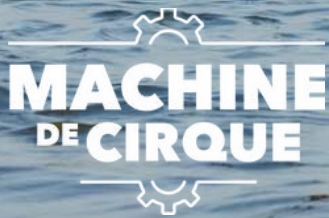


P R E S S K I T

KINTSUGI

A CREATION BY MACHINE DE CIRQUE



MACHINE DE CIRQUE

THE COMPANY

Founded in 2013 by six passionate artists—Vincent Dubé, Raphaël Dubé, Yohann Trépanier, Ugo Dario, Maxim Laurin, and Frédéric Lebrasseur—Machine de Cirque has become a symbol of innovation and daring creativity in the world of contemporary circus. With boundless energy and a flair for the unexpected, this dynamic troupe quickly established itself as a must-see on stages both nationally and internationally.

Their debut production, *Machine de Cirque*, premiered in May 2015 and instantly captured the hearts of audiences and critics alike. Performed over 1,000 times across Europe, Asia, and North America, the show continues to mesmerize crowds with its unbridled humor and breathtaking acrobatics. A true embodiment of the company's DNA, *Machine de Cirque* masterfully blends ingenuity, comedy, and virtuosity, and remains a fixture on the touring circuit to this day.

In 2018, the company launched *Truck Stop: The Great Journey*, an ambitious traveling show that toured thirty cities across Canada, reaching over 16,000 spectators, particularly in remote regions.

Always at the forefront of artistic exploration, *Machine de Cirque* introduced *La Galerie* in 2019—a visually stunning performance that blurs the boundaries of art and transports audiences into a surreal, dreamlike universe. With more than 220 performances across Europe, the United States, and Canada, the show continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

The company's next creation, *Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight*, premiered in 2020. This poetic exploration of shadows and light beautifully portrays the relationship of an artistic duo, focusing on the Korean plank as its central discipline.

In 2023, *Machine de Cirque* unveiled *Robot Infidèle*, an ingenious fusion of graceful movements and perfectly timed acrobatic mechanics. This show thoughtfully examines our sometimes-mechanical relationship with work and its impact on our bodies and minds.

The creative journey continued in 2024 with *Kintsugi*, a powerful production inspired by the Japanese philosophy of the same name, which highlights imperfections and flaws with strokes of gold. This moving performance explores the hidden beauty within our fractures, delivering a message of resilience and transformation.

Machine de Cirque remains committed to pushing artistic boundaries, enriching the contemporary circus landscape with creations marked by boundless inventiveness and the infectious complicity of its artists.

MACHINE DE CIRQUE

THE COMPANY

Machine de Cirque is a Quebec City-based circus company that packs high doses of dizzying feats, powerful emotions, poetry, intelligence and humor 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.



THE SHOW

Kintsugi is the art of sublimating imperfections.

In a bus shelter away from the world and time, strangers wait to be taken somewhere else. They don't know when they'll leave or where they'll go. These motionless travelers rely on outside forces to lose themselves and, paradoxically, find something within themselves.

This mysterious place awakens in everyone a thirst for life, for encounters and the unusual. A desire for solidarity, laughter and fun. In a sometimes waking dream, fragments of their past sculpt the present, revealing a new beauty.

With *Kintsugi*, Machine de Cirque creates a moment of great humanity, imbued with vertiginous acrobatic prowess. An inspiring plunge into life, which is here, now and full of beauty.



WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

Explore. Search. Celebrate.

This show is my fourth collaboration with Machine de Cirque in which I orchestrate the stage production. It follows *La Galerie*, where we explored the poetry that emerges from the artistic gesture, then *Fleuve* and *Errances*, two wandering shows created during the pandemic where we respectively celebrated the St-Lawrence River in all its forms and sought to combine horror with the circus.

One of the things that drives me the most about Machine de Cirque (and as an artist in general) is this desire to always investigate new areas for each of the creations; avoiding redundancy, settling for what's comfortable. With *Kintsugi*, we definitely bring the human being in all its complexity to the foreground. The dramaturgy inspires the circus and its disciplines, rather than the other way around. I wanted to create performance challenges for the artists on stage, to go back and forth between disciplines and chronology, step outside the box, and even push the envelope to the point of sometimes forgetting we're attending a circus show.

Simply put, we're being told a story.

And the circus magnifies the story's movements and symbols.

Finding my inspiration from a loved one who has often seemed able to turn storms into sunny breaks, we explored the stormy sides of humans, looked for light piercing through the darkness and celebrated solidarity. Always trying to find the bright spots that, despite the journey's obstacles, give us the energy to continue to push forward. The beauty of resilience.

We sometimes have to rely on chance to find ourselves.

Explore. Search. Celebrate.

As a spectator.

As an artist.

As a human being.

Olivier Lépine
Author

TRAILERS

[Kintsugi | Official Trailer](#)

[Kintsugi | Mini-documentary](#)



CREDITS

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Vincent Dubé

DIRECTOR

Olivier Lépine

CREATIVE TECHNICAL DIRECTION

Patrick Paquet

COSTUME DESIGN

Sébastien Dionne

SET DESIGN

Julie Lévesque

MUSICAL CONCEPTION

Josué Beaucage



BIOGRAPHIES



OLIVIER LÉPINE DIRECTOR

After graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 2005, Olivier Lépine has orchestrated nearly thirty stage productions. In 2013, he founded and directed *Portrait-Robot* and presented *Femme non-rééduicable / Anna P.* and *Architecture du printemps* at Premier Acte and then, in September 2018, he opened the season at PÉRISCOPE with *Chapitres de la chute - Saga des Lehman Brothers*. This show earned him the Best Director award at the Prix Théâtre de la Ville and from the Association des critiques.

Since 2011, he has been teaching at the École de cirque de Québec and directing *Déferlantes*, *Je ne te vois plus* and *Entre ici et chez toi*, the graduation shows in 2016, 2018 and 2021. In summer 2017, he orchestrated the stage production of the third component of *Crépuscule, Vents et Marées*, a free circus show presented outside the Québec City Agora and produced by Flip Fabrique. With that company, he also directed *Petrouchka* (in Québec City with the symphony orchestra and in Paris with the philharmonic) and *Six degrés*.

He also regularly works with Machine de Cirque, he performs in *Changes*, a show presented as part of the GOP cabarets in Germany, and serves director for *La Galerie; Fleuve; Errances; 1916 - Le second brasier*, and their all-new creation, *Kintsugi*.

VINCENT DUBÉ

Artistic Director



Vincent Dubé has been a circus artist for over 20 years. A true globetrotter, he has worked in over 20 countries and has been part of Cirque du Soleil and Cirque Éos.

He has held the position of co-artistic director and co-author of the cabaret-circus show *Québec 2nd Avenue*, which was presented in Germany, before moving on to create *Machine de Cirque* in 2013. He is the creative force behind *Machine de cirque* (2015) and *Truck Stop: The Great Journey* (2018), which he also directed. He was also involved in the writing of *La Galerie* (2019) and served as the artistic director for the walk-through circus show *Fleuve* (2020).

In 2020, he received the Jeune entrepreneur du Québec: arts et culture award at the Concours provincial ARISTA organized by the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal.

Alongside his career as an artist, he completed a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Laval University. His training as an engineer adds a special flavour to *Machine de Cirque's* artistic signature, which combines ingenuity with wildly original circus productions.



JOSUÉ BEAUCAGE

Music Composition

Self-taught, eclectic and curious musician, Josué Beaucage has been composing and diffusing his worlds of sounds in Quebec, and in many countries, for almost twenty years. Singer and songwriter for the band *Who are you*, record producer and sound designer, he often creates soundtracks for other artistic fields including theater, dance, circus and cinema.

He had the chance to work with Cirque du Soleil, Flip Fabrique, Robert Lepage, Harold Rhéaume and several artists from all disciplines.

Formerly sound effects artistic director for Ubisoft Montréal, the variety of productions in which he was involved gives him a unique musical personality. He received several awards, including the prestigious Bernard Bonnier prize that he received on three occasions.



SÉBASTIEN DIONNE

Costume Design

Sébastien Dionne graduated in scenography from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 2007, and quickly made a name for himself on the Quebec scene. Over the years, his numerous designs, mainly for theater and circus costumes, but also for dance, opera, film and events, have earned him several nominations and distinctions.

In his approach to costume design, strongly inspired by Haute Couture, Sébastien is best known for his large-scale productions where historical references blend with contemporary cuts, as well as for his understanding of the fluidity of movement.

With over 70 designs for various Quebec companies and landmark collaborations with director Robert Lepage (Ex Machina), Cirque du Soleil and Icelandic Opera, his work is now internationally recognized. His collaboration with Machine de Cirque dates back to the creation of the eponymous show *Machine de cirque*, and later with *Fleuve*.

JULIE LÉVESQUE

Set Design



A self-employed artist based in the Quebec City region, Julie Lévesque juggles multiple mandates in theater (*Le Trident*, *La Bordée*, *Carte Blanche*), circus (*Machine de Cirque*, *Flip Fabrique*), dance (*Alan Lake Factori(e)*) and events (*Festival de cinéma de la ville de Québec*, *Productions Rhizome*).

Julie's artistic approach is rooted in the visual arts. At the same time, she is interested in new media and their integration into her work, as well as being an avid photographer, painter and computer graphics artist. Always on the lookout for new techniques to add to her practice, she is also interested in artisanal techniques and crafts.

A designer whose work is recognized by her peers, she has twice been nominated for the Prix d'excellence des Arts et de la Culture (*Décor, La Trilogie de Belgrade* in 2007 and *Décor, Le K Buster* in 2008). She is a recipient of the Bourse Desjardins/Carte Blanche (2009-2010). More recently, she was a finalist for the Prix AQCT (*Décor, Chapitres de la Chute*, 2019) and nominated for the Prix Paul-Bussièrès (*Décor, La Duchesse de Langeais* 2019-2020).

PRESS

"Rhythmically, the story builds to a powerful climax, with the artistic direction's wish to establish "the greatest possible contrast between beginning and end". The whole constantly oscillates between suspense, torment and exhilaration."

La Provence

"It's not just about dazzling us with dazzling acts, but also and above all about telling us a story that comes to touch us at the deepest level."

Danses avec la plume

READ THE FULL ARTICLES HERE ↘



[Vaison Danses 2024] Kintsugi par Machine de Cirque / La nuit des étoiles par les Italiens de l'Opéra

Pour cette 28e édition de Vaison Danses, le théâtre antique de Vaison-la-Romaine, magnifique lieu pour la danse, a accueilli une programmation à la fois exigeante et accessible à tous les [...]

📄 Danses avec la plume | Jul 25



Au festival Vaison Danses à Vaison-la-Romaine, le cirque "Kintsugi" éblouissant de poésie

La compagnie québécoise Machine de cirque a livré une première acrobatique et onirique, au festival Vaison Danses, qui se poursuit jusqu'au 26 juillet.

📄 La Provence | Jul 19

PRESS

"With this new creation, Machine de Cirque goes far beyond the circus world and physical feats. There is a strong theatrical presence. Kintsugi opens the door to an entirely different universe. The troupe expands its playground. Brilliant."

le journal de montréal

"Circus, by its very nature, has the power to surprise and impress audiences... But Kintsugi by Machine de Cirque captivated the spectators at Le Diamant on an entirely different level Thursday evening."

leSoleil

READ THE FULL ARTICLES HERE ↘



A dramatic photograph featuring a circus performer on the left, balancing on a tightrope and holding a vertical pole. On the right, a man in a brown suit sits on a bench, holding a bouquet of white flowers. The background is dark with a blue light source on the right.

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to the Board of Directors for their invaluable collaboration, which is essential to the success of Machine de Cirque.