



Advance Program Notes

Flip FabriQue

Catch Me!

Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Flip FabriQue *Catch Me!*

Olivier Normand, director

Original Concept	Flip FabriQue
Director	Olivier Normand
Stage Designer	Élyane Martel
Costume Designer	Véronique Bertrand
Lighting Designer	Judith Dufour Savard
Music	Mathieu Campagna

In the mood to party with friends? Then why not join Flip FabriQue, a new up-and-coming troupe that comes to us directly from Quebec, Canada. Take a trip to the cottage with these six acrobats and witness their first get-together in a decade! Haul out the folding chairs for a stunning and unique performance to kick off the party! Leave your troubles behind and settle in for an astonishing, lively show that will leave you smiling from ear to ear. Banquine, hula hoop, trampowall, and humour are all part of the spell binding fun this group of artists has in store for you. A terrific crowd-pleaser!

Words from the Founding Member

When I was a little boy, my mother kept telling me, “stop jumping around, stop running all over the place, calm yourself, stay still for two minutes.” And, of course, I ended up stepping on my shoelaces and breaking something or spilling my orange juice all over the place and watching the glass shatter on the kitchen floor.

“I told you,” she said.

Now, 15 years later, I’m having fun: I throw objects in the air all the time, I play with my eggs in the morning, I jump everywhere, my friends throw me around and catch me just for fun.

My mother still tells me, “be careful, don’t go too fast, watch where you’re going...”

Adults seem to have forgotten how to play and have fun. To play in their bath, to make noise while cooking, to make a mess while throwing eggs in the air. Adults are losing their childish heart. That young heart keeps us in good health and lively! It is the circus side in us. Look! A bag full of oranges, a big red balloon, a playground with a slide and a swing, a diabolo, a trampoline...

—Bruno Gagnon

The Company

The company was created three years ago by graduate students of Quebec City Circus School (École de Cirque de Québec). They performed extensively around the world with esteemed companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Eloize.

The troupe adopts a creative and collaborative approach developed entirely by its artists and director. This approach spotlights each performer’s qualities and strengths to create pure magic.

What makes our identity is the true emotion behind the artists’ eyes. We are all true friends that go in the same direction. Our shows are about us and the feeling we have. The public can still feel our raw emotion even when we perform circus and reach a very high acrobatic level of performances.

Flip FabriQue wants to promote joy, games, and friendships.

Follow Flip FabriQue on Facebook and Twitter (@flipfabrique), and use #flipfabrique, #showatrapemmoi, and #fliptour. For more information, visit flipfabrique.com or email info@flipfabrique.com.

Biographies

OLIVIER NORMAND, *director*

"We spent the summer in a barn at the bottom of Portneuf..."

A SUMMER TO BE SUCCESSFUL

Trying to jump, trying to get caught, to get hurt, to fall, to invent, to relate.

And then we have already arrived.

I love working at the circus.

It gives me hope.

I do not know why.

Perhaps because the pleasure there is obvious.

Coming from the Conservatory of Dramatic Arts of Quebec, Olivier Normand has played on most of the big stages of his province. He had roles in *Les Feluettes* by Michel-Marc Bouchard; *L'école des Femmes* and *Le Misanthrope* by Molière; *Twelfth Night*, or what you will by Shakespeare; and *Caligula* by Camus. He is also co-founder of the Theatre des 4 Coins, a theatre company for teenagers whose first show, *Le fantôme de Canterville*, received the Critic's Award in 2006. Interested in physical theatre and dance, he has been teaching for the last six years at Quebec's circus school and danced in *Ma Soeur Alice*, directed by Daniel Bélanger. A strong collaborator of the company Nuages en Pantalon, he was part of the creation of the show *Lucy* and of *Si tu veux être mon amie* (which was awarded best production for young audiences in 2007 and Critic's Award in 2007). Normand also took part in the trilogy *EAU*.

JÉRÉMIE ARSENAULT, *artist*

A graduate from Quebec's Circus School in 2008, Jérémie Arsenault toured the world solo for a number of years with his act, Diabolo. Arsenault performed with a number of large circus companies and traveled to master his skills. In 2012 he reunited with five childhood friends to create their own circus show. His expectations and hopes have led to success, allowing him to tour with Flip FabriQue and his friends.

FRANCIS JULIEN, *artist*

A jack of all trades, whether it be as a clown character, a juggler, an acrobat, or a musician, Francis Julien took part in various creations with Cirque du Soleil, Les Confins, the 7 Fingers, and various other companies over the years. Julien now lives with his adoptive family, Flip FabriQue. He can finally practice all of his different passions while having fun with his friends. After finding his place in the circus world, Julien isn't planning on leaving it anytime soon.

BRUNO GAGNON, *artist*

Born in 1988, Bruno Gagnon was the most hyperactive student of his class. The day of his 18th birthday, he followed the circus life and joined the Cirque du Soleil show *Corteo*. Two million spectators and 1,534 representations later, he'd had enough. He missed his home and his friends. Soon after, Flip FabriQue was born. Now on tour with his friends, it always feels like home.

Biographies, continued

JADE DUSSAULT, artist

Jade Dussault has been performing numerous years, traveling the world with her hula hoop act. During Dussault's circus career, she has won numerous awards and distinctions that have finally led her to follow her passion with a new vision in circus performing. For Dussault, surpassing herself in her chosen field is a basic need. With Flip FabriQue, she can finally follow her dreams, allowing her to create with passion and without limitations.

YANN LEBLANC, artist

Yann Leblanc started with the circus when he was eight years old, entered the National Circus School of Montreal at the age of 16, and graduated five years later. Since then, Leblanc has worked with the Eloize Circus, Les Sept Doigts de la Main, Throw 2 Catch, Alfonse Circus, Vague de Cirque, and Cirque du Soleil. As a general artist, he is more than happy to be a part of Flip FabriQue, as he adores the challenges the show offers, the wild artists that make up the team, and the multidisciplinary side the show has created.

SEBASTIAN AFONSO, artist

Sebastian Afonso was a kid who wanted to become an accountant but became a circus artist instead. Starting in his 20s, Afonso dedicated his first three years of training to taking classes in Argentina and afterwards started to travel, working, improving, and learning new skills. He almost quit circus after a serious arm injury, but he decided to keep going and prove to himself that with good effort, he can work for the finest companies in the world. Never stop dreaming.

CODY CLAY RUSSELL, artist

Cody Clay Russell grew up in a gymnastics family, being in a gym since he was three years old. Russell did competitive gymnastics for 13 years, where he competed at a national level. When he turned 21, he found a new passion in acrobatics, discovering many different new apparatuses. Since then he has worked for a lot different companies and performed shows around the world. Performing with Flip FabriQue and all the talented artists in this show is an honor for Russell, and he is very excited to learn as much as he can from this amazing experience.

Special Thanks to the Partners



Engagement Events

Friday, October 20, 2017

SCHOOL-DAY PERFORMANCE: FLIP FABRIQUE

This school-day performance, tailored to the Virginia Standards of Learning for first through fifth grades, was open to public and private schools and homeschool families and included attendees from Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Bland Counties, as well as the cities of Radford and Roanoke.

For Virginia Tech Students

The Division of Student Affairs invites you to engage in the Aspirations for Student Learning to do more, be more, and aspire to be your best self.

Aspirations for Student Learning

Commit to unwavering **CURIOSITY**

Pursue **SELF-UNDERSTANDING** and **INTEGRITY**

Practice **CIVILITY**

Prepare for a life of **COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP**

Embrace **UT PROSIM** (That I May Serve) as a way of life

One way to work toward these aspirational goals is to engage in Keystone Happenings. Keystone Happenings highlight the Aspirations for Student Learning, provide opportunities for learning, and challenge students to reflect. Search "keystone" on GobblerConnect at gobblerconnect.vt.edu/events to discover these opportunities.

Keystone Happening Reflections for Flip FabriQue

What moments in the performance recalled "traditional" circus routines you are familiar with? Conversely, which routines seemed particularly innovative or contemporary? Why?

For more resources for educators, students, and lifelong learners to help you dig deeper and engage with this performance and our other season performances, view our Learning Guide at artscenter.vt.edu/experiences.

In the Galleries



PIA FRIES

September 14-December 9, 2017

Ruth C. Horton Gallery and Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

Internationally acclaimed artist Pia Fries (Swiss, based in Dusseldorf, Germany) integrates silkscreened fragments of 16th- and 17th-century Baroque and Mannerist prints into a hybrid fusion of figuration and abstraction, art historical tradition and adventurous innovation. Intense color and lush paint career, halt, retreat, then advance across expanses of empty white surfaces in a statement about the intersection of movement and stasis, past and present, and art and life. This exhibition presents a selection of paintings and prints from renowned private collections and prominent galleries in New York and California.

For more information on this artist, please visit piafries.com.

piafries.com.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu.