

PHILEMON AND BAUCIS

PUPPET OPERA SIGNED BY
JOSEPH HAYDN



A WORD ON THE PRODUCTION

At the peak of the classical period, in the intriguing **ESTERHAZY PALACE** in Austria-Hungary, Joseph Haydn is composing **OPERAS FOR PUPPETS**, also called singspiels. Nobles, peasants and children are moved by these larger than nature stories and told through words, music and songs. In Haydn's work, Philemon and Baucis, **BASED ON A MYTHICAL TALE FROM OVID'S METAMORPHOSES**, stands out for its **MUSICAL INGENUITY AND SUBTLE SOCIAL CRITIQUE**.

The artists of L'illusion decided to **RE-EXPLORE THE WORK IN ITS ENTIRETY** by going back to the source. While preserving the colour of the Haydn era, they shed **NEW LIGHT ON THE THEMES** it deals with by taking a wide view that spans from Antiquity to the 21st century.

Accordingly, painted canvas, ropes and props transform a timeless space as a story that features gods and humans hoping for a life metamorphosis develops. **THE PRODUCTION FEATURES ROUGH WOODEN PUPPETS THAT VIBRATE TO HAYDN'S MUSIC.**

SYNOPSIS

A terrible storm is raging. Lightning, floods and torrents are sweeping through the land. Looking down from Olympus, Jupiter is furious with humans. Yet two elderlies, Philemon and Baucis, remain surprisingly calm. Jupiter is stunned and with his faithful messenger Mercury goes down on Earth in the hopes of understanding. Their meeting will give rise to a series of fantastic episodes.



CONCEPT : CLAIRE VOISARD¹

SET DESIGN : ROBERT SMOLIK²

SET DESIGNER ASSISTANT : FANNIE YOCKELL³

LIGHTING DESIGN : MATHIEU GUERTIN⁴

PERFORMERS: SABRINA BARAN⁵, SALIM HAMMAD⁶ ET PHILIPPE RACINE⁷

MUSIC : PHILÉMON AND BAUCIS OPERA, HAYDN (1773)
performed by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, directed by Meinhard von Zalinger. (1951)
remastered by the Habsburg heritage (2003)

A WORD ON THE COMPANY

L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes is firmly **ROOTED IN MONTREAL** and has been since 1979. Its mission is to create and produce plays that **HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF PUPPET THEATRE**.

The company focuses mainly on **YOUNG AUDIENCES**. In fact it likes to surprise them with **INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS THAT BLEND THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**. Bold artistic teams are brought together on every new production. They take on uncharted creative paths or revisit masterpieces of the world repertoire shedding new light on them before adapting them for puppets.

The company's original productions stand out for their **PLAYWRITING IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE VISUAL ASPECT OF THE PRODUCTION**. The artists devise a genuine vocabulary of moving imagery. L'Illusion is proud to offer youngsters **ASTONISHING, SURPRISING AND FASCINATING PRODUCTIONS** both in terms of content and form.

OUR HISTORY

1979 - 1989

Thanks to an original approach to their craft that is rooted in the history of their artistic discipline while taking advantage of the latest approaches, the artists of L'Illusion are a product of Montreal's rich cultural landscape. A large touring network quickly developed throughout Quebec, Canada, the United States and Europe.



1990 - 1999

To have more creative freedom and encourage an interaction between artists and audiences, L'Illusion focused on finding a location specifically adapted to the unique requirements of puppet theatre. In 1993 the company boldly decided to set up in a space and produce its plays. By 1996 it met audience requests welcoming them in large numbers in its studio theatre, a unique location in Montreal dedicated to puppet theatre and young audiences.



2000 - 2012

L'Illusion celebrates its 30 years of work while focusing on its mission of creating, developing and producing plays and collaborating internationally. L'Illusion ensures the viability of its creative and performance space in order to more adequately meet audience needs. In addition young companies and independent artists are welcomed in this small space, which provides them with time to explore and try out experimental puppeteering forms.

2013 TO TODAY

On the eve of its 35th year, L'Illusion moves into a new space that is forward-looking and more suited to its everyday needs. Sabrina Baran and Claire Voisard are now the company's artistic directors. L'Illusion stands out for its fiery spirit, the passion of the artists with which it works, its availability to a new generation and to innovation as well as its efforts to make its activities



L'ÉQUIPE DE CRÉATION



CONCEPT- CLAIRE VOISARD

Spécialiste des arts de la marionnette, Claire Voisard s'inspire de récits universels et immortels qu'elle adapte librement pour mieux les transporter à la scène du théâtre de marionnettes où, selon elle, une seule image vaut mille mots! Ses créations illustrent la multiplicité et la beauté des aspirations humaines.



SET DESIGN - ROBERT SMOLIK

Scénographe et professeur à la réputée *Chaire des Arts alternatifs et de la marionnette de Prague*, Robert Smolik collabore avec de nombreuses compagnies reconnues pour leur approche originale du théâtre de marionnettes. Après *À la belle étoile*, *Philémon et Baucis* constitue sa deuxième collaboration avec *L'Illusion*.



SET DESIGNER ASSISTANT - FANNIE YOCKELL

A Cégep Lionel-Groulx college graduate in theatre production, Fannie specializes in set design, set painting and costume design. She has worked with a number of artistic companies, creators and professional presenters, such as Tohu, François Barbeau and the Montreal International Jazz Festival.



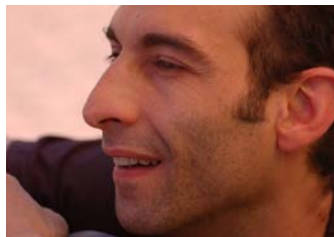
LIGHTING DESIGN- MATHIEU GUERTIN

Mathieu Guertin studied production at the National Theatre School of Canada and the University of London's Central School of Speech and Drama. He has worked with several opera productions companies, including Artescenica (Mexico) and Jeunesses musicales du Canada.

PERFORMERS



SABRINA BARAN showed an interest in the performing arts, dance and visual arts very early on. She trained in puppetry, shadow puppets and object theatre as well as in production development for young audiences and toddlers with Quebec and European masters. Today she is the coartistic director of *L'Illusion*, Théâtre de marionnettes. In 2012 she wrote her first original play, *Ondin*.



Having trained both as clown and puppeteer, **SALIM HAMMAD** is entirely dedicated to his art. He studied with internationally recognized masters, including mimes, clowns and puppeteers. He collaborates with *L'Illusion* on many projects and productions, including *Chantefable* (2006), *Under the stars* (2010), *Philemon and Baucis* and several school and summer workshops.



Right after graduating from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal theatre school, **PHILIPPE RACINE** cofounded the *Qui va là* company in 2003. His vision of an art that is committed, thoughtful and sensitive to one's community is evident in the *Toutou rien* and *La Fugue* productions. This is his second collaboration with *L'Illusion*, Théâtre de marionnettes.

THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF PHILEMON AND BAUCIS

NICOLAS THE MAGNIFICENT, DEFENDER OF CULTURE

Nicolas surrounds his fabulous residence with numerous artistic buildings, [INCLUDING AN OPERA HALL AND A PUPPET THEATRE](#). He even buys the theatre of Karl von Pauersbach, a renowned playwright and connoisseur. So Haydn devotes himself to composing puppet operas, six of them in fact. [HOWEVER ONLY ONE SURVIVED AND ITS JOURNEY IS EVENTFUL TO SAY THE LEAST](#).

PHILEMON AND BAUCIS

Composed especially for the 1773 visit of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria to Eszterházy castle, Philemon and Baucis is a “singspiel” for puppets, a German term referring to a type of opera in which [SONGS AND WORDS SHARE THE STAGE](#).

Philemon and Baucis is one of 6 operas for puppets that Haydn composed during his stay at the Eszterházy castle in Hungary. Unfortunately [A FIRE BURNED DOWN THE PUPPET THEATRE AND HAYDN'S OPERA SCORES FOR PUPPETS WERE LOST](#). All but one... Guess which one!

The torments of the score were not over yet. At the turn of the century, [“CLASSICAL” MUSIC IS BEING REPLACED BY THE ADVENT OF “ROMANTIC” MUSIC](#). So Haydn's works are forgotten.

LUCKY DISCOVERY

[PARIS 1935](#). A mysterious manuscript is uncovered in a bookshop. It is a rare manuscript transcription of a Haydn score: Philemon and Baucis. The prologue and the final chorus are missing, but that does not stop [H.C. ROBBINS LONDON](#) who, in 1951, is working on the restoration of the opera with the help of the [VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#) director [MEINHARD VON ZALINGER](#). Together they present the opera that is staged for the first time since 1776 (175 years of silence) for a work that had almost been lost during the 19th century!

Thanks to the cooperation of Robert Avery, director of the [HABSBURG HERITAGE](#), we had access to this surprising recording of the work that has such a [RICH HISTORY AND UNDENIABLE MUSICAL ELEGANCE](#).



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT

PHILÉMON ET BAUCIS DE JOSEPH HAYDN OPÉRA POUR MARIONNETTES

SEPTEMBER 2015	FIL, Rio de Janeiro, Brésil <i>Festival Internacional Intercâmbio de Linguagens</i>	3 SHOWS
MARCH 2015	Festival de Casteliers, Montréal <i>Festival international de marionnettes pour adultes et enfants</i>	2 SHOWS
NOVEMBER 2014	Les Coups de Théâtre, Montréal <i>Festival international des arts jeune public</i>	1 SHOW
FROM 2014 TO 2016	Studio-théâtre de L'Illusion	21 SHOWS

TO BE PLAYED IN 2016-2017

OCTOBER 2016	Studio-théâtre de L'Illusion	9 SHOWS
NOVEMBER 2016 TO MARCH 2017	Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée	12 SHOWS

48 SHOWS

