

KINTSUGI

CREATIVE DOCUMENT





THE SHOW

Kintsugi is the art of sublimating imperfections.

In a bus shelter away from the world and time, strangers are waiting to be taken elsewhere. They have no idea when they will leave or where they will go.

The stationary travellers rely on external forces to lose themselves and, paradoxically, rediscover something within them.

This mysterious place awakens in each of them a thirst for life, encounters and the unusual. A desire for solidarity, fits of laughter and outbursts.

As they weave between dream and wakefulness, fragments of their past shape the present to reveal new beauty.

With *Kintsugi*, Machine de Cirque creates a moment of great humanity, brimming with dizzying acrobatic feats. An inspiring plunge into life, one that is here, now and filled with beauty.

WORD FORM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Machine de Cirque is celebrating its 10 years of existence in 2023. A time to rejoice, this celebration is an opportunity to take stock of the work that has been accomplished, the success stories, the failures, the joys and the sorrows experienced over the last decade. I realize the extent to which our personality, both of the Company and everyone who brings it to life, has been forged through the challenges we have faced. *Kintsugi*, our tenth creation in ten years, arrives at an opportune moment in our history, as the show takes a look back at these adventures that leave their mark and define who we are.

Through its original dramaturgy, the show reveals the scars and shadows of its characters: a lovers' breakup, mourning, motherhood. These are personal stories that everyone can relate to.

Brimming with breathtaking acrobatics, the various scenes unfold in a cinematographic style with cut-out lighting; the music enshrouds and carries the audience from start to finish; the acrobatic movements convey meaning. Individual elements all work together to project the audience into the story, whereas the circus amplifies the emotions felt, making them raw and visceral.

Throughout the show, the light intertwines through the various stories. A hug, an outburst of laughter, a moment of solidarity, friendship. Little by little, the light takes over. We emerge from the show bursting with energy like after a sun bath, ready to roll up our sleeves and face the next storm.

On its tenth anniversary, Machine de Cirque is ready to build on its past and the marks it has left behind to passionately launch ahead into the next decade.

Vincent Dubé, Artistic Director



WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

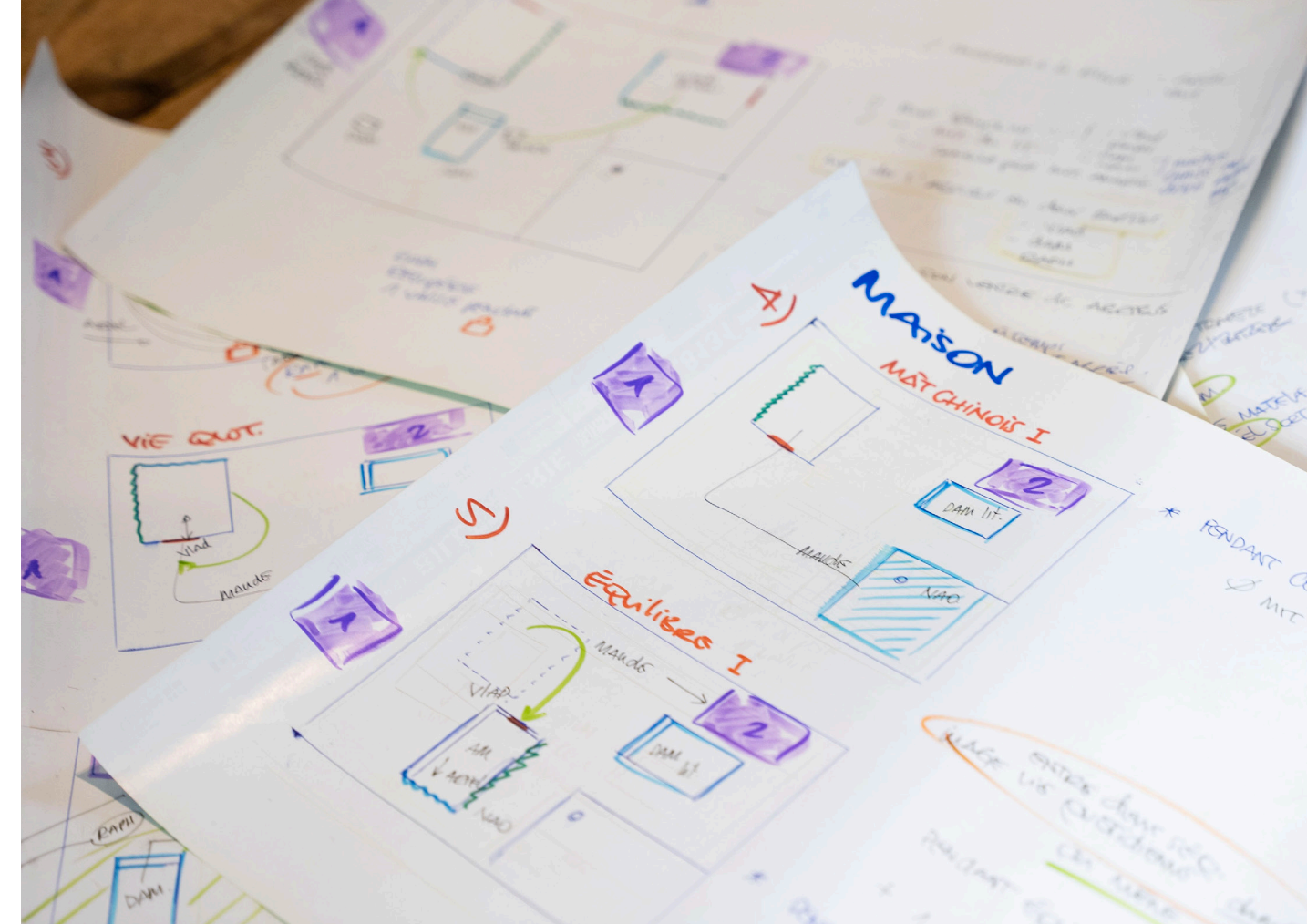
A time will come when, despite all the pain, we will be light, joyful and truthful [translation].

Albert Camus (*Letter to Maria Casarès*, June 1945)

Explore. Search. Celebrate.

This show is my fourth collaboration with Machine de Cirque in which I orchestrate the stage production. It follows *La Galerie*, where we explored the poetry that emerges from the artistic gesture, then *Fleuve* and *Errances*, two wandering shows created during the pandemic where we respectively celebrated the St-Lawrence River in all its forms and sought to combine horror with the circus.

One of the things that drives me the most about Machine de Cirque (and as an artist in general) is this desire to always investigate new areas for each of the creations; avoiding redundancy, settling for what's comfortable. With *Kintsugi*, we definitely bring the human being in all its complexity to the foreground. The dramaturgy inspires the circus and its disciplines, rather than the other way around. I wanted to create performance challenges for the artists on stage, to go back and forth



between disciplines and chronology, step outside the box, and even push the envelope to the point of sometimes forgetting we're attending a circus show.

Simply put, we're being told a story.

And the circus magnifies the story's movements and symbols.

Finding my inspiration from a loved one who has often seemed able to turn storms into sunny breaks, we explored the stormy sides of humans, looked for light piercing through the darkness and celebrated solidarity. Always trying to find the bright spots that, despite the journey's obstacles, give us the energy to continue to push forward. The beauty of resilience.

We sometimes have to rely on chance to find ourselves.

Explore. Search. Celebrate.

As a spectator.

As an artist.

As a human being.

Olivier Lépine, Stage Designer

THE DESIGNERS

Olivier Lépine - Staging and lighting designer



After graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 2005, Olivier Lépine has orchestrated nearly thirty stage productions. In 2013, he founded and directed *Portrait-Robot* and presented *Femme non-rééducatrice/Anna P.* and *Architecture du printemps* at Premier Acte and then, in September 2018, he opened the season at PÉRISCOPE with *Chapitres de la chute - Saga des Lehman Brothers*. This show earned him the Best Director award at the Prix Théâtre de la Ville and from the Association des critiques.

Since 2011, he has been teaching at the École de cirque de Québec and directing *Déferlantes*, *Je ne te vois plus* and *Entre ici et chez toi*, the graduation shows in 2016, 2018 and 2021. In summer 2017, he orchestrated the stage production of the third component of *Crépuscule, Vents et Marées*, a free circus show presented outside the Québec City Agora and produced by Flip Fabrique. With that company, he also directed *Petrouchka* (in Québec City with the symphony orchestra and in Paris with the philharmonic) and *Six degrés*. He also regularly works with Machine de Cirque, he performs in *Changes*, a show presented as part of the GOP cabarets in Germany, and serves director for *La Galerie*; *Fleuve*; *Errances*; *1916 - Le second brasier* – and their all-new creation, *Kintsugi*.

Vincent Dubé - Artistic Director

Vincent Dubé has been a circus artist for over 20 years. A true globetrotter, he has worked in over 20 countries and has been part of Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éos. He has held the position of co-artistic director and co-author of the cabaret-circus show *Québec 2nd Avenue*, which was presented in Germany, before moving on to create Machine de Cirque in 2013. He is the creative force behind *Machine de cirque* (2015) and *Truck Stop: The Great Journey* (2018), which he also directed. He was also involved in the writing of *La Galerie* (2019) and served as the artistic director for the walk-through circus show *Fleuve* (2020). In 2020, he received the Jeune entrepreneur du Québec: arts et culture award at the Concours provincial ARISTA organized by the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal.

Alongside his career as an artist, he completed a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Laval University. His training as an engineer adds a special flavour to Machine de Cirque's artistic signature, which combines ingenuity with wildly original circus productions.



GENERAL INFORMATION

8 Artists | 3 Technicians

Target audience | General public

Expected length of the show | 80 minutes with no intermission

Disciplines | Hand to hand; Acrobatic lifts, Chinese pole, Aerial pole, Perch, Trapeze, Hand balancing, Vertical rope, Hair hang, Acrobatic teeterboard, Acro dance.

Artists | Maude Arseneault, Ariel Cronin, Damien Descloux, Raphaël Dubé, Anne-Marie Godin, Vladimir Lissouba, Évelyne Paquin-Lanthier, Naomie Vogt Roby

Credits

Artistic Director – Vincent Dubé

Staging and lighting designer – Olivier Lépine

Creative and Technical Director – Patrick Paquet

Costume Design – Sébastien Dionne

Set Design – Julie Lévesque

Musical Design – Josué Beaucage

Production Manager – Claire Gras



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Minimum stage dimensions

Height

6.5 m (21'6") under the battens and free of any obstacles

Depth

8.5 m (28') + 1 m (4') of wings, excluding the proscenium, 9.5 m (32') from the proscenium arch to the backdrop + the proscenium

Width

10 m (32') + 1 m of wings on each side, 12 m (40') wall to wall

Suspended equipment

An acrobatic truss 12 m (40') wide from two points of at least 1 t

Expected setup time

8h (does not include pre-rigging operations)

Expected teardown time

2h

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE



Fall 2022 Research & Creation

February 20 to Residency 1

March 17, 2023 Machine de Cirque's studio
Québec, Canada

April 3 to Residency 2

May 12, 2023 Machine de Cirque's studio
Québec, Canada

May 21 to June 4, 2023 Technical residency

June / July 2023 Previews

March 2024 Rehearsals and technical residency
Machine de Cirque's studio
Québec, Canada

July 2024 European Premier

November 2024 Start of the tour

CONTACT

Émilie Fournier
+1 833-624-7783 #707
+1 514-377-2533
diffusion@machinedecirque.com

Claire Thomas
+1 833-624-7783 #702
claire.t@machinedecirque.com

machinedecirque.com
facebook.com/machinedecirque
instagram.com/machinedecirque

