

A theatrical performance scene featuring a man in a brown jacket and dark pants crouching on a metal staircase. In the background, a man in a dark jacket and cap holds a large bouquet of colorful flowers. A woman in a light-colored outfit stands near a large screen displaying a silhouette of a person. The scene is filled with blue and white smoke, creating a dramatic atmosphere.

**MOSS
ARTS
CENTER**

Friday, January 27, 2023, 7:30 PM

Machine de Cirque
La Galerie

Moss Arts Center
Street and Davis Performance Hall
Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre



**VIRGINIA
TECH**

SEASON

at a glance— Spring 2023

Sat., Feb. 11, 7:30 PM
PUBLIQuartet

Tues., Feb. 14, 7:30 PM
Broadway in Blacksburg
Hairspray

Fri., Feb. 17, 7:30 PM
Sat., Feb. 18, 2 and 7:30 PM
Akutagawa
Co-created by Koryū Nishikawa V
and Tom Lee

Tues., Feb. 28-Wed., March 1, 7:30 PM
**Alvin Ailey American Dance
Theater**

Thurs., March 16, 7:30 PM
An Evening with
Viet Thanh Nguyen

Fri., March 24, 7:30 PM
Book of Mountains and Seas
Composer and librettist:
Huang Ruo
Director and production design:
Basil Twist

Thursday, March 30-Friday,
March 31, 8 PM
Rissi Palmer

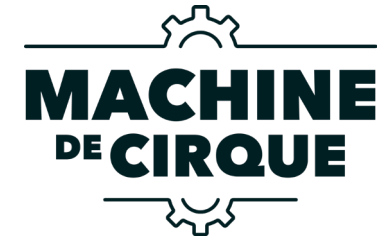
Friday, April 7, 8 PM
Shirlette Ammons

Friday, April 14, 8 PM
Sonny Miles

Sun., April 23, 4 PM
**Opera Roanoke and
Blacksburg Master Chorale**
Benjamin Britten's
War Requiem

Sat., April 29, 7:30 PM
Cécile McLorin Salvant

Tickets are available now at the box office and online. See the complete schedule of performances, exhibitions, and engagement activities at artscenter.vt.edu.



La Galerie

A Machine de Cirque production

Stage Director and Author: Olivier Lépine
Artistic Director and Co-Writer: Vincent Dubé
Cast: Adam Strom, Antoine Morin, Connor Houlihan, Gaël Della-Valle,
Lyne Goulet, Pauline Bonanni, David Trappes, and Marie-Michèle Pharand
Music: Marie-Hélène Blay
Artistic Advisors: Frédéric Lebrasseur, Lyne Goulet, Maxim Laurin,
Raphaël Dubé, and Ugo Dario
Scenographer: Julie Lévesque
Lighting Designer: Bruno Matte
Costumes: Émilie Potvin
Production Director: Geneviève Ouellet-Fortin
Technical Director: Mathieu Hudon
Other Collaborations: Gilles Bernard and Carl D. Jardins

Creation of *La Galerie* was made possible thanks to the support of the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, the cultural development agreement entered into between the Government of Québec and the Ville de Québec, Temal Productions, and Cirque au Sommet.

Machine de Cirque would like to extend special thanks to the members of its board of directors for their invaluable collaboration.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from
Mr. Bruce Prichard and Mrs. Nancy Beville Prichard
and Dr. Charles Y. Davis and Mrs. Carole C. Davis.

About the Company

Founded in 2013 under the initiative of Vincent Dubé, Raphaël Dubé, Yohann Trépanier, Ugo Dario, Maxim Laurin, and Frédéric Lebrasseur, Machine de Cirque launched its very first production — the company's namesake show — in May 2015 to rave reviews by both audiences and critics alike. This maiden production, including its cabaret version, has been performed more than 700 times in Europe, Asia, and North America. More than 300,000 spectators have attended this show, and this number continues to grow.

Since then, four more shows have been added to Machine de Cirque's roster of productions. In 2018 a traveling show titled *Truck Stop: The Great Journey* told the story of a group of zany campers as they embarked on a wild adventure across the North American continent. Then, in 2019, Machine de Cirque created a third production titled *La Galerie*, in which spectators were taken on a trip to the outer boundaries of art by means of a totally out-of-this-world exhibit where movements from white to colour and shifting sets created the most unexpected scenes. In summer 2020, despite the pandemic, the company presented a walkthrough circus show titled *Fleuve at the Baie de Beauport (Québec)*. Most recently, in 2020, *Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight* made its world debut at the prestigious Festival du cirque actuel CIRCA in Auch (France).

New productions are also currently on the drawing board. They are all based on the company's artistic signature, which skillfully blends the highest levels of contemporary circus with musical and theatrical performances, propelled by the collaborative spirit that drives Machine de Cirque.

Machine de Cirque is a Québec City-based circus company that packs high doses of dizzying feats, powerful emotions, poetry, intelligence, and humour into its innovative and original circus shows. The company's ingenious and deeply human creations skillfully blend the highest levels of contemporary circus with musical and theatrical performances. Driven by this unifying vision, Machine de Cirque's unique approach to the circus arts produces shows that dazzle the mind, touch the heart, and move the spirit.

This is Machine de Cirque's first performance at the Moss Arts Center.

Biographies

OLIVIER LÉPINE, *stage director and author*

After graduating from the Conservatoire de Musique et d'Art Dramatique de Québec in 2005, Olivier Lépine cofounded tectoniK, which he managed until 2011. With his company, Lépine orchestrated, among other things, the stage direction for Sarah Kane's *Purifiés*, Jocelyn Pelletier's *Symbioses*, and *Vertiges*, a multidisciplinary choir show for which he was a finalist for the Prix d'Excellence des Arts et de la Culture 2012 for Best Stage Direction. He also oversaw the stage direction for *Le K Buster* (7981 théâtre/nominated for the Prix d'Excellence des Arts et de la Culture 2008 for Best Stage Co-Direction), *! VivaPinoshit !* (Les Exilés), *Barbe Bleue* (Les Écornifleuses), *Coronado* (Des Miettes dans la Caboché/Best Next Generation Show, season 13-14, Première Ovation), and Lars Noren's *Froid*, presented during the final seasons of Premier Acte, as well as the classic *Roméo et Juliette*, presented at the Théâtre de la Bordée in 2011. In 2013 he founded and directed *Portrait-Robot* and presented *Femme Nonrééducable/Anna P.*, followed by his first solo text, *Architecture du Printemps*, a performance presented at Premier Acte in March 2016. In 2008 Lépine co-founded Les Chantiers – constructions artistiques, a spinoff of the Carrefour International de Théâtre de Québec. Since 2011 he has taught at the École de Cirque de Québec. He oversaw the stage direction for the third component of Flip Fabrique's *Crépuscule: Vents & Marées* in 2017. In summer 2018 Lépine handled stage direction duties for the Cirque au Sommet in Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

VINCENT DUBÉ, *artistic director and co-writer*

For more than 20 years, Vincent Dubé has performed on the international scene as a solo artist, as part of the duo Les Vitaminés, as well as part of the quartet Les Tourisk. Dubé is also a former member of circus Éos and has been invited to perform in Cirque du Soleil's *Wintuk* in New York. He is also the former artistic co-director and principal writer for the cabaret-circus show *Quebec 2nd Avenue* presented in GOP theatres in Germany. Since 2013 he has served as general manager and artistic director for Machine de Cirque, of which he is the principal founder. He is the ideas manager behind the shows *Machine de Cirque* and *Truck Stop: The Great Journey*. Alongside his career as an artist, he has completed a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Université Laval. Dubé's training as an engineer provides him with an overall vision of projects that feature a high degree of technical content and facilitates dialogue between the artistic and technical designers.

Biographies, continued

CAST

THE QUARTET

Quatuor Stomp has logged more than 1,500 performances in every continent, other than Antarctica. Created in 2008, the quartet is already the recipient of many awards, including the 2018 Iron Chicken Award from the World Busker Festival (Christchurch, New Zealand), the 2017 People's Choice Award from the Auckland International Buskers Festival (Auckland, New Zealand), the Choix du public 2017 from Cirque et Fanfares (Dole, France) and the Choix du public 2016 from the Festival Artisti di Strada (Ascona, Switzerland).

THE TRIO

Created in 2014, the trio Moi et les Autres first hit the stage at the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. The following year, the trio took up a creation residency at la Tohu (Montréal, Canada). In 2016 the trio was awarded the silver medal as well as the Prix du Public at the 37th Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain (Paris, France). After barely a few years of existence, the trio has already participated in nearly 200 performances in North America, Europe, and Asia.

PAULINE BONANNI, *circus artist*

After graduating from the École de Cirque de Québec in 2012, Pauline Bonanni has worked with several Québec companies, including Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil (*Les Chemins Invisibles*, *Andorra*), and Flip Fabrique (*Crépuscule*). As a result of her fascination with the dynamics of working as a trio, Bonanni and two partners founded Moi et les Autres.

CONNOR HOULIHAN, *circus artist*

Originally from Minnesota, Connor Houlihan developed an interest in the circus at an early age. With a special fondness for group work, he studied hand to hand and banquine at the École de Cirque de Québec. After graduating in 2014, Houlihan has worked with several companies including Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil, and Circus Monti.

GAËL DELLA-VALLE, *circus artist*

Gaël Della-Valle completed his studies in electronics engineering in 2003. Two years later, Della-Valle left his native Switzerland and emigrated to Québec to launch into a new career: circus artist. After graduating from the École de Cirque de Québec in 2010, specializing in Russian bar, juggling, and Cyr wheel, Della-Valle has worked with leading companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éloize.

LYNE GOULET, *musician and artistic advisor*

As a saxophonist with a bachelor of music in performance, Lyne Goulet developed an early interest in contemporary and current music. Since her graduation, she has stretched her musical wings into funk, jazz, blues, and world music. She was a collaborator with the equestrian circus Luna Caballera and several other productions, including Strada, Water on Mars, the Ligue d'Improvisation Musicale de Québec, the Orchestre d'Hommes Orchestres, and the Blaze Velluto Collection, to name only a few.

DESIGNERS

MARIE-HÉLÈNE BLAY, *musical composer*

A pianist by training and a multidisciplinary artist, Marie-Hélène Blay has incorporated acoustic and digital music, audio performance and art, sound design, sound effects, and video into her work. Blay has performed in several festivals and events in Canada, the United States, and Eastern Europe. As a member of the collective Les Fermières obsédées — which dissolved in 2015, cofounder of the collective B.L.U.S.H., and vice president of Productions Haut-de-Forme, she has more than one trick up her sleeve. Blay is dedicated to developing new musical and technical avenues, questioning norms, creative anarchy, producing novel situations, and evolution.

BRUNO MATTE, *lighting designer*

Bruno Matte started out his career as a lighting technician at the Festival d'été de Québec, Woodstock en Beauce, and Festivent de Lévis. Matte was introduced to the circus through his work with Flip Fabrique, Machine de Cirque, and Cirque du Soleil. In the world of theatre, he has notably worked on Rick Miller's *BOOM* and Théâtre à Tempo's *Concerto de Bruits qui Courent*, and served as lighting designer for Robert Lepage's updated production of *Hamlet* and a revisited version of *Needles and Opium*. He

Biographies, continued

BRUNO MATTE, *continued*

continues to explore the stage setting with various choreographers and loves to face new challenges by getting involved in filming, sports events, and fashion shows, and breaking new ground through installation art projects such as the Québec City Lights Festival.

JULIE LÉVESQUE, *sceneographer*

Julie Lévesque, a graduate of the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Québec, is a scenographer with many awards to her credit. Nominated for the Prix d'Excellence des Arts et de la Culture in 2008 and 2009, Lévesque received the Desjardins/Théâtre Blanc bursary for 2009-2010. She has been involved in a number of projects in various media including museums, film, and installation art. Lévesque is interested in visual arts, projection, textiles, photography, painting, and computer graphics.

FRÉDÉRIC LEBRASSEUR, *artistic advisor*

As a musician, born improviser, and creator of unique sound environments, Frédéric Lebrasseur is no newcomer to the circus world, having — among other things — written the score for the show *Ruptures* (produced by the company Les Confins), as well as Machine de Cirque's namesake show. He has composed, directed, and improvised with many bands in a variety of musical styles since 1991. As a musician and composer for theatre productions (Robert Lepage), puppet shows, animated films (NFB), visual arts, dance, and circus, Lebrasseur has performed in over 25 countries.

RAPHAËL DUBÉ, *artistic advisor*

As a multidisciplinary circus artist, Raphaël Dubé has performed around the world and worked for renowned companies such as Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, and Le Groupe Just pour Rire. The towel manipulation number Dubé created with his partner, Yohann Trépanier, was a worldwide hit (more than 100 million views on the internet). Versatility, imagination, and innovation are the keys to Dubé's success.

MAXIM LAURIN, *artistic advisor*

Ever since the tender age of 11, acrobatics, dance, theatre, and the aerial disciplines have been part of Maxim Laurin's daily life. Laurin and his partner, Ugo Dario, have created two teeterboard numbers that won awards

at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris and Youngstage in Switzerland. Laurin shattered the Guinness World Record for the highest number of consecutive back flips on a teeterboard by a team of two acrobats in August 2016. The video of this recordbreaking performance was shown in Times Square in New York City.

UGO DARIO, *artistic advisor*

As a teeter-totter acrobat, combining dance and play in a performance is crucial for Ugo Dario. Far from content in simply being a gymnast, Dario loves to take a basic technique and expand on it to inject his own personal touch. Along with his partner, Maxim Laurin, he is one of Machine de Cirque's co-founders. Among other projects, Dario was involved in creating the company's namesake show.

ÉMILE POTVIN, *costumes*

Émilie Potvin is a former seamstress who shifted careers in 2012 to devote herself to the world of theatre. Driven by her passion for creating costumes and accessories, Potvin's versatility has led to many collaborations with various artists and theatres.

CARL D. JARDINS, *collaborator*

Carl D. Jardins is a musician with a varied professional background. Drums are Jardins' specialty. His mastery of a wide variety of musical styles allows Jardins to tailor his performances by listening and responding to the spirit and dynamics of the moment.

GILLES BARNARD, *collaborator*

An award-winning pianist and composer, Gilles Bernard is a renowned jazz musician who also runs his own recording studio, Studio de l'Ours. Bernard also works as a producer and sound engineer in his spare time.

Tell Us What You Think!

We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to PUBLIQuartet on Saturday, February 11, 2023.



bit.ly/machine-de-cirque-feedback

Did You Know?

Did you know that during our 2021-2022 season, the Moss connected with over 12,000 people through 125 outreach events? Thousands of Virginia Tech students participated in our engagement events and attended performances, while 3,388 elementary, middle, and high school students participated in free programs, including special school-day performances, gallery tours, and classroom visits.

Engagement Event

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2023

SCHOOL-DAY PERFORMANCE | MACHINE DE CIRQUE: LA GALERIE

As part of the Moss Arts Center's school-day performance series, which is free to attend for area students and educators, Machine de Cirque performed *La Galerie* for public, private, and homeschool families in grades 5-8 from Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, and Riner.

In the Galleries

COMING SOON:

Spring Exhibitions

Thursday, February 16-Saturday, April 22

Artist Talk in the Cube: Friday, February 10, 2 PM

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 16, 5-7 PM



Anne Samat

Follow Your Heart Wholeheartedly 2

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

In her fiber-based reliefs, Malaysian artist Anne Samat meticulously juxtaposes beadwork and traditional South Asian weaving techniques with common items, a project that questions the boundaries of craft and art.

Yanira Collado

Zafa/ A Spellworking of Temporal Geometry

Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and Sherwood Payne Quillen

'71 Reception Gallery

In the face of inevitable change and displacement, memories find a home in the relic. Yanira Collado explores the ideas of migration, reliquary, and memory through construction and ritual.

▲ Anne Samat; *No Place for Beginners or Sensitive Heart #3*, 2021 (detail); rattan sticks, kitchen and garden utensils, beads, ceramic, metal, and plastic ornaments; 105 x 50 x 6 inches; courtesy of the artist and Marc Straus, New York

K-12 Programs at the Moss



Experiences with the arts cultivate the next generation of creative thinkers, engage learners of diverse backgrounds, and foster community dialogue. The Moss Arts Center has been dedicated to providing K-12 students in the region with free, high-quality, and exciting arts programming since opening our doors in 2013. Through school-day matinee programs, gallery tours, in-school performances, and workshops with artists, we are passionate about serving our youngest community members and schools. Learn more at bit.ly/moss-k12.

Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo/Monacan Peoples and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Health and Wellness

The Moss Arts Center adheres to the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Tech in its operations, including protocols for distancing, face coverings, and cleaning and sanitation. Our status may change according to changes in university operating procedures. Find the most up to date information at artscenter.vt.edu/visit.

We ask patrons to do their part in keeping our community healthy. If you feel unwell, please stay home.

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The Moss Arts Partners (MAP) are ambassadors, advocates, and donors serving to advance and guide the mission of the Moss Arts Center. Thanks to our 2022-2023 MAP members for their leadership:

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Special Thanks

We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received donations during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, from the following:

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Jacquelin Harris,
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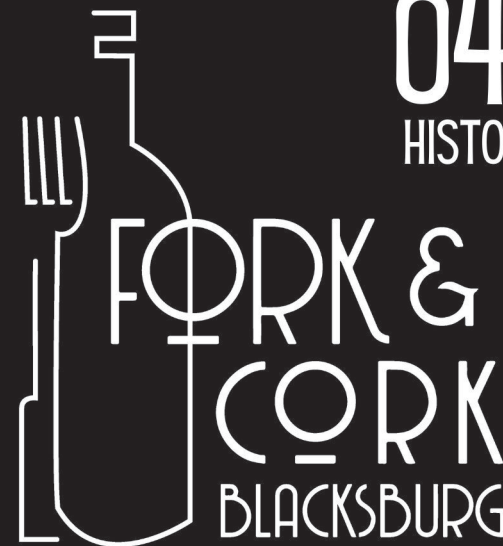
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