

Cirque Éloïze

Tuesday through Saturday, October 23–27, 2001
Zellerbach Hall

Excentricus

Christine Rossignol, director

Jeannot Painchaud, artistic director

Michel Dallaire, theatrical director

Louis Landry, lighting designer

Denis Hébert, original music

(Additional compositions by E. Bernard, P. Bruneau, L. Cauchon,
G. Bourque, A. Charbonneau, S. Hébert, and Tabou)

Éric Bernard and Anne Charbonneau, musical arrangements

Catherine Archambault, choreographer

Mireille Vachon, Hélène Tétreault,
and Béatrice Calmel (MUSKY), costumes designers

Julie Charland, set designer

Boscus Inc., set construction

Daniel Cyr, Daniel Waddell, and Sofi Dagenais, prop designers

Nathalie Gagné, make-up and hair designer

Krzysztof Soroczynski, head trainer and casting agent

Anne Charbonneau, musical director, keyboards, and accordion

Nelson Bégin, electric and acoustic guitars, and mandolin

Pat Donaldson, bass

Ross Richard, drums

Paul Desgagné, saxophones and flutes

Cal Performances' SchoolTime performance of Cirque Éloïze is sponsored, in part, by Chevron Corporation.

Cal Performances would like to thank The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
and the Zellerbach Family Fund for their generous support.

Cal Performances is supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts,
a federal agency that supports the visual, literary, and performing arts to benefit all Americans,
and by the California Arts Council, a state agency.

Jamie Adkins Slack Wire, Group Juggling

Alain Boudreau Hand Balancing, Group Juggling

Robert Bourgeois Acrobat, Group Juggling

Daniel Cyr Ladder, Acrobatic Wheel, Group Juggling

Ariane Darche Aerial Cradle

Antoine M. Gagnon Aerial Cradle, Group Juggling

Petra Lange	Rope
Noémie Sirard-Gervais	Hand Balancing
Serge Huercio	Artistic Bicycle, Group Juggling
All	Group Bicycle

Since its creation in 1997, *Excentricus* has thrilled audiences the world over. An ingenious blend of the performing arts, the show owes its success to four elements: its heart, its warmth of spirit, its talent, and its generosity. Don't expect the standard circus fare. Instead, the troupe of performers, acrobats, clowns, jugglers, and musicians combines to create a rich and subtle tango of emotions.

Acts featuring bicycles, the web, juggling, ladders, slack wire, aerial cradle, and banquine are spotlighted in a quick-paced performance that manages to be both intimate and flamboyant.

THE COMPANY

In the early 1980s, a new generation of circus performance burst onto the scene in the Canadian province of Quebec. Breaking with tradition, circus became a place for a thriving collaboration between the theater, music, and dance communities. The birth of this contemporary North American form of circus entertainment has generated continually expanding national and international interest.

Partly in response to growing demand, but especially because of their great passion for the circus, seven young artists—all

graduates of Montreal's National Circus School—decided in 1993 to combine their talents and energies in the creation of a new European-style, animal-free circus, under the banner of *Cirque Éloize*. Originating from the Magdalen Islands (off the coast of Quebec), these performers drew inspiration from the word *éloize* (pronounced "el-was"), the local expression for heat lightning. *Cirque Éloize* was born in the fall of that year.

As early as its second season, *Cirque Éloize* enjoyed tremendous success. Within two years, the company had managed to win the hearts of American audiences, capping a 125-performance American tour with an opening engagement at the recently restored New Victory Theater on Broadway. In 1996, its successes set the stage for the troupe to sweep across Canada, before proceeding to perform in France, Ireland, and Asia.

Since October 1997, *Cirque Éloize* has toured the world with its second original production, *Excentricus*. Encompassing diverse elements of circus, theater, dance, and music, this innovative production has been presented more than 500 times to rave reviews. *Excentricus* has headlined at numerous performing arts festivals, including the Edinburgh Festival in the United Kingdom, the Israel Festival in Jerusalem, the Hong Kong Festival, the Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogota in Colombia, Festival Recklinghausen in Germany, the Bergen Festival in Norway, and most recently, at the Sydney Opera House in Australia for a series of 19 sold-out performances. *Excentricus* has also toured throughout the United States and France.

The summer of 1999 was marked by a unique event that allowed *Cirque Éloize* to once again demonstrate its remarkable creative talents. At the invitation of Louise Forand-Samson, co-director of the Lanaudière International Festival, the company produced and directed a one-night extravaganza that incorporated the circus arts, contemporary dance, and classical music. Presented at the Lanaudière Amphitheater, in conjunction with the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, the innovative production was an immediate success. Due to the interest it generated from orchestras and presenters alike, the company decided to advance the creative process. The result is the newly created *Cirque Orchestra*, a project that is sure to contribute to the development of exciting, new prospects for the company. Last July, *Cirque Orchestra* began an international tour of theaters and festivals.

Since its inception, *Cirque Éloize* has given over 800 performances in more than 200 cities around the world. Having attained considerable international success, the company continues to pursue its mission of promoting the circus arts in Quebec and abroad, all the while presenting a form of expression that the artists of the company hold dear.

The Circus Troupe

Since its founding, *Cirque Éloize* has offered performers a positive working environment that makes every person a part of the creative process. It's a friendly space that values teamwork and respects differences of opinion. Each production brings together artists with varied backgrounds and pushes back the frontiers of imagination and creation.

Christine Rossignol (director) was born on November 9, 1959, in Bourges, France. She began her acting career in Tours, portraying characters from the classical repertoire. In 1980, she founded a theater company (Champ libre) and produced four plays for different settings (streets, theaters, store fronts). In 1983, she moved to Paris, where she worked primarily with the companies Extincteur and Les Appicateurs. In 1991, she assisted Michel Dallaire in directing *Hommes en Noir* and then *Shakoadi Bobo* for Gosh. Since then, she has collaborated with Bobo on several plays. Though she continues to act and write (*Les Girls*), she devotes much of her time to directing and to establishing a theater development center in the Cévennes.

Production Team

Annie Pénélope Dussault, tour director
Louis Landry, technical director on tour
and lighting technician
Marc Laliberté, stage manager and rigger
Bruce Cameron, sound designer
and house sound
David Wirtgen, monitoring board operator
Geneviève Chevalier, dresser and props master

Administrative Team

Jeannot Painchaud, general manager,
artistic director, and co-founder
Daniel Cyr, co-founder
Julie Hamelin, associate general manager
and business development
Jean-Pierre Dion, financial manager
Sophie Archambault, technical director
Carole Daneau, executive secretary
Carole Lapointe, accounting assistant
Marie-Caroline Bergouignan, tour logistics coordinator
Chantale Potvin, communication
coordinator
Vincent Messenger, special events and
French-speaking countries agent
Suzanne Munger, corporate events assistant
Isabelle Mereille, governmental affairs
coordinator
Jonathan St-Onge, legal affairs coordinator
Krzysztof Soroczynski, head trainer
and casting agent
Daniel Waddell, technical department clerk
Daniel Ouimet, information system advisor
Kim Rainville, secretary/receptionist

International Representation

John Lambert & Associates, John Lambert

United States Representation

CAMI, Jean-Jacques Cesbron