Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 8pm
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 8pm
Friday, February 6, 2015, 8pm
Saturday, February 7, 2015, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall

Les 7 doigts de la main

Séquence 8

Creation and Production
Les 7 doigts de la main

Direction and Choreography
Shana Carroll and Sébastien Soldevila

Co-Production
Les Nuits de Fourvière/Département du Rhône
(Lyon), TOHU (Montréal)

With the support of the Programme d’Aide à la coproduction du Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Commissioning Partners: Printemps des Comédiens (Montpellier, France) Arts Emerson (Boston),
Live Arts Festival (Philadelphia), La Strada (Graz, Austria), Monaco Dance Forum (Monaco),
Teatro Circo Price (Madrid), CE Works (Japan).

With the support of Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Conseil des Arts du Canada,
and Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Cal Performances’ 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
THE MEETING OF TWO personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.”—C. G. Jung

Our eighth and newest creation carries emotional dynamics to a point of explosion and propulsion.

In this show we find emotions so heightened they spring into action, relationships that transform and evolve until they create actual velocity. Set not in a specific time or place but rather on a vertical canvas of sorts, this acrobatic dance and theater piece contemplates the role of the “other,” and how we define ourselves through and against it.
CREATION

Assistant to the Directors and Stage Manager
Sabrina Gilbert
Set and Prop Design
Anne-Séguien Poirier
Costume Design
Manon Desmarais
Light Design
Nol Van Genuchten
Acrobatic Design
Sébastien Soldevila
Acrobatic Equipment Design
Alexandre Lemay, Danny Zen
Original Music
Seth Stachowski
Remix
Nans Bortuzzo
Music
Dr. Opin, Liza Ekdahl, Ben Harper, Chinese Man, That Handsome Devil, C2C, Tunng, Tosca, The Mountain Goats, Jónsi & Alex

PRODUCTION

Production Director
Jérémie Niel
Technical Direction
Guy Lévesque
Acrobatic Coaches
Jérôme Le Baut, André St-Jean, Émilie Bonnavaud
Physiotherapist
Hugo Rioux
Voice Coach
Linda Benoy
Trumpet Coach
Hubert Côté
Translation, Adaptation and Diction Coach
Michel Vézina
Head Rigger
Robert Ouellette
Support to Rigging and Construction
Stéphane Beauchet
Light Operator
Élaine Ducasse
Texts
John Carroll, Shana Carroll, Colin Davis, Sébastien Soldevila, Michel Vézina
Graphic Design
Studio Pastis
Assistant for Setup and Props
Camille Boyer

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Shana Carroll, Isabelle Chassé, Patrick Léonard, Gypsy Snider, Sébastien Soldevila, Samuel Tétreault

C.E.O.
Nassib El-Husseini

Touring, Development, and Special Events Director
Tina Diab

TOURING TEAM

Tour Director
Jérémie Niel
Technical Director
Antoine Procat
Lights
Gabrielle Bérubé-Forest
Rigging
Frédérik Dallaire-Pelletier
Les 7 doigts de la main translates literally as “the seven fingers of the hand.” It is a twist on a French idiom (”the five fingers of the hand”) used to describe distinct parts united tightly, moving in coordination towards one common goal. Here it refers to the seven founding directors of the company (Isabelle Chassé, Shana Carroll, Patrick Léonard, Faon Shane, Gypsy Snider, Sébastien Soldevila, and Samuel Tétreault) who, by combining their distinct talents and experiences, work towards their common artistic goals with the beautifully awkward dexterity of a seven-fingered hand.

Founded in Montreal in 2002, Les 7 doigts de la main’s initial goal was to bring circus to a human scale. They began as artists on stage, creating collectively, and soon branched out, expanding their creative talents as directors, choreographers, writers and coaches, passing on their collaborative and unique 7 doigts process to a new generation of circus artists. Out of this emerged Loft, Traces, La Vie, Psy, The Fibonacci Project, Patinoire, A Muse, Séquence 8, Le Murmure du Coquelicot, and Cuisine & Confessions. A relaxed and funky artist’s loft, a bunker, purgatory, or a psychiatrist’s office, an international collaboration of cultures or a solo clown show, each show offers a distinct setting and yet carries the same seven finger-print.

Celebrating their tenth anniversary this year, Les 7 doigts de la main are constantly developing new shows back home in Montreal, applying their unique brand of hands-on creativity to all their ventures.

Shana Carroll is co-founding artistic director of Montreal’s Les 7 doigts de la main, where she has co-directed and choreographed the company’s major touring shows, whether together with the collective (Loft, La Vie) with partner Gypsy Snider (Traces), with partner and husband Sébastien Soldevila (Séquence 8, Le Murmure du Coquelicot), or alone (Psy, Cabaret 2010, FeriAmuse). In 2013, Ms. Carroll directed the circus show of Queen Of the Night at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York.

In addition to her work with Les 7 doigts, Ms. Carroll’s circus directing and choreography credits include the Cirque du Soleil performance at the 84th Annual Academy Awards (2012), the acrobatic design and choreography of Cirque du Soleil’s show Iris at Los Angeles’s Dolby Theatre, the creation of four gold-medal winning acts at the Festival de Cirque de Demain, Il Fait Dimanche for l’École Nationale de Cirque de Montreal, and Quebec’s 400th anniversary performance with 40 trapeze artists (2008). She also received a Drama Desk Award nomination for best choreography for Traces (2008), and a Bay Area Theater Critics’ Circle nomination for best choreography for Circumstance (2003).

A former trapeze artist, Ms. Carroll performed for 20 years in the air, within 7 doigts shows Loft and La Vie (2002–2008), and with a wide variety of circus and dance companies around the world, most notably seven years as original solo trapeze artist for Cirque du Soleil’s Saltimbanco (1994–2001).

Well advanced in his studies in biochemistry, Sébastien Soldevila would most likely have become a doctor had he not been so passionate about acrobatics. Growing up, the voracious athlete delved in trampoline, diving, acrobatic skiing, tumbling with the French Junior National Team, and sports acrobatics, where he and partner Emilie Bonnevaud maintained the title of French National Champions in Mixed Pairs four years in a row.

After working as a choreographer for the Dutch National Team, Mr. Soldevila was recruited to perform in Cirque du Soleil’s Saltimbanco. Upon co-founding Les 7 doigts de la main in 2002, Mr. Soldevila joined forces with Patrick Léonard to create an award-winning duo (Prix Nikouline, Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain de Paris), since performed on over 15 television programs around the world. In 2007, he and Emilie Bonnevaud developed a new hand-to-hand act, choreographed by Mr. Soldevila’s wife and fellow 7 doigt, Shana Carroll. The act won the gold medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain de Paris.

Mr. Soldevila co-created Loft, La Vie, Séquence 8, and Le Murmure du Coquelicot, and co-directed and wrote Le Murmure du Coquelicot. He coaches acrobatics with many 7 doigt shows and at the National Circus School of Montreal.

A native of Paris, Mr. Soldevila lives with his family in Montreal.

Eric Bates (United States) has always been a juggler. Circus has been a major part of his life since his days of being a rugby captain, competitive skier, and football player. In 2008, his life took a serious turn when he abandoned his studies at McGill University and entered the National Circus School in Montreal, in what was decidedly for Mr. Bates one of the best choices of his life. Harmonica, chess, cooking, break-dancing, skateboarding...beyond his specialty of cigar-box juggling—for which he is considered one of the best in the world—Mr. Bates is an active jack of many trades.

Ugo Dario discovered circus at age eight in a recreational circus school in France. Immediately impassioned, he tried every discipline he could, finally moving to central France to attend the full-time l’École de Cirque Châtellerault. In 2008, the young artist traveled to Montreal and entered the National Circus School of Montreal, where he and partner Maxim Laurin specialized in Korean Board. Mr. Dario graduated in 2011, and quickly joined Les 7 doigts de la main, participating in the Completement Cirque Festival’s Cabaret before embarking on the new creation.

In 2012, he and Mr. Laurin took their teeterboard number to the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, where they were awarded multiple prizes, including the Gold Medal.

Mr. Dario is also a brown belt in karate, painter, graffiti artist, photographer, and musician. A multidisciplinary artist, he believes that dance and theater should be integrated with circus, and it is in this way he wishes to give his performances his personal mark.

Surrounded by the arts from a young age (his father was the founder of the San Francisco Mime Troupe), Colin Davis (United States) discovered circus by watching the Pickle Family Circus. At eleven, he decided to give it a shot and entered the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. He so enjoyed learning Chinese acrobatics that he then chose to...
further his training in Montreal. With his partner Devin, he entered the National Circus School for three more years of intensive training. An accomplished musician, Mr. Davis has been playing instruments since he was eleven, with a particular passion for the trumpet. A high-level acrobat, he aspires, through his fertile imagination, to invoke laughter as well as tears.

Raised in a family which welcomed the arts, Devin Henderson (United States) was barely five years old when he entered the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. Within two years, he advanced to the Chinese acrobatics classes with Master Lu Yi, and a year later, at age eight, he performed in his first professional show. After spending much time at the San Francisco School of Circus Arts, Mr. Henderson entered Montreal's National Circus School, where he perfected a duo number with Colin Davis, his partner for over twelve years. A lover of sports, food, and especially film, Mr. Henderson frequently creates shorts movies about circus.

A highly active child, Maxim Laurin dabbled in theater, magic, and circus before enrolling in Montreal's National Circus School at age 11. Placed in an intensive collegial circus program, he trained in acrobatics, dance, theater, and trapeze while completing his academic studies. At 16, Mr. Laurin was sent by the National Circus School to France for a workshop. There he met his future partner, Ugo Dario, with whom he decided to specialize in Korean Board. Upon graduating from school in 2011 and the pair immediately joined Les 7 doigts de la main. The duo found strengths in their differences and developed an acrobatic and artistic harmony.

Camille Legris (Canada) began gymnastics at age five. At 15, her walls covered with medals, she was named Athlete of the Year in her native town in Quebec. After watching Cirque du Soleil on television, she enrolled at the National Circus School of Montreal. She studied at the circus school for seven years, performing along the way in special events and professional shows. Ms. Legris trained with hand to hand partner Tristan Nielsen under the guidance and coaching of Les 7 doigts de la main artists Sébastien Soldevila and Émilie Bonnavaud. The duo found strengths in their differences and developed an acrobatic and artistic harmony.

From a young age, Tristan Nielsen (United States) showed perseverance in almost everything he tried. He signed up for a circus program offered through his school at age 12, and by 19 had already participated in two tours with the established youth troupe Circus Smirkus, and spent a season with the Zoppé Family Circus. After spending two months at the San Francisco Circus Center, Mr. Nielsen felt ready to take his hand to hand level further, and, at 20, entered the National Circus School of Montreal. It was there that he met partner Camille Legris. Despite their initial language barrier, the two found a common ground in their love of hand to hand, and together created a dynamic and accomplished act.
From a young age, Alexandra Royer (Canada) was drawn to sports, the more extreme the better. At age eight, she moved with her family to Morocco and began classical horseback riding. Upon her return from Morocco, at eleven, she signed up for the Circus School of Quebec City. She explored many circus disciplines while continuing horseback riding and equestrian vaulting. In 2008, she entered the National Circus School of Montreal. After training in Russian bar and other disciplines, Ms. Royer graduated in 2011 with a specialty in aerial hoop and won the Gold Medal at SOLyCIRCO (Germany). Her strength as an artist lies in the mix of energy and elegance in her performance.