



# CIRQUE ÉLOIZE - SALOON

REVIEWS

“Hats off to Cirque Eloize! Literally!”  
*Hartford Courant, USA,*  
*August 2016*

★★★

“Through the numerous numbers of acrobatic dance, some aerial prowess remind us that we are dealing here with a circus recognized internationally for the level of its acrobats as much as for its creativity.”

*Le nouvelliste, Montreal,*  
*September 2016*

★★★

“One of the best shows in Tollwood, topped off with a standing ovation.”

*Abendzeitung, Germany*  
*November 2016*

★★★

“Not just the circus, not just music’: Cirque Eloize production ‘is really a new beast.”

*PBS, United States*  
*February 2017*

★★★

There’s never been a show quite like this!

*Entertaining options, United States*  
*January 2017*

★★★

“Jaw-dropping Wild West-style musical circus show!”

“The musical aspect of the production is incredible.”

“Outstanding in every area.”

*The Upcoming, London, October 2017*

★★★

“A burst of frenetic energy.”

*London Theatre Direct, London, October 2017*

*January 31, 2017*

Chip Chandler  
Amarillo, USA

# SALOON

## **‘NOT JUST THE CIRCUS, NOT JUST MUSIC’: CIRQUE ELOIZE PRODUCTION ‘IS REALLY A NEW BEAST,’ SAYS STAR**

A folk jamboree, a rambunctious drinking hole and high-flying performers: All these disparate elements and more come together in Cirque Eloize’s Saloon.

The Montreal-based company will bring its newest production to town Feb. 8 and 9 as part of Civic Amarillo’s Broadway Spotlight Series. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each night in the Amarillo Civic Center Complex Auditorium, 401 S. Buchanan St. Tickets are \$20 to \$55, plus fees.

Saloon was developed by the 24-year-old company over the past year, said star Shena Tschofen, who plays The Kid, a fiddle-playing, whip-cracking acrobat.

«The artistic director of Eloize (Jeannot Painchaud) grew up in the Magdalen Islands, on the coast of Quebec,» Tschofen said. «There’s a huge culture of folk music there; everyone hangs out and plays together. He wanted to make show that brings the circus back to what his roots were.»

Working with music director and composer Eloi Painchaud, his cousin, and new and old members of Eloize, Jeannot Painchaud

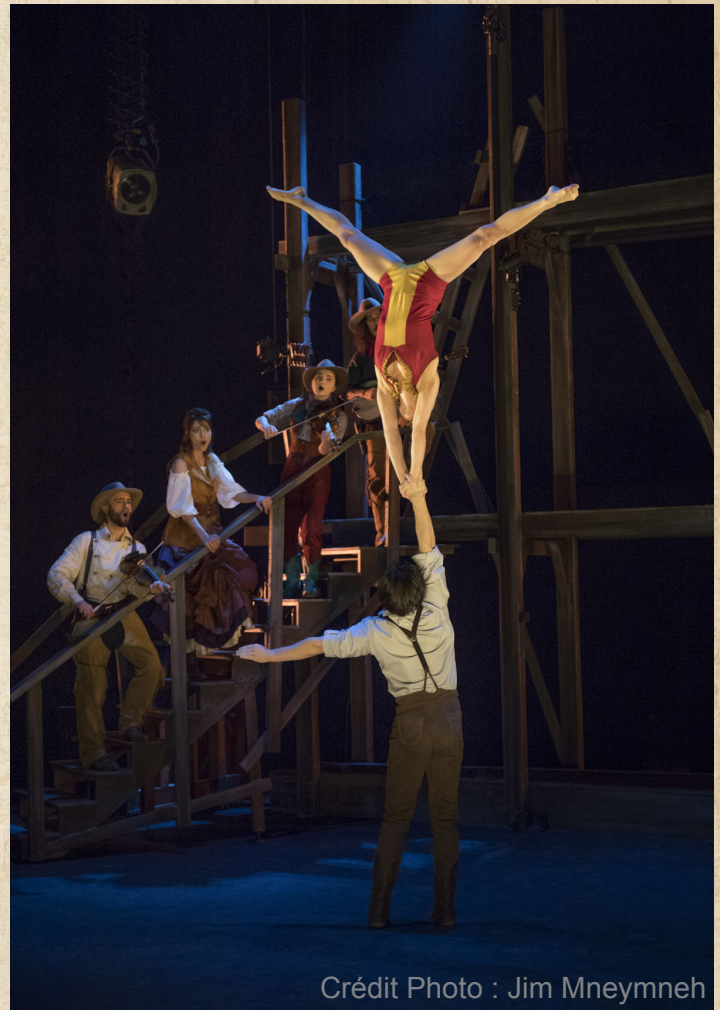
developes Saloon with live instrumentation on traditional folk and country tunes like «Cotton-Eyed Joe» and «Will the Circle Be Unbroken.»

«We all run around the stage, playing instruments, doing flips, doing flips backwards,» Tschofen said. «It’s a very funny show. ... It has all of the clichéd spaghetti Western moments, but we add a lot of weird twists to them.»

Those include an array of circus stunts, including juggling, aerial acrobatics and the Cyr wheel, on top of the live music.

That’s where Tschofen, who trained both as a violinist and as a circus performer, fits in.

«Some of our musicians play six instruments, and our other acrobats have other disciplines, too. We all have multiple



Crédit Photo : Jim Mneymneh

things we can do,» Tschofen said. «We’re working on adding stunts while I play, but for the moment, it’s kind of dangerous to play fiddle while hanging from the ceiling.» That all gives a taste of why Tschofen loves Eloize and Saloon so much.

«It’s all very enmeshed. It’s not just circus, it’s not just music,» she said. «A lot of people think it’s like Broadway or Cirque du Soleil, but it’s not. It is really a new beast.»

Tschofen was recruited to join the company after graduating from the National Circus School in Montreal.

«I didn’t expect» to find a job like this, she said. «I got luck that I can play music and do circus at the same time.»

# ENTERTAINING OPTIONS

## SALOON

*January 14, 2017*

Allen Foster

Philadelphia, USA

### **CIRQUE ÉLOIZE'S "SALOON": THERE'S NEVER BEEN A SHOW QUITE LIKE THIS!**

Last night, a troupe of astounding individuals from Montreal's renowned Cirque Éloize rode into town and transformed Philadelphia's Merriam Theater into the wild and rollicking old west.

Gunslinging cowboys, beautiful belles, disobedient horses, and harmonizing troubadours sang, danced, flipped about the stage, and hurdled through the audience in a non-stop barrage of outrageous antics and artistic excellence. There's never been a show quite like "Saloon: A Musical Acrobatic Adventure," it's an all out, balls to the wall, riotous romp jam-packed with dazzling feats of strength and agility.

This newest production from Cirque Éloize has all the elements of a summertime Hollywood blockbuster – romance, adventure, comedy, a killer soundtrack complete with a singalong.

Eleven truly incredible individuals routinely do the inconceivable again and again throughout the 85 minute performance. The show incorporates a mind-boggling array of acrobatic disciplines including, Korean Plank, Chinese Pole, Hand to Hand, Juggling, Aerial Straps, Cyr Wheel, and even some that have possibly never been seen before – have you ever watched a live choreographed fight scene done in reverse?! How about a dead man reanimated by a brilliant team of puppeteers? This show breaks new ground and amazes...every few minutes!

Cirque Éloize's latest production is an exhilarating theatrical adventure that crackles with a captivating charge. On a scale of one to ten, "Saloon" gets an eleven plus!



Crédit Photo : Jim Mneymneh

# THE UPCOMING

# SALOON

*October 6, 2017*

Olivia Cal  
London, UK

## CIRQUE ÉLOIZE: SALOON AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE

★★★★★

Saloon livens up the West End in this lively, jawdropping Wild West-style musical circus show. Having wowed audiences across the globe since they started in 1993, Cirque Éloize are back with this rootin'-tootin', fun and outright hilarious production. Sitting sideways on a vertical pole, jumping through lassos, juggling and the classic tricks and flips are just a few of the mesmerising moments throughout Saloon.

At the base of it is a love story: a love triangle disaster. The belle of the ball (Justine Méthé Crozat) is caught between the owner of the bar (Jules Trupin) or the new guy in town (Alastair Davies) and, as expected, plenty of brawls and bar fights break out. Words are redundant as the cast's acrobatics and folk songs, including Johnny Cash's Ring of Fire and Patsy Cline's Crazy and others composed by Éloi Painchaud, are more than enough to tell the story.

Their discussions, arguments and love scenes are communicated through use of such apparatus as the Cyr Wheel, Trapeze and the Chinese Pole, as well as some crafty mime from the town's Cowboy – an act certain to get audiences giggling. With a voice reminiscent of Dolly Parton in some songs, Sophie Beaudet dazzles with her vocal range and talent. Along with the use of instruments such as the mandolin, violin and harmonica, the musical aspect of the production is incredible; complementing the acrobatics harmoniously with a fierce rhythm and fire.

The original choreography is bound to impress, with the tireless cast's flawless poise and strength, evoking cheers and rounds of applause from spectators throughout. Cirque Éloize's Saloon is outstanding in every area of production, delivering on charm, hilarity and flair. With a standing ovation, the great magnitude of skill, strength and talent pushed into 85 minutes makes it one to be remembered. Who knew acrobatics and country western music went so well together.



Photo: Laurence Labat

# CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

[cirque-eloize.com](http://cirque-eloize.com)

