

# Cirque Éloize

Saturday-Sunday, January 29-30, 2005  
Zellerbach Hall

## *RAIN*

*Comme une pluie dans tes yeux*

Written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca

*Artistic Direction*  
Jeannot Painchaud

Daniele Finzi Pasca, *author and director*  
Krzysztof Soroczynski, *head trainer, acrobatic group acts and high-wire conception and casting agent*  
Daniel Cyr, *creator and trainer for Roue Cyr act*  
Daniele Finzi Pasca, *song lyrics*  
Maria Bonzanigo, *music composer and arrangements on recorded soundtrack*  
Lucie Cauchon, *music composer and arrangements for live music*  
Guillaume Lord, *set design*  
Mérédith Caron, *costume design*  
Martin Labrecque, *lighting design*  
Dolores Heredia, *acting preparation*  
Nicolas Descoteaux, *moving lights programming*  
Suzanne Trépanier, *make-up design*  
Patrick Loubert, *assistant director and stage manager*  
Roch Jutras, *assistant director*

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and the Zellerbach Family Foundation for their generous support.*

# ARTISTS

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

Oksana Burliy	<i>Banquine and Russian bar, teeter board, juggling and swinging clubs, tissue, tambourine</i>
Jean-Philippe Cuerrier	<i>Russian bar and banquine, teeter board, juggling, strong acrobats number, saxophone</i>
Catherine Girard	<i>Aerial hoop, double fix trapeze, tissue, teeter board, swinging clubs, saxophone</i>
Stéphane Gentilini	<i>Juggling and object manipulation, teeter board, strong acrobats number</i>
Krin Maren Haglund	<i>Swinging clubs, teeter board, comedy, dance, saxophone</i>
Aimée Hancock	<i>Double fix trapeze, tissue, teeter board, strong acrobats number, solo trapeze, violin</i>
Nadine Louis	<i>Contortion, tissue, swinging clubs, strong acrobats number, teeter board, accordion</i>
Bartłomiej Pankau	<i>Hand to hand, banquine and Russian bar, teeter board, strong acrobats number</i>
Jonas Woolverton	<i>Roue Cyr, strong acrobats number, teeter board, rolling globe, accordion</i>
Jacek Wyskup	<i>Hand to hand, Russian bar, teeter board, strong acrobats number, cymbal</i>
Jocelyn Bigras	<i>Piano, lyra glockenspiel</i>

# PROGRAM NOTES

I come from a family of photographers. My great-grandfather, my grandfather and my father were all photographers. Later, my mom took up painting. I grew up in a world where memories were made up of moments snatched from time and frozen forever. In my shows, I simply make these images move.

The story takes place in a theatre where a circus show is in rehearsal, where theatre and reality blend into one another and you can't tell where one begins and the other ends. The protagonists exchange glances revealing little love stories, secret passions, flashes of intimacy. Their fragilities have slowly blossomed, surfacing in the ultimate moments of effort in the interplay of extreme equilibria. The artists are out of the past, characters from collections of old photos, handsome and strong like our grandparents. And then there is the sky, a vast sky.

When I was little, when the first summer storm came, I was allowed to go out in the garden and play in the rain and get soaked to the skin. I still love that feeling of freedom — shoes full of water, clothes drenched, hair dripping. "Let it rain," we'd say. It was as if we welcomed whatever came from the sky, sun or rain, we didn't care.

Unexpected things can come from the sky: messages, signs, promises. On our stage, not only rain will fall. Surprises will pour down as well.

There's a certain kind of feeling in this show, almost a sense of nostalgia, like a strange need to go back to the house you came from, the house where a family once lived, where your roots are. In our house we called this kind of beautiful, sweet sadness that you feel when you look at a sunset, "rain in your eyes."

I want this show to be like a caress, simple, direct, filled with sensuality and tender hope. The protagonists in this adventure appear and gaze searchingly at the audience from the front of the stage. They begin a dialogue with the spectators, looking them straight in the eye. Then they are once again swallowed up by the surreal images of the story.

If I had to describe this show, I would say it is full of hope, joy, and a sweet longing, and that it is made of the stuff of my grandmother's stories. I dedicate it to all those who love to feel the rain pouring down on them.

Daniele Finzi Pasca  
*Author and Director*



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## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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**Cirque Éloïze** has been traveling the globe for over a decade, performing a magical brand of circus artistry that draws on the big-top tradition – and yet is entirely original. This unique ensemble trades the tent for the theater with a show that combines time-honored circus acts with music, dance, theater and performance in a new and exciting way.

Since its inception, this award-winning Canadian troupe has performed for more than two million spectators in more than 200 cities and 20 countries. Their shows serve up a visual and aural feast that's at once poetic, mystical, humorous, and fun.

**Daniel Cyr** (*technical and acrobatic research and development*) is a native of the Magdalen Islands and is a co-founder of Cirque Éloïze. He studied several years at the National Circus School, and has presented his ladder act at a number of festivals. Over the years, he has worked with many Québec circus troupes. Following the creation of Cirque Éloïze, he polished his act, traveling the world for almost nine years with the company's first two productions: *Cirque Éloïze* and *Excentricus*. In his ongoing artistic quest, he has designed new acts and new apparatuses, including the Cyr Wheel, for which he developed the techniques.

**Daniele Finzi Pasca** (*author and director*) is also a choreographer and clown, and he founded Teatro Sunil in Lugano, Switzerland in 1983. Fascinated by the world of clowns, he developed the concept of *Teatro della carezza* ("Theatre of the Caress"). In 1991 he created the one-man show *Icaro*, which defined his aesthetics and style as a creator. He has written and directed 14 stage plays and produced some 20 shows both with his own troupe and others around the world. His shows, which are marked by profound humanity and a playful spirit, have toured the globe. Over the years he has developed a structured vision of the theatre and a unique acting technique, which he is often invited to present at universities and theatre schools. Casa Grande has published his collection of short stories entitled *Come Acqua allo specchio* as well as the complete script of *Viaggio al confine*.

**Dolores Heredia** (*acting preparation*) is an actress, filmmaker and producer. Since 1994 she has been a member of El Teatro Sunil. She has also collaborated with El Centro de Experimentación Teatral, directed by Luis de Tavira, and with La Compañía Nacional de Teatro. In addition, she was invited by José Luis Gomez to join Madrid's El Teatro de la Plaza. In her cinematic career, she has been involved in some 15 feature films. She received the Best Actress award at El Festival Internacional de Cartagena in Colombia and was similarly honored at Le Festival international du cinéma d'Amiens in France. Recently, she played in *Te Amo*, a theatrical piece directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca and presented in Mexico and Quebec.

**Guillaume Lord** (*set design*) is equally interested in dance and theatre, opera and film. Through his association with choreographer Jean Grand-Maitre, he has worked with some of the world's most prestigious ballet companies. In theatre, he regularly collaborates with director Serge Denoncourt. Their teamwork garnered him the Gascon-Roux award as well as the trophy for the best set design at the Gala des Masques for *Le temps et la chambre* in 1995. He also designed the sets for the Arturo Brachetti show, which toured the world.

**Krzysztof Soroczynski** (*head trainer, acrobatic group acts designer, casting agent*) is a lifelong circus lover, 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 Verdun Circus School, he joined the Cirque Éloïze troupe in 1999, becoming head trainer and talent scout. He has passed his passion on to his son, who appears in *Nomade – At night, the sky is endless*.

**Lucie Cauchon** (*music composer and arranger*) 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 many singers. From 1987 to 1990 she traveled with Cirque du Soleil as tour musician. This is her second involvement with Cirque Éloïze: she previously composed the music and conducted the

orchestra for *Excentricus*, then composed music for *Nomade* and *Typo*.

**Maria Bonzanigo** (*music composition for fixed and flying trapeze acts, straps act and finale table act*) joined El Teatro Sunil in 1984 and, together with the troupe's founder, Daniele Finzi Pasca, quickly became one of its pillars. Not only is her music part of most of the company's shows, she also contributes to the majority of productions in her capacity as actress, dancer, stage director and choreographer. Maria studied composition with Paul Glass and dance with Rosalia Chladek. In 1996, her piece for flute, oboe and cello entitled *Triologo* was included on a CD produced by Jecklin. El Teatro Sunil has also issued two CDs based on her finest incidental music.

**Martin Labrecque** (*lighting design*) is known for the originality and texture of his lighting and has worked on many memorable stage plays as well as in television and dance. He has done the lighting design for more than 70 productions, and in 2001 he won the Masque for lighting design for his work on *L'homme en lambeau* at Theatre l'Opis. More recently he did the lighting design for *Les Feluettes* directed by Serge Denoncourt, *Gagarin's Way* directed by Michel Monty, and he co-directed *Everybody's WELLES pour tous* at Theater Petit à petit with Patrice Dubois. *Rain* is his second collaboration with Daniele Finzi Pasca after doing lighting design for *Nomade*.

**Méridith Caron** (*costume design*) has designed sets and costumes for many 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 Amatorosa* and *Don Juan*, which earned her Théâtre du Nouveau Monde's Gascon-Roux award. She also garnered a Masque and Gemini for Best Costumes for *Don Juan*, as well as another Best Costumes Gemini for the film *J'aime gros gros gros*. Since 1998 she has been invited to the Stratford Festival. In addition, she teaches art history and costume design at the National Theatre School of Canada.

**Nicolas Descoteaux** (*moving lights programmer*)

has conceived numerous lighting designs for Canadian theatrical productions since 1992. His technical and artistic knowledge has led him to fruitful collaborations with renowned creators such as Robert Lepage and Marie Chouinard. He has participated in many international tours as lighting director, in addition to working on various events in Quebec. He was nominated for awards by the Académie québécoise du théâtre in 1995 and 1998 and was a Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec winner in 1999 and 2001. He continues to perfect his craft in a variety of artistic fields.

**Roch Jutras** (*artistic coordination*) has performed on stage, in the ring, on television and in film. In 1985 he received National Circus School's student of the year award. The following year he joined the Cirque du Soleil for its production *La Magie Continue* and continued his collaboration with the company in 1987 in *Cirque Réinventé*. In 1992 he joined Switzerland's Le Cirque Knie. In 1994-1995 he became Cirque Éloize's very first clown. As a member of the Cirque du Monde project, in 1998 he left for Chile to work with street youth there. He later served for three years as artistic coordinator for Cirque du Soleil's production *Dralion*. This year Roch is back with Cirque Éloize as assistant artistic director.

**Suzanne Trépanier** (*make-up designer*) 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 in both television and film, her preference for the stage arts has led her to concentrate primarily on theatre. She has been the make-up designer for a number of theatrical productions, including *Howie Le Rookie* (Théâtre de la manufacture), *La Poste Populaire Russe* and (*Oncle Vania* (Théâtre de l'Opis), and *Une si belle chose* (Théâtre du Rideau Vert). *Rain* is her third collaboration with Cirque Éloize after *Cirque Orchestra* and *Nomade*.

**Patrick Loubert** (*assistant director and stage manager*) trained in set design at Collège Lionel-Groulx. From 1992 to 2000 he worked as assistant director, stage manager, and producer and tour director for Avanti Plus. In 2001 he joined the

tent tour of the Cheval Theatre as assistant tour director and logistics manager. In 2002-03 he joined Cirque Éloize to direct the American tour of *Nomade*. Patrick is now part of the *Cavalria* team as tour director since August 2003.

## PERFORMERS

**Jocelyn Bigras** studied classical music before branching out into other genres. Since completing his music studies, he has been asked to collaborate, as musician, accompanist, programmer or arranger, in many studio and stage productions. Over time, learning to play with voice and pen, he has become an author-composer and a performer. As well as touring throughout many cities in Quebec and France with his songs and music, he has been the opening act for shows by Gilles Vigneault (*Coups de coeur Francophone* 1996) and Julos Beaucarne (tour in Quebec cities in 2000), and took part in Claude Leveillé's show (*Festival d'été de Québec*, 1999). Grand prize winner at the *Francouvertes* (Montreal, 1996), then winner of the *Prix de l'amitié francophone* (*Visa francophone - France*, 2001), this former finalist in the Canadian Music Competitions is joining Cirque Éloize after many shows and involvement in two original albums, and is delighted by this unique opportunity for magical exchanges and collaboration.

**Oksana Burliy** studied acrobatics with her sister from the age of six, in the city of Kiev, in Ukraine. Since that time her passion for the discipline has never faded, and through her skills she has been able to discover the world. She has performed her Russian bar act with many international circus companies such as Zaparozia, the Cirque Gasser Olympia (Switzerland), the Cirque Arlequin (Poland), the Cirque Imagine and Zavata (France) and finally Cirque Voyage in Germany. Oksana was also a trainer for École de cirque Michellète in France.

**Jean-Philippe Cuerrier** was introduced to the circus arts at the age of eight when he attended the Verdun Circus School. There he discovered a passion for acrobatics and juggling, and 10 years later he entered the National Circus School

in Montreal. While perfecting his skills in his favorite disciplines, Jean-Philippe also mastered other apparatuses, including the aerial cradle. After graduation he flew off for an eight-month tour in Switzerland with Circus Starlight. Today, in addition to being part of Cirque Éloize's latest creation, Jean-Philippe tries to pass on his first passion to young people by teaching at the Verdun Circus School.

**Stéphane Gentilini** is a native of France and began his training with street theatre groups. In order to specialize in juggling, he entered the École nationale de cirque de Châtellerault in 1998, which in turn gained him admission to the National Circus School in Montreal; he studied there from 1999 to 2002. Since then his work has focused on manipulation of objects, which led to appearances with various circus and dance companies.

**Catherine Girard** started her training at the age of four, in classical ballet, rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, and theatre. After graduating from college in dance, she concentrated on the only discipline that combines all her interests: the arts of the circus. She is a graduate of the National Circus School where she studied three years with Jean-Philippe Cuerrier, another member of Cirque Éloize. Since then the two artists have combined their talents in aerial cradle acts. She worked with the Circus Starlight in Switzerland, then in France with the *Tout Fou Tout Fly*. After winning a *Piste de bronze* (Bronze Award) at the *Festival de Tournai* in Belgium in 2003, she has joined Cirque Éloize.

**Krin Maren Haglund** fell deeply in love with the circus as a little girl. After years of ballet, modern dance, gymnastics, and climbing everything in sight, she discovered an emerging voice in physical performance. While continuing to dance, Krin studied in Japan for two years and completed her B.A. in pre-med and Asian languages at Smith College in Massachusetts. Krin was satisfied with her academic pursuits, but she knew she had to give her childhood dream a chance, so she headed for San Francisco to train at the Circus Center, where she attended the Clown Conservatory. In

the Bay Area she danced, acted and performed in circus shows, including two seasons with the New Pickle Circus.

**Aimée Janaan Hancock** found gymnastics too scripted and classical violin too subtle, but she found contentment in the crazy world of the circus: the perpetual challenge of being and living ever more intensely, the commotion of the lights, the applause and all the visual pleasures. Firm in her belief in the potential of circus training, Aimée has flown with people from all walks of life in the pursuit of trust, confidence, humanity and passion. Her intense circus training began at age 15, and she has continued accumulating new skills and growing through professional experience across Europe, America and the Caribbean.

**Nadine Louis** began training at a very young age at the National Circus School in Montreal, then toured with the Cirque du Soleil for seven years in the shows *Nouvelle Expérience*, *Fascination* and *Saltimbanco*. One of a quartet of contortionists, she and her three partners jointly received many awards: the Golden Clown at Festival de cirque de Monaco, the Gold Medal at the 13ème Festival du cirque de l'Avenir in Paris, the Silver Crane at the Wuhan Circus Festival in China and a Gemini Award for the best performance in a variety program on Y.T.V. She has appeared on many television broadcasts, including the *Johnny Carson Show*, and performed the main role in the film *Satie and Suzanne* (Rhombus Media Inc.). Following her early training and experience, she completed her studies in arts and communications at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, then trained for four years in acting at the National Theatre School of Canada.

**Bartłomiej Pankau** was born in Poland and began doing acrobatic sports at the age of eight. In 1997 he placed first in international competition in Switzerland, and then won several championships in Poland and had other international successes. From 1999 to 2002 he toured Europe with circus

troupe Ocelot's production, *Master*. During the winter seasons he worked with Circus Sarassani in Germany. Bartłomiej met his partner, Jacek Wyskup, while working in Ocelot, where they began to master their hand-balancing act. Pankau's first contact with theater came when he performed in the opera *Nabucco* by Verdi, and more recently he was hired as an actor and physical comedian in the play *Ghetto* by Konzertdirektion Landgraf, which toured Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Lichtenstein. He has also performed in many special events all over Europe.

**Jonas Woolverton** is a native of New York City and has studied dance and theatre as well as played accordion in a circus-rock band, Circophonique! He graduated with a B.A. in film production. While working as a filmmaker in San Francisco, Jonas saw Cirque Éloize's *Excentricus* and his life and career path were forever changed. He knew that he had to find a way to work with this theatrical circus company and dedicate himself to the study of the enigmatic Cyr Wheel. The Clown Conservatory at the Circus Center in San Francisco gave him the formal circus training he needed, and he was hired to perform German Wheel and play accordion in the New Pickle Circus' *Circumstance*, directed by Gypsy Snider, to rave reviews. Ecstatic to now be part of the international ensemble of *Rain*, he is living his dream of performing with Cirque Éloize. One day Woolverton plans to combine his passion and experiences in the circus with his love for making films.

**Jacek Wyskup** was born in a small town in Poland and studied with two coaches who were world champions in acrobatic sports. He became a full-time performer when he was hired by the legendary cabarets Winter Garten in Berlin and Apollo Variete in Düsseldorf, where he perfected the art of hand balancing. Wyskup began working with his partner, Bartłomiej Pankau, when both were performing in the circus troupe Ocelot, and they mastered their hand-balancing act in their spare time.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

## Produced by

Productions Éloïze, Creative Force, Columbia Artists Management Inc. (CAMI), Sutton Hill, Spectra

## SOUNDTRACK

**Maria Bonzanigo**, *soundtrack coordination* *Le Divan Vert Recording and mixing studio (Montréal)*  
*Michel Lambert*, *sound engineer*

*Recorded in Switzerland in "La Darsena" at Matteo Mazza's "La scima" Studio and in Montreal at Le Divan Vert*

## Musicians in Switzerland

Rino Ross, *pre-editing*  
Yiping Li, *mezzo-soprano*  
Chunhe Gao, Yoko Miyagawa,  
and Luisa Moraru, *violin*  
Gian Paolo Guatteri, Nancy Benda, and  
Yoko Miyagawa, *viola*  
Johann S. Paetsch, *cello*  
Anton Uhle, *double bass*  
Marco Fratantonio, *accordion*

## Musicians in Montreal

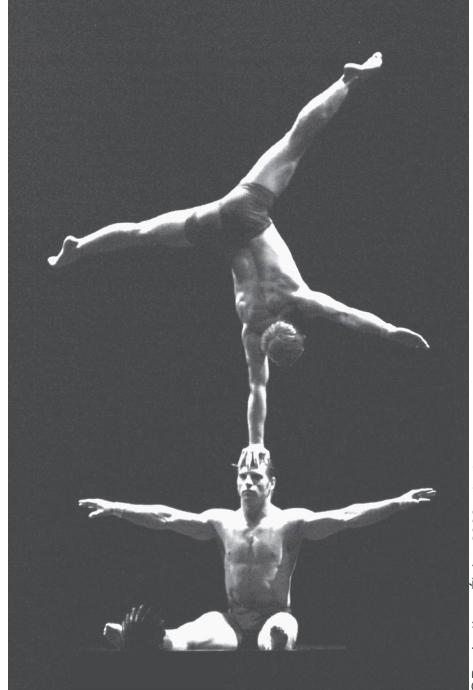
Yannick Chênevert, *double bass*  
Marie-Clairre Cousineau, *viola*  
François Covan, *accordion*  
Josianne Laporte, *percussion*  
François Pilon, *violin*  
Sheila Hannigan, *cello*

## Cirque Éloïze technical team

Sonya St-Martin, *tour director, stage*  
Richard Piquet, *technical tour, head carpenter*  
Peter Balov, *sound engineer*  
Alexis Bowles, *lights*  
Tiago Chasqueira, *head rigger*

## Cirque Éloïze production team

Julie Hamelin, *executive producer*  
Benoît Jodoin, *production director during creation*  
Christian Paquin, *production director*  
Nicolas Jobin, *technical coordinator during creation*  
Louis Côté, *technical coordinator*  
Marc Gauthier, *rigger during creation*  
Anne Séguin-Poirier, *set design assistant*  
Jacqueline Rousseau, *costume design assistant*  
Sylvain Labelle, *cutter*  
Julie Sauriol, *cutter*  
Francine Poitras, *vocal coach*  
Nathalie Jacques, *dance coach*  
Elena Fomina, *tissue coach*  
Daniela Arendasova, *contortion trainer*  
Annick Généreux, *hair dresser*



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