



CIRQUE ÉLOIZE - SALOON

PRESS
KIT



— 85 —
MINUTES
NO INTERMISSION

— 9 —
ACROBATS

— 3 —
MUSICIANS
LIVE MUSIC FEATURING SONGS FROM:
PATSY CLINE/JOHNNY CASH



FOR ITS LATEST CREATION,
CIRQUE ÉLOIZE USED THE RICH
HERITAGE OF THE **WILD WEST**
AS INSPIRATION

SALOON

• A MUSICAL ACROBATIC ADVENTURE •

Picture this: America is under construction. The West is booming. The railroad is being developed. In the middle of the desert, a town comes to life. A saloon opens its doors. A place to gather and share tales, it quickly becomes a theatre for stories of all kinds. 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, colourful characters come together and reveal themselves, resulting in a series of unexpected situations, unfolding to the rhythm of acrobatic prowess and original choreographies.

Under the spell of the saloon's beautiful Belle, the lover sets off a chase worthy of the greatest Westerns. The lovebirds on the run wreak havoc everywhere on their path; from the deserted plains to the depth of the mines—until the ultimate acrobatic showdown.

Walking through Saloon's doors means entering a mythical atmosphere created by live music and the exhilarating pace of spectacular performances.



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

"The inspiration for this show comes from what has been our driving force for nearly twenty-five years. It comes from the world of the Wild Wild West, with which we share the frontier spirit of cutting new trails and pushing boldly onward, lightened by a touch of irreverence and a sense of sharing and community.

Saloon is a wonderful playground for a work of artistic exploration. It's the physical energy of acrobatics combined with the poetry of the theatrical approach, a touch of comedy and the musical roots of our childhood come to life.

Saloon is a thrilling, fun and funny musical, an invitation to a party."

— **JEANNOT PAINCHAUD**
PRESIDENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND
CREATIVE DIRECTOR



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Each project has its own history of encounters. Saloon will tap into the rich heritage of our new adventure. The creators, artists and craftspeople integrate these elements into the different artistic languages they use.

I like to choose the people who surround me, as it gets the endeavour fifty percent of the way there. Then, I like to give each of them free rein to exercise their talents and imagination. This is why I propose the raw story to them as a backbone around which they articulate and develop the creation according to their expertise. From the beginning to end of the creative process, this back and forth of exchanges between the talent and I fleshed out the raw story until Saloon was fully created.

Another ingredient we never forget in the different steps of our creation is the audience and the desire to bring them together with the artists around a celebration of music, dance, circus, set design, sound and theatre – to unite them as one.”



— **EMMANUEL GUILLAUME**
DIRECTOR



SALOON'S CHARACTERS

NATHAN BIGGS-PENTON

Nathan grew up in the woods in a house built and designed by his parents. Climbing to the top of the highest trees, flying down the hills following the deer, and sliding across the frozen ponds gave him the feeling that anything is possible. Questioning the limits and where this anything could bring him. In 2013 Nathan dove head first into the world of physical expression; dance, manipulation, acrobatics, clowning and more. Circus Smirkus, The Stockholm University of Dance and Circus, and the Quebec Circus School were his starting blocks to push off into a never ending journey to expand the capabilities of his mind and body; a shaky, heart wrenching, ever changing journey made possible by the steadfast trust in the circus family around the world. The house his parents built inspired him to build his own. This house is not fixed to the ground but rather grounded by the love and trust of the community, allowing Nathan to jump into the world open hearted and ready to explore.

ANDREAS DE RYCK

You can usually find Andreas flying through the air on a teeterboard or standing upside down on his hands. He found circus at the age of 12, starting out to become a juggler. But his love for acrobatics had always been too big and when he discovered it is possible to do flips on a wooden board up until 7m in the air, he was sold. After starting his acrobatic career in Ell Circo d'Ell Fuego in Antwerp, Belgium, he decided to take it to Sweden. During his 3 years at DOCH, University of Dance and Circus in Stockholm, he specialized in teeterboard and handbalancing, but has a love for all forms of acrobatics.

ROSITA HENDRY

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. 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.

GUILLAUME LAROUCHE

When Guillaume was a kid, he was constantly in movement and he loved sports. Already an aspiring acrobat, he learned to do backflips in the living room, so his parents signed him up for gymnastics courses. Two years later, Guillaume entered the circus program at the National Circus School in Montreal, where he threw himself into perfecting two key disciplines: Korean plank and acrobatic balloon. Now that he's graduated, Guillaume wants to travel the world, meet new people and enjoy new experiences. Having already performed with a few circus companies, he's a young professional expressing himself in a field that he loves. He wishes to enjoy every experience to the utmost and appreciate just how much being a circus artist is a marvelous thing.

CAMILLE LECLERC

Camille first held a violin when she was a child. Starting out with classical training, she entered the Conservatoire de Musique de Gatineau at 11 years old. When she was 19 and seeking to broaden her horizons, she entered the traditional violin program at Cégep de Joliette, then capped this off with an additional year mastering jazz violin. Today, Camille's technique draws from all these musical influences to create a style that's all her own. Her infectious energy, and her passion on stage never fails to win the hearts of audiences.

GIOVANNI MALDONADO

Giovanni Maldonado was born and raised in Antwerp Belgium where he as an infant already took a great interest in being tossed and launched in the air by his dad. Then in 2008 he discovered the circus world where he took his first steps under the wings and guidance of Ell Circo Dell Fuego. There he trained as a acrobatic generalist with as specialty teeterboard. In the years that he spend side by side with the ell Circo acrobats discovering all the fun stuff he could do. In those years he performed in two youth circus show created by Ell Circo Dell Fuego: Jeans and the legends of the Zatoichi. While doing this he realized this is the kind of life he wanted to live. In order to do so he needed to take the next step and moved to Canada there his journey to become a professional circus artist begun at the National circus school of Montreal. After 3 years of hard work and exploring he is finally ready to show and go in to the world. Here he graduated in 2016 as a generalist in teeterboard and trampoline with a minor in aerial straps.



SALOON'S CHARACTERS

JOANA MARTINHO

Joana, more known as Joe, went away from her home in Portugal when she was 17 to follow a circus education and study the disciplines of contortion and handbalancing in Codarts Circus Arts in Rotterdam, Netherlands. During the 4 years of education, Joe grew up into who she is now as a person and as performer and is now ready to share her passion with the audience.

TREVOR POOL

In high school, Trevor got involved in a variety of activities such as the vocal jazz ensemble, the orchestral school band and musical theatre productions. His career as a full-time musician officially started once he graduated high school in 2010. Passionate about Old-Time Appalachian and traditional American folk and country music, Trevor has been writing and performing original material to compliment the old songs. Together with Benjamin Nesrallah, he forms a duo called The Noisy Locomotive, for which he's been writing, recording and performing. He's now bringing his folk and country essence to Cirque Éloize's new production, Saloon.

MEGHANE POULET

A gymnast from age four, Meghane found the right blend of acrobatics, discipline and artistic expression by discovering circus at the age of seven. This adventure started in Dallas, Texas, where she grew and lived until the age of 13 before returning to France, her birth place, to discover new and endless possibilities. At the age of 15, she auditioned for the National Circus School of Châtellerauld, where she was accepted into the three years high school program in circus arts. There she began to truly develop her creativity, maturity and perseverance. She then fled to Quebec City to join l'École de Cirque de Quebec's professional formation, where she teamed up with Owen and discovered the life of a flyer in various disciplines. As of spring 2017, Meg will be a graduate of ECQ with a DEC diploma in circus arts.

JOHAN PRYTZ


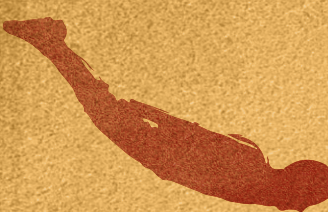
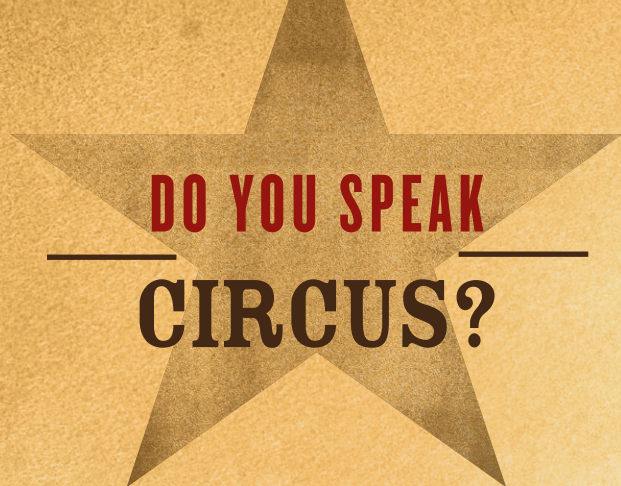
Johan Prytz was born in Sollefteå, Sweden. He discovered circus arts quite by accident. During high school he had to move to a different city and picked up a job at a youth circus where some new friends introduced him to juggling. After evaluating different careers options, he decided to come to terms with his destiny. His true dream was to become a circus artist. He first enrolled at Copenhagen's AFUK circus school, a great challenge considering that he was being faced with living in a new country, a new culture, and a different language. Two years later he moved to Montreal to study at École National de Cirque where he studied for four years. Determined and a quick thinker, he recalls that his greatest moment on stage was when he and his troupe had to improvise their acts to the wrong musical track in front of an audience of 35,000 people.

PAUL ANTHONY ROBERTO

Paul Roberto comes from Belleville, a small rural town in Ontario, where his passion for music and performing began at the age of 10. Nicknamed Pauly by most of his friends, this multi-instrumentalist has had experience in a wide variety of bands from punk rock to blues, country rock and metal. It was however his love of bluegrass and traditional music that lead Pauly to form the locally renowned band The Dusty Drifters in Ottawa, Ontario, where he plays guitar and sings lead and tenor vocals. The five-piece band became a favorite in the Ottawa Valley after their successful three year run of Sunday Night Bluegrass shows. The Dusty Drifters continue to impress loyal festival goers by combining the traditional bluegrass sound with strong three part harmonies and instrumental work. Pauly also makes up the other half of the folk duo The String Masons who engage audiences with a combination of acoustic blues, swing, traditional tunes and country songs. Looking back Pauly would list some of his greatest influences as Jimi Hendrix, Jerry Garcia, Clarence White as well as his uncle Mario who played accordion for him as a child.

OWEN WINSHIP

With a focus in hand to hand, Owen is a generalist with skill and interest in an array of disciplines, ranging within and beyond the bounds of circus. He grew up in Victor, Idaho, USA, a small town in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. An avid skier from a young age, he learned balance, reflex and a distinct interest in engaging with his surroundings; much of the basis for his work as a circus artist. After four summers spent touring with Circus Smirkus, he moved to Quebec City to join l'ecole de cirque de Quebec's professional formation, where he teamed up with Meg. As of spring 2017, Owen will be a graduate of ECQ with a DEE diploma in circus arts.



DO YOU SPEAK CIRCUS?



— KOREAN PLANK —

REMEMBER THE SEESAW IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND?

Did you ever try standing on one end and being catapulted into the air as your buddy jumped on the other end? It's probably a good idea you didn't. And you shouldn't. Leave it to the pros!

— CHINESE POLE —

NOT YOUR REGULAR POLE DANCING ACT.

Have you ever tried to do like squirrels and climb up a tree? Dexterity and agility are essential qualities for these acrobats who climb high on the pole to strike a variety of poses.

— HAND TO HAND —

TALK ABOUT HAVING YOUR HANDS FULL.

In circus jargon, we like to call it Hand to Hand, while some call it acrobalance. The "base" partner does all the lifting and supporting, while the "flyer" does all the tossing and turning.



AERIAL STRAPS

WHO'S NEVER DREAMT OF SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE?

By wrapping the strap ends around their hands and wrists, the performer twists, rolls, maneuvers, and soars through the air with extreme strength and precision.



— JUGGLING —

JUGGLING AND THE ART OF MATHEMATICS... OR WAIT, IS THAT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

Mathematics has been used in teaching juggling. The principle is that the time that a ball spends in the air is proportional to the square root of the height of the throw.



— CYR WHEEL —

IT WHIRLS, TWISTS, SPINS AND TWIRLS, AS ROUND AND ROUND IT GOES.

A single large ring, this circus apparatus was actually invented in 2003 by Daniel Cyr, a graduate of the National Circus School and co-founder of Cirque Éloize.



CREATIVE TEAM



◆ **EMMANUEL GUILLAUME** ◆

DIRECTOR

A close collaborator of Cirque Éloize, he shares his 20 years of experience and skills in the theatrical industry. An artist and craftsman at heart, he studied music. He loves to combine singing and dancing in his creations.



◆ **JEANNOT PAINCHAUD** ◆

**PRESIDENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
& CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

The Creative Director of all Cirque Éloize's creations, he connects people from different backgrounds and combines various art forms with acrobatic gestures.



◆ **ÉLOI PAINCHAUD** ◆

MUSICAL DIRECTOR, COMPOSER, ARRANGER

Multi-instrumentalist, producer, songwriter, Éloi Painchaud has been working in the music industry since 1995. He is renowned for being a cofounder of Okoumé, a music band he played with for over 8 years.



◆ **NICOLAS BOIVIN-GRAVEL** ◆

**ACROBATIC DESIGNER
AND HEAD COACH**

Nicolas' speciality is juggling. He has been collaborating with Cirque Éloize as an acrobatic designer on various productions including Nomade, Rain, iD and Cirkopolis.



◆ **ANNIE ST-PIERRE** ◆

CHOREOGRAPHER

Annie is a choreographer, artistic director and stage director. She has worked with a wide variety of performances troupes, such as Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, Just for Laughs Productions.



◆ **FRANCIS FARLEY** ◆

SET AND PROPS DESIGNER

An engineer and graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis fell for the theatre craft of set and prop design.



◆ **SARAH BALLEUX** ◆

COSTUME DESIGNER

Since graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada, Sarah has designed costumes for many productions in theatre, dance and television.



◆ **VIRGINIE BACHAND** ◆

MAKEUP DESIGNER

After years of training in makeup and special effects in Montreal, Toronto and Paris, Virginie has been a chief makeup artist for film, television and stage productions for almost 10 years.



◆ **FRANCIS HAMEL** ◆

LIGHTING DESIGNER

A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis also has a degree in history from the University of Montreal and a classical music training. He is devoted to his passion for stage lighting.



◆ **COLIN GAGNÉ** ◆

**SOUND DESIGNER & SOUND
PROJECT MANAGER**

A graduate in composition at the University of Montreal, Colin now works in sound design and composition with Cirque Éloize, the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and the 7 Fingers.



◆ **PASCAL AUGER** ◆

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

A graduate of HEC Montreal in management and of the National Theatre School of Canada in production, Pascal Auger has worked with various companies in the Montreal theatre scene.

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION TEAM

HUGO HAMEL

PRODUCTION MANAGER
AND TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

NATASHA DROUIN-BEAUREGARD

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

MARIE-HÉLÈNE DELAGE

ASSITANT TO THE DIRECTOR AND PRODUCTION
STAGE MANAGER

CAMILLE LABELLE

ASSISTANT TO THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

JEAN-MICHEL D'HOOP

DESIGNER - PUPPET

RENAUD BLAIS

ACROBATIC EQUIPMENT DESIGNER

NICOLAS BELLE-ISLE

PROJECT MANAGER - ACROBATIC

JULIE LAROCHE

PROJECT MANAGER - LIGHTING

STÉPHANE SCOTTO DI CESARE

HAIRDRESSER

VINCENT HOULE

HEAD CARPENTER AND RIGGER

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LÉVESQUE

CARPENTER

SPECIALIZED COACHES

NADIA RICHER

ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD COACH AND COACH AERIAL
CHANDELIER AND STRAPS

WILLIAM UNDERWOOD

COACH - ACROBATIC PERFORMANCES

ANNIE-KIM DÉRY

COACH - AERIAL CHANDELIER

ANDRÉ ST-JEAN

COACH - TEETERBOARD

IRYNA BURLIY

COACH - CYR WHEEL

TOURING CREW

TANYA REID

TOUR MANAGER

MICHEL BISSON

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND
HEAD OF LIGHTING

CATHERINE BRASSARD

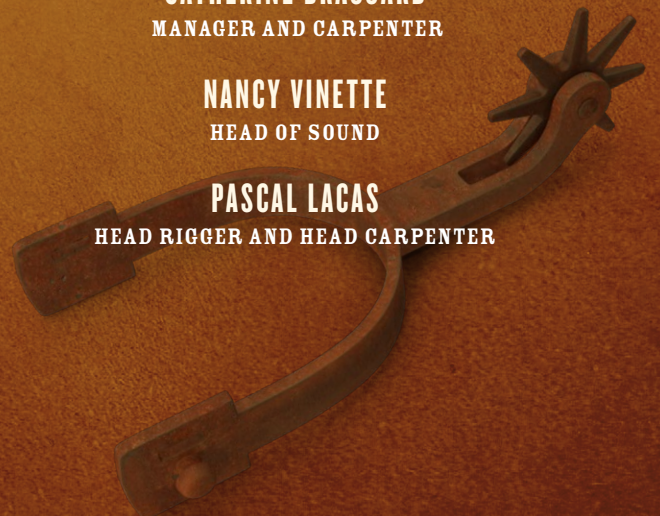
MANAGER AND CARPENTER

NANCY VINETTE

HEAD OF SOUND

PASCAL LACAS

HEAD RIGGER AND HEAD CARPENTER





AN INSPIRING SOUNDTRACK

CRAZY

"Crazy
I'm crazy for feeling so lonely
I'm crazy
Crazy for feeling so blue
I knew you'd love me as long as you
wanted
And then some day
You'd leave me for somebody new..."

COTTON-EYED JOE

"If it hadn't been for Cotton-Eyed Joe
I'd been married a long time ago
Where did you come from, where did you go?
Where did you come from, Cotton-Eyed Joe?..."

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN

"Will the circle be unbroken
Bye and bye Lord, bye and bye
There's a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky..."

CLASSIC SONGS FROM

PATSY CLINE (CRAZY),
JOHNNY CASH (BAD NEWS,
RING OF FIRE) & **LEAD BELLY**
(WHERE DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT, IN
THE PINES)

A GREAT MEDLEY OF TIMELESS TITLES:

**GOLDEN SLIPPERS,
HARD TO LOVE,
THE IRON BEAST,
OL' SQUARE DANCE,
RING OF FIRE,
IDA RED,
COTTON-EYED JOE**

**AN INFAMOUS HYMN FOR THE
GRAND FINALE WILL THE
CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN**

«When Jeannnot Painchaud approached me to work on a circus show to take place in the world of Wild West saloons, I immediately knew that music would play a central part in the project.

Both he and I grew up in the Magdalen Islands experiencing mythical places arise from our unique island culture, conjured when songs, pianos and people come together in surreal, festive outbursts. To make Saloon's music magical, we showcase both the charming individual vocal performances and the hillbilly harmonies that bring singers together as one.

In this context, we turned to traditional folk and country music, including "Crazy" by Patsy Cline, "Bad News" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" by Johnny Cash and the timeless ballads and work songs of Lead Belly, to tell our story while honouring the pioneers of these genres. In addition, a number of original compositions draw from the styles of Dolly Parton, Hank Williams and the great Emmylou Harris, with whom I had the honour of playing in Wainwright-McGarrigle Noël Nights.

The beautiful voice of Sophie Beaudet and the live instrumentation (violins, banjo, mandolin, guitar, percussion) are a major asset when it comes to bringing this period of history alive.

Having had the pleasure of co-composing the soundtrack of *Louis Cyr: l'homme le plus fort du monde* with Jorane, I wanted to instill this epic side in the music of the Saloon show. The acrobats' performances were in this sense a great inspiration for me, dictating the musical drive and rhythm.

Each of the circus disciplines developed in Saloon demands a particular approach. I had to consider not only the story, but also the frantic movements of bodies in space. The acrobats' high-level proficiency and sense of danger totally captivated me. The music acts like a soundtrack of a live movie and, in this context, the influence of a master like Ennio Morricone was unavoidable.

The iconography of the Wild Wild West and Saloon is rich. Like finding myself overlooking a trove of old sepia photographs, it provided an inexhaustible source of knowing nods and references that were insanely fun to play with, while maintaining a modern touch and poetry that remains, in my humble opinion, a Cirque Éloize trump card.»



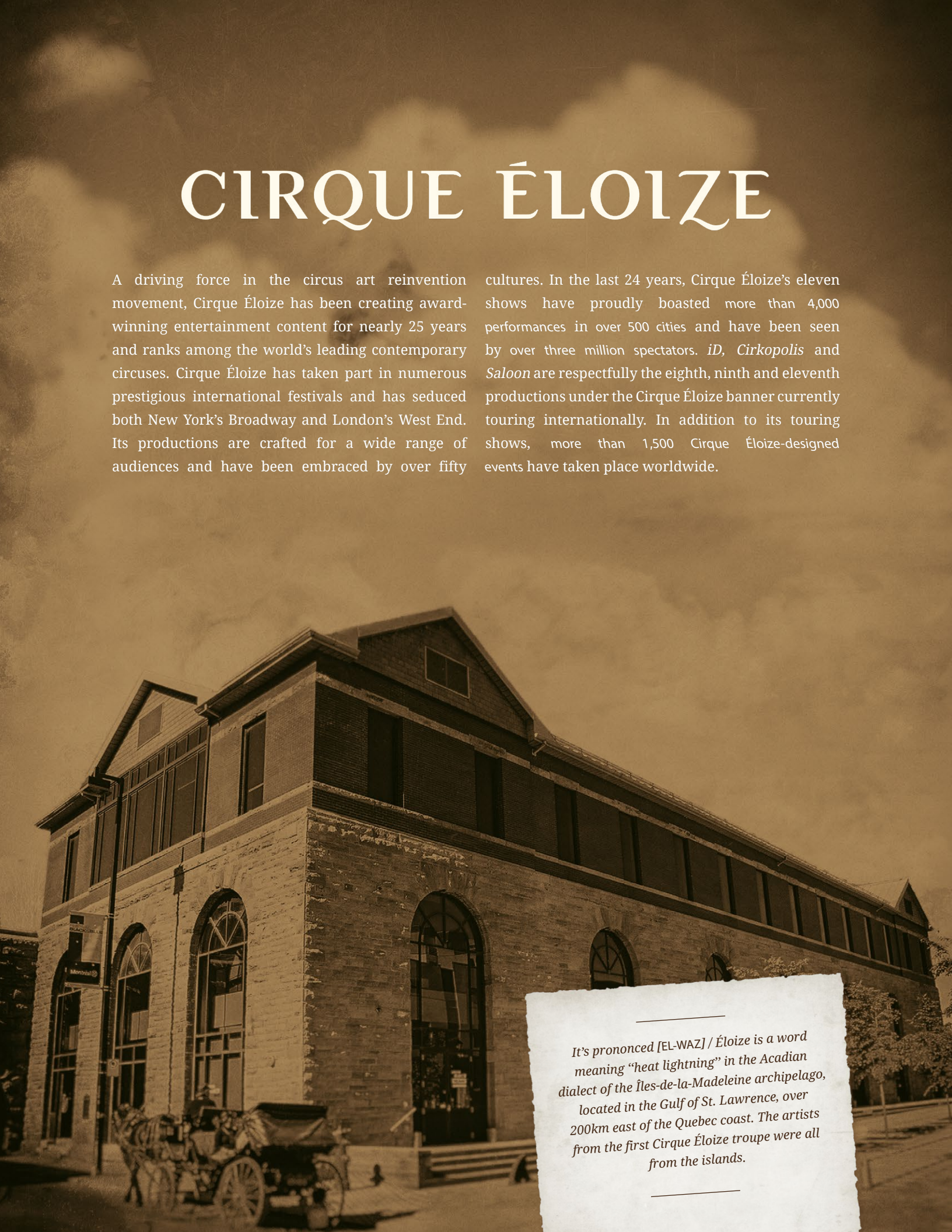
— ÉLOI PAINCHAUD
MUSIC DIRECTOR, COMPOSER & ARRANGER



CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

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.



It's pronounced [EL-WAZ] / Éloize is a word meaning "heat lightning" in the Acadian dialect of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine archipelago, located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, over 200km east of the Quebec coast. The artists from the first Cirque Éloize troupe were all from the islands.



OVER THE YEARS

- 1993** First show of Cirque Éloize
1997 **EXCENTRICUS**
1999 **CIRQUE ORCHESTRA**
2002 **NOMADE**
2003 **TYP0**
2004 **RAIN**
2004 Head office moves to Dalhousie Station, Montreal
2006 Closing Ceremony of the **OLYMPIC GAMES IN TURIN**
2007 **NEBBIA**

2009 **ID ★ ON TOUR ★**



A show positively crackling with daring and modernity, Cirque Éloize's ID is a blend of circus arts and urban dance: b-boying / b-girling, breakdance, hip-hop. Fifteen performers in thirteen disciplines create ID's entertaining and resolutely urban universe.

2011 **BIG BANG** exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

2012 **CIRKOPOLIS ★ ON TOUR ★**

Cirkopolis

A show that combines the worlds of circus, contemporary dance and theatre. In the heart of a gritty metropolis, eleven acrobats and multidisciplinary artists rebel against monotony, reinvent themselves and challenge the limits of the factory-city.

2013 **MUSIC-HALL DE LA BARONNE**

2013 **PARIS EN SCÈNE** exhibition at Quebec City's Musée de la civilisation

2016 **SALOON ★ ON TOUR ★**

SALOON

The Wild Wild West comes alive with Cirque Éloize's newest creation Saloon. Swing open the Saloon doors and lasso up some fun for the entire family. Enter a mythical world where theatre and circus collide for 85 minutes of non-stop live folk music combined with strength, agility and original choreography. Never before has a piano tuner kicked up so much dust.

2017 **MONTREAL'S 375th**



CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

CIRQUE-ELOIZE.COM



Saloon is a
production of
Théâtre T & Cie

Québec

Canada



Montréal

LE
THÉÂTRE
DE
NAMUR



PennState

CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS