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FREE PROGRAMME

iD—Cirque Éloize

Wed 8 Mar – Fri 10 Mar 6.30pm
Sat 11 Mar 1.30pm & 7.30pm
Sun 12 Mar 6.30pm

THE CIVIC

1 HOUR 30 MINS PLUS 20 MIN INTERVAL

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI KI TE AHUREI TOI O TAMAKI WELCOME TO AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL 2017

Great artists cause controversy, start revolutions and little by little change the world. Festivals like ours are a catalyst for change creating opportunities for artists to communicate with audiences and audiences to respond to artists' work. Throughout the Festival you will find small threads that deal with our world today. We hope that the work in the Festival can make you think, laugh, scream a little and perhaps even cry.

We are delighted to welcome Cirque Éloize back to Aotearoa to present their urban circus *iD* about the individual in our cities – it's young, vibrant circus.

The Festival's CEO David Inns (my partner and collaborator of many years), our Board and staff, hope you have a fabulous Festival. We hope that you enjoy the beauty and complexity of the art presented and value its importance in our society. Join the revolution.

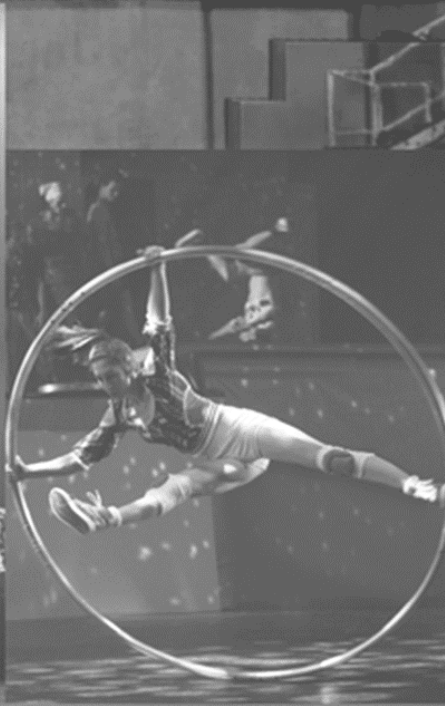
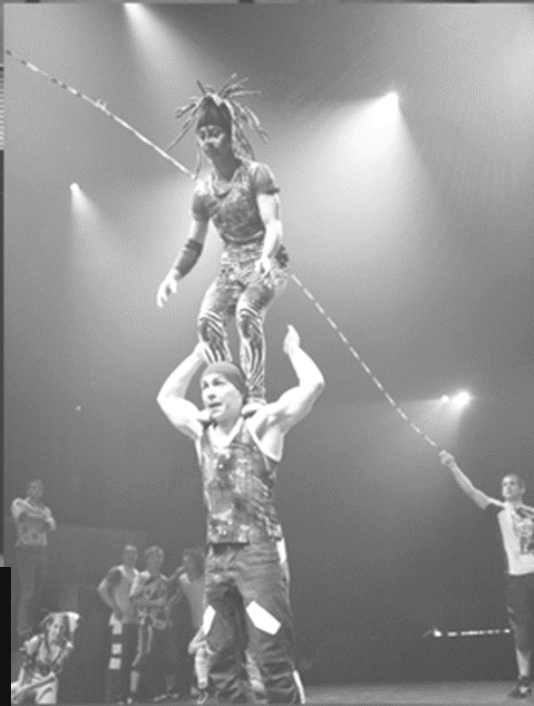
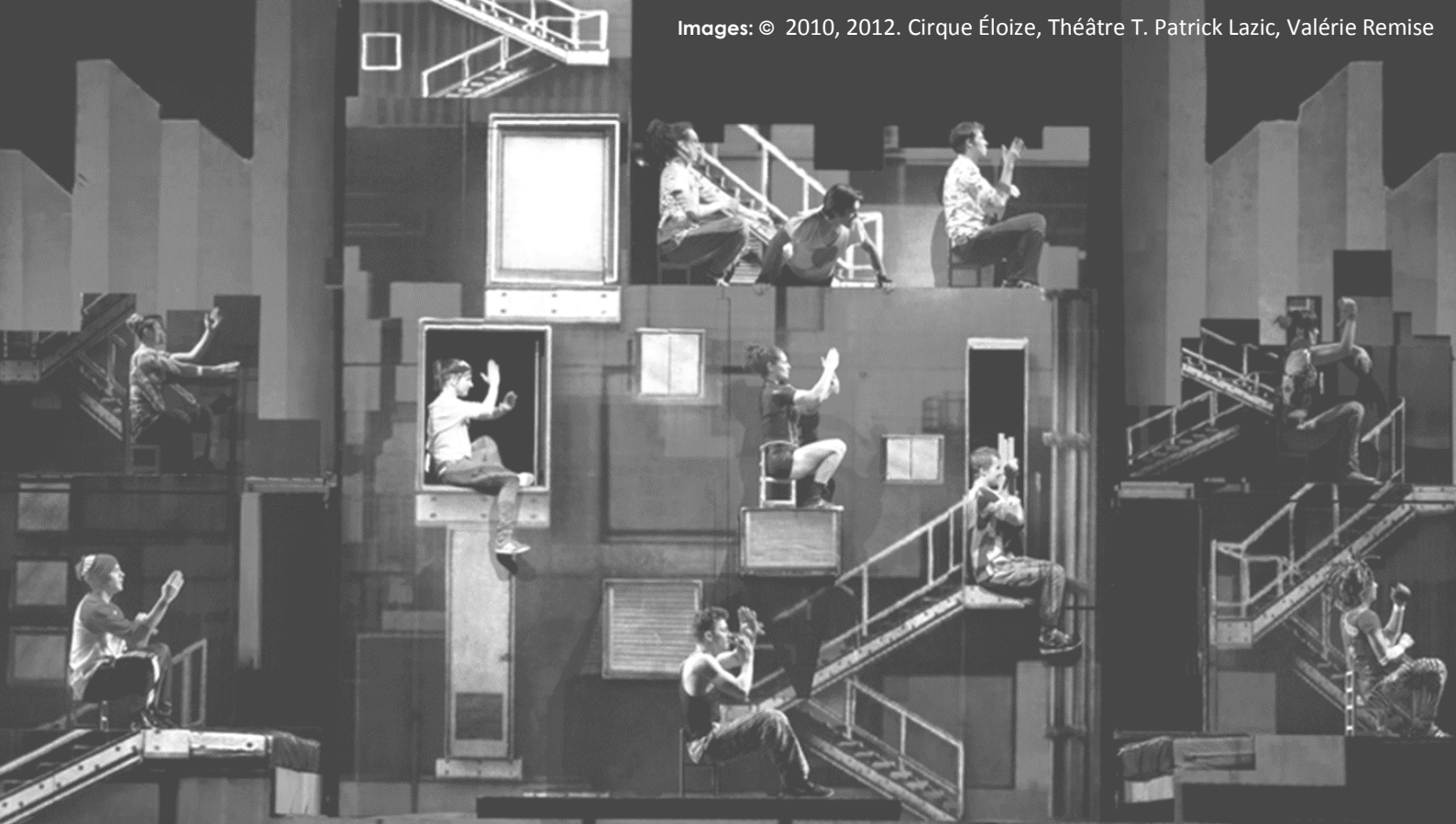
The Auckland Arts Festival Team

CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

For 24 years now, Cirque Éloize has been taking the public and critics by storm in more than 500 cities around the world. This Auckland Arts Festival, Cirque Éloize's dazzling and energetic *iD* comes to Auckland for the very first time. This astonishing modern circus transports audiences to a vibrant urban streetscape. The stage comes alive with the boundless energy of acrobats, break dancers, and contortionists, who perform against a kaleidoscope of eye-popping video projections, building to a stunning finale on a one-of-a-kind video trampowall. Everyone will love this mind-blowing fusion of new theatrical circus and urban dance!

With *iD*, Cirque Éloize presents 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 and more. The scene is set in the heart of a city, in a public space where people seek refuge and a chance to shed their anonymity; a place where identity is forged and individuality is expressed to a stimulating soundtrack created by composers Jean-Phi Goncalves (Beast) and Alex McMahan.

The company is integrating multimedia for the first time in its 8th original creation, giving this show a unique feel. Fifteen performers from 13 disciplines help create *iD*'s entertaining and resolutely urban universe, in keeping with Cirque Éloize's tradition of using multidisciplinary performers from around the world.





WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER

At Cirque Éloize, we have always nurtured our shows through encounters with creators from different horizons. We have also always favored a multidisciplinary artistic approach, which is enriched with artists of several nationalities.

No exception lies in this new creation.

Fifteen artists on stage, thirteen circus disciplines, and then the discovery of a world which is new to us, that of urban dances such as breakdance and hip-hop.

I imagined this show at the heart of a futuristic city, where the omnipresence of image causes us to lose our reference points. I sought to create an aestheticism at the crossroads of comic books, science-fiction movies and the rich universe of graffiti.

The decidedly rock, electronic and poetic music, coupled with the presence of video, highlight the show's playful, energetic, youthful and urban aspects.

In the middle of this surreal megalopolis exists a public place. A public place, as a spot where one can seek refuge and escape anonymity, to express one's individuality and affirm one's identity, in order to reclaim

possession of public space, and to dance the city...

An area for encounters, a site of passage, a hood where clans confront one another, where friendships are woven. Where love is created, and dissolved.

I am proud to invite you to join us on this new adventure.

Jeannot Painchaud



THE CREATIVE TEAM



Jeannot Painchaud **President and Co-founder**

As the artistic director of all of Cirque Éloize's creations, Jeannot prides himself on bringing together creators from various backgrounds and incorporating different art forms into the acrobatic acts.

An artist and entrepreneur, Jeannot fell in love with the circus arts in 1984. A showman at heart with a genuine interest in all art forms, he set out to hit the road and travel the globe.

As a graduate of Montreal's National Circus School, Jeannot launched his career as an acrobat, juggler and specialist in artistic cycling for a variety of troupes. In 1993, he co-founded Cirque Éloize and performed in the company's shows until leaving the stage in 1998 to devote himself to developing the company. As the artistic director of all of Cirque Éloize creations, he's the mind behind the creative process of each of them.

In 2009, Jeannot directed *iD*, a stunning creation that brought together the world of urban dance and the circus arts. In 2012, together with Dave St-Pierre, he directed *Cirkopolis*, the company's ninth creation, which after a performance in New York in 2014 won the Drama Desk Award for Unique Theatrical Experience. From May 2009 to May 2013, he chaired the board of En Piste, the national circus arts network. Jeannot has also received the bronze medal at the Festival mondial du cirque de demain, the prestigious Samuel de Champlain Award and the UCDA Krider Prize for Creativity.

"I got into the circus because I used to dream of travelling the entire globe. It's the most accessible, most beautiful way that I've found to do it."



Jonathan St-Onge **Executive Producer**

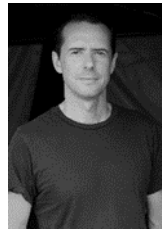
A lawyer by trade and an entertainment producer, Jonathan St-Onge joined Cirque Éloize in 2001. Following his brief employment as an attorney in 2000 with the provincial crown prosecutor's office, he began his career in the world of entertainment with the Just For Laughs

Festival and its production management department. During his last Festival, he was the assistant to the executive producer. He and other partners managed artists while producing shows and special events, Jonathan then taking on a full-time position with Cirque Éloize in 2004.

He has since managed and overseen all of Cirque Éloize's operations, along with those of its affiliated companies, particularly as the delegate producer of shows on tour, and of special projects and events. He has provided Cirque Éloize with a solid and effective organizational foundation, enabling it to respond quickly to its continuous international growth and artistic development. He also supervises the activities of the Dalhousie Station, where Cirque Éloize's head office is located in Old Montreal.

Jonathan received the Volunteer of the Year title in 2006 from the Quebec Junior Bar Association after having been active with them for several years. From 2006 to 2009, he sat on the board of directors of the organization En Piste, the national circus arts grouping, where he played an active role increasing awareness

and improvement of conditions for the circus arts in Quebec and in Canada, more specifically with respect to major financial incentives such as tax credits. He has been a member of Cirque Éloize's board of directors since 2008. His involvement with the circus universe has not prevented him however from working closely for several years with charitable organizations in Montreal, including the Sainte Justine Hospital Foundation.



Robert Massicotte **Set Designer, Illustrator and Co-Designer of video images**

A multifaceted visual artist, Robert Massicotte has worked in the entertainment industry for nearly 25 years. He has applied his creativity, passion and sensitivity to circus, theatre, television, movies, exhibitions and major music shows.

A graduate of the Université de Montréal's school of industrial design, he was captivated by comics from a very young age. Drawing soon became his main means of artistic expression and has served him daily since the beginning of his career.

After obtaining his Bachelor's degree in 1987, he collaborated on a dozen Cirque du Soleil shows, either as a draftsman, illustrator, storyboard artist or designer. The shows included *Alegria*, *O*, *La Nouba*, *Kooza*, *Love*, *Corteo*, *Zarkana* and the *Michael Jackson Immortal Tour*, to name but a few.

From 2001 to 2011, Robert Massicotte also worked on a dozen major shows and projects. He was the set designer for the Backstreet Boys' *Black and Blue* tour and helped create and produce *Ulalena*, performed for over 10 years in Hawaii. He was also involved in designing projections for shows by artists like P!nk, Bette Midler and Alicia Keys.

In 2009, he produced the set design and video content for *iD*, Cirque Éloize's seventh creation, which premiered at the Global Fair and Festival in South Korea. Acclaimed from day one by a vast public and critics around the world, *iD* won the Grand prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal in 2010.

In 2012, Robert is once again collaborating with Cirque Éloize, this time plunging into the fascinating world of comic books. In charge of the set design and video content for the company's 8th creation, he is working closely with the other members of the design team to create a show that will bring the performers and public on a journey from dream to reality... and back again.



Krzysztof Soroczynski **Show Acrobatic Designer, Head-trainer – Trampo-wall Act Designer**

The circus arts have been an integral part of the life of Krzysztof Soroczynski for more than 40 years. He began his acrobatic career in Poland in 1965. He completed his degree in circus arts at the famous Polish State Circus Academy in Julinek (Poland), after which time he worked in traditional circuses around the world. In 1980, he won a silver medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, as part of the Budzyn Troupe performing a Russian Swing act. After coming to Canada, he worked with Cirque du Soleil first as a performer and then as an acrobatic consultant and trainer on the *Saltimbanco*, *Mystère*, and *Alegria* shows,

all directed by Franco Dragone. Krzysztof was one of the founding members of the École de cirque de Verdun established in Montréal in 1991. Today, he still works with the talents he introduced to and trained in the circus arts, who moved on to become professional circus performers. Cirque Éloize asked him to join its troupe in 1999 to develop acrobatic acts for the show *Excentricus* presented at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Since then, he has worked for the company as head trainer and talent scout. More particularly, he was in charge of designing acrobatic performances for the show *Cirque Orchestra* in 2001 as well as for the three shows written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca forming the Trilogie du ciel: *Nomade* in 2002, *Rain* in 2004 and *Nebbia* in 2007. In 2008, the hand to hand duet formed by Jacek Wyskup and Bartek Pankau, discovered in Poland by Krzysztof and trained at Cirque Éloize, won the polish TV-show *Mam Talent!*, and became The Best Talent 2008. The duet that was part of the show *Rain* for 5 years managed to touch audiences worldwide and clearly enabled the recognition of the circus arts in their country. Krzysztof Soroczynski's involvement with up-and-coming circus stars and his appreciation of the work of circus artists worldwide has greatly contributed to the creation of unique, solid and multidisciplinary troupes. His work alongside performers makes it possible to constantly improve the technical aspect of the company's shows. Krzysztof has passed on his talent to his son Bartek, who performed in the show *Nomade – At night, the sky is endless*, with Cirque Éloize, for nearly 5 years. First and foremost, he is passionate about circus and this passion has motivated him throughout his entire life. He passes this passion on to all of those with whom he works, and he is very proud to have passed it on to his own son.



Mourad Merzouki
Artistic Contribution

Born in Lyon (France) in 1973 and of Kabyle origin, Mourad Merzouki started learning martial and circus arts from the age of 7. At the age of 15 years old, his discovery of Hip Hop culture led him to dance. He soon decided to use his hip hop skills professionally. He learned

alternative choreographic languages, particularly those of Maryse Delente, Jean-Francois Duroure and Josef Nadj. This path presented rich career opportunities and inspired his artistic projects—mixing hip hop with stagecraft to produce spectacular routines. And that's what he did in 1989 when he created his first company with other dancers.

In 1994 the company performed *Athina* at the Dance Biennale of Lyon. The piece was a real success that managed to transpose street hip hop to the stage, without letting the urban movement lose its real identity. His first tour took place in the refugee camps of Croatia during the war. There, he realized that dance could be a powerful means to communicate in difficult and extreme circumstances.

In 1996, in order to develop his own artistic story and sensibilities, Mourad Merzouki decided to found his own company, KÄFIG. *iD* is his first collaboration with Cirque Éloize.



Jean-Phi Goncalves and Alex McMahon
Co-composers

Here are two artists, with two distinct creative paths, who began working together in 2001. Alex McMahon learned the organ for 5 years, and later sang in choirs while playing classical piano. He discovered jazz and big band, studied music in college and started working professionally with African, jazz and pop performers. He was part of several international tours with renowned artists such as Daniel Bélanger, Lhasa de Sela, Arianne Moffatt and Yann Perreau. He produced Catherine Major's *Rose sang* album, and won the Félix for Best Producer in 2008 at the ADISQ. He produced the album *First Aid Kit* by Plaster, the electro-funk trio he founded with Jean-Phi Goncalves, in 2001. Plaster received the Félix for Best Electronic Album in 2006.

Drummer Jean-Phi Goncalves is a true musical chameleon. Always in movement, he shifts from project to project, each one more eclectic than the other. After Plaster, and then Afrodizz, an afrobeat collective often compared to The Herbaliser, he now performs with Beast, a trip-rock duo where his sharp beats carry Betty Bonifassi's powerful voice. In his professional career, he has performed with respected artists like Lauryn Hill, Jean-Pierre Ferland on *Jaune* 2005, Ariane Moffatt on *Tous les sens*, and Pierre Lapointe on *La forêt des mal-aimés*.



Linda Brunelle
Costume Designer

A costume and a set designer for theatre, dance, film, as well as for opera and the circus, Linda Brunelle has worked with several well-known directors such as Martin Faucher, Claude Poissant, Dominic Champagne and Jasmine Dubé. She won

the Gascon-Roux prize at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde for her creation of the costumes in *Tristan et Yseult* (2004) and the Denise-Pelletier public's prize for the show *Le Revizor* (2003). She was also awarded a Masque prize for her creation of the costumes in the production *Si j'avais la seule possession dessus le jugement dernier* in 1998. She was nominated for her work at the Gala des Masques from 1996 to 2002. She received the Victor-Martyn-Lynch-Staunton prize from the Canada Art Council in the field of theatre in 2008. In the world of dance, she has collaborated with choreographers Marie-Claude Poulin, Hélène Langevin and Laurence Lemieux. She created the Red Carpets (VIP tents) for the Cirque du Soleil shows *Varekai*, *Dralion* and *Alegria*. In 2007, she created the costumes for Cirque Éloize's show, in co-production with Teatro Sunil, *Nebbia*. She worked on the opera *A Chair in Love*, which toured in Canada and in Europe. She taught costume creation at the National Theatre School from 2004 to 2007, where she continued as a set design and costume coach. In 2008 and 2009, she created, notably, the costumes on the shows *Rêvez, montagnes!* by Frédéric Dubois and Lorraine Pintal's *La petite pièce en haut de l'escalier*.



Nicolas Descoteaux
Lighting Designer

A graduate from the theatre program at Collège Lionel-Groulx in Ste-Thérèse, Quebec since 1992, Nicolas Descoteaux works as a lighting designer and has created over 60 designs in addition to having worked on several international tours. His technical and artistic knowledge has enabled him to collaborate with world-renowned creators such as Robert Lepage, Marie Chouinard, Denis Marleau, Daniele Finzi Pasca and Kristian Fredric. His collaboration with Cirque Éloize and Cirque du Soleil on their creations has made him an important lighting designer and director in the Montreal theatre and events scenes. His work was nominated for awards by the Academy of Theatre in 1995 and 1998, and he won the CALQ grants in 1999 and 2001 for research in stage lighting appliances. Nicolas Descoteaux continues to perfect his art in Montreal as well as on international stages.



Suzanne Trépanier
Make-up Designer

Suzanne has been performing modern dance for the past two decades. Over the years, she developed a deep interest in the art of make-up application. While today she works both in television and in film, her preference for the stage arts has led her to concentrate primarily on theatre. Recently she has been the makeup designer for a number of theatrical productions, including *Coma Unplugged et Les points tournants* (Théâtre de la Manufacture), *Corps étrangers et Vincent River* (Théâtre de Quat'sous), *Le Périmètre* (Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui) and *Au retour des oies blanches* (Rideau Vert). In 2001 she created the make-up for Cirque Orchestra followed by *Nomade - At night, the sky is endless* in 2002 and *Rain* in 2003. This new creation marks her fourth collaboration with Cirque Éloize.



Alexis Laurence
Video Images co-designer

For more than 15 years, Alexis Laurence has worked as a creator and artistic director of multimedia set design for live productions. Projections, videos, lighting and image content have been his specialties on many events throughout his career. He worked on Festival Mutek in Montreal from 2004 to 2008, an electronic music show. In 2009, he was the assistant of Raymond Saint-Jean, projections designer for Cirque du Soleil's permanent show *Zaia* in Macao, China. Alexis created the multimedia set design for Montreal's IglooFest from 2007 to 2009. He also created the visual environment for the American tour of international DJ Sasha in 2008.



CIRQUE ÉLOIZE / iD

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM THE iD TEAM

We would like to thank everyone who, from near or far, has contributed to the creation of this show: Caisse d'économie Desjardins de la Culture, Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, Yvan Noël and Gilles Pelletier at the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles, Ministère du Tourisme du Québec, Conseil des arts de Montréal, Canada Arts Council, Canadian Heritage, Cargolution, Solotech, Dr. Roger Hobden, Scène Éthique, Roger LeRoux Société du Vieux-Port de Montréal, Mr. Jeffrey Yoon and Mr. Ahn, Sang-Soo. We would also like to address a special thank you to our administrative board: Jean Pierre Desrosiers, Robert Blain Charles Décarie, Sylvie Lalande, Lise Morissat, Mathieu Piché-Messier, Jonathan St-Onge, Jeannot Painchaud.

THE TROUPE



Antonio Aguado (Spain) Urban Dances

Antonio Aguado has always been passionate about dance. His first notable achievement was winning the Battle of the Year Iberica with Arcopom Crew in 2005. That victory gave him the opportunity to travel in Europe, representing Spain. Antonio discovered

the circus world when he joined the English tour of Cirque du Soleil's *Michael Jackson Tribute Show*. His career path has included performing in videos, international battles and festivals, as well as giving courses and participating in workshops.



Angelika Kogut (Poland) Hand To Hand

Originally from Poland, Angelika has over 12 years' experience in Acrosport. She has competed in mix pair, trio and women's duo since she was 19. Her main practice has always been hand to hand. After joining Cirque Eloize's *Rain*, she performed on various productions including the notorious Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.



James Eddie Crane (USA) Trampowall, Power Stills James Eddie Crane was born in Washington D.C. He performed in competitive gymnastics for 17 years, was 8 times junior Olympic nation qualifier, 2 times regional team member and... the first ever African American to land a triple back in competition on floor exercises. His

artistic career began in 2011 when he joined Cirque du Soleil's *Viva Elvis*. He loves learning new tricks and setting goals that seem impossible to achieve. He enjoys dancing, shopping, drawing, DJing and snowboarding in his time off. Thankfully, he enjoys every single minute he spends on stage. Before performing, James gets into his bubble by listening to music.



Jean-Philippe Deltell (Canada) Juggling, Trampowall Jean-Philippe has been immersed in the circus environment for over ten years. He began performing in front of a public at the age of twelve in theatre and improvisation. Soon, he was drawn to the circus and discovered the trampoline, which quickly became his passion. Self-taught and multitasking,

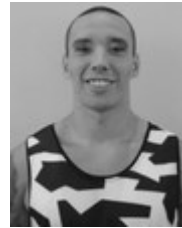
Jean-Philippe is equally at ease juggling rings on firm ground as he is flying through the air doing trapeze and teeterboard acts. He is an accomplished circus performer who constantly trains to perfect his technique.

Although Jean-Philippe has many years of practice under his belt, the trampoline wall still makes him as nervous as ever. To psych himself up before going onstage, he pictures himself as a wrestler anticipating a match!



Diana Gonzalez (Mexico) Cyr Wheel, Aerial Hoop Since her earliest days, the love of the stage has captivated Diana Gonzalez's soul, making her literally run away with the circus. When she was 17, Diana decided to learn how to fly professionally and entered the National Circus School in Montreal. After three years learning and training Cyr Wheel,

she joined Peter James for an original creation in Argentina, where she worked as a performer while creating her own show. In search of international experience, she followed with a traditional circus in France. Before coming to Cirque Éloize, she was the first Mexican performing on Cirque du Soleil production *Joyà* presented on the Riviera Maya in Mexico.



Mateusz Rzeznikiewicz (Poland) Hand To Hand

Born in Poland, Mateusz initially trained in a cooking school. He learned Acrosport for 14 years and devoted his career to hand to hand. He gained relevant experience on various productions including the Cruises Grand Holiday, Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi and Dubai along with Angelika Kogut. He is also passionate about kick boxing and muay thai.



Jon Larucea (Spain) In-Line Skating

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Jon is a sportsman through and through. From an early age, he enjoyed several sports, including mountain biking and swimming, but rollerblading quickly became his passion and he specialized in Inline freestyle slalom. Throughout his studies in

International Business Economics, he continued to skate, and in 2011 he finished third at the World Championship, which earned him the double European champion title in Freestyle Slalom Classic and Battle. Jon is constantly developing and promoting his discipline and he always stands out during competition thanks to his unique style. His stage debut was in 2008 when he presented a variety of combinations and figures he choreographed himself. When he was only 16, his talent for the sport already allowed him to land a job delivering pizza, the only delivery man on rollerblades in Barcelona.



Forty Nguyen (Canada) Urban Dances

Forty Nguyen started taking breaking classes at the age of 18. He became serious about his dancing career when he performed his first solo at *Definition* on applicable Urban Dance Festival at the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels) in 2004. From then, he continued performing for the Jazz Festival (2005), Usine C (2005)

and TOHU (2006). In 2006, he was part of the cast of *Demain*, a piece by the choreographer Paula de Vasconcelos of Pigeon International, with whom he performed in Montreal and toured in Columbia. Forty's style is a mixture of bboying, ballet technique, acrobatics and hip hop. Recently graduated from Concordia's Contemporary Dance Department, Forty has worked as an interpreter for the company Destins Croisés and is now working as a dancer for Cirque Éloize.



Olivier Poitras (Canada) Chinese Pole, Trampoline Olivier has always loved the circus, performing on stage since the age of 10. He began his career at the National Circus School in 2002 where he stayed ten years completing his high school and college studies. Growing up in the circus community, he had the opportunity to

work with several international productions including, Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize. His best moment on stage was during his last outdoor performance with Amaluna when a thunderclap during his number added even more drama and intensity to his performance.



Thibaut Philippe (France) Trial Bike, Trampoline Born in France, a country well known for its trial bike champions, Thibaut began practicing 26-inch trial bike when he was 14. With his brother, he learned the ins and outs of the sport, climbing with their bikes over obstacles of all kinds—boulders, trunks, cables, train tracks and even car wrecks—without allowing their

feet to touch the ground. With his brother, he created a show in which a 20 to 30 sq. meter trial zone is laid out and covered in the hardest possible obstacles to mount on a bike. They performed the show for five years in the Paris and Clermont-Ferrand regions, at municipal sporting events, business openings and even on television. On their bikes, the brothers crossed the trial zone followed by a third rider on a monocycle. Having completed his bachelor's degree in marketing at Pigier, he is now pursuing a master's degree.



Gabriel Lafrance (Canada) Straps In August 2014, Gabriel proudly joined the Cirque du Soleil family, as part of one of their most recent productions, *Joyà*, based in the beautiful Riviera Maya. Gabriel, from Quebec City, spent his youth as a competitive gymnast. After ten years of gymnastics he decided to transfer his

talents to perform as a circus artist, enrolling in the professional program at Quebec city circus school, from which he graduated in 2014 as an aerial straps specialist.

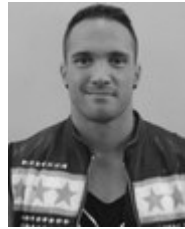
While in circus school, Gabriel successfully maintained a balance between his studies and professional engagements. These involvements solidified his desire to become a full time circus performer. Gabriel officially started his professional career in 2014 by joining the Quebec City based circus troupe Flip Fabrique.

In August 2014, Gabriel had the incredible chance to fulfill a lifelong dream by joining Cirque du Soleil. Having been selected as a member of the original JOYA cast, he was fortunate enough to participate in the full creation process, as well as the first 2 years of show operations. Still in the early stages of a promising career, Gabriel is looking forward to the next enriching experience.



Marie Pandora (USA) Urban Dances Pandora's journey in dance traces back to her years in high school, when she first witnessed different styles of street dance at raves, underground parties and Hip-Hop functions. This Native American is a multi-disciplinary artist who has built – over the past 13 years – a solid reputation as a

champion at various high-level, international competitions. Over the years, she's toured throughout the US, Europe, Japan, and Canada. She even landed a breakthrough role in Disney's feature-film *Step Up 3D* and received a standing ovation when she appeared on Fox's *So You Think You Can Dance*. In addition to her love of dancing, she recently delved into music, poetry, photography, film, and other forms of artistic expression. She truly believes that the human spirit can indeed triumph over the most difficult of times.



Angel Sanchez Saez (Spain) Hand Balancing, Trampoline Born in Valencia, Spain, Angel Sanchez always had a keen interest for physical activities and discovered gymnastics at age 7. A hard worker, he received at only 16 years of age a full scholarship to join the artistic gymnastics national junior team in Madrid. Three years later, he decided to

leave the capital city to focus on his studies, and registered at the University of Valencia in the sports and exercise sciences program.

Having always had the desire to join Cirque du Soleil since the showing of *Saltimbanco* in Valencia, Angel seized the opportunity in 2007 when the Cirque held auditions in Lille, France. Making a strong impression on the judges, he was invited to join the troupe of Zed in Tokyo, where he performed until 2009 in the Chinese pole and trampoline acts. After two years charged with emotions and new experiences, Angel went back to Valencia to finish his studies. Then, after graduating, it's with Cirque Éloize that he decided to pursue his passion for contemporary circus and its disciplines.



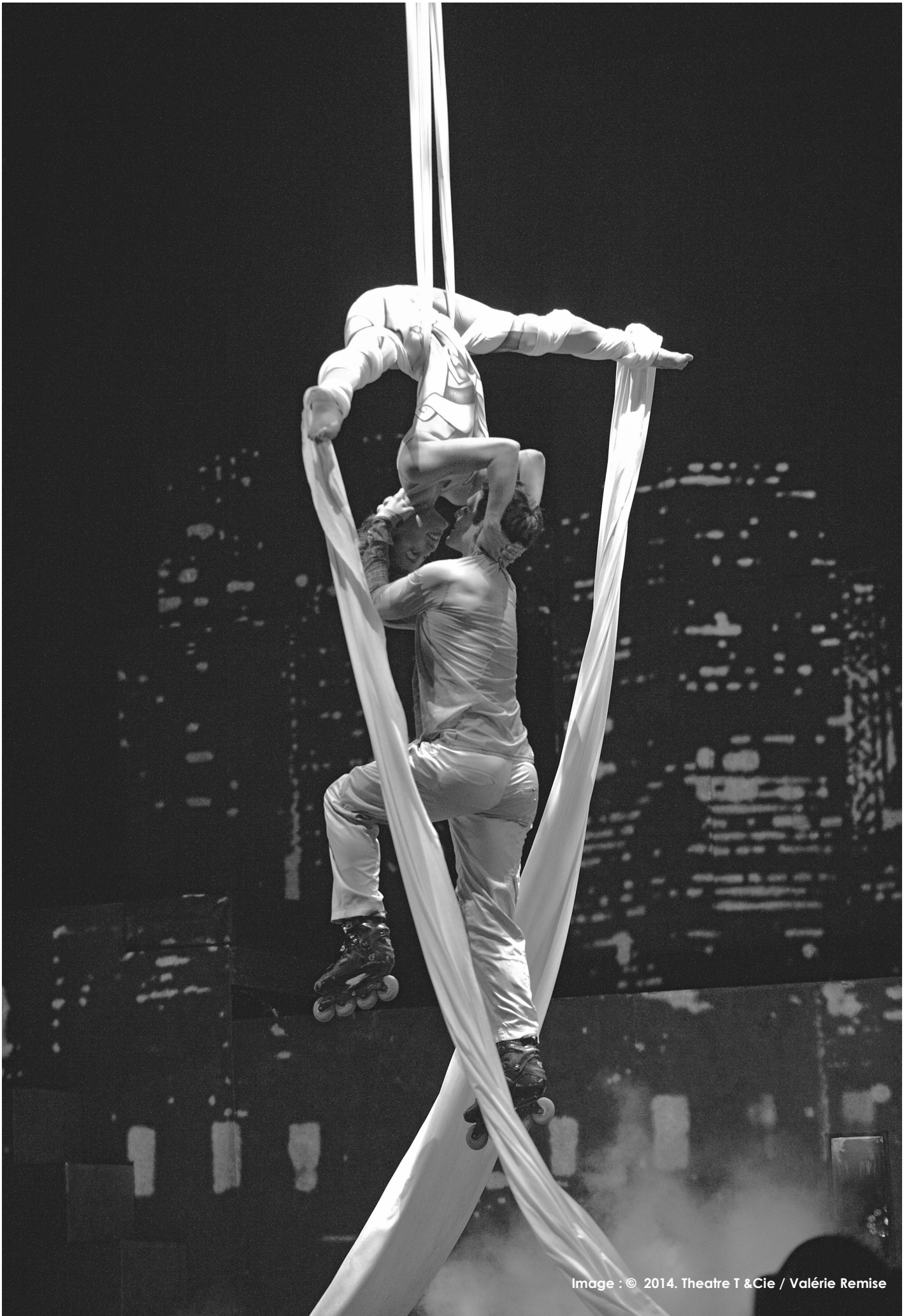
Bryan Boyer (USA) B-Boy Bryan has been dancing since early 2004, and is a member of the infamous Blowup Kingz. He has a unique style of blow up moves along with a keen ear for music, which makes his blow ups that much more explosive. He also uses a hidden array of advanced power-moves that he rarely expels in battle unless absolutely needed, along with abstract

threads in his footwork. Combine all that with beat kills and an incredible energy and you have Bryan Slinky Boyer. He has represented himself, his crew, and his hometown, in many competitions around the country, and overseas. He is a humble and very friendly person, and constantly striving to improve himself, inside and out of dance.



Nicole Winter (USA) Contortion, Aerial Silks Nicole Winter began performing and pleasing crowds before she even began kindergarten. She started ballet at age 4, and continued her dance training at the elite Bak Middle School of the Arts and Dreyfoos High School of the Performing Arts. At the age of 14, she discovered her

true talent and calling: circus arts. Dance allowed her to perform high-level contortion acts with the grace of a ballerina. At 16 years old, she was accepted into the prestigious National Circus School of Montreal. She trained there for two years, majoring in contortion.



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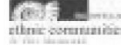
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