed ten years completing his high school and college studies. Growing up in the circus community, he had the opportunity to work with several international productions including, Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize. His best moment on stage was during his last outdoor performance with Amaluna when a thunderclap during his number added even more drama and intensity to his performance.

GABRIEL LAFRANCE (CANADA)***Straps***

In August 2014, Gabriel proudly joined the Cirque du Soleil family, as part of one of their most recent productions, Joyà, based in the beautiful Riviera Maya. Gabriel, from Quebec City, spent his youth as a competitive gymnast. After ten years of gymnastics he decided to transfer his talents to perform as a circus artist, enrolling in the professional program at Quebec city circus school, from which he graduated in 2014 as an aerial straps specialist. While in circus school, Gabriel successfully maintained a balance between his studies and professional engagements. These involvements solidified his desire to become a full time circus performer. Gabriel officially started his professional carrier in 2014 by joining the Quebec City based circus troupe Flip Fabrique. In August 2014, Gabriel had the incredible chance to fulfill a lifelong dream by joining Cirque du Soleil. Having been selected as a member of the original JOYA cast, he was fortunate enough to participate in the full creation process, as well as the first 2 years of show operations. Still in the early stages of a promising career, Gabriel is looking forward to the next enriching experience.

ANGEL SANCHEZ SAEZ (SPAIN)*Hand Balancing, Trampoline*

Born in Valencia, Spain, Angel Sanchez always had a keen interest for physical activities and discovered gymnastics at age 7. Hard worker, he received at only 16 years of age a full scholarship to join the artistic gymnastics national junior team in Madrid. Three years later, he decided to leave the capital city to focus on his studies, and registered at the University of Valencia in the sports and exercise sciences program. Having always had the desire to join Cirque du Soleil since the showing of Saltimbanco in Valencia, Angel seized the opportunity in 2007 when the Cirque held auditions in Lille, France. Making a strong impression on the judges, he was invited to join the troupe of Zed in Tokyo, where he performed until 2009 in the Chinese pole and trampoline acts. After two years charged with emotions and new experiences, Angel went back to Valencia to finish his studies. Then, after graduating, it's with Cirque Éloize that he decided to pursue his passion for contemporary circus and its disciplines.

BRYAN BOYER (USA)*B-Boy*

Bryan has been dancing since early 2004, and is a member of the infamous Blowup Kingz. He has a unique style of blow up moves along with a keen ear for music, which makes his blow ups that much more explosive. He also uses a hidden array of advanced power-moves that he rarely expels in battle unless absolutely needed, along with abstract threads in his footwork. Combine all that with beat kills and an incredible energy and you have Bryan «Slinky» Boyer. He has represented himself, his crew, and his hometown, in many competitions around the country, and overseas. He is a humble and very friendly person, and constantly striving to improve himself, inside and out of dance.

NICOLE WINTER (USA)*Contortion, Aerial Silks*

Nicole Winter began performing for pleasing crowds before she even began kindergarten. She started ballet at age 4, and continued her dance training at the elite Bak Middle School of the Arts and Dreyfoos High School of the Performing Arts. At the age of 14, she discovered her true talent and calling: circus arts. Dance allowed her to perform high-level contortion acts with the grace of a ballerina. At 16 years old, she was accepted into the prestigious National Circus School of Montreal. She trained there for two years, majoring in contortion.

BEHIND THE SCENES**EVE-MARIE CARON**, Tour Director**BENOIT ARCHAMBAULT**, Technical Director, Head Video**CATHERINE BRASSARD**, Stage Manager**PASCAL LACAS**, Head Rigger**SÉBASTIEN CANUEL**, Head Sound**JUDITH RÉMILLARD**, Head of Lighting**ALEXANDRE ROBICHAUD**, Head Carpenter

Due to the nature of the acts, changes in the cast occur frequently.

Although we try to keep the information up to date, we cannot guarantee its accuracy

SALOON

2016 - On tour on August

In Cirque Éloize's Saloon, the infectious energy of folk music sets the tone to an acrobatic comedy that sweeps the spectators away in a mad rush. Enigmatic and colourful characters come together and reveal themselves. The result is a series of unexpected situations, unfolding to the rhythm of acrobatic prowess and original choreographies. Walking through the Saloon doors means entering a mythical atmosphere created by live music and the exhilarated pace of spectacular performances.

Cirkopolis

2012 - Currently on tour

With Cirkopolis, Cirque Éloize presents a show that combines the worlds of circus, dance and theatre. In the heart of a stern and imposing city in appearance, giant gears and dark portals symbolize a mechanism that crushes individuality. Performing within an inventive stage design and accompanied by an original musical score and video projections, twelve acrobats and multidisciplinary artists rebel against monotony, reinvent themselves and challenge the limits of the factory-city. In a world where fantasy provokes reality, the veil of anonymity and solitude is lifted and replaced by bursts of colour.

THE "SKY TRILOGY"

NOMADE
At night, the sky is endless
Directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca

2002 to 2006

With Nomade - At night, the sky is endless, Cirque Éloize invites audiences on a surreal journey along the highways and byways of their imagination. A community of performers stages a carnival filled with song, dance, music, juggling and acrobatic feats. Their journey begins at dusk and ends at dawn : at nighttime, the sky shines with endless possibilities. Nomade stopped touring after more than 700 performances offered to worldwide audiences.

rain
Written and directed by DANIELE FINZI PASCA

2004 to 2012

Rain reunites Nomade's team of creators with Director Daniele Finzi Pasca, a multitalented artist renowned for the sensibility and poetry of his work. This creation about childhood memories made up of moments snatched from time and frozen forever, combines acrobatic feats with sensuality and pure poetry.

nebbia
Written and Directed by DANIELE FINZI PASCA

2007 to 2011

Third part of the Trilogie du ciel directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca, Nebbia was launched in December, 2007. Nebbia is a creation of Cirque Éloize and Teatro Sunil. Meaning fog in Italian, Nebbia explores the world of dreams and the imaginary. In the fog, you get lost, you find each other, but above all, you are confronted with the unexpected... Nebbia will once again plunge you into a poetic and sensitive universe mixing acrobatics to theatre in a subtle way.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS (1993 TO 2005)

CIRQUE
ÉLOIZE

1993 to 1997

In its first show called Cirque Éloize, the company elaborated the foundation of what it would become by presenting a new way to blend theater, dance and circus acts on stage.

Excentricus

1997 to 2002

Excentricus has enraptured audiences around the world with its breathtaking acrobatics, infectious comedy and rambunctious live music. This enthralling production unfolds like a flower, loosely structured around characters and relationships. Excentricus is circus with atmosphere, poetry, humour and, above all, heart.

Cirque
Orchestra

1999 to 2002

The dream of flying has always been associated with freedom. This quest is brought to life in Cirque Orchestra. Sharing the stage with a symphony orchestra, this production marries the art of circus with contemporary dance and classical music.

typo

2003 à 2007

Jamie Adkins has a great idea for a show – he just doesn't quite know what it is. Every crumpled-up sheet of paper he tosses away only makes this rubber-faced clown more determined to get his creation down on paper. Then one of those balls of paper bounces right back at him!

PRODUCER THEATRE T & CIE

The TROUPE

In addition to their specialty, all artists participate in group acts and skipping ropes. Due to the nature of the acts, changes in the cast may occur .

ANTONIO AGUADO

Urban Dances

ANGELIKA KOGUT

Hand to Hand

JAMES EDDIE CRANE

Trampowall, Power Stilts

JEAN-PHILIPPE DELTELL

Juggling, Trampowall

DIANA GONZALEZ

Cyr Wheel, Aerial Hoop

MATEUSZ RZEZNIKIEWICZ

Hand to Hand

JON LARRUCEA

In-Line Skating

FORTY NGUYEN

Urban Dances

MARIE PANDORA

Urban Dances

THIBAUT PHILIPPE

Trial Bike, Trampowall

OLIVIER POITRAS

Chinese Pole, Trampowall

GABRIEL LAFRANCE

Straps

ANGEL SANCHEZ SAEZ

Hand Balancing, Trampowall

BRYAN BOYER

B-Boy

NICOLE WINTER

Contortion, Aerial Silks

TECHNICAL Team on Tour

EVE-MARIE CARON

Tour Director

BENOIT ARCHAMBAULT

Technical Director, Head Video

CATHERINE BRASSARD

Stage Manager

PASCAL LACAS

Head Rigger

SÉBASTIEN CANUEL

Head Sound

JUDITH RÉMILLARD

Head of Lighting

ALEXANDRE ROBICHAUD

Head Carpenter

CREATIVE Team

JEANNOT PAINCHAUD

Director

JONATHAN ST-ONGE

Executive Producer

ROBERT MASSICOTTE

Set Designer, Illustrator and

Video Projections Co-Designer

KRZYSZTOF SOROCZYNSKI

Show Acrobatic Designer, Head-trainer

and Trampowall Act Designer

MOURAD MERZOUKI

Artistic Contributor

PIERRE BERNARD

Artistic Consultant

JEAN-PHI GONCALVES

Co-Composer

ALEX McMAHON

Co-Composer

LINDA BRUNELLE

Costume Designer

NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX

Light Designer

ALEXIS LAURENCE

Video Projections Co-Designer

SUZANNE TRÉPANIER

Make-up Designer

FLORENCE CORNET

Phase 1 - Make-up Designer

MARIE-ÈVE SOUTIÈRE

Assistant Director

NADIA LABRIE

Phase 1 - Director Assistant

JACQUES POULIN-DENIS

Sound Designer – Urban Ambiance

CLAUDIA COUTURE

Phase 1 - Stage Manager, Director's Assistant

CATHERINE LEBOEUF &

LOUISE BOURRET

Assistants & Costume Coordinators

SIMON GAUTHIER

Video System Designer

MARC-ANDRÉ GILBERT

Sound Technology Consultant

JOSIANNE LEVASSEUR

Assistant to the Show Acrobatic Designer

and Head-trainer

OLIVIER LEMIEUX

Trampoline Trainer

CHRISTIAN « SANCHE » GARMATTER

Responsible of Choreography

CHRISTIAN « SANCHE » GARMATTER,

ELON HÖGLUND, EMMANUELLE LEPHAN,

RICHARD MAGUIRE, KONETHONG

VONGPRASEUTH

Choreographical Collaborators

RENÉ BIBAUD

Coach – Skipping Rope

MARIEÈVE HEMOND

Coach – Aerial Silk

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PASCAL LEBLANC

Technical Director, Head Sound Technician

VÉRONIQUE ALLARD

Production Director

MARC BEAUDRY

Delegate Producer, Production Manager and

Technical Director

MARC-ANDRÉ LECLERC

Assistant Production Director, Technical

Director

NATHALIE ENAULT

Phase 1 - Production Stage Manager

MATHIEU URVOY-LETÉLLIER

Phase 1 - Head Sound Technician

MYLÈNE CAYA

Stage Manager

PATRICK ALLARD

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Head Rigger

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MARC "MARCUS" GAUTHIER &

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STEEVE CARON

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MARIO NOËL

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Phase 1 - Intern – Stage Manager

CAROLE LAPOINTE

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Directed by
Jeannot Painchaud

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C I R Q U E
ÉLOÏZE