



PRESS RELEASE, *for immediate release*

THE 6th EDITION OF MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE: A SUCCESS that reaffirms Montréal's position as an international capital for contemporary circus arts.

Montreal, July 12th, 2015 :: The curtain falls tonight on the 6th edition of **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE**. Superlatives have abounded since this past July 2nd, when the Québec metropolis began vibrating with feats by some of the most celebrated performers in the world. Festivalgoers were very many to come out to celebrate the limitless creativity presented this year. Whether it was at the various outdoor sites, bustling with free and family-friendly (and sun-filled!) activities, or indoors to discover shows from here and abroad that were represented in this 6th festival, the audience was in attendance!

RECORD NUMBER OF FESTIVALGOERS!

Once again, **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE**'s program offered an exceptionally high level of quality and fabulous diversity, joining circus arts to theatre, dance, variety, and comedy. At the close of these eleven days of wonder, excitement, laughter, and poetry, we count no less than **235 000 FESTIVALGOERS**, a record number of attendance in the Festival history. It is an increase of 26% compared to last year. Furthermore, in order to promote the activities of the new **INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS MARKET**, nearly **224 professionals from all over the world, including 87 programmers**, converged on Montréal, world capital of the circus arts. **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** is now firmly in people's heart and became a key event of the summer.

The organisers, their spokespeople, and their partners are... **COMPLÈTEMENT OVERJOYED!**

"What a privilege to welcome these talented artists from here and elsewhere and see the growing number of festivalgoers and their loyalty to the event a year after another. It is an inspiration for us to reinvent every edition, always with the same boldness and creativity that made the pride of the Festival." mentioned the Festival's Director, **NADINE MARCHAND**.

"TOHU is proud to produce this Festival has an extension of its regular season, and more than ever this year, allowing it to reach new audiences through various cultural venues and public spaces in Montreal. This feat is made possible thanks to the team and all our partners who contribute to its success" added TOHU's General Director, **STÉPHANE LAVOIE**.

"With this Festival, Montreal confirms its status as a main hub for circus arts in the world. **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** is a huge showcase of the more beautiful, more original and innovative circus creations." affirmed the original spokesperson for the event, facilitator and author **JOSÉLITO MICHAUD**, one of the Festival's most enthusiastic spectators!

THIS 6TH EDITION IN NUMBERS ...

10 INDOOR SHOWS IN 7 VENUES + ONE PERFORMANCE AT THE MONTREAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
8 COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE NEIGHBORHOODS + LA RUE COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE AU QUARTIERS DES SPECTACLES
61 INDOOR PERFORMANCES
90 FREE OUTDOOR GATHERINGS
20 REPRESENTATIONS OF LES MINUTES COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE AND DUELS
205 PERFORMERS + 25 CITIZENS + 180 CASTELLERS + 30 ANIMATORS -FROM 6 COUNTRIES :
AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, FINLAND, CANADA, SPAIN, SWEDEN
224 NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS INCLUDING 87 PROGRAMMERS
350 EMPLOYEES
OVER 50 VOLUNTEERS
... AND AN ABUNDANCE OF SUN!



AN OVERVIEW OF SEVERAL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

INDOORS

From the opening of this 6th edition at the TOHU, the tone was set by the Australian company **Circa's** return with their remarkable show **Beyond**. Big and small alike were amazed by the feats of the 7 acrobats and by the Herculean strength and unexpected humor of these "rock stars of the circus world". "THIS IS THE SIXTH TIME THAT THE AUSTRALIAN TROUPE CIRCA PERFORMED IN MONTREAL, AND WE CAN SAY THAT THEY AMPLY DESERVE THEIR TITLE AS FAVORITE. (...) BY PUSHING THEIR ACROBATS TO GO WHERE FEW CIRCUS ARTISTS VENTURE, THE SHOW *BEYOND* IS NOT ONLY COHERENT AND ENTERTAINING, BUT ALSO VERY IMPRESSIVE." - LA PRESSE.



The young Québec troupe **Machine de cirque** also made an impression during this 6th edition by becoming one of the public's top picks, to the extent that it became necessary to add an extra performance. Crazy charm and high performance! "A CONSTANTLY FAST-PACED SHOW, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE PRECISION OF MOVEMENT COMING DOWN TO THE SECOND (...) AMONG THE ARTFULLY CHOREOGRAPHED GROUP ACTS, THE PINS JUGGLED TO THE FRANTIC BEAT OF A DRUM THAT EARNED THIS GROUP A STANDING OVATION, WILL STAY WITH US FOR A LONG TIME." - MÉTRO

Also for the whole family, it's important to mention the surprising success of **Thomas Monckton** from Finland with **The Pianist**, performed at the Centaur to a sold-out house. "IT'S DIFFICULT TO REMAIN UNMOVED BY THIS ICONOCLASTIC UNIVERSE SPRINKLED WITH OUTBURSTS OF PURE POETRY." - LA PRESSE

TOHU through **MONTREAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** tirelessly pursues its mission to promote the local circus scene, and considers itself to be an important showcase for Québec companies. This year, Québec was very well represented through, along with **Machine de cirque**, the triumphant return of **Cirque Alfonse's Barbu foire électro trad** that ignited the Olympia for no less than three weeks, the troupe **La**

Barbotte that presented its touching *Entre deux eaux*, the moving and highly acrobatic *Ruelle* by **Jeffrey Hall**, formerly from Carbone 14, the show *Vrai/Faux* (*rayez la mention inutile*) unveiling the underside of magic, and the audacious contortionist **Andréane Leclerc** with *Cherepaka*, a show inspired by Francis Bacon's paintings. Always under the banner of audacity, we'll long remember the exceptional acrobatic rigor and high-wire skills deployed during the shows *Warm* by **CDN de Haute-Normandie** and *Quien Soy?* by the Franco-Colombian duo **El Nucleo**.

UNDER THE SUN AND STARS

The outdoor, free, and family-friendly component of the Festival increases in popularity and scale every year, reaching an all-time high again this time around! Over the years, the Quartier des Spectacles has become a major hub of the event, a very busy **COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** zone! This year, St-Denis Street was, from July 7th on, completely closed for the occasion. The 2015 outdoor program included two **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** original creations. The **MINUTES COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** (featuring this year 35 artists and 25 citizens) offer extraordinary and unforgettable moments every year, such as the **MINUTE SUSPENDUE** that masterfully infuses the urban world with poetry, from the top of 3 50-foot high arches. (Designed and produced by Anthony Venisse)

In the air, on the ground, and in between on a zipline, the circus took Place Émilie-Gamelin by storm with **DUELS, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE's** brand new creation. Designed and produced by **Anthony Venisse**, **DUELS** completely invaded the public space! Supported by an impressive structure, the acrobats had a blast among and above the numerous spectators gathered at the heart of the action, being picked out to participate from all sides. In addition to this, a brand new chorus of 20 citizens was brilliantly integrated with the *Duels'* 35 "Minutiens", creating a magical effect. A huge success!



« IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW TAKE ON CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS, THIS IS ABSOLUTELY IT. THIS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVENT AROUND. » – GLOBAL



For the Festival's last weekend, St-Denis Street was transformed into a true open-air circus ring with non-stop performances and participatory activities for all audiences. A part of the rich outdoor programming, we certainly cannot overlook the arrival of the **Castellers de la Vila de Gràcia**, from Barcelona, in Montréal for the first time. Before the astonished gazes of a moved audience, they built giant human towers reaching up to eight stories. At the TOHU, the Esplanade Financière Sun Life, and on St-Denis Street, this group of passionate participants of all ages and fitness levels demonstrated, through a grand collective gesture, values of unity and courage.

“AN IMPRESSIVE BALANCING DISPLAY, A CONTINUOUS EXPERIENCE IN HUMAN SOLIDARITY. THIS IS WHAT UNITES THESE ORDINARY PEOPLE – 150 IN ALL – AIDED BY THEIR COLLEAGUES THE CASTELLERS OF MONTRÉAL AND APPROXIMATELY THIRTY SPECTATORS THAT HELPED CONSOLIDATE THE BASE OF THIS PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY MOVING TOWER.” - LA PRESSE.



THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS MARKET'S GREAT SUCCESS

From July 6th to the 9th, the new **INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS MARKET** was presented within the framework of the Festival. For this occasion, circus professionals hailing from several countries met in Montréal in order to assist to showcases from companies from here and abroad, to attend conferences on the commercialisation and diffusion of the circus arts, and, in short, to share their experiences with peers. Over four days, we hosted artistic directors, promoters, agents, and companies from Japan, Switzerland, Spain, France, the United States, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Czech Republic.

Occurring since the conception of **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE**, but officially highlighted this year under the title of **INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS MARKET**, these gatherings are extremely beneficial for local circus troupes. Indeed, several Quebec companies have been able to organize important international tours thanks to these meetings; **Cirque Alfonse** and **Les 7 doigts de la main** being prime examples. The latter actually presented excerpts from its new creation this year to some very enthusiastic international promoters. Among other performances that have enjoyed success, we'd like to mention *Entre deux eaux*, **La Barbotte's** show, *The Pianist* by the Finnish company **Circo Aereo**, the first creation by the Québec collective **Machine de cirque**, as well as the showing of **Andréane Leclerc's Cherepaka**.

Furthermore, **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE's** team welcomes the presence of an increasing number of participants from the United States and the rest of Canada, and of their growing interest in contemporary circus. This Montréal Festival has become for them an unmissable annual gathering.



THANK YOU!

TO THE AUDIENCE, OUR PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS AND TO THE FESTIVAL'S WONDERFUL AND VALUABLE TEAM.

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE is achieved with the financial support of the Government of Quebec and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the City of Montreal and Heritage Canada. The Festival also benefits from the precious collaboration of Radio-Canada, an important partner. We would also like to thank Loto-Québec, the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership, Tourism Montreal, SDC Quartier Latin, STM, Unibroue and Air France, official carrier. Finally, the Festival would like to thank its media partners : La Presse, Astral Affichage, NRJ, Rouge fm and Cogeco Metromédia as well as Conseil des arts de Montréal, Consulat général de France à Québec, Canada Council for the Arts, parc Jean-Drapeau, Parc olympique, Fiducie du Chantier de l'économie sociale and Univins. The Cirque du Soleil is a proud founder of MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE.

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