

## THE NATIONAL CIRCUS SCHOOL CENTRE RING

# Spotlighting the next generation of circus artists

26 members of the graduating class perform *Où vont les fleurs?*

At Tohu from May 29 to June 9, 2019

Plus, second-year students in the postsecondary program present *Triptyque* in-studio at the School from June 3 to 8, 2019



**Montreal, May 6, 2019** - The National Circus School's annual show, this year at Tohu from May 29 to June 9, 2019, is both a tradition for audiences and a rite of passage for the graduating class. It also marks the ultimate stage of the young artists' advanced training before they go on to join the world's leading circus companies. Helmed by a multidisciplinary team of seasoned directors, the show will spotlight their passion and artistic and acrobatic mastery, the fruit of a three-year college education in circus arts. Addressing a wide audience, this annual event has become a must-see for aficionados of a circus that is spectacular, contemporary and bursting with emotion! The show *Où vont les fleurs ?* will be directed by Alain Francoeur, assisted by Marie-Josée Gauthier.

### Concept and Direction by Alain Francoeur

*Où vont les fleurs ?* presents a theatrical adventure inspired by the contemporary television series it revisits, references to which are at the tip of our remote control. Bracketed by a prologue and an epilogue, the show is divided into nine independent episodes. Each presents typical situations ranging from epic fight scenes, to romantic discord to improbable police drama plot twists. A circus allegory in which fiction becomes a mirror of a reality seen on the small screen. And possibly a reflection of what is happening near you.

Trained in dance and drama, Alain is an actor, dancer, director and choreographer. He has participated in numerous collaborations as performer and director with Carbone 14, Brouhaha Danse and Danse-Cité, among others. For the circus, he directed *Cirque Orchestra* for *Cirque Éloïze* (2000), *RESET* for *Throw to Catch* (2013), and *La brunante* (2006), *Timber!* (2011) and *Barbu* (2014) for *Cirque Alfonse*. His remarkable career plus the importance he attaches to both creation and the role of performer led to the positions of visiting professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal's dance department and teacher at the École de danse contemporaine de Montréal. Alain has been an artistic advisor at the NCS since 2006, where he also teaches. He previously created the School's Creation and Exploration Workshop show called *C'est assez pour aujourd'hui* (2008) and an Annual Show, *Pour le meilleur et pour le pire* (2013).



## The Graduation Show

An exceptional educational and artistic experience, the National Circus School's Annual Show presents an opportunity for the graduating class to integrate all they have learned. As well, they participate in every stage of creating a major production that each year attracts more than 15,000 spectators. Centre ring at Tohu, there are 15 disciplines to discover: swinging trapeze, juggling, Chinese pole, silks, hand-to-hand, unicycle, diabolo, dance trapeze, aerial hoops, smooth rope, Washington trapeze, balancing, Cyr and German wheels, and aerial straps. Tickets are on sale at the Tohu box office at prices affordable for families: from \$14 for children and \$23 for adults (all fees included).

***"Thanks to the promising talent of the graduating class, the National Circus School's end-of-year shows (...) perfectly illustrate the quality of Montreal circus."*** La Presse

***"A guaranteed hit with the kids! How do they manage to get even better every year?"*** 98.5 FM

***"The School has evolved into the Harvard of circus training in North America."*** Boston Globe

***"As always, the mastery of these novices barely out of school leaves one dumbfounded. [...] both creations offer a rare opportunity to see these artists at the beginning of their journeys, before they set out to conquer the vast circus planet."*** Le Devoir

## NEW | Triptyque performed in the Chapiteau studio at the School

From June 3 to 8, second-year students in the postsecondary programs will present a circus "Triptyque," a program of three short creations created by Marc Béland, Ismaël Mouaraki and Edgar Zendejas. This new format is intended as a laboratory, a space for research and creation with a decidedly contemporary approach. The Chapiteau studio at the School provides an intimate setting, ideal for discovering the circus in scaled-down form: not only is the 75-minute running time shorter, but major excitement is created with fewer artists on stage. Accessible for all!

## The National Circus School

A leader in circus arts education, research and innovation, the National Circus School trains world-renowned creators, performing artists and educators. It offers the complete spectrum of professional training in circus arts: preparatory training, the Circus and High School Studies program and postsecondary programs leading to a college diploma. A pioneer of the new circus in Canada and North America, the National Circus School has contributed to the emergence of many circus companies, the most renowned of which are Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize and The 7 Fingers.

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