



Friday and Saturday, October 4–5, 2024, 8pm  
 Sunday, October 6, 2024, 3pm  
 Zellerbach Hall

FLIP FABRIQUE AND EX MACHINA/ROBERT LEPAGE

**SLAM!**

(Bay Area Premiere)

<i>Direction</i>	Robert Lepage
<i>Creative Direction</i>	Steve Blanchet
<i>Artistic Direction – Circus</i>	Bruno Gagnon
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Félix Dagenais
<i>Acrobats</i>	Jérémie Arsenault Fabien Cortes Maeva Desplat Naomi Eddy Jonathan Julien Stéphane Pansa Cédrik Pinault Adèle Saint-Martin
<i>Music and Sound Design</i>	Bob & Bill
<i>Associate Sound Design</i>	Stanislas Élie and Jérôme Boiteau, Studio Expression
<i>Associate Set Design</i>	Ariane Sauvé
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Renaud Pettigrew
<i>Associate Video Designer</i>	Nicolas Dostie
<i>Animator</i>	Irina Litvinenko
<i>Costumes Design</i>	Camila Comin
<i>Properties Design</i>	Ariane Sauvé
<i>Acrobatic Design</i>	Olivier Normand
<i>Wrestling Advisor</i>	Marko Estrada

<i>Production Manager – Creation</i>	Antoine Caron
<i>Production Advisor – Circus</i>	Christophe Hamel
<i>Technical Director – Creation</i>	Émilie Bérubé
<i>Production Manager – Tour</i>	Nadia Bellefeuille
<i>Technical Director and Lighting Manager</i>	Michel Bisson
<i>Tour Manager and Stage Manager</i>	France Godin
<i>Sound Manager</i>	Samuel Sérandour
<i>Video Manager</i>	Zachary Noël-Ferland
<i>Head Rigger and Head Stagehand</i>	Ian Lemire
<i>Costumes and Properties Manager</i>	Clara Clauss
<i>Video Project Manager and R&amp;D</i>	Samuel Sérandour
<i>Set Building</i>	Scène Éthique
<i>Set and Props Building Collaborators</i>	Geneviève Bournival
	Noémie Richard
	Chloé Blanchet
	Coralie Dansereau
<i>Costume Makers</i>	Camila Comin
	Par Apparat
	Judith Bouchard
<i>Communications Director</i>	Nina Lauren
<i>for Robert Lepage/Ex Machina</i>	
<i>Robert Lepage’s Agent</i>	Lynda Beaulieu

**A FLIP Fabrique and Ex Machina/Robert Lepage production  
in co-production with**

Le Diamant  
La TOHU

Centre des Arts Juliette-Lassonde de Saint-Hyacinthe  
Centre culturel de l’Université de Sherbrooke

**In partnership with**

Le Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec

<i>Producer for Ex Machina</i>	Michel Bernatchez
<i>Associate Producer</i>	Hélène Paradis
<i>Associate Producer</i> ( <i>Europe, Japan</i> )	Epidemic (Richard Castelli assisted by Florence Berthaud and Pierre Laly)
<i>Associate Producer</i> ( <i>The Americas, Asia [except Japan], Australia, New Zealand</i> )	Menno Plukker Theatre Agent (Menno Plukker, assisted by Magdalena Marszalek and Isaïe Richard)
<i>Representation (United States)</i>	CAMI Music

SLAM! will be performed without intermission and last approximately 90 minutes.

The October 4 performance of SLAM! is made possible, in part, by Peter Washburn and Rod Brown.

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—  
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.  
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**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

In 2002, the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) filed a lawsuit against the World Wrestling Federation, claiming the exclusive property rights of its acronym. The sports federation therefore became the World Wrestling Entertainment, recognizing the fact that professional wrestling was first and foremost a performance.

This entertaining art form, gathering diversified, fervent crowds letting off steam, represents to my eyes the ideal interface between circus and theater. The wrestling ring permits the acrobatic performers to transform into characters that are bigger than themselves and the stage directions ultimately become theatrical. *SLAM!* suggests a ritual in flying colors where we willingly agree to the “suspension of disbelief.”

—Robert Lepage



**ROBERT LEPAGE  
STAGE DIRECTOR**

The multidisciplinary artist Robert Lepage is all at once an actor, a director, a playwright, and a stage director.

Hailed by international critics, his original, contemporary, and unique works (inspired by recent history) transcend borders and challenge the standards of scenic writing, particularly through the use of new technologies.

From a very early age, Lepage took a keen interest in geography, but his growing passion for theater dictates his choice of career, inspiring him to enroll at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 1975. After an internship with Alain Knapp in Paris in 1978, he returned to his hometown, where he developed the great artistic versatility for which he is known.

The year 1994 marked an important step in Lepage's career: he founded Ex Machina, a multidisciplinary creation company of which he is the artistic director. Also under

his leadership, the multidisciplinary production center La Caserne was created in June 1997, in Quebec City. This new creative space saw the birth of almost all of Ex Machina's productions until 2019. Lepage's vision and dedication to create also led him to promote and implement the construction of the Le Diamant theater in the heart of Quebec City. Inaugurated in August 2019, this unique cultural venue is intended to be an anchor point for the public, emerging artists, and creators from all horizons.

Lepage's most significant works include the plays *The Seven Streams of the River Ota* and *The Dragons' Trilogy*; his solos *The Far Side of the Moon* and *887*; the operas *The Damnation of Faust* and Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* cycle; his multimedia works *The Image Mill* and *The Library at Night*; Peter Gabriel's shows, *The Secret World Tour* and *The Growing Up Tour*; and with Cirque du Soleil, *KÀ* and *TOTEM*.



**BRUNO GAGNON  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – CIRCUS**

Bruno Gagnon was the most hyperactive student in his class. On his 18th birthday, he took off with Cirque du Soleil to become a trampolinist and juggler for the *Corteo* show. Thousands of performances and two million spectators later, he aspires to express, create, and share his own artistic vision of the circus.

Therefore, together with his friends, he co-founded FLIP Fabrique. For eight years, he traveled the world presenting productions full of camaraderie, poetry, and humor, pausing only to create future work. Over the years, FLIP Fabrique has grown significantly and Gagnon now dedicates his time to managing the dynamic company. With *SLAM!*, he accomplished one of his greatest goals and dreams: working alongside Ex Machina and Robert Lepage.



**OLIVIER NORMAND**  
ACROBATIC DESIGN

A graduate of the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec, Olivier Normand has performed on all of Québec City's stages. Most

notably, he has played in *Les Feluettes* by Michel-Marc Bouchard, *Le Misanthrope* by Molière, *Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare, and *Britannicus* by Racine. Normand has also played many leading roles in Robert Lepage/Ex Machina productions, notably in *Playing Cards: Hearts, Needles and Opium* (Kennedy Center) and, earlier this year, *Courville* (Hong Kong Arts Festival).

Passionate about movement, Normand has been teaching at l'École de cirque de Québec for numerous years. He designed Flip Fabrique's first production, a circus show that has toured in 10 countries. Since then, he has directed several circus shows for Flip Fabrique, including *Attrape-moi*, which was staged in Berlin for six months, and *Blizzard*, which premiered in Amsterdam in 2019 and has been touring the world ever since.

In 2022, Robert Lepage/Ex Machina invited Normand to join its team as an artist in residence and creative consultant.

**PERFORMERS**



**JÉRÉMIE**  
ARSENAULT

Raised in Québec city, Jérémie Arsenault has been passionate about the arts from a very young age, when he first discovered a love for theater, dance, and,

most notably, circus. During his training years at the École de cirque de Québec, he familiarized himself with a wide range of circus dis-

ciplines, all while refining his skills as a base porter. After five years of traveling around the world with companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize, Arsenault co-founded FLIP Fabrique in 2011. Since then, he has worked in almost every show as an artist for the company, thus continuing to share his art with the whole world.



**JONATHAN JULIEN**

Jonathan Julien is a true showman from Québec. After traveling across Canada with his juggling set, he joined the professional training program of

the École de cirque de Québec, graduating in 2012. His trampoline wall expertise, combined with his passion for hand to hand acrobatics, have taken him around the globe, working with some of the world's leading circus companies. Julien performed his acrobatic numbers on popular television sets such as the *Ellen Degeneres Show* (NBC) and *Le plus grand cabaret du monde* (TV5).



**CÉDRIK PINAULT**

Since graduating, Cédrik Pinault has participated in multiple productions around the world. He was cast in Cirque du Soleil shows and ESPN special events, and his performances have taken as far as Rio de Janeiro. *SLAM!* is his third show performing as an artist for FLIP Fabrique.

**MAEVA DESPLAT**

Born in Monaco, Maeva Desplat started artistic gymnastics at the age of three. After her first French team championships at age 11, and thanks to her coach, she discovered acrobatic gymnastics. Desplat qualified twice for the European championships and once for the world championships as a trio carrier.



After her gymnastic career, Desplat entered the circus world, first at the École de cirque de piste d'Azur in the South of France and subsequently at the École de cirque de Québec, from which she graduated in 2020. Desplat specializes in swing, but also enjoys other disciplines such as Cyr wheel, trampoline wall, and Chinese hoop diving.



#### NAOMI EDDY

Naomi Eddy—a martial arts artist turned circus artist specializing in contortion, hand balance, and the Chinese pole—is originally from Pennsylvania. Eddy loves contemporary dance and contortion allows them to create new pathways, which results in many forms of versatile movements.

In Québec city, Eddy was trained in contortion by their coaches Erdenesuvd and Buyankhishig Ganbaatar; they graduated from École de cirque de Québec in 2022. *SLAM!* is their first big circus production, and they are very happy to be traveling around the world while perfecting their new wrestling skills!



#### FABIEN CORTES

Fabien Cortes, from Gers, France, fell in love with the circus at a very young age and started his career with Pop Circus–Arc en Cirque. Soon afterwards, he entered École de cirque de Québec. A versatile artist, he excels as a hand to hand

carrier and in trampoline duos. Since graduating from school, Cortes has appeared in several circus shows with Cirque Kikasse, Machine de Cirque, and FLIP Fabrique.



#### ADÈLE SAINT-MARTIN

Adèle Saint-Martin is a young hand to hand acrobat. Having discovered the circus at the age of 13, she trained with the goal of being selected for the National Circus School of Châtellerault in France. The following year, in 2013, she entered the school. In addition to her two main disciplines, Saint-Martin continues to develop other skills such as hand balancing, banquine, passing, teeterboard, and trampoline. She graduated from École de cirque de Québec in June 2020 and has since worked for various companies.



#### STÉPHANE PANSA

Stéphane Pansa's circus journey began at the age of 12 in French Guiana, a neighboring country of Brazil. He was inspired by his older brother, who first taught him acrobatics. After a few years, Pansa began his training to become a slack wire specialist, and subsequently, he committed to work at the Latitude Cirque school in an effort to immerse himself further in the circus arts and become a professional artist. After completing his schooling, he moved to France to train professionally at the Piste d'Azur school. At the age of 19, Pansa has already participated in various international projects and has fully realized his childhood dream of working tirelessly to develop his impressive talents.