CIRQUE ÉLOIZE
SALOON
A MUSICAL ACROBATIC ADVENTURE
PRESS KIT
80 MINUTES
NO INTERMISSION
8 ACROBATS
3 MUSICIANS
LIVE MUSIC FEATURING SONGS FROM:
PATSY CLINE/JOHNNY CASH
Picture this: America is under construction. The West is booming. The railroad is being developed. In the middle of the desert, a town comes to life. A saloon opens its doors. A place to gather and share tales, it quickly becomes a theatre for stories of all kinds. In Cirque Éloize’s Saloon, the infectious energy of folk music sets the tone to an acrobatic comedy that sweeps the spectators away in a mad rush. Enigmatic, colourful characters come together and reveal themselves, resulting in a series of unexpected situations, unfolding to the rhythm of acrobatic prowess and original choreographies.

Under the spell of the saloon’s beautiful Belle, the lover sets off a chase worthy of the greatest Westerns. The lovebirds on the run wreak havoc everywhere on their path; from the deserted plains to the depth of the mines—until the ultimate acrobatic showdown.

Walking through Saloon’s doors means entering a mythical atmosphere created by live music and the exhilarating pace of spectacular performances.
“The inspiration for this show comes from what has been our driving force for nearly twenty-five years. It comes from the world of the Wild Wild West, with which we share the frontier spirit of cutting new trails and pushing boldly onward, lightened by a touch of irreverence and a sense of sharing and community.

Saloon is a wonderful playground for a work of artistic exploration. It’s the physical energy of acrobatics combined with the poetry of the theatrical approach, a touch of comedy and the musical roots of our childhood come to life.

Saloon is a thrilling, fun and funny musical, an invitation to a party.”

— JEANNOT PAINCHAUD
PRESIDENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR
“Each project has its own history of encounters. Saloon will tap into the rich heritage of our new adventure. The creators, artists and craftspeople integrate these elements into the different artistic languages they use.

I like to choose the people who surround me, as it gets the endeavour fifty percent of the way there. Then, I like to give each of them free rein to exercise their talents and imagination. This is why I propose the raw story to them as a backbone around which they articulate and develop the creation according to their expertise. From the beginning to end of the creative process, this back and forth of exchanges between the talent and I fleshed out the raw story until Saloon was fully created.

Another ingredient we never forget in the different steps of our creation is the audience and the desire to bring them together with the artists around a celebration of music, dance, circus, set design, sound and theatre – to unite them as one.”

— Emmanuel Guillaume
Director
THE PLAYER
[ JÉRÔME HUGO ]
♦ TALENTED ♦ SKILLFUL ♦ MISCHIEVOUS

THE COWBOY
[ JOHAN PRYTZ ]
♦ A LONER ♦ CREATIVE

THE KID
[ SHENA TSCHOFEN ]
♦ STRONG ♦ A TRUE FRONTIER SPIRIT

THE VULTURES
[ BEN NESRALLAH ] [ SOPHIE BEAUDET ] [ TREvor POOL ]
♦ THE ORIGINAL ♦ THE TRUE ♦ THE AUTHENTIC

THE PLAYER
[ JÉRÔME HUGO ]
♦ TALENTED ♦ SKILLFUL ♦ MISCHIEVOUS
SALOON'S CHARACTERS

THE OWNER [JULES TRUPIN]
- Sneaky
- Keeps the Saloon

THE SHERIFF [JÉRÉMY SAINT-JEAN PICARD]
- Loyal
- Strong

THE ARTIST [JUSTINE MÉTÉ CROZAT]
- Courageous
- Loving
- Free spirited

THE STRANGER [FÉLIX POULIOT]
- Humble
- Mysterious
- Hard-working

THE LOVER [ALASTAIR DAVIES]
- Romantic
- An anti-hero
— KOREAN PLANK —

REMEMBER THE SEE-SAW IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND?

Did you ever try standing on one end and being propelled into the air as your buddy jumped on the other end? It's probably a good idea you didn’t. And you shouldn’t. Leave it to the pros!

— HAND TO HAND —

TALK ABOUT HAVING YOUR HANDS FULL.

In circus jargon, we like to call it Hand to Hand, while some call it acrobalance. The “base” partner does all the lifting and supporting, while the “flyer” does all the tossing and turning.

— CHINESE POLE —

NOT YOUR REGULAR POLE DANCING ACT.

Have you ever tried to do like squirrels and climb up a tree? Dexterity and agility are essential qualities for these acrobats who climb high on the pole to strike a variety of poses.
— CYR WHEEL —

IT WHIRLS, TWISTS, SPINS AND TWIRLS, AS ROUND AND ROUND IT GOES.

A single large ring, this circus apparatus was actually invented in 2003 by Daniel Cyr, a graduate of the National Circus School and co-founder of Cirque Éloize.

— JUGGLING —

JUGGLING AND THE ART OF MATHEMATICS... OR WAIT, IS THAT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

Mathematics has been used in teaching juggling. The principle is that the time that a ball spends in the air is proportional to the square root of the height of the throw.

— AERIAL STRAPS —
WHO’S NEVER DREAMT OF SOARING LIKE AN EAGLE?

By wrapping the strap ends around their hands and wrists, the performer twists, rolls, maneuvers, and soars through the air with extreme strength and precision.
CREATIVE TEAM

JEANNOT PAINCHAUD
PRESIDENT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR
The Creative Director of all Cirque Éloize’s creations, he connects people from different backgrounds and combines various art forms with acrobatic gestures.

ANNIE ST-PIERRE
CHOREOGRAPHER
Annie is a choreographer, artistic director and stage director. She has worked with a wide variety of performance troupes, such as Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, Just for Laughs Productions.

FRANCIS HAMEL
LIGHTING DESIGNER
A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis also has a degree in history from the University of Montreal and a classical music training. He is devoted to his passion for stage lighting.

NICOLAS BOIVIN-GRAVEL
ACROBATIC DESIGNER AND HEAD COACH
Nicolas’ specialty is juggling. He has been collaborating with Cirque Éloize as an acrobatic designer on various productions including Nomade, Rain, iD and Cirkopolis.

ANNIE ST-PIERRE
CHOREOGRAPHER
Annie is a choreographer, artistic director and stage director. She has worked with a wide variety of performance troupes, such as Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, Just for Laughs Productions.

FRANCIS FARLEY
SET AND PROPS DESIGNER
An engineer and graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis fell for the theatre craft of set and prop design.

SARAH BALLEUX
COSTUME DESIGNER
Since graduating from the National Theatre School of Canada, Sarah has designed costumes for many productions in theatre, dance and television.

VIRGINIE BACHAND
MAKEUP DESIGNER
After years of training in makeup and special effects in Montreal, Toronto and Paris, Virginie has been a chief makeup artist for film, television and stage productions for almost 10 years.

FRANCIS HAMEL
LIGHTING DESIGNER
A graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada, Francis also has a degree in history from the University of Montreal and a classical music training. He is devoted to his passion for stage lighting.

COLIN GAGNÉ
SOUND DESIGNER & SOUND PROJECT MANAGER
A graduate in composition at the University of Montreal, Colin now works in sound design and composition with Cirque Éloize, the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, and the 7 Fingers.

PASCAL AUGER
ASSOCIATE 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 theatre scene.
PRODUCTION TEAM

HUGO HAMEL
production manager and technical director

NATASHA DROUIN-BEAUREGARD
production coordinator

MARIE-HÉLÈNE DELAGE
assistant to the director and production stage manager

CAMILLE LABELLE
assistant to the technical director

JEAN-MICHEL D’HOOP
designer - puppet

RENAUD BLAIS
acrobatic equipment designer

NICOLAS BELLE-ISLE
project manager - acrobatic

JULIE LAROCHE
project manager - lighting

STÉPHANE SCOTTO DI CESARE
hairdresser

VINCENT HOULE
head carpenter and rigger

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN LÉVESQUE
carpenter

SPECIALIZED COACHES

NADIA RICHER
assistant to the head coach and coach aerial chandelier and straps

WILLIAM UNDERWOOD
coach - acrobatic performances

ANNIE-KIM DÉRY
coach - aerial chandelier

ANDRÉ ST-JEAN
coach - teeterboard

IRYNA BURLIY
coach - cyr wheel

TOURING CREW

NATASHA DROUIN-BEAUREGARD
tour manager and stage manager

MICKEL BISSON
technical director and head of lighting

CAMILLE LABELLE
rigger and head stage carpenter

NANCY VINETTE
head of sound
CRAZY
“Crazy
I’m crazy for feeling so lonely
I’m crazy
Crazy for feeling so blue
I knew you’d love me as long as you wanted
And then some day
You’d leave me for somebody new...”

COTTON-EYED JOE
“If it hadn’t been for Cotton-Eyed Joe
I’d been married a long time ago
Where did you come from, where did you go?
Where did you come from, Cotton-Eyed Joe?...”

WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN
“Will the circle be unbroken
Bye and bye Lord, bye and bye
There’s a better home awaiting
In the sky Lord, in the sky...”

CLASSIC SONGS FROM
PATSY CLINE (CRAZY),
JOHNNY CASH (BAD NEWS, RING OF FIRE) & LEAD BELLY
(WHERE DID YOU SLEEP LAST NIGHT, IN THE PINES)

A GREAT MEDLEY OF TIMELESS TITLES
GOLDEN SLIPPERS,
HARD TO LOVE,
THE IRON BEAST,
OL’ SQUARE DANCE,
RING OF FIRE,
IDA RED,
COTTON-EYED JOE

AN INFAMOUS HYMN FOR THE GRAND FINALE WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN
«When Jeannnot Painchaud approached me to work on a circus show to take place in the world of Wild West saloons, I immediately knew that music would play a central part in the project.

Both he and I grew up in the Magdalen Islands experiencing mythical places arise from our unique island culture, conjured when songs, pianos and people come together in surreal, festive outbursts. To make Saloon’s music magical, we showcase both the charming individual vocal performances and the hillbilly harmonies that bring singers together as one.

In this context, we turned to traditional folk and country music, including “Crazy” by Patsy Cline, “Bad News” and “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” by Johnny Cash and the timeless ballads and work songs of Lead Belly, to tell our story while honouring the pioneers of these genres. In addition, a number of original compositions draw from the styles of Dolly Parton, Hank Williams and the great Emmylou Harris, with whom I had the honour of playing in Wainwright-McGarrigle Noël Nights.

The beautiful voice of Sophie Beaudet and the live instrumentation (violins, banjo, mandolin, guitar, percussion) are a major asset when it comes to bringing this period of history alive.

Having had the pleasure of co-composing the soundtrack of Louis Cyr: l’homme le plus fort du monde with Jorane, I wanted to instill this epic side in the music of the Saloon show. The acrobats’ performances were in this sense a great inspiration for me, dictating the musical drive and rhythm.

Each of the circus disciplines developed in Saloon demands a particular approach. I had to consider not only the story, but also the frantic movements of bodies in space. The acrobats’ high-level proficiency and sense of danger totally captivated me. The music acts like a soundtrack of a live movie and, in this context, the influence of a master like Ennio Morricone was unavoidable.

The iconography of the Wild Wild West and Saloon is rich. Like finding myself overlooking a trove of old sepia photographs, it provided an inexhaustible source of knowing nods and references that were insanely fun to play with, while maintaining a modern touch and poetry that remains, in my humble opinion, a Cirque Éloize trump card.»

— ÉLOI PAINCHAUD
MUSIC DIRECTOR, COMPOSER & ARRANGER
CIRQUE ÉLOIZE

Positioned at the heart of the renewal of circus arts, Cirque Éloize has been creating moving performances filled with magic and emotion since 1993. The organization specializes in the conception, production and distribution of emotionally engaging environments. Its mission is to bring guests closer together by fulfilling people’s need for meaningful entertainment, while ceaselessly pushing the limit of performing arts as a whole. Collaboration is at the core of its beliefs and lays the foundation for its work. Cirque Éloize removes barriers to creation and leverages interdisciplinary symbiosis. Always focused on the renewal of artistic self-expression and acrobatic excellence, the organization ranks among the world’s leading contemporary circuses.

Based on the multidisciplinary skills of its world-class talents, Cirque Éloize expresses its innovative nature through theatricality and humanity, by blending circus arts with music, dance and theatre, in a path-breaking manner. With eleven original productions to its credit, the organization has presented more than 4,000 custom-made shows and visited some 500 cities in over 50 different countries. Additionally, it has developed more than 4000 custom-made creation shows for international events. Cirque Éloize has taken part in numerous prestigious international festivals and has seduced New York’s Broadway and London’s West End.

In 2004, the organization’s headquarters and creative studios moved to the former Dalhousie Train Station, a historic building in the heart of Old Montreal. The team made sure the location would remain a place for dialogue and encounters for the circus community. Its doors are always open to passionate emerging artists. Today, the company employs more than 100 people and collaborates with over 400 people across the globe.

It’s pronounced [EL-WAZ] / Éloize is a word meaning “heat lightning” in the Acadian dialect of the Îles-de-la-Madeleine archipelago, located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, over 200km east of the Quebec coast. The artists from the first Cirque Éloize troupe were all from the islands.
1993  First show of Cirque Éloize
1997  EXCENTRICUS
1999  CIRQUE ORCHESTRA
2002  NOMADE
2003  TYPO
2004  RAIN
2004  Head office moves to Dalhousie Station, Montreal
2006  Closing Ceremony of the OLYMPIC GAMES IN TURIN
2007  NEBBIA
2009  ID ★ ON TOUR ★

A show positively crackling with daring and modernity. Cirque Éloize’s ID is a blend of circus arts and urban dance: b-boying / b-girling, breakdance, hip-hop. Fifteen performers in thirteen disciplines create ID’s entertaining and resolutely urban universe.

2011  BIG BANG exhibition at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts
2012  CIRKOPOLIS ★ ON TOUR ★

A show that combines the worlds of circus, contemporary dance and theatre. In the heart of a gritty metropolis, eleven acrobats and multidisciplinary artists rebel against monotony, reinvent themselves and challenge the limits of the factory-city.

2013  MUSIC-HALL DE LA BARONNE
2013  PARIS EN SCÈNE exhibition at Quebec City’s Musée de la civilisation
2016  SALOON ★ ON TOUR ★

The Wild Wild West comes alive with Cirque Éloize’s newest creation Saloon. Swing open the Saloon doors and lasso up some fun for the entire family. Enter a mythical world where theatre and circus collide for 85 minutes of non-stop live folk music combined with strength, agility and original choreography. Never before has a piano tuner kicked up so much dust.

2017  MONTREAL’S 375th
CIRQUE ÉLOIZE
CIRQUE-ÉLOIZE.COM