

Cirque Éloize

Wednesday through Sunday, September 25–29, 2002
Zellerbach Hall

Nomade

Artistic Direction

Jeannot Painchaud

A creation by Daniele Finzi Pasca and Jeannot Painchaud

Daniele Finzi Pasca, director and song texts

Krzysztof Soroczynski, head trainer, acrobatic conception for hand-to-hand,
Russian bar and banquine, and teeter board acts

Lucie Cauchon, music composition and arrangements

Maria Bonzanigo, composition for fixed and swinging trapeze acts,
straps act, and finale table act

Charles Kaczynski, Overture music composition

Guillaume Lord, set design

Méridith Caron, costume design

Martin Labrecque, lighting design

David Wirtgen, sound design

Suzanne Trépanier, make-up design

Nicolas Descoteaux, moving lights programmer

Roch Jutras, artistic coordination

Dolores Heredia, acting preparation

Daniel Cyr, conception and trainer for Roue Cyr

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a federal agency that supports the visual, literary, and performing arts to benefit all Americans,
and the California Arts Council, a state agency.

All artists sing and participate in group acts in addition to their specialty.

Yamoussa Bangoura Teeter board, juggling, balaphon,
and solo singing

Antoine Carabinier Lépine Roue Cyr, teeter board, Russian bar and
banquine, juggling, trumpet

Karine Delzors Web rope, hand-to-hand, juggling,
Russian bar and banquine

Ewelina Fijolek	Hand-to-hand, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board, hand balancing on chairs
Geneviève Gauthier	Contortion, aerial hoop, crystal balls
Josianne Levasseur	Hand-to-hand, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board, crystal balls
Nicolas Leresche	Clown, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board
Nicolas Roche	Straps, juggling, teeter board
Guillaume Saladin	Hand balancing, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board, juggling, solo singing
Andrzej Sokolowski	Hand balancing, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board
Robert Sokolowski	Hand balancing, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board
Suzanne Soler	Swinging trapeze, dance trapeze, crystal balls
Bartłomiej Soroczynski	Clown, unicycle, juggling, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board
Stefan Wepfer	Chinese pole, cello, juggling, Russian bar and banquine, teeter board
Langis Turcotte	Musical director and clarinets
Charles Kaczynski	Violin and voice
Josianne Laporte	Percussion and trombone
Sonia Painchaud	Accordion and voice

Cirque Éloize was founded nine years ago and has since given more than 1,000 performances in over 200 cities and 20 countries, to audiences of more than two million spectators. The company currently has more than 100 artists performing in two separate productions, the touring Cirque Orchestra and the current production of Nomade. In the Magdalen Islands, flashes of heat lightning seen on the horizon are called éloize. An inspiration for the troupe's seven founding members, this lightning symbolizes the heat and energy that feed the company's spirit.

Cirque Éloize has appeared at many festivals, events, and prestigious venues, including the Edinburgh Festival, Israel Festival, Hong Kong Festival, Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Bogota, Recklinghausen Festival, Bergen Festival, Sadler's Wells, Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center (New York), Bunkamura Orchard Hall, and the Hollywood Bowl. Performed on theater stages (rather than under "the big top"), the company's productions are created for the general public and are accessible to audiences speaking all languages. Cirque Éloize performances have been featured in broadcasts and documentaries airing on Radio Canada, the CBC, Art TV, Prime Nights, Bravo, Indigo, and NTV (Japan).

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE PRODUCTIONS

Excentricus

Excentricus has entranced audiences around the world with its display of breathtaking acrobatics, infectious comedy, and spirited live music. This enthralling animal-free production unfolds like a flower, loosely structured around character and relationships. Excentricus is circus with atmosphere, poetry, humor, and, above all, heart.

Cirque Orchestra

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

Nomade

In *Nomade*, a community of performers stages a carnival filled with song, dance, music, juggling, and acrobatics. These nomadic travelers wander through their own memories and dreams to a place that's strangely familiar, boisterous, and lyrical. Their journey begins at dusk and ends at dawn because at nighttime, the sky shines with endless possibilities.

A Word About Nomade

Nomadism is a state of mind—a journey through memories and dreams. As we follow the trail of our inner thoughts, we encounter vestiges of our past and indulge in wild flights of fancy. The members of Cirque Éloize are modern-day nomads. As they wander the globe, they forge new friendships, showcase their talents, and celebrate the here and now. *Nomade*, our latest production, is a nighttime carnival filled with song, dance, and acrobatic feats. Though squabbles erupt, peace and harmony eventually prevail in this powerful exploration of the rituals of vagabond life. A seamless blend of the modern and the traditional, *Nomade* stars circus artists from across the globe who perform heart-stopping numbers on a wide range of equipment and props. This treat for the senses features a cast of colorful characters and spotlights the amazing virtuosity of circus artists in peak form.

Daniele Finzi Pasca, the creator of this new production and a bit of a nomad himself, leads the Swiss theater troupe Teatro Sunil, whose poetic productions *Icaro* and *Giacobe* have traveled the world. Since its founding in 1983, the company has revolutionized the art of clowning. Teatro Sunil's 20 productions have been performed in a variety of languages in more than two dozen countries. Pasca's profound humanity and playful spirit make him a natural ally for Cirque Éloize.

The stage design for *Nomade* draws on evocative natural materials. Aged wood, old-world fabric, and golden lighting combine to transport audiences into a festive, raucous, and outlandish setting.

Nomadism is a state of mind. So even if you've put down roots, don't be afraid to let your spirit roam free. Spend a few hours with the artists of Cirque Éloize and be prepared to take a surreal journey along the highways and byways of your imagination.

A Note from the Director

In daylight, we unconsciously search for images lost in dreams. When we uncover the vestiges of a dream, we're touched by a profound sense of *déjà vu*, and say that just seeing it makes us dream.

—Salvador Dali

The imagery in my work springs from an unusual source—the collective memory of my ancestors, the history to which I belong. In my productions, I let my unconscious breathe life into the characters populating the family album I inherited. My memory is filled with places I've never seen, faces I've never met. Yet thanks to the stories my grandmother told me, these are people and places I know dearly.

In the great journey of life, we are all nomads. We wander from one love to the next, from one sorrow to the next. Yet in this journey, some of us travel light. Some of us sleep under the stars with the moon as our pillow. *La nuit, le ciel est plus grand!* How vast the night sky appears.

What's more, we are all storytellers. We tell tales to leave behind a legacy, to unravel the world's secrets, to spark the curiosity of a sleepy child. Storytelling is a way to explore the recesses of our memory and even to change our destiny.

Like nomads, circus performers live life as one long journey. The tales they tell are often wild and whimsical and sometimes hauntingly melancholic. Each time they set up camp, they launch into a new story. The singing, the celebrations, and the silence that finally cloaks the night reveal to them something miraculous and consoling—that they are home once again.

This tribute to nomads conveys the frenzy of their celebrations, the mysteries of their rituals, and the passion with which they carve out their destinies. I hope that, with its spirited rhythm and vivid images, this story will awaken your wandering spirit and meander unconsciously through your dreams.

CREATORS

Jeannot Painchaud (artistic director) is a graduate of Montreal's National Circus School, and began his career 15 years ago, working with different circuses, cabarets, and multidisciplinary troupes across Europe, Asia, and North America. In 1992, his acrobatic bicycle number earned him a bronze medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris. Painchaud retired from the stage in 1998 to devote himself fully to Cirque Éloize. Actively involved in organizing artistic productions, he is now pursuing the mission he set for himself in creating Cirque Éloize—to nurture, develop, and promote the circus arts as an artform unto itself.

Daniele Finzi Pasca (director and song texts) founded Teatro Sunil in Lugano, Switzerland, in 1983. As a stage director, author, and choreographer, he is fascinated by the world of clowns, and developed the concept of Teatro della carezza (the "Theater of the Caress"). In 1991, he created the one-man show *Icaro*, which defines its creator's aesthetics and style. He has written and directed 14 stage plays and produced some 20 productions both with his own troupe and elsewhere around the world. Pasca's productions, with their characteristic humanity and playful spirit, have toured the globe. Over the years, he has developed a structured vision of the theater and a technique of playing that he is often invited to teach at universities and theater schools. Casa Grande has published his collection of short stories (*Come Acqua allo specchio*) as well as the complete script of *Viaggio al confine*.

Lucie Cauchon (music composition and arrangements) is a trained pianist with expertise in classical music and jazz. She has composed for the jazz band *A Few Colors*, worked in television, and accompanied a number of singers. From 1987 to 1990, she traveled with *Cirque du Soleil* as a touring musician. This production marks her second collaboration with *Cirque Éloize*—she previously composed the music and conducted the orchestra for *Excentricus*.

Guillaume Lord (set design) is a versatile set designer, and is as equally interested in dance, theater, opera, and film. His association with choreographer Jean Grand-Maître led him to work with some of the world's most prestigious ballet companies. In theater, he regularly collaborates with director Serge Denoncourt. Their teamwork garnered him the Gascon-Roux Award as well as an award for best sets at the Gala des Masques for *Le Temps et la Chambre* in 1995. Lord also designed the sets for the Arturo Brachetti show that toured the world.

Méridith Caron (costume design) has designed sets and costumes for numerous major theatrical events in Montreal. She has close to 200 stage and film credits, including *Le Songe d'une nuit d'été*, *La vie est un songe*, *La Serva Ammosa*, and *Don Juan*, which earned her Théâtre du Nouveau Monde's Gascon-Roux Award. She also garnered awards for best costumes for *Don Juan* and the film *Je t'aime gros gros gros*. Since 1998, Caron has worked regularly with the Stratford Festival. In addition, she teaches art history and costume design at the National Theatre School of Canada.

Martin Labrecque (lighting design) is known for the originality and texture of his lighting, and has worked on numerous stage plays as well as in television and dance. In 2001, he won awards for lighting design for his work on *L'homme en lambeaux*. More recently, he designed the lighting for *Oncle Vania*, *Un tramway nommé Désir*, and *Juste la fin du monde*.

David Wirtgen (sound design) has talents as a sound technician that quickly put him on the road touring first in Europe and then the world with singers Maurane and Patricia Kaas. An in-ears monitoring specialist for stage performers for many years, he focuses his efforts on the overall soundscape, while trying to harmonize a show's technical and artistic dimensions.

Krzysztof Soroczynski (head trainer) is a lifelong lover of the circus, and began his acrobatic career in Poland in 1965. He worked with *Cirque du Soleil* first as a performer and then as a trainer. A co-founder of the *École Nationale de Cirque* in Verdun, he joined *Cirque Éloize* in 1999, becoming head trainer and talent scout. He has passed his passion on to his son, who appears in *Nomade*.

PERFORMERS

Yamoussa Bangoura. Of Guinean origin, Bangoura was fascinated by the circus shows he saw on television. He would then imitate what he had seen, practicing on the beach. An amateur soccer player, he would enthusiastically make a few perilous leaps whenever he scored a goal. Spotted by a dance teacher, Bangoura joined the Samato dance troupe and later the Baobab circus troupe. Tours with these ensembles soon took him to Europe. Although he loves acrobatics, he is also drawn to music. For Bangoura, the circus arts are a way of learning something new every day.

Antoine Carabinier Lépine. At age 13, he saw a performance by Montreal's National Circus School and decided that this was the school he wanted to attend. Initially a springboard and trampoline acrobat, he discovered the German wheel and became one of the masters of the device. Recruited by Cirque Éloize in 2000 for Cirque Orchestra, in Nomade he follows the path that led him to play, sing, and make music. For him, nothing is impossible, and the circus isn't an occupation but rather a way of life. He sees himself eventually photographing circus performers and venues.

Karine Delzors. As a child, Delzors was a daredevil. The very athletic young native of France loved to do acrobatics amid dreams of travel. Soon she began performing as a busker to pay for her trips around the world. With a bachelor's degree in special psychology, she came to Montreal for her master's degree. Then Delzors succumbed to the circus, which combined everything she loved—especially the idea of different cultures working together on the same artistic project. As she fulfills her dreams, she enjoys putting both her physical skills and creative talents to use in proving that nothing is impossible.

Ewelina Fijolek. Of Polish origin, at age eight, Fijolek signed up for an acro-sports course. She entered various competitions and, as a 17-year-old, became world champion in her class. Next, she was recruited as an acrobat by the German circus Flic-Flac. With Cirque Éloize, in addition to performing, Fijolek is also honing her acting skills. In contrast to athletic competitions, where the main goal is to win a medal, she enjoys the fact that in the circus she also has to touch the audience's emotions.

Geneviève Gauthier. When it came time to choose a career, Gauthier was attracted to theater and dance, but opted for the circus arts. She took courses at Montreal's National Circus School, where she specialized in hoops. Next, she worked with Cirque du Soleil as part of a hoop trio for its Quidam show, then joined Cirque Éloize for Cirque Orchestra. At Éloize, she has found a family of artists that allows her to travel and excel. More than an occupation, in the course of her experience, the circus has become her entire life.

Nicolas Leresche. As a young man in Switzerland, Leresche was first drawn to the theater, especially physical genres such as pantomime and masques. He naturally drifted into clowning. Leresche did street theater, improvised, and created a variety of characters. He wanted to work with a non-traditional circus with a strong theatrical dimension, and Cirque Éloize gives him exactly that combination. An arts enthusiast, he adores creativity and one day would like to direct his own shows.

Josianne Levasseur. As a youngster, Levasseur became a figure skater and then a gymnast. Clearly gifted, she competed in the Canadian championships and was later recruited by Cirque du Soleil for its O production. She joined Cirque Éloize in 2000 for Cirque Orchestra. Deeply involved with the troupe, she learned to perfect various skills such as the banquine, Russian bar, springboard, and hand-to-hand. Levasseur loves to meet new people and the nomadic life suits her perfectly.

Guillaume Saladin. A trapezist girlfriend led this student (with a bachelor's degree in cultural activity organizing and research) to enroll in Montreal's National Circus School. A specialist in hand-to-hand, Saladin's passion for the circus in no way dampens his social commitment, which is why he launched the Artcirq project aimed at preventing suicide among young Inuit. His ultimate goal is to found a circus made up entirely of Inuit performers, to use this form of expression (which demands rigor and discipline) to give them an opportunity to express themselves through the circus arts.

Robert Sokolowski. Sokolowski unabashedly admits the circus is his passion. Since he was nine years old in Poland, he has been a high-spirited acrobat, first with his brother Andrzej, and then at

European competitions. Sokolowski has traveled widely. A world champion in tumbling, in 1999–2000, he worked with the Flic-Flac Circus in Germany. Then he landed in the United Arab Emirates at festival time. Cirque Éloize is proving to be the ideal creative environment for his desire to excel.

Andrzej Sokolowski. A specialist in hand-to-hand, he studied acrobatics with his brother. A seven-time Polish acro-sports champion, he then became the third-ranked performer in the world in his category. In 1999, Sokolowski joined the Polish troupe Salve, performing on the Russian bar and banquine. For two years he gave performances in his native land. Sokolowski joined Cirque Éloize because he loves the special atmosphere of the circus as well as traveling. For him, the circus arts are magical.

Suzanne Soler. Born in France, Soler studied dance and then enrolled in a circus program at Annie Fratellini's school. There she discovered the unique atmosphere, communal living, and a spirit of celebration and sharing. After studying at Montreal's National Circus School, she specialized in the swinging trapeze and joined Cirque Éloize for Cirque Orchestra. She dreams of one day founding her own circus troupe because she loves the sense of bringing joy to audiences.

Bartłomiej Soroczynski. Born in Poland to circus artist parents, by age three, Soroczynski was juggling, riding a unicycle, and doing acrobatics. In 1992, he won the Gold Medal at the Sixth International Unicycle Championships. Among his numerous talents, Soroczynski plays the accordion and also loves dancing in all its forms. At Montreal's National Circus School, he specialized in clowning and then performed in various multidisciplinary productions. Soroczynski shared his knowledge and experience by writing a book entitled *Le Monocycle* (1999). He has also contributed to a youth suicide prevention project by giving circus workshops in the Canadian Arctic.

Stephan Wepfer. Born to Swiss musician parents, Wepfer was entranced by traditional circus performances. Around the age of six, he began juggling. Ten years later, he studied at a circus school in Budapest and discovered a passion for acrobatics. At Montreal's National Circus School, he specialized in the Chinese pole. While interested in philosophy and sociology, the circus remains his first love. Wepfer enjoys the fact that people think what he's doing is easy although developing his skills has demanded years of hard work.

Nicolas Roche. Born in Lyon, France, Roche moved to Quebec at the age of four, and soon learned to play the piano, the clarinet, and numerous percussion instruments. He also became interested in the theater and dance, but opted for the circus because it combined his enjoyment of the arts and physical performance. Roche enrolled in Montreal's National Circus School and was recruited by Cirque Éloize just before graduating. In this, his first experience with the troupe, he is enthusiastically discovering the circus life, performing on the road, and the varied audiences around the globe.

Charles Kaczynski. With an opera singer mother and orchestra conductor father who founded the Conservatoire de Musique de Trois-Rivières (Quebec), it was only normal for Kaczynski to be interested in music. He played the violin until he was 15, then took up the guitar and blossomed with his experience in a Blues band. Kaczynski joined the contemporary and progressive music group Conventum and released a solo album in 1979, which was followed by several years on the road. The circus is a new experience for this veteran musician, a unique way of sharing his creativity with other artists.

Josianne Laporte. Rocked in the cradle to the music of her violinist grandfather, Laporte was naturally drawn to the strings, and then discovered percussion instruments around age eight. The trombone came next and she played with big bands while continuing to study percussion, particularly with Luc Boivin. Laporte has accompanied internationally acclaimed artists, performed with percussion ensembles, and done studio work. For her, Cirque Éloize is an exhilarating experience, and she particularly loves playing a character who is an integral part of Nomade.

Sonia Painchaud. Born in Montreal to musician parents, Painchaud became interested in musical performance at a young age, first playing the flute, then the violin and piano. In college and university, she focused on classical piano and discovered jazz singing. This multi-instrumentalist also plays the accordion. Painchaud always dreamed of being part of a circus troupe, and in joining Cirque Éloize is finding the magic, craziness, and spirit of adventure she was looking for.

Langis Turcotte. At school, Turcotte dreamed of playing the saxophone. When the children were asked, in alphabetical order, to choose a musical instrument, young Turcotte's name was last on the list, so he ended up picking the clarinet—and he took it up completely. A founding member of the Dixie Band, which for years has delighted audiences at international jazz festivals, this highly gifted musician has since formed another band—Hot Pepper Dixie. Eager to take on any challenge, he considers Cirque Éloize the perfect antidote for routine!

Technical Team

Patrick Loubert, tour director
Marc Laliberté, stage manager
Nicolas Descoteaux, technical director on tour, lighting director
David Wirtgen, sound engineer
Antoine Mercure-Gagnon, head rigger
Tiago Chasqueira, rigger
Daniel Waddell, rigger, stage hand

Fly-in Team (2002–03 US Tour)

Christian Paquin, technical coordinator
Simon Vigneault, head rigger

Production Team

Benoît Jodoin, production director
Julie Hamelin, marketing director
Jean-Pierre Dion, financial manager
Sophie Archambault, technical director
Éric Beauséjour, graphic designer
Marc Gauthier, rope coach
Pierre Duhaime, juggling coach
Emmanuel Bochud, juggling coach
Nathalie Pascieszny and Francine Poitras, singing professors
Viktor Fomine, trapeze coach
Anne Séguin-Poirier, stage design assistant
Jacqueline Rousseau, costume design assistant
Geneviève Chevalier, costume design
second-assistant
Sylvain Labelle, cutter
Vincent Pastena, cutter
Andrée Tremblay, seamstress
Martin Lapointe, seamstress
Daniela Arendasova, contortion trainer
Daniel Le Bateleur, magic consultant
Annick Allée, French teacher
Conception et réalisation Boscus,
set construction
Longue vue peinture scénique, set painting

Administrative Team

Jeannot Painchaud, general manager and
co-founder
Daniel Cyr, co-founder, technical and
acrobatic research and development
Julie Hamelin, co-general manager and
director of business development
Jean-Pierre Dion, financial and corporate events manager
Sophie Archambault, technical director
Natalie Anne Arsenault, sales agent
and coordinator
Marie-Caroline Bergouignan, tour logistics coordinator
Marc André Charron, technical director
assistant

Roch Jutras, artistic direction assistant
Carole Lapointe, accounting assistant
Marc Lesage, director of development
Vincent Messenger, special events and
French-speaking countries agent
Daniel Ouimet, information systems advisor
Chantale Potvin, communication coordinator
Kim Rainville, secretary-receptionist
Krzysztof Soroczynski, head trainer
and casting agent
Jonathan St-Onge, legal affairs coordinator

International Representation
(except Asia-Pacific)
Columbia Artists Management, Inc.
Jean-Jacques Cesbron and Margaret Selby

Asia-Pacific Representation
John Lambert & Associates
John Lambert

French-Speaking Countries Representation
Cirque Éloïze
Vincent Messenger

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