

PRESS-KIT

CIRQUE
ÉLOÏZE

Cirkopolis

Directed by
Dave St-Pierre and Jeannot Painchaud

 Drama Desk
Awards 2014
Unique Theatrical Experience

CIRQUE
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.

A driving force in the circus art reinvention movement, Cirque Éloize has been creating award-winning entertainment content for nearly 25 years and ranks among the world’s leading contemporary circuses.

Cirque Éloize has taken part in numerous prestigious international festivals and has seduced both New York’s Broadway and London’s West End. Its productions are crafted for a wide range of audiences and have been embraced by over fifty cultures.

In the last 24 years, Cirque Éloize’s eleven shows have proudly boasted more than 4,000 performances in over 500 cities and have been seen by over three million spectators. iD, Cirkopolis and Saloon are respectfully the eighth, ninth and eleventh productions under the Cirque Éloize banner currently touring internationally. In addition to its touring shows, more than 1,500 Cirque Éloize-designed events have taken place worldwide.

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 since 2012, Saloon since 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 have been 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 in Moscow, The 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 barriers;
- 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);
- Jeannot Painchaud was the recipient of the 2011 “Prix Samuel de Champlain”;
- Cirque Éloize ranks amongst the top 150 companies most admired by Quebecers, based on the Leger Marketing 2014 Reputation Study.
- 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 series 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)
 - “Outstanding Projection Design” - Robert Massicotte and Alexis Laurence, Cirkopolis (2014).
- Nomination for an Off-Broadway Alliance Award :
 - “Best Unique Theatrical Experience” - Cirkopolis (2014)

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.

Cirkopolis unfolds scene by scene like an elemental universe, with sculptural imagery: jugglers brave the space, a contortionist is lifted by her companions in a surge of inspiration, aerial artists defy the height of the skyscrapers. Experiencing *Cirkopolis* is also stepping into the dance of the Cyr wheel, dreading the audacity of the German wheel and discovering the candour of a man who dreams only of dancing.

“*Cirkopolis* was imagined as a crossroads — between imagination and reality, between individuality and community, between limits and possibilities. The show is driven by the poetic impulse of life, the physical prowess of the circus and the humour, at once serious and light-hearted. Entering *Cirkopolis* is all about letting go and allowing yourself to be borne aloft by hope,” explained Jeannot Painchaud, creative director of Cirque Éloize and co-director of *Cirkopolis*.

85 mn
no intermission



CREATIVE TEAM

JEANNOT PAINCHAUD

Artistic Director and Co-Director

DAVE ST-PIERRE

Co-Director and Choreographer

ROBERT MASSICOTTE

Set Designer, Illustrator and Video Projections Co-Designer

STÉFAN BOUCHER

Music Composer

KRZYSZTOF SOROCZYNSKI

Acrobatic Designer of the Banquine and the Teeterboard Acts and Head Coach

LIZ VANDAL

Costume Designer

NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX

Lighting Designer

ALEXIS LAURENCE

Video Projections Co-Designer

RÉNALD LAURIN

Drama and Acting Advisor

EMMANUEL GUILLAUME

Artistic Director On Tour

ÉMILIE GRENON-ÉMIROGLOU

Director's Assistant & Coach – Aerial and contorsion

MARIE-ÈVE CARRIÈRE

Coach – Choreographies

JOHANNE MADORE

Coach – Choreographies and Artistic Advisor

VIRGINIE BACHAND

Make-up Designer

JONATHAN ST-ONGE

Executive Producer



CREATIVE TEAM



JEANNOT PAINCHAUD

*Artistic Director
and Co-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.

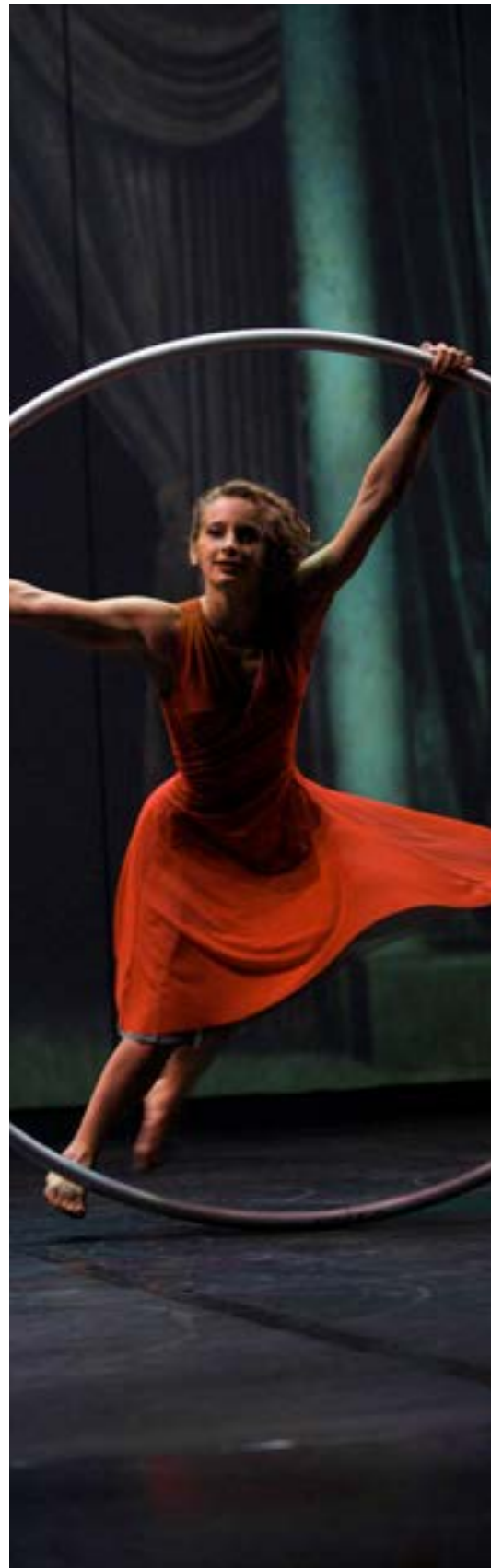
While he worked on getting his diploma, he took up street performance: juggling, unicycling, acrobatic cycling...what better training than being interesting enough to convince passersby to stop, watch and toss a coin into the hat? He continued to perform on the streets for 12 years, even after founding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

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 Éloïze 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 Éloïze 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 25th 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.

Cirkopolis, is Cirque Éloïze's ninth original creation, on which Jeannot assumed the roles of artistic director and, along with Dave St-Pierre, co-director.



DAVE ST-PIERRE

*Co-Director
and Choreographer*



In the early 2000s, at barely 30 years of age, Dave St-Pierre became one of the world's most talked-about choreographers. But then he has always been precocious. At 5, he already knew he would be a dancer. Despite teachers who didn't find him especially talented, despite the laughter and sarcasm of the other students at his Saint-Jérôme high school. Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly were his idols, and then Michael Jackson, and, closer to home, Louise Lecavalier and Marc Bélard from La La La Human Steps. To emulate them, he joined the extra-curricular dance troupe at his cegep, where the choreographers were none other than Marie-Stéphane Ledoux and Jacques Brochu of Mia Maure Danse.

Thanks to them, he discovered Montreal and its performances from all over the world. Lonely at first, he soon discovered there were other people as extravagant and absurd as himself. He moved to the city and enrolled in LADMMI, Montreal's school of modern dance. His teachers either loved him or hated him, but in the end it didn't matter, because instead of finishing his diploma, he accepted an invitation from Brouhaha Danse. He was all of 19.

In the following years, he danced for Jean-Pierre Perreault, Harold Rhéaume, Pierre-Paul Savoie and Estelle Clareton before leaving on a two-year tour of Europe and Quebec with the musical comedy Notre-Dame de Paris. Upon his return, yearning to get back to modern dance, he joined Daniel Léveillé's troupe, spending the next few years on *Amour, acide et noix* and *Pudeur des icebergs*. But he also wanted to be a choreographer, so in 2003, he created his first show, *No Man's Land Show*, presented at *Tangente* in Montreal. It hit the dance scene like a bolt of thunder. A year later, with *Pornographie des âmes* and then *Un peu de tendresse bordel de merde*, the first two of a triptych called *Sexologie et autres utopies contemporaines*, he brought international critics to their knees.

Raw and shameless, radical and provocative, his creations toured the planet, evoking the fragility of the body with naked dancers on stage. In Montreal, his shows were mounted at *Tangente*, *Usine C* and *Agora de la danse*, as well as the *Place des Arts*. In Europe, his venues were the *Pina Bausch festival* in Düsseldorf, the *Munich International Dance Festival*, the *Théâtre de la Ville* in Paris and the *Avignon festival*.

At the same time, Dave was working on the choreography for several *Cirque du Soleil* shows and for *iD*, *Cirque Éloïze's* last show. He also pursued his personal career with *Foudre*, the last part of the triptych. *Cirkopolis* is the first time he has directed a circus performance.

ROBERT MASSICOTTE

Stage Designer, Illustrator and Video Images Co-Designer

As a dedicated comic book fan, Robert Massicotte made drawing his main form of artistic expression. 1987: he left the Université de Montréal's industrial design school with a bachelor's degree in hand and got his career off to a roaring start in Quebec's burgeoning entertainment industry. For 25 years, he has offered his creativity and sensitivity as a multidisciplinary visual artist to the worlds of theatre, television and film, helping to design ambitious exhibits and musical performances. He designed the set for the Back Street Boys' *Black & Blue* tour, for example, as well as the set for *Ulalena*, a show that has been running in Hawaii for over ten years. He also helped design the projections for concerts by P!nk, Bette Midler, Cher and Alicia Keys.

Circus has also been one of his interests since the beginning. Drafter, illustrator, storyboardist, designer...*Cirque du Soleil* has called on his talents for many of its shows, including *Alegria*, *O*, *Kooza*, *Love*, *Corteo*, and the *Michael Jackson Immortal Tour*. 2009: for his first project with *Cirque Éloïze*, he took charge of the stage design and video content for *iD*. He is back in those roles for the new show, which gives him the opportunity to delve into the fantastical world of comic books...neatly closing the loop. In this show he takes the artists and the audience on a journey from dream to reality...and back.

KRZYSZTOF SOROCZYNSKI

Acrobatic Designer of the Banquine and the Teeterboard Acts and Head Coach

If Krzysztof Soroczynski had to do it all over again, he wouldn't change a thing. After close to a 50 year career in the circus, he is still driven by the same passion that was sparked in him one day in 1964, in Gorlice, in his native Poland. He was just 9 when a big top appeared in the marketplace of his village. After three days suspended between dream and reality, he knew he would devote his life to the circus arts. A graduate of Poland's prestigious National Circus Academy in Julinek, he won the silver medal in the 1980 *Festival mondial du cirque de demain* in Paris, for a Russian Swing performance.

Immigrating to Canada, he joined *Cirque du Soleil*, first as an artist and then as an acrobatic consultant with *Franco Dragone's Saltimbanco*, *Mystère* and *Alegria*. He was one of the founders of the *Verdun Circus School*, got involved with the next generation of circus performers and started training the prodigies of tomorrow. His credos are troupe spirit, universality and multidisciplinary: a circus artist should have a specialty, but should also be able to go from the diablo to the Cyr wheel, from the trapeze to the trampo-wall, and take part in group choreographies.

In this sense he really reflects the spirit of *Cirque Éloïze*, which he has been working with since 1999 as an acrobatic designer, head coach and talent scout. *Excentricus*, *Cirque Orchestra*, *Daniele Finzi Pasca's Sky Trilogy* *Nomade*, *Rain and Nebbia* and *iD*... every show gives him the opportunity to imagine new acrobatic concepts inspired by dance, theatre, painting and even architecture... He sets no limits and accepts no barriers.

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 Éloïze*, 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 son.



LIZ VANDAL

Costume Designer

A professional designer with 25 years of experience, Liz Vandal has been creating costumes since she was a little girl and has always known costume design would be her life. 1988. At 23 and self-taught, she launched herself in business. Four years later, she joined forces with Yveline Bonjean and founded Vandal Costumes. By 1990, she was working closely with Édouard Lock, founder of La La La Human Steps. Since then, Liz has signed the costumes for almost all his shows.

In the dance world, the most famous choreographers called on her ability to merge costume and body, playing with the constraints of extreme movement: Marie Chouinard, Margie Gillis, Bill Coleman, José Navas. Big international dance companies were also at her door, including O Vertigo, the Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, the Washington Ballet, the National Ballet of Canada, the Mannheim Theater and Stuttgart Ballet. The circus arts naturally followed. First it was Cirque du Soleil, for which she created the OVO costumes in 2009, and now Cirkopolis, her first project with Cirque Éloize.

Liz Vandal is known for minimalist, functional outfits that create characters: whether it's a cricket, a secretary or a clown... Theatre, opera, music, film: her label, inspired by both futurist superheroes and medieval armour, was associated with the Backstreet Boys' Black & Blue tour and has been adopted by many actors, singers and other jet-setters.

NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX

Lighting Designer

At 12 years old, at a concert, Nicolas Descôteaux was captivated by the lighting. A few years later, watching a theatre performance, his vocation took shape. He is fascinated by the varied atmospheres created by artificial lighting: the glory of breaking dawn, sun filtering through leaves... In Sainte-Thérèse, he entered the theatre program at Cégep Lionel-Groulx. For nearly 20 years, he has been striving to create, on stage, light in its purest, most natural and sensitive form. Cold colours and projections that track the artists are his classic signature. He has over 24 creations to his name and several international tours with the theatre, circus and opera. He has worked with some of the greatest directors: Robert Lepage (La géométrie des miracles), Marie Chouinard, Kristian Fredric (Big shoot) and Denis Marleau (Othello).

With Cirque du Soleil, he has taken part in more than 30 international special events, as well as collaborating on the lighting for Corteo. Twice nominated by the Académie québécoise du théâtre, in 1995 and 1998, and three-time winner of a Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec scholarship to research lighting and its stage applications, he especially loves the circus, with its particular constraints that give him the opportunity to push ever forward.

In addition to creating the lighting on Cirque Éloize's Cirkopolis, he also designed iD and Typo and contributed to Rain and Nomade.



ALEXIS LAURENCE

Video Images Co-Designer

For over 15 years, Alexis Laurence has been creating and directing multimedia scenographic environment projects for live productions: projections, videos, lighting and visual content are his specialties.

Alexis is a regular in the Montreal event scene. From 2004 to 2008, he took part in the prestigious Festival Mutek. From 2007 to 2009, he designed the multimedia scenography for Montreal's IglooFest. He also designed the stage for the Bande à Part performance for La Nuit Blanche de Montréal. He was hired as creative director for the architectural videos of the city's Quartier des spectacles. Alexis also created the visual environment for DJ Sasha's US tour in 2008. In 2009, he served as assistant projection designer, under Raymond Saint-Jean, for Zaia, a permanent Cirque du Soleil creation in Macao, China.

Cirque du Soleil then hired him as a project manager in 2011 for its show Zarkana. More recently, Alexis took charge of the artistic direction of the Our Lady Peace 2012 Urban Grind tour video. With this illustrious track record, Alexis Laurence was happily welcomed by Cirque Éloize as the co-designer of the video images for iD and its new creation, Cirkopolis.

JONATHAN ST-ONGE

Executive Producer

From law to circus arts is a giant step that Jonathan St-Onge was not afraid to take. After finishing a law degree at the Université de Montréal and completing an eight-month internship with the deputy crown prosecutor, this lawyer by training and member of the Quebec bar decided not to go to court after all. All that desk work began to appear a little dull for a man of vision and action who throws his entire being into everything he does.

At university, for example, Jonathan was so involved in the student association that he ended up as VP of internal affairs. He organized galas, headed socio-cultural and arts committees, and managed a slew of independent budgets. His legal career ended almost before it began, but his knowledge of law continues to serve him well every day. First, at the Just for Laughs Festival, where he worked for two and a half years, he negotiated agreements with designers, producers, agents and artists' managers for television stations, and stages. He rubbed shoulders with some of the biggest names in entertainment and earned a solid reputation in the industry. 2001. He launched his own event company while working for Cirque Éloize. This foray into entrepreneurship revealed his resourcefulness, meticulousness, exactitude, resilience and organizational ability, talents he has offered full-time to Cirque Éloize since 2004 as director of operations.

One year later, he signed on as a partner. When he joined the team in 2001, the company was just starting its searching work for the show Nomade. After nearly ten years of operations, Éloize had expanded, and the time had come to organize corporate structures, build a business plan, create budgets, write model contracts, renegotiate partnerships – in short, put the company in order. Jonathan set himself to the task with a human touch and a sense of fairness. He stayed loyal to the Sainte-Justine Hospital Foundation, volunteering in the organization of a benefit event that rapidly becomes inescapable in the Montreal Event network. From 2005 to 2009 and again since 2013, he served on the board of En Piste, the national circus arts network, and fought to have the circus recognized as an art form in its own right. He also participated in securing the same tax credit for circuses that other art forms enjoy.

At just 36 year old, Jonathan St-Onge still has his sights set far ahead. In the medium term, he hopes the development of Cirque Éloize grows, to have several Cirque Éloize shows on tour simultaneously, to sign new types of partnerships, to develop an event management department, and much more. His role is to make sure the group is able to stand up to the new challenges.

DISTRIBUTION

ARTISTS



Colin André-Hériaud



Selene Ballesteros-Minguer



Pauline Baud-Guillard



Ashley Carr



Aaron DeWitt



Rosita Hendry



Jonathan Julien



Frédéric Lemieux-Cormier



Alexie Maheu



Arata Urawa



Jérémy Vitupier



Antonin Wicky

Colin André-Hériaud

Hand to hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

Selene Ballesteros-Minguer

Rope, Trapeze, Juggling

Pauline Baud-Guillard

Teeterboard

Ashley Carr

Clown character, Teeterboard

Aaron DeWitt

Hand to hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

Rosita Hendry

Cyr Wheel, Trapeze

Jonathan Julien

Passing, Porter and Banquine

Frédéric Lemieux-Cormier

German Wheel, Juggling, Plus Cubic, Banquine and Teeterboard

Alexie Maheu

Contortion, Chinese Pole, Banquine

Arata Urawa

Diabolo

Jérémy Vitupier

Clown, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine

Antonin Wicky

Clown, Chinese Pole, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

THE ARTISTS

COLIN ANDRÉ-HÉRIAUD (FRANCE)

Hand to hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

Colin André-Hériaud began his general circus training in his native France at the age of eight. From an early age, he was passionate about creative pursuits and was involved in theatre, dance and, of course, circus arts as he was growing up. His broad training and his passion for the arts led him to deepen his professional knowledge at the École Nationale de Cirque in Châtellerauld, France. He decided to specialize in Hand to hand, a recognized discipline in the circus world. Subsequently, he came to the National Circus School in Montreal to further his training in Hand to hand, as well as banquine, swing, dance, acrobatics and clowning.

SELENE BALLESTEROS-MINGUER (URUGUAY)

Rope, Trapeze, Juggling

Selene Ballesteros-Minguer was born in Uruguay and grew up in Vancouver. She excelled in math and chemistry, and played a number of sports including artistic gymnastics. Growing up, she cultivated an interest for the arts and in her teen years, she reached a turning point when she discovered her talent for circus arts. At age 14, she began her contortionist training with The Underground Circus in Vancouver. She then pursued her passion for circus at the National Circus School in Montreal, where she specialized in aerial rope. After all those years of training, this bubbly and energetic artist is excited to be part of Cirkopolis.

PAULINE BAUD-GUILLARD (FRANCE)

Teeterboard

Pauline is a thrill seeking performer, with a constant desire for adventure and a keen interest in acrobatic stunts. This explains how and why she became a specialist in Hungarian board and Korean plank, otherwise known as Teeterboard, at the National Circus School of Châtellerauld in France. She later picked up trampovall during her training at École de Cirque de Québec. At her young age, she has already performed all over the world.

ASHLEY CARR (UK)

Clown character, Teeterboard

Ashley Carr studied theatre and circus arts at The Circus Space and the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. While still a student, he co-founded the Kicking the Moon Company, which won the first annual Jerwood Circus Award in the UK. The Guardian described Kicking the Moon as "a delicious mix of circus and theater." With funding from Arts Council England, Kicking the Moon's show went on a multi-year world tour. While performing with Kicking the Moon, Ashley also launched a solo show, Bien Accroché, which he presented in theatres and festivals throughout the world. With his diverse background as a street artist, circus performer and clown, Ashley was invited to join Cirque Éloize's production of "Rain – Comme une pluie dans tes yeux" in which he performed for several years. Ashley's other passion in life is flying kites, so don't be surprised to find him outside with a kite in his hand!

AARON DEWITT (USA)

Hand to hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

Aaron DeWitt made his debut in the entertainment world at an early age in his home state of Maine. His best friend lived in a theatre and encouraged Aaron to join him on the stage. And thus began his performing arts training. As a teenager, he started juggling in live shows, in addition to producing and directing several productions. Together with his friend, also a juggler, he joined Circus Smirkus, a travelling circus composed of young artists. The tour was a steppingstone that allowed Aaron and his friend to create a juggling show, which they toured in Maine for a year. After years of experience in the circus world, Aaron decided to continue his training at École de Cirque de Québec.

ROSITA HENDRY (NEW-ZEALAND)

Cyr Wheel, Trapeze

Rosita is a dynamic Circus Artist, Dancer and Musician who brings a sense of awe and wonder in all areas of performance. Rosita has always had a passion for physical activity and the performing arts since she was young, climbing and jumping, she has always loved being in the air. She began attending her local preschool gymnastic club at age 4. It was evident then that Rosita had strong skills. Her passion for gymnastics was fuelled over the next few years as she began competing. Eventually, Rosita established herself as an Elite Gymnast, becoming New Zealand National Junior Champion for 3 consecutive years. Not long after starting gymnastics, music lessons began in Piano and Piano Accordion, shortly followed by Classical Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Contemporary Dance training. Encouraged to audition for École nationale de cirque, Rosita headed off to Montreal in 2014 and will graduate in June 2017 as a specialist in Aerial Rope with a minor in Cyr Wheel.

JONATHAN JULIEN (CANADA)

Passing, Porter, Banquine

After having crossed Canada from one coast to the other with his juggling balls in hand, he takes his first true steps into circus arts at the age of 19. In 2008, he is accepted into the professional formation program of the Québec Circus School (ÉCQ) where he meets the three other acrobats who will become his training and performance partners. In December, he and his new partners create the first act, known as the Quatuor Stomp. Over the course of this creation, Jonathan forges a particularly strong working relationship with Antoine, and the two decide to create a hand-to-hand duo act. In 2010, another passion presents an opportunity to perform on stage in the form of Trampo-wall. This new apparatus launches him to many televised events, such as the Ellen DeGeneres Show and DasSupertalent. In 2011, he is lucky enough to unite his two passions, as he performs in the Cirque du Soleil special event 'le Royaume de tôle' in Québec City. He executes both the table act with the Quatuor Stomp and the Trampo-wall act. Ever since, he cumulates professional experiences, eager to perfect his art.

FRÉDÉRIC LEMIEUX-CORMIER (CANADA)

German Wheel, Juggling, Plus Cubic, Banquine and Teeterboard

Frédéric Lemieux-Cormier grew up in the world of circus arts thanks to his mother, a costume designer for Cirque du Soleil. He caught "circus fever" as a child and started his formal training at age 12, then spent six years at the National Circus School in Montréal. There, he completed the Preparatory Program and the Circus and High School Studies program and then earned his Diploma of Collegial Studies in the School's professional training program. His performance credits include three episodes of "La vie est un cirque" (Life is a Circus), a Canadian television program about world-class circus performers; "Défis des champions," (Champions' Challenge), a Canadian reality program; and live appearances on the circus show Bird House Factory. Although he is only 24, he has performed in special events for Cirque du Soleil and with Les 7 doigts de la main, and has been a member of the Haut-Vol and Il Circo companies. When not performing, Frédéric enjoys drawing and bicycling. He also talks to his German Wheel before every performance, to help it "de-stress" before the show!

ALEXIE MAHEU (CANADA)

Contortion, Chinese Pole, Banquine

Alexie entered the circus world at the age of eight when she enrolled in classes at the École de Cirque de Québec in her native Quebec City. She continued her circus training in high school by choosing the sports-study program. This gave her the opportunity to participate in several public shows, performing contortion and Hand to hand. After high school, she decided to hone her skills at the National Circus School in Montreal, where she became a specialist in the Chinese pole and the slack rope, as well as a professional in Hand to hand acrobatics and banquine. Her versatility in the circus arts has enabled her to take part in several shows and work in a variety of disciplines, such as equestrian acrobatics, hoop and contortion.

ARATA URAWA (JAPAN)

Diabolo

Arata was born in 1991 in Shizuoka, Japan. He took up juggling at the age of five. He graduated from junior high school and practised Diabolo and juggling intensively for competitions. At 19, he won the Japan Juggling Festival Championship Men's Individual. Thanks to that, he received many invitations from festivals and landed some circus jobs. After graduating from university, he enrolled at the National Circus School in Montreal as a student and Diabolo teacher. He is now perfecting his disciplines to become the best artist with a multidisciplinary profile he can be.

JÉRÉMY VITUPIER (FRANCE)

Clown, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine

Jérémy developed an appreciation for the performing arts as a child, thanks to his parents who exposed him to shows of various kinds. At the age of 16, he discovered the circus but first focused on his studies and obtained a university degree in social studies, specializing in social and socio-cultural facilitation. His studies led him to teach circus, clowning and performance. He even created his own hour-long tragic monologue, which he presented six times in France before entering the National Circus School in Montreal. His talent was recognized at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain 2016 in Paris where he won the bronze medal for his clown duo act.

ANTONIN WICKY (SWITZERLAND)

Clown, Chinese Pole, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

Antonin Wicky began his training in artistic gymnastics in Switzerland at the age of five. He gained enough experience in the discipline to serve as an instructor for six years. At the age of 16, he caught the performance bug and became involved with theatrical improvisation, which also led him to an interest in circus. He started developing his skills in circus arts and decided to attend Lezarti'cirque, a circus school in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland. This training confirmed his passion for the circus arts and the incomparable adrenalin rush they provided. To further his training, he entered the National Circus School in Montreal. This bronze medalist at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain 2016 in Paris is delighted to bring his skills to Cirkopolis.



Corde lisse
Rope

Trapèze
Trapeze

Diabolo

Banquine

Contorsion
Contortion

Jonglerie
Passing

Mât chinois
Chinese Pole



Main à main
Hand to hand



Porte-manteau
Coat Rail



Plus Cubique



Roue Cyr
Cyr Wheel



Roue allemande
German Wheel



PRODUCER

PRODUCTIONS NEUVART INC.

The TROUPE

In addition to their disciplines, all the performers take part to the group choreographies and acts. Due to the nature of the acts, changes in the cast may occur.

COLIN ANDRÉ-HÉRIAUD
Hand to Hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

SELENE BALLESTEROS-MINGUER

Rope, Trapeze and Juggling

PAULINE BAUD-GUILLARD

Teeterboard

ASHLEY CARR

Clown and Teeterboard

AARON DEWITT

Hand to Hand, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

RÓSITA HENDRY

Cyr Wheel, Trapeze

JONATHAN JULIEN

Passing, Porter and Banquine

FRÉDÉRIC LEMIEUX-CORMIER

German Wheel, Juggling, Plus Cubic, Banquine and Teeterboard

ALEXIE MAHEU

Contortion, Chinese Pole and Banquine

ARATA URAWA

Diabolo

JÉRÉMY VITUPIER

Clown, Juggling, German Wheel and Banquine

ANTONIN WICKY

Clown, Chinese Pole, Juggling, German Wheel, Banquine and Teeterboard

TECHNICAL TEAM on Tour

THIBAUT PHILIPPE

Tour Director

TOMMY CHEVRETTE

Technical Director & Head Stage Carpenter

EMILY THORNE

Stage Manager and Head Sound

MARJORIE LEFEBVRE

Head of lighting

BENOIT ROUILLARD

Head Rigger and Head of Video

NICOLAS GERMAINE

Coach and Talent Scout

CREATIVE Team

JEANNOT PAINCHAUD

Artistic Director and Co-Director

DAVE ST-PIERRE

Co-Director and Choreographer

ROBERT MASSICOTTE

Set Designer, Illustrator and Video Projections

Co-Designer

STÉFAN BOUCHER

Composer

KRZYSZTOF SOROCZYNSKI

Acrobatic Designer of the Banquine and the Teeterboard Acts and Head Coach

LIZ VANDAL

Costume Designer

NICOLAS DESCÔTEAUX

Light Designer

ALEXIS LAURENCE

Video Projections Co-Designer

Acknowledgments

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RÉNALD LAURIN

Dramaturgic and Acting Advisor

EMMANUEL GUILLAUME

Artistic Director On tour

ÉMILIE GRENON-ÉMIROGLOU

Director's Assistant & Coach – Aerial and contortion

MARIE-EVE CARRIÈRE

Coach – Choreographies

JOHANNE MADORE

Coach – Choreographies and Artistic Advisor

VIRGINIE BACHAND

Make-up Designer

JONATHAN ST-ONGE

Executive Producer

ANNIE ST-PIERRE

Choreographer

PRODUCTION Team Creation

GUY ST-AMOUR

Production Director

PASCAL AUGER

Technical Director

MARIE-HÉLÈNE DELAGE

Production Director Assistant

NATASHA DROUIN-BEAUREGARD

Artistic Director Assistant

GÉRALDINE DURAND-GROULX

Assistant to the Executive Producer

MAUDE LABONTE

Stage Manager

JIMMY LAKATOS

Video Projections Consultant - Production

STUDIO EL TORO

Participation in the production of video images

MARIANNE FORAND & MICHEL OTIS

Making of accessories

ASHLEY CARR

Coat Rail Act Designer

GONZALO MUNOZ FERRER

Clowning Advisor

NICOLAS BOIVIN-GRAVEL

Coach – Diabolo, Contortion and Juggling

IRINA BURLIY

Coach – Cyr Wheel

MITCHELL HEAD

Coach – Chinese Pole

JÉRÔME LE BAUT

Coach – Hand to Hand and Banquine

HÉLÈNE DUCHARME

Consultant - Shadow Play and puppetry and puppets

ROBERT TRÉPANIÉ

Kite consultant and manufacturing

SOUNDTRACK

STÉFAN BOUCHER, NATALIE CHOQUETTE, PASCALE

PICARD, ISABELLE RAJOTTE, AMÉLIE ROBERGE

Vocals

LUCIE CAUCHON

We belong here - Choir Director and arrangement

LUCIE CAUCHON, GUILLAUME CIMON-FORTIER,

GENEVIÈVE CHOQUETTE, JOÉE CÔTE, GENEVIÈVE DE

PASQUALE, DENIS GOULET, MARIE-ÉLENE LAMOUREUX,

MARC-OLIVIER LAVOIX, JEAN-FRANÇOIS MAJOR,

ALEXANDRE PERRAS, JEAN-FRANÇOIS SIMARD, SERGE

SIMARD

We belong here - Choir

SERGE ARSENAULT, ALAIN BERGER, STÉFAN BOUCHER,

PIERRE-ALAIN BOUVRETTE, CAROLINE CHÉHADÉ,

LAMBERT CHEN, ANA DROBAC, JEZ, GUY KAYE, JEAN-

FRANÇOIS LEMIEUX, MARTIN LISOTTE

Musicians

LUCIE CAUCHON

Composer – Dance Trapeze

PIERRE-ALAIN BOUVRETTE

String section arrangement

STÉFAN BOUCHER et RODERICK SHEARER

Mix

COLIN GAGNÉ

Additional sound design

BLAPS STUDIOS, STUDIO LA MAJEURE, STUDIO

MAKINA, STUDIO PLANET, STUDIO VICTOR

Recording Studios

GREY MARKET MASTERING

Mastering Studios

STAGECRAFT Shop

ACMÉ SERVICES SCÉNIQUES & ARCOFAB

Sets Workshop

ACIERS TRANS-ROL

Accessories and acrobatic apparatus manufacturing

SYLVAIN RACINE

Puppet manufacturing

COSTUMES Workshop

YVELINE BONJEAN

Administrative and Production Director

DANAELLE LAREAU

Production and administrative assistant

PHILIPPE LEMIEUX & CHRISTA CAMPANELL

Cutters

CAMILLE THIBAUT-BÉDARD, KIM LACELLE, PERRINE

HUREL

Tailor

HAIR

STÉPHANIE BARRETTE

Hair Dresser

ADMINISTRATION team

CHRISTIAN LEDUC

General Manager

ISABELLE GILBERT

Executive Assistant

MYRIAM RITORY

Head - Human Resources

MARIANNE BEAUDRY

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Production Accountant

THOMAS LENGART

Casting Manager

ASHLEY ADAMS

Legal Advisor

JULIEN RUCHON

Legal Advisor

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Director of Operations and Associate Producer

GENEVIÈVE HENRI

Operation Manager - Touring show

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VALÉRIE REMISE / BENOIT FONTAINE

Photographer

ALBERT RUDNICKI

Director of photography



CO-COMMISSIONERS

OUR SHOWS

SALOON

2016 - Currently on tour

In Cirque Éloïze'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.

THE "SKY TRILOGY"



2002 to 2006

With Nomade - At night, the sky is endless, Cirque Éloïze 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.

2004 to 2012

Rain reunites Nomade's team of creators with Director Daniele Finzi Pasca, a multitaleanted artist reknown 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.

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 Éloïze 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 ÉLOÏZE

1993 to 1997

In its first show called Cirque Éloïze, 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!

February 2018

CIRQUE
ÉLOÏZE