



press release - for immediate distribution

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE: Already 5 years old, but still so young! We're celebrating from July 2 to 13, 2014

Montreal, April 16, 2014 – Can you believe we're already 5? Within just a few years, TOHU's international festival of circus arts has responded to the community's needs and established itself as *the* premier circus event, gathering together companies, artists, circus professionals and audiences throughout the world. Our pride in this unparalleled achievement intensifies the Festival's drive to present audiences with all the new ideas, dreams and challenges we can find in the name of celebrating the circus arts! And from **July 2 to 13, 2014**, the magic begins: Whether it's your first visit or a traditional event, from feats of daring to flights of emotion, the Festival invites you to celebrate the circus across disciplines and offerings for every taste, and for the whole family. With indoor programming combining new experiences, discoveries and family shows, and not forgetting its outdoor presence, with the tarmac supporting its share of the acrobatics, everything is in place to lure audiences into taking a trip that's *complètement cirque!*

To open the Festival, TOHU welcomes an exclusive show from Les 7 doigts de la main:

***Intersection* – Les 7 doigts de la main (Canada) a coproduction of TOHU**

TOHU – July 2 to 13

presented by Radio-Canada

Les 7 doigts de la main are celebrating the Festival's fifth birthday! Quebecers' favourite troupe invites the public on an immersive voyage into the heart of memory and its treasure of encounters, choices and new directions... As the tales of the show's singular characters mingle with those of the audience, Les 7 doigts de la main plumb the depths of our most intimate selves to find their subject matter. For circus that is always so alive, always so inspiring.

From the United States, appearing for the very first time:

***Small Tent, Big Shoulders* – Midnight Circus (U.S.A)**

Under the big top at TOHU – July 4 to 13

It's party tiiiiiiiiiiiiime! Under their colourful marquee, a husband, a wife and their children – and even their acrobatic dog! – are determined to get the audience moving, both young and old alike. Besides the pleasure of being together as a family at TOHU, this made-in-the-USA show will dazzle you with its whirlwind of dynamic artists. It's like confetti for the soul!

This year, the Festival is proud to welcome four French troupes to the celebration under the aegis of FRIMAS 2014, an initiative launched by the French Consulate-General in Quebec and the Institut français which supports partnerships with members of the Quebec arts scene in order to present a kaleidoscope of contemporary creative works from France. Ooh la la!

Acrobates – Production Le Monfort (France)

Usine C – July 4 to 7

In homage to a dearly departed performer and friend, two breathtaking acrobats present an expressive performance dealing with circus, life and imminent danger. Thrilling acrobatic lifts and heartfelt solos mix with projections from the life of their late friend – a deeply emotional, powerful biography as well as a dialogue amongst three artists that exudes purity, beauty and hope. A declaration of love made in the name of friendship.

Six pieds sur terre – Compagnie Lapsus (France)

Théâtre Outremont – July 5 to 8

For the audience's amusement, the six friends that form Compagnie Lapsus arm themselves with whatever they can find, like children playing in the street, whether it be bricks, eggshells, ropes or wooden crates, all in the name of cobbling together the terms of a new world. With extravagance and acrobatic accompaniment, the team erect towers, scale ramparts and destroy their own fragile monuments, creating a playful mess to the accompaniment of live music.

L'Île O' – Barolosolo (France)

La Maison Théâtre – July 8 to 13

Circus on the water? Why not? In this unusual show where the Chinese pole serves as a flute and the water as a drum, two clowns perform on a stage filled with water. While one of them is crazy about the idea, the other will do anything to avoid taking a dip. A source both of comic absurdity and beautiful poetry, the scenario will elicit tons of laughs from children and parents alike.

APPEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTREAL: NEW MAGIC!

Le Soir des monstres – Étienne Saglio (France)

Théâtre Outremont – July 10 to 13

A character from the cinema leads us into a stylized world where seemingly ordinary objects reveal themselves to be magical. Using his talents as a juggler and illusionist to populate his solitude with feats both touching and funny, this icon of new magic, an art form that first emerged in France in 2002, transforms the real, exchanging the mundane for the extraordinary.

And let's not forget the Australians!

A Simple Space – Gravity & Other Myths (Australia)

Agora de la danse – July 9 to 12

Would you dare to laugh in the face of gravity? The eight acrobats of Australian company Gravity and Other Myths would! Using nothing but brute force and feline agility to accomplish feats that are as creative as they are perilous, these intrepid risk-takers keep the audience on the edge of their seats throughout this intimate show, one in which the spectators are so close to the artists they actively participate in their antics! Extreme.

When it comes to the circus arts, Quebec's creativity continues to push boundaries in terms of acrobatic technique as well as staging, as testified by these five inspiring shows:

Reset – Throw2catch (Canada)

Espace GO – July 6 to 8

In this show firmly tethered to our times, the acrobats of Throw2catch play with technology, so omnipresent in our lives today, in order to increase the audience for circus arts as well as to draw increased attention to each of their gestures. How can the virtual transform the circus? Through digitally enhanced performances in which the audience is invited to take an active role, every muscular twitch during a hand-to-hand number and every instability on the Korean plank takes on new meaning.

Throw2Catch benefits from the precious collaboration of Conseil des arts de Montréal and TOHU as part of a pilot project for the new generation of circus arts.

Le Concierge – Anthony Venisse (Canada)

Théâtre de Quat'sous – July 11 to 13

The curtain has fallen and the artists have left the premises. No one remains except a janitor... who's not exactly your run-of-the-mill caretaker. Defying convention, the naive inventiveness of this clever clown throws a fresh, humorous perspective on banality. Created and played by Anthony Venisse, the creator of *Minutes complètement cirque* and *Babel_remix*, this Concierge will scour away every trace of your everyday concerns!

The Rendez-vous – Krin Haglund (Canada)

Théâtre de Quat'sous – July 7 to 9

While waiting for a romantic tryst that's a little behind schedule, a coquettish though slightly deranged woman evades deception in her own highly eccentric way. At once diva, fool and minx, the scintillating Krin Haglund masters the art of comedy as well as that of aerial silk, juggling and the Cyr wheel, of which she is the first female practitioner. What virtuosity!

L'Impro Cirque – La Ligue d'Impro Cirque (Canada)

Under the big top at TOHU – July 6 to 7

Faithful players of the Festival since its first edition, the Impro Cirque team joins us once again this year! For the first time under the big top, the cream of the circus crop push all the boundaries to present a supercharged improvisational performance for the public. Get ready to vote!

Kurios – Cirque du Soleil (Canada)

Under the big top in Old-Port of Montreal – until July 13

What is reality? In a show where many strange numbers and acrobatic feats follow one after the other, it's hard to say for sure. In an atmosphere both mysterious and fascinating, prepare for your perceptions to be defied: the visible becomes invisible, points of view transform and the universe is practically turned head over heels!

Barbu – Foire électro trad – Cirque Alfonse (Canada) a coproduction of TOHU

Théâtre TELUS – July 4 to 12

presented by Unibroue

With great pleasure, the Festival welcomes the newest creation from Cirque Alphonse! The spirit of early 20th-century circus fairgrounds has taken hold of this tribe of bearded men, who are determined to entertain you with their cabaret-style disorder, done 21-century style! Definitely hangover material.

Loto-Québec presents

LA RUE COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE au Quartier des spectacles

in collaboration with Radio-Canada

For its fifth edition, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE will remain true to its origins in street-level circus performance by continuing to dominate laneways, alleys and other city streets during the Festival, sowing frivolity, poetry and spectacle and inviting urban dwellers to come and play as if they were in their own backyards.

MINUTES COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE / BABEL_REMIX

Departure Saint-Denis Street – 6 : 30 p.m. et 9 : 30 p.m.

It's spectacular and it's free! For its range of events surrounding the *La RUE COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE au Quartier des spectacles*, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE will be reenergizing this section of the city. To conquer the heart of the Quartier latin – where, for a ten-day period, dazzled festivalgoers will be experiencing evenings *complètement cirque* – the Festival will transform the street into one giant open-air circus ring!

Relaunching for a fifth year its daily public events on Saint-Denis Street, the celebrated ***MINUTES COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE*** team will be seen parading the sidewalks, balconies and public areas of the Quartier latin in their red outfits, its members interacting comically with random passers-by. After a meandering walk filled with surprises, the acrobats will lead the public to Place Émilie-Gamelin, where 2013's successful open-air show ***BABEL_REMIX*** returns in a new, more flamboyant version! Determined to impress the crowd assembled under the stars with a unique circus experience, the performers of ***BABEL_REMIX*** come together, leaping and climbing on a vertiginous structure of scaffolding that reaches fifty-five feet into the air. Prepare to be captivated! Even better, adventurous audience members can test their acrobatic talents at a public installation set up on Saint-Denis Street!

Station STM COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE

July 8 to 13

This year, the public will be invited to test their skills at la station ***STM COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE*** on Saint-Denis Street. Verdun circus school's entertainers will offer initiation circus workshop such as trampoline, trapeze and slack wire for all ages.

La Cinémathèque under the stars

July 7 at 9:30 p.m. at Place Émilie Gamelin

The Festival and the Cinémathèque Québécoise invite you to watch the family movie, *Parade* by Jacques Tati. Circus and Cinema will definitely flirt upon a star!

Saint-Denis COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE

On July 11 and 12, Saint-Denis will be the place to be! DJ Jacqueline will light up the crowd to the sound of her music. Mark your calendar!

QUARTIERS COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE is coming to your street! Circus performances and a bunch of activities for young and old alike will be touring the city to transform your neighbourhood into a circus fairground! Shows and public workshops will be created specially for Saint-Michel, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Saint-Léonard, Verdun and Pointe-aux-Trembles!

A big visit from Planet Circus!

With increasing importance, the Festival's Volet PRO is becoming a hub for fruitful professional encounters by attracting circus professionals from all over the world and by offering Quebec and international artists a showcase to present their art.

To celebrate the Festival's fifth birthday, the entire circus community invites you to come and parade the streets, sound the trumpets and celebrate the spirit of circus during their traditional parade on July 2 at 6:30 p.m. on Saint-Denis Street. Save the date!

The Festival will take place from July 2 to 13 in indoor venues and outside in the streets of Montreal. Come join the circus, and...

Happy birthday, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE:

ONLINE AT MONTREALCOMPLETEMENTCIRQUE.COM AND LAVITRINE.COM

IN PERSON AT THE TOHU TICKET COUNTER AND AT LA VITRINE

BY TELEPHONE AT 514 285-9175 OR AT 1 855 770-3434

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MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE is financed in part by the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal and also benefits from the precious collaboration of Radio-Canada, an important partner of the Festival. We would also like to thank Tourism Montreal, the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership, Institut Français and Consulat général de France à Québec, Heritage Canada, SDC Quartier Latin, Conseil des arts de Montréal, parc Jean-Drapeau and Olympic Park. The Festival also wants to thank Loto-Québec, Unibroue, la STM and Univins. Finally, the Festival would like to thank its media partners, La Presse, Astral Affichage, Cogeco Metromédia and Voir. The Cirque du Soleil is a proud founder of MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE.

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