

Machine de Cirque

presents

Ghost



Light

Between Fall

and Flight

PRESS KIT



The show

The mysteries of *Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight* reveal the invisible. After ten years of working together on stages all over the world, Award-winning, Guinness Book world record holders Maxim Laurin and Ugo Dario lead us into a captivating performance featuring a blend of stunning acrobatic feats and playful choreography inside of a saturated lighting design. A reflection of the journey of a partnership, the teeterboard propels Max & Ugo toward each other in the euphoria of flight, the levity of weightlessness, and the fatality of the inevitable fall. Let yourself be moved by this story that in the course of one hour touches the spirit beyond mere mortal words.

Photo : Emmanuel Burriel



Words from the creators

A duo is created for a variety of reasons: shared interests, needs, love...

Our duo saw the light of day thanks to the teeterboard.

This wooden seesaw is a core component of this pact, of this silent promise we made to each other even before the age of 20. It initiates this perilous causality: a fall of one provokes the flight of the other. I put my life in his hands and he in mine.

Living as an acrobat means accepting that it is fleeting and intense with emotion. With this sense of urgency, a question so often asked keeps resonating:

How many years do we have left?

The wear and tear on our bodies and the pressure from past success stories drive us to deepen our relationship with the board. We are revisiting this singular marriage that has shaped our lives. As with each of our relationships, bonds have been created, exposing threads on which time has never stopped pulling. Some will become undone, while others will remain tight.

The story we have chosen to tell is our own. Its hazy contours take shape under the ghost light's rays. According to superstition, this night light lets the theatre's ghosts take the stage once again when it is empty. Its sacred and intangible nature inspired us; it gave us the freedom to explore a world that is more abstract, one that is both material and immaterial.

Extended over several years, the creative process has allowed us to create a sound and scenographic environment in which the teeterboard takes centre stage. The pandemic hit just as we were finally ready to share it with the world. Despite our disrupted lives, and the questions and doubts that emerged from the wait, the sense of urgency remains.

This show, this intimate performance, is the result of this urgency. The one we feel in our gut, that pushes us to keep pounding on this wooden plank to let the other take flight one more time and digest this story of sweat, love and relentless dedication right to the end.

Maxim & Ugo



Press

“These two artists have been working together for 12 years. They have pushed themselves to the outer edges of their discipline and shown remarkable tenacity.”

Journal de Québec (Canada), 2020

LE **JOURNAL**
DE **QUÉBEC**



Photo : Emmanuel Burriel

“They have created an intimate show, where light battles darkness. A disarming display of virtuosity in the service of their history as acrobats.”

Les Trois coups (France), 2020

Les Trois Coups



Additional press available here : machine-decirque.com/en/spectacle/ghost-light-spectacle-de-cirque (In the “PRESS” section at the bottom of the page)



Photo : Loup-William Théberge

Videos

Photo : Loup-William Théberge



Trailer

[VIMEO.COM/468605777](https://vimeo.com/468605777)

Short documentary on
the creation process

[VIMEO.COM/400993459](https://vimeo.com/400993459)



Photo : Emmanuel Burriel



Credits

PRODUCTION

Machine de Cirque

CO-AUTHORS, CO-STAGE DIRECTORS AND PERFORMERS

Maxim Laurin & Ugo Dario

LEAD ARTISTIC ADVISOR

Nico Lagarde

MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER

Félix Boisvert

MUSICIAN

Jérôme Guillaume

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Vincent Dubé

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Bruno Matte

COSTUME DESIGNER

Camille Thibault-Bédard

ARTISTIC ADVISORS

Brigitte Poupart, Harold Rhéaume,
Shana Caroll & Howard Richard

STAGE DESIGN

Maxim Laurin & Ugo Dario

TECHNICAL DIRECTORS

Patrick Paquet & Antoine Protat

TECHNICAL DIRECTION AND LIGHTS ON TOUR

Gabrielle Bérubé Forest

THANKS

Machine de Cirque would like to give special thanks to Claire Gras, Raphaël Dubé, André St-Jean, Marcel Hubner, Janie Lavoie, Julie Lévesque, Géraldine Rondeau, Ariane Bilodeau, the Centre de recherche, d'innovation et de transfert en arts du cirque, Cirque Kalabante Productions as well as the members of its board of directors for its invaluable support.

The company would also like to thank its partners that hosted the show during its creation residence: la TOHU (Montréal, Canada), ArtsEmerson (Boston, United States), La Brèche, Pôle National des Arts du Cirque de Normandie (Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, France) and le Diamant (Québec, Canada).

Creation of *Ghost Light : Between Fall and Flight* was made possible thanks to the support of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts and the cultural development agreement entered into between the Government of Québec and the Ville de Québec.



Photo : Emmanuel Burriel

Biographies

Maxim Laurin
Ugo Dario

Co-authors, co-stage
directors and performers



Photo : Loup-William Théberge

In their artistic endeavours, Ugo Dario and Maxim Laurin have always been driven by their desire to come up with original creations, break new ground and search for new challenges. Specialized in the teeterboard, they have been involved in creating shows for renowned circus companies such as Cirque du Soleil and Les 7 doigts de la main.

In the last decade, Ugo and Maxim have travelled the world and explored a wide variety of styles and artistic directions. Throughout these experiences, they have had to deal with conditions of all sorts, at times extreme, that have provided opportunities to test and establish effective and personalized working methods. Since 2014, they have been part of the team of six cofounders of the young and promising company Machine de Cirque. They have notably been involved in the writing and staging of its namesake show. They also serve as artistic advisors in various projects. Their thirst for creation is now deeper than ever, and their passion for driving the evolution of the device has no bounds. Ugo and Maxim are unrelenting in their efforts to push back the boundaries of the teeterboard: they want to see this discipline become the dramatic focus of a show. It is this deep desire that has led to the birth of *Ghost Light*.



Nico Lagarde
Lead Artistic Advisor

Nico Lagarde is an actress who has been involved in the arts since she was a very young girl, with professional training in classical and modern dance. She has played roles in various productions that were as original as they were promising. One only has to think of her stunning performance in *Traffik Femme*, for which she was nominated best actress in 2011.

She has also appeared on the big screen in the feature films *Diego Star*, *Ressac*, *Burn Out*, as well as the beautiful *Monsieur Lazhar* by Philippe Falardeau and the very moving *Antigone* (the movie) by Sophie Deraspe.

Alongside her career, Nico founded the Théâtre de Nord Amérique, the Collectif du Cheval Cabré and L'Autre Animal. She serves as an artistic advisor at the Montréal National Circus School and Cirque du Soleil, and has been involved in the circus world in Montreal, and now Europe, since 2011 (Acapa-Tilburg, École de Lausanne, Cirque la Compagnie, and more recently Solta and Éloïze) where she assists the various directors, collaborates and takes over director's duties herself.



Félix Boisvert
Musician and Composer

Photo : Loup-William Théberge

Félix Boisvert graduated from the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal with a master's degree in 2005. He has worked as a multidisciplinary artist where he has consistently distinguished himself as a puppeteer, teacher, performer, composer and sound designer. His approach is based on a desire to express music through an artistic form that is not limited to sound.

He works with many artists and companies from the worlds of music, circus, theater, puppet theatre, film and dance including Kid Koala, Anthony Venisse, Les 7 doigts de la main, Karina Bleau, Machine de Cirque, Nicolas Cantin, Sandy Silva, Mathieu Roy, Antonin Monmart and Guillaume Saladin.

He is also the co-director of a creation and experimentation space set up for in-depth exploration of multidisciplinary approaches.



Vincent Dubé

Artistic director

Photo : Norbi Whitney

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 Université Laval. His training as an engineer adds a special flavour to *Machine de Cirque's* artistic signature, which combines ingenuity with wildly original circus productions.

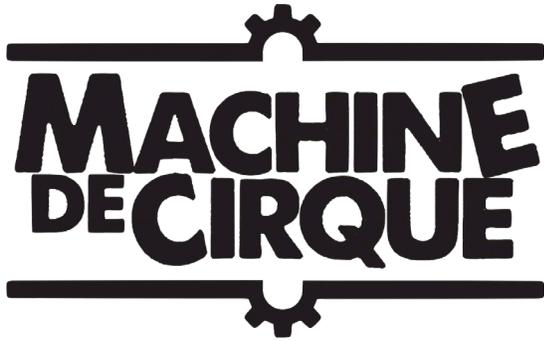


Bruno Matte Lighting Designer

Bruno Matte graduated with a degree in audiovisual communication in Québec City in 2005. Driven by his passion for music, he quickly launched his professional career as a lighting designer for musical performances. He has worked on shows by Richard Séguin, Charlotte Cardin, Cypress Hill and Daniel Lanois, among other artists.

In an effort to push his creative research to the next level, his involvement with audacious theatre productions have led him to redefine his approach in more complex directions. Whether with Ex Machina or Kidoons, he deals with technical issues and blends his visual approach with video. His exploration of the stage space continues in the world of dance with various choreographers from La Rotonde in productions such as Alan Lake's *Les Caveaux*, where the greater latitude afforded by a sparser space provides more room for light.

The circus has become the culminating point of his career, as it brings together music, the theatrical aspect and movement. Whether through productions such as Flip Fabrique or Machine de Cirque, the complexity and refinement these acts require inspire to him to constantly strive to reach new heights.



The company

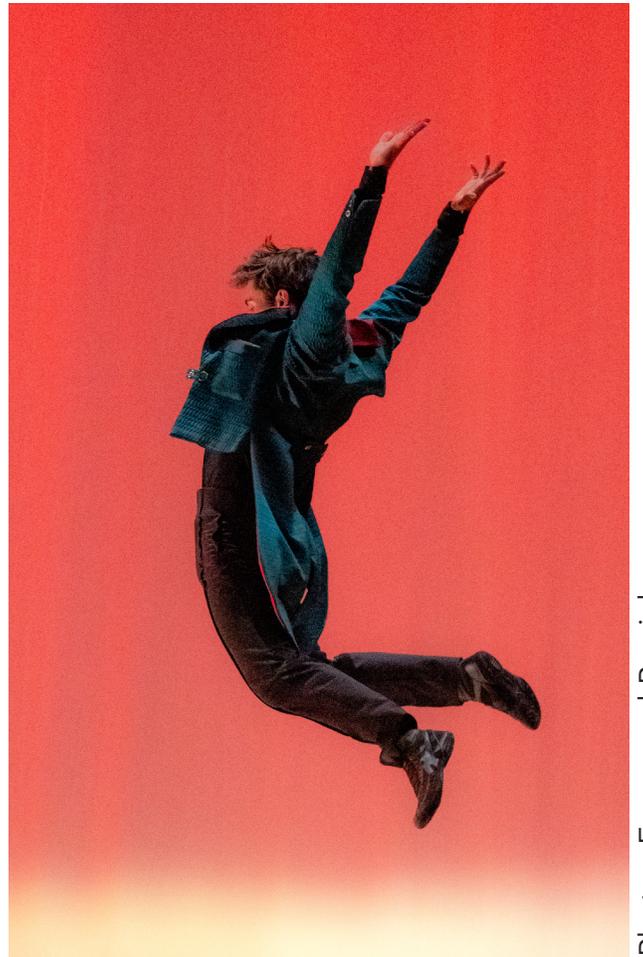


Photo : Emmanuel Burriel

Founded in 2013 under the initiative of Vincent Dubé, Raphaël Dubé, Yohann Trépanier, Ugo Dario, Maxim Laurin and Frédéric Lebrasseur, Machine de Cirque launched its very first production – the Company’s namesake show – in May 2015 to rave reviews by both audiences and critics alike. This maiden production, including its cabaret version, has been performed more than 700 times in Europe, Asia and North America. More than 300,000 spectators have attended this show and this number continues to grow.

Since then, four more shows have been added to Machine de Cirque’s roster of productions. In 2018, a travelling show titled *Truck Stop: The Great Journey* told the story of a group of zany campers as they embarked on a wild adventure across the North American continent. Then, in 2019, Machine de Cirque created a third production titled *La Galerie*, in which spectators were taken on a trip to the outer boundaries of art by means of a totally out-of-this-world exhibit where movements from white to colour and shifting sets created the most unexpected scenes. In summer 2020, despite the pandemic, the Company presented a walk-through circus show titled *Fleuve* at the Baie de Beauport (Québec). Most recently, in 2020, *Ghost Light: Between Fall and Flight* made its world debut at the prestigious Festival du cirque actuel CIRCA in Auch (France).

New productions are also currently on the drawing board. They are all propelled by the collaborative spirit that drives Machine de Cirque.

About Machine de Cirque

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

General information

Ghost Light (theatre show version)



General audience

ages 5 and over suggested



Length

60 minutes with no intermission

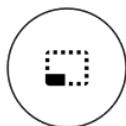


Audience faces the stage (proscenium-style)



Tour team

2 artists on stage/3 support staff



Minimum stage dimensions

10m (33') Wide x 10m (33') Deep x H 6m (20') High

*Contact the Company if the stage is smaller or the height is lower. In certain cases, the show can be adapted accordingly.

**This version of the show can also be presented outdoors on a covered stage with the equipment specified in the technical rider.



Technical rider - [download here](#)



Public Partners



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