

UNDER THE STARS



ABOUT THE SHOW

With **HUMOUR AND SIMPLICITY**, actors and puppets tell the famous story of **HANSEL AND GRETEL**. Based on the original German tale written down by the brothers Grimm, Under the stars **REVISITS AND ADAPTS** this exceptional story.

Under the stars is a **FASCINATING FORAY IN THE WORLD OF STORYTELLING**. It focuses on a brother and a sister **WORKING TOGETHER TO FACE ADVERSITY** and help each other get through difficult times. As a result, they **EMERGE STRONGER THAN BEFORE**.

An **INGENIOUS AND INVENTIVE SET DESIGN** takes audiences into a forest that comes to life while staying in step with the youngsters' imagination. **ORIGINAL MUSIC AND SURPRISING LIGHTING EFFECTS** heighten the fears and joys of Hansel and Gretel, two kids who have a lot in common with audiences.

SYNOPSIS

Two young children, a brother and a sister, are given up by their parents and left to fend for themselves deep in the forest. Yet the two children do not let themselves be discouraged. They huddle together and spend their first night under the stars. And so begins the magnificent nocturnal dance of the forest and the strangest fears it brings forth.



CONCEPT : CLAIRE VOISARD¹

SET DESIGN : ROBERT SMOLIK²

LIGHTING DESIGN: GUY SIMARD³

MUSIC : PIERRE LABBÉ⁴

COSTUME DESIGN : SABINE VOISARD⁵

PERFORMERS : SABRINA BARAN⁶ AND SALIM HAMDAD⁷

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 readily available.



CREATIVE TEAM



CONCEPT - CLAIRE VOISARD

As a performer and director specializing in puppeteering, Claire Voisard initiated most *L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes* productions. She draws on the wide-ranging repertoire of story tales emphasizing the contemporary aspect of timeless tales that move today's children. She merges puppeteering with various artistic fields and highlights the many facets and beauty of human aspirations.



SET DESIGN - ROBERT SMOLIK

Czech set designer and professor at the famous Department of Alternative and Puppet Theatre, Robert Smolik is one of the major set designers of his generation. Well rooted in the current trends in his country, he collaborates with many theatre companies whose work is renowned for an original puppeteering approach. Under the stars is his first project with *L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes*.



LIGHTING DESIGN - GUY SIMARD

A true magician of lighting, Guy Simard has designed for many theatres, both at home and abroad. In 1996, he was presented with the prestigious Fondation Jean-Paul Mousseau award emphasizing the “innovativeness, research and quality” of his artistic work all through his career. He designed the lighting for most *L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes* productions.



MUSIC - PIERRE LABBÉ

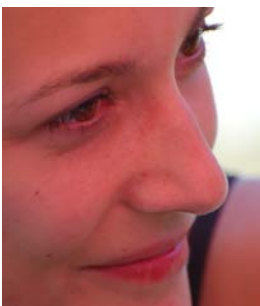
Saxophone player and flutist Pierre Labbé is remarkable for his bold multi-faceted approach as a composer and an improviser. As the artistic director of *Sacré Tympan* company, he composed and produced the *Pierre et le pou* young-audience musical production. He also composed the music of three *L'Illusion* early-childhood productions and that of *Histoire à dormir debout*.



COSTUME DESIGN - SABINE VOISARD

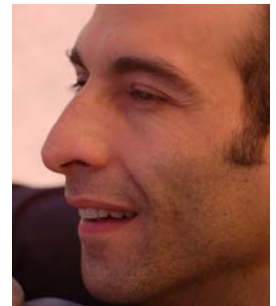
As a costume history specialist, Sabine Voisard combines costume-making and artistic clothing. She teaches at *Maison des métiers d'art de Québec*, headed the costume workshop at the *Opéra de Québec* opera house and was workshop head at the well-known *Myco Anna* brand. As a long-time collaborator of *L'Illusion*, she is responsible for the fabric aspect of most of the company's productions.

PERFORMERS



SABRINA BARAN

Involved early on in creating the production, puppeteers **SABRINA BARAN** and **SALIM HAMMAD** inspire this timeless and universal story tale. These sensitive artists are constantly honing their art. They have become experts in various techniques associated with puppeteering. Their first involvement with *L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes* was in the *Chantefable* production and proved to be a resounding success. Ever since, the company has been working on regular basis with these two multi-talented artists.



SALIM HAMMAD

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

CLAIRE VOISARD

The work that the brothers Grimm did in the 19th century Germany fascinates me. **TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE** to listen and **COLLECT GENUINE STORIES** that have stood the test of time is a unique journey!

Thanks to them, our **COLLECTIVE IMAGINATION HAS BEEN ENRICHED WITH THOUSANDS OF STORIES**, called tales, which have helped us explore the complexity of human nature. The deep-felt aspirations and fears are all depicted vividly and are based on **TIMELESS QUESTIONS**.

Among all the stories told by the brothers Grimm, the story of Hansel and Gretel **HAS MOVED ME SINCE MY EARLY CHILDHOOD**. It is only when I became an adult that I understood the real meaning of an initiatory tale highlighting the **CHILD'S NEED TO TAKE CHARGE OF HIS/HER OWN LIFE** with respect to his/her parents. As the story develops, readers learn that **THEY NEED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEMSELVES TO OVERCOME THEIR FEARS** and find out who they are or at least who they want to become.

Today I want to have you relive this story and offer it to children eager to **EXPERIENCE MARVELLOUS ADVENTURES THAT WILL HELP THEM GROW**. And like Wilhelm Grimm does in his tales, I hope that the impact of *Under the stars* can be summarized as follows:

**“...EVEN IF IT WERE BUT A SINGLE DROP
CAUGHT BY A SMALL LEAF
IT WOULD NONETHELESS SHINE IN THE DAWN'S FIRST LIGHT.”**

Wilhelm Grimm

CLAIRE VOISARD



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHT

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| MAY 2016 | Calgary International Children's festival | 7 SHOWS |
| JANUARY 2016 | Maison des arts de Laval | 3 SHOWS |
| SEPTEMBER 2015 | Centre communautaire de Blainville | 1 SHOW |
| MAY 2015 | Northern Alberta International Children's Festival | 9 SHOWS |
| MAY 2014 | Ottawa International Children's Festival | 7 SHOWS |
| MARCH 2014 | In collaboration with la Nuit Blanche à Montréal | 1 SHOW |
| JANUARY 2014 | Selected at the International Performing arts for Youth <i>Pittsburgh, États-Unis</i> | 2 SHOWS |
| NOVEMBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014 | En tournée au Québec <i>Châteauguay, Boucherville, Maison de la culture NDG</i> | 3 SHOWS |
| MAY 2013 | Chicago Humanities Festival <i>Stages, Sights & Sounds</i> | 7 SHOWS |
| APRIL 2013 | Living Art Center de Mississauga et Réseau Ontario | 15 SHOWS |
| JANUARY TO MARCH 2013 | Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée | 12 SHOWS |
| NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY 2013 | En tournée au Québec <i>Gatineau, Trois-Rivières, St-Bruno, Thetford Mines, Richmond, Coaticook</i> | 14 SHOWS |
| MAY 2012 | Vancouver International Children's Festival | 8 SHOWS |
| MAY 2012 | Surrey Children's Festival | 6 SHOWS |
| FEBRUARY 2012 | In collaboration with the Festival Montréal en Lumière | 2 SHOWS |
| OCTOBER TO JANUARY 2011 | En tournée au Québec <i>Blainville, Mégantic, LaSalle, Montréal-Nord</i> | 4 SHOWS |
| MAY 2011 | Festival Petits Bonheurs | 4 SHOWS |
| NOVEMBER 2010 | Festival Les Coups de Théâtre | 2 SHOWS |
| SEPTEMBER 2010 | Festival International des arts de la marionnettes <i>à Saguenay</i> | 4 SHOWS |
| FROM 2010 TO 2015 | Studio-théâtre de L'illusion | 75 SHOWS |

186 SHOWS



REVIEWS



(translation) L'Illusion is a Québec-based company with **30 YEARS OF PUPPETEERING** under its belt. This is all very noticeable.

Its craft workers have **TONS OF IMAGINATION TO TRANSFORM OBJECTS AND PROPS** and illustrate the story of two children lost in a forest.

LE SOLEIL, SEPTEMBER 18TH 2010

(translation) **UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF YOUNG AUDIENCES**, Under the stars demonstrates how the two children can **WORK TOGETHER DESPITE ADVERSITY**, collaborate and overcome difficult times that will **MAKE THEM STRONGER**.

The children in the audience yesterday **BURST OUT LAUGHING** during the funny moments and had fun **TRYING TO GUESS WHAT WAS COMING UP NEXT**. Some of them screamed "There's the witch, the witch!"

LE QUOTIDIEN, SEPTEMBER 18TH 2010



(translation) [...] Claire Voisard's latest creation is **UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED IN HER REPERTOIRE** [...]

Sabrina Baran and Salim Hammad, the two actor/puppeteers in the play, are an **INVENTIVE AND ENDEARING DUO** [...]

LA PRESSE, NOVEMBER 13TH 2010

(translation) **SKILFULLY AND DEFTLY OPERATED**, the charming puppets express a whole range of emotions [...]

The version staged by Claire Voisard is **FULL OF IMAGERY AND TOTALLY EFFECTIVE**.

FOR THE LOVELY PUPPETS AND THE INGENIOUS SET DESIGN, Under the stars proves to be a **FETCHING INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING** for children 5 to 10 years of age.

MON THÉÂTRE.QC.CA, NOVEMBER 18TH 2010

