



Brice Robert

Saturday, February 22, 2020, 2 pm and 8pm
 Sunday, February 23, 2020, 3pm
 Zellerbach Hall

Cirque Éloïze – *Hotel*

Alfred Hall Kriegbaum (*The Lovers*): Hand to Hand, Chinese Pole, Hoola Hoop, Trombone
 Antonin Wicky (*The Chameleon*): Clown, Cascade, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop, Trumpet
 Augustin Thériault (*The Twins*): Icarian Games, Chinese Pole, Acrobat, Saxophone
 Cory Marsh (*The Groom*): Cyr Wheel, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop, DJ
 Éléonore Lagacé (*The Bride*): Singer
 Jérémy Vitupier (*The Maître d'Hôtel*): Clown, Slack Wire, Hula Hoop, Alto Saxophone
 Philippe Dupuis (*The Jack of All Trades*): Juggling, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop, Saxophone
 Santiago Esviza (*The Twins*): Icarian Games, Chinese Pole, Acrobat, Triangle
 Sonia Matos (*The Lovers*): Hand to Hand (Acrobat), Hoola Hoop, Trumpet
 Una Bennett (*The Maid*): Aerial Rope, Hula Hoop, Chinese Pole, Trumpet, Sousaphone
 Vanessa Aviles (*The Star*): Tissu Tension, Hula Hoop

Cirque Éloïze's production of Hotel is made possible through the generous support of Les nuits de Fourvière, Foxwoods' Resort + Casino, Place des Arts de Montréal, Gouvernement du Québec, Conseil des arts de Montréal, Conseil des arts du Canada, Le Volcan – Scène nationale du Havre, PennState – Center for the Performing Arts, Hancher Auditorium, La Louvière Central, Denver Center for Performing Arts, Festspielhaus St. Pölten, and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.

Hotel will be performed without intermission and last approximately 85 minutes.

Cal Performances' 2019–20 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Cirque Éloïze welcomes you into a timeless Art Deco hotel, a place where strangers of all walks of life meet. *Hotel* is the story of a place... but it is mainly a place full of stories. This is the place where we mingle with strangers for a moment.

From the Maitre d'hôtel, overwhelmed by events, to the mischievous maid, to the devoted handyman and his inseparable dog, Carpette, the hotel's staff is like all of us, the privileged witnesses to the lives of colorful individuals.

Carried by the voice of a client on the top floor who comments, testifies, and tells the story, you will meet the lovers who still do not know they are meant to be, improbable travelers, and a celebrity who goes out of her way to win her place in the firmament, all the while revealing the depths of her being.

Enter the lobby doors of this grandiose place and discover with us the intricately woven story of *Hotel*!

From the Director

There are places where everyone is a stranger to one another and a foreigner to the environs and their customs.

Places that bring people in transition together, from tourists, businesswomen, and celebrities, to the anonymous, the denizens of the night, and life's adventurers.

Places that inspire encounters with other solitary people, sitting in the lobby just a few feet away, or with yourself in the privacy of your own room. Impromptu encounters that upset the everyday balance of things, draw you into the unexpected, into extravagance, and into a new lightness of being.

Our hotel presents this playground and brings alive the circus maxim that "anything is possible."

Through the language of acrobatics, our artists portray these characters and tell a story of their encounters—*our* encounters.

Hotel takes place in a glamorous Art Deco world where circus, dance, music, and song come together around these human stories—just as in life, but even more colorful and vivid.

—Emmanuel Guillaume

From the President and Chief Creative Officer of Cirque Éloïze

Among the thousands of images that fill my memories of these last 25 years, crisscrossing the globe, many involve all those looks exchanged in hundreds of hotels in hundreds of towns.

How many stories do our minds create each time we imagine where the man in front of us in line in the lobby comes from? Or when we imagine where the woman checking out is going, and, intrigued by so much tenderness, we desire to follow.

So many real or invented encounters can happen in the lobbies of extraordinary hotels that we imagine them peopled with characters from another era.

Allowing ourselves to fall deeply into this reverie, we can now invite you to discover the relationships that unite this strange family that welcomes you each night to their *Hotel*.

Enjoy the show!

—Jeannot Painchaud

A driving force in Quebec culture and a leader in the contemporary circus world, for 25 years, Cirque Éloïze has brought together the circus arts with other art forms and cutting-edge technology to thrill audiences seeking sensually rich entertainment.

Its creations, including *iD*, *Cirkopolis*, and *Saloon*, have been enjoyed by over 3.5 million spectators and performed over 5,000 times in some 550 cities all over the world.

Alfred Hall Kriegbaum (*The Lovers*):

Hand to Hand, Chinese Pole, Hooola Hoop, Trombone

Being on stage has always played a large role in Alfred Hall Kriegbaum's life. He began performing at the age of two, and discovered a circus discipline he enjoyed when he began studying magic at age 11. At 13, he learned to juggle, but it was not until 2013, in a social circus project in Kenya, that Kriegbaum discovered his true passion—hand-to-hand acrobatics. When he was 15, Kriegbaum moved away from his comfort-

able home in Aarhus, Denmark, to pursue circus studies at the AFUK School (“The Academy of Untamed Creativity”) in Copenhagen. One year later, he was accepted into a new trial program at Copenhagen’s Academy for Modern Circus, where he completed his studies in circus arts, specializing in hand to hand.

Antonin Wicky (*The Chameleon*):
Clown, Cascade, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop,
Trumpet

Antonin Wicky began his training in artistic gymnastics at the age of five. At 16, he caught the performance bug and became involved with theatrical improvisation, which, in turn, inspired his interest in the circus arts. Wicky continued developing his skills and then decided to attend LeZartiCirque, a circus school in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland. Training there confirmed his passion for the circus arts and the incomparable adrenalin rush they provide. To further his training, Wicky entered the National Circus School in Montreal. His talent was recognized at the 2016 Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, where he won the bronze medal for his clown duo act with Jérémy Vitupier. Wicky has been part of Cirque Éloize’s *Cirkopolis* cast since 2015.

Augustin Thériault (*The Twins*):
Icarian Games, Chinese Pole, Acrobat,
Saxophone

As a student of civil engineering and anthropology, a national-level athlete, a visual artist, and a climber, Augustin Thériault long dreamed of combining his eclectic areas of interest. His answer came late but marked a huge turning point in his life. In 2015, Thériault decided to take a break from his studies to pursue a career that would allow him to combine his physicality, creativity, and intellect: the circus. Since then, he has dedicated his time to mastering the Chinese pole and discovering movement in general. With his past experience (as well as exactly the right the amount of madness!), Thériault loves to create colorful and curious characters on stage. Since graduating from l’École de Cirque de Québec in 2019, he has been perfecting his Chinese pole skills and developing his gifts in Icarian Games and Chinese rings.

Cory Marsh (*The Groom*):
Cyr Wheel, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop, DJ

Cory Marsh began his career in competitive national gymnastics, particularly in floor acrobatics. He made the transition to the circus world at age 18, registering at the National Circus School in Montreal, where he specialized in the Cyr wheel. Always interested in new challenges, Marsh also joined the world of DJ-ing and began mixing and producing music. Since then, he has been on the lookout for original ways to combine these two worlds. With his rhythm, technique, and passion, Marsh can get any audience moving.

Éléonore Lagacé (*The Bride*):
Singer

Born into a family of musicians, Éléonore Lagacé grew up hanging out backstage at her parents’ concerts. Her mother would often invite her on stage to act or sing, so performing has been deeply engrained in her DNA from her earliest years. Lagacé’s artistic work spans television, cinema, theater, and singing. After performing on the talent show *The Voice* in 2014, she went on to appear in musicals including *Grease* and *Footloose*, in which she played the lead female role.

Jérémy Vitupier (*The Maître d’Hôtel*):
Clown, Slack Wire, Hula Hoop, Alto
Saxophone

Jérémy Vitupier developed an appreciation for the performing arts as a child, thanks to his parents, who exposed him to performances of various kinds. At first, he focused on his studies, obtaining a university degree in social studies, but his work soon led him to teach circus arts, clowning, and performance. Vitupier then entered the National Circus School in Montreal. His talent was recognized at the 2016 Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, where he won the bronze medal for his clown duo act with Antonin Wicky. Vitupier has been part of Cirque Éloize’s *Cirkopolis* cast since 2015.

Philippe Dupuis (*The Jack of All Trades*):
Juggling, Chinese Pole, Hula Hoop, Saxophone
Philippe Dupuis was born and grew up in Quebec. Before high school and college studies at the National Circus School in Montreal, he was already training in diving and trampoline. Always seeking new challenges, Dupuis also studied acrobatics and juggling before graduating. He is crazy about the circus, and he also loves music, design, and cuisine.

Santiago Esviza (*The Twins*):
Icarian Games, Chinese Pole, Acrobat, Triangle
Born in Argentina, Santiago Esviza dreamed of becoming a soccer player. But because of his small stature, he soon realized that competitive sports weren't for him. In 2004, he finally found a place where his size would work to his advantage: the circus. Esviza has since become an expert in the Chinese pole, and an accomplished acrobat. With his own unique style of body language, Esviza enjoys creating unusual and aspirational universes on stage, always with an ironic twist.

Una Bennett (*The Maid*):
Aerial Rope, Hula Hoop, Chinese Pole, Trumpet, Sousaphone
Una Bennett has been practicing the circus arts since she was a young girl. Soon after learning to tie her shoes, she was on her way, touring street festivals with her brother, ball-walking, hula-hooping, and playing the violin. Before joining the National Circus School in Montreal, Bennett trained at Versatile Arts in Seattle and Circus Smirkus, a traveling youth circus. She loves to create, whether it's on her aerial rope, knitting socks, or even doing her hair, by always asking herself, "What would happen if ...?"

Vanessa Aviles (*The Star*):
Tissu Tension, Hula Hoop
After discovering acrobatics at the age of four, Vanessa Aviles went on to compete in artistic gymnastics at a high level until she was 18. That's when she discovered the circus world, falling instantly in love with aerial silks. For two years, Aviles performed in shows in Las Vegas and

California before joining the National Circus School of Montreal. She graduated in 2017 and has been developing her performance skills ever since. Specializing in aerial silks, Aviles' passion extends to other disciplines as well, including aerial hoops, aerial straps, handstands, and the Cyr wheel. One of her greatest achievements is her invention, with the help of her coaches, of an original apparatus called the "Tension Tissu." Today, she continues to share this invention with the circus community and the world, performing with the Tension Tissu in Cirque Éloize productions like *Nezah*, *The Pirate Child*, and *Hotel*.

CREATIVE TEAM

Jeannot Painchaud, *president and creative director*

The creative director of all Cirque Éloize creations, Jeannot Painchaud brings together people from different backgrounds and combines various art forms with acrobatics.

Emmanuel Guillaume, *director*

A close collaborator of Cirque Éloize, Emmanuel Guillaume shares his 20 years of experience and skills in the theatrical industry. An artist and craftsman at heart, he studied music and loves to combine singing and dancing in his creations.

Frédéric Bélanger, *associate director*

Actor, author, director, and scriptwriter Frédéric Bélanger studied acting at the National Theatre School of Canada. In 2005, he founded the award-winning and highly praised Théâtre Advienne que pourra with Sarah Balleux, with whom he has shared artistic direction since the company's creation. Bélanger has also taken part in Quebec television productions such as *Watatatow*, *Ramdam*, *La grande expédition*, *Fortier*, *Il était une fois dans le trouble*, *O*, *Yamaska*, and *Mirador*. He joined Cirque Éloize's artistic team in 2017 and wrote and directed the *Nezha*, *l'enfant pirate*, presented at the Cité de l'énergie in Shawinigan.



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**Julie LaChance, assistant to the director
and to the creative director, choreographer**

Julie LaChance started out in the dance world, and has been moving in circus circles for 30 years now, as a choreographer, artistic director, director, and teacher at Montreal's National Circus School. She tackles her creative work with a complete approach that encourages the fusion of forms and genres.

Caroline Torti, associate choreographer

Passion and perseverance have always informed and inspired every step Caroline Torti has taken in her professional dance career. She has performed on international stages and is sought out as a choreographer by some of the most prestigious dance organizations worldwide.

**Éloi Painchaud, composer, music director,
arranger, and soundtrack director**

A multi-instrumentalist, producer, and songwriter, Éloi Painchaud has been working in the music industry since 1995. He is renowned for being cofounding Okoumé, a band he played with for more than eight years.

Habib Zekri, additional musical arranger

As an experienced pianist and singer, Habib Zekri has appeared with several ensembles and choirs. With his many musical talents, he has often been called on to collaborate on major projects as a composer of music, including several youth musicals, circus shows, and video games.

**Nicolas Boivin-Gravel, acrobatic designer
and head coach**

Nicolas Boivin-Gravel is a juggling specialist and has been collaborating with Cirque Éloize for many years as an artist, coach, and designer. He is also a teacher at the National Circus School of Montreal and has passion for acrobatic research.

**Nadia Richer, assistant to the acrobatic
designer and coach**

Inspired by the movement of body and soul, Nadia Richer has loved the circus arts and dance since a young age. Following a career in gymnastics and circus work with Cavalia and Cirque de Soleil, she has now turned to teaching and design.

Francis Farley-Lemieux, *set and props designer*

An engineer and a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis Farley-Lemieux fell early for the craft of set and prop design.

Mathieu Poirier, *lighting designer*

With 15 years under his belt as a lighting designer and photographer, two media that he has always explored together, Mathieu Poirier has worked with dance, opera, and circus companies around the world.

Lucien Bernèche, *costume designer*

Following studies at Montreal's Institut Supérieur de Design de Mode in 1996, Lucien Bernèche went on to be a two-time finalist in Paris at the Concours des jeunes créateurs de mode, where he made a splash with his style and creativity. His calling as a designer was soon confirmed, as the quality of his creations was admired in cities around the world. Next, Bernèche put his art to work principally on Cirque du Soleil touring shows and special events. He has also dressed dancers for pop stars Beyoncé and Shakira and for circus shows for the 7 Fingers and Cirque Éloize.

Camille Sabbagh-Bourret, *makeup designer*

A makeup artist and hair stylist on film and photography sets and in theater since 2014, Camille Sabbagh-Bourret studied artistic makeup at Montreal's Inter-Dec College and professional haircare with Alexandra Munoz and Kevin Murphy. Resourceful and efficient, she draws upon the variety of techniques she has mastered to always be inventive.

Colin Gagné, *sound designer*

A graduate in composition at the University of Montreal, Colin Gagné now works in sound design and composition with Cirque Éloize, the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and the 7 Fingers.

Annie St. Pierre, *choreographer*

A choreographer, artistic director, and stage director, Annie St. Pierre has worked with a wide range of performance troupes, including Cirque du Soleil, Just for Laughs Productions, and various theatrical companies.

Émilie Grenon-Émiroglou, *artistic director*

After traveling the world at a young age with Cirque du Soleil, Émilie Grenon-Émiroglou continued her training in acting and voice. She enjoyed a rich, multidisciplinary career, and then moved onto creation. After years of collaborating closely with Cirque Éloize, she is now an artistic director.

Pascal Auger, *producer*

A graduate of HEC Montreal in management and of the National Theatre School of Canada in production, Pascal Auger has worked with various companies in the Montreal theater scene.

Touring Crew

Christelle Vitupier, *tour manager*

Judith Rémillard, *technical manager and head of lighting*

Alexis Faribault, *head rigger*

Sébastien Savoie, *head rigger*

Jean-Félix LaMarche, *sound*

Stéphanie Chaumette, *stage manager*