

# ARCHIPELAGO



## ABOUT THE SHOW

Archipelago is an **invitation to explore and interact** with others. It's a **playful, poetic journey** into a world full of movement.

On stage, a puppeteer, a dancer and a musician assemble their **imaginary islands**, weaving them together to create unusual forms of life.

Thanks to an inventive scenography perfectly matched to the surprising **puppets** and organic live **music**, this highly visual proposition will inspire **dreams** and **wonder** in young and old alike.

Somewhere in the middle of time, three star-sisters dream of adventure! Together, they embark on a journey to the heart of a vast and endless archipelago.

The space around them transforms. Everything moves, revealing unusual islands that they assemble and fragment as their imaginations unfold, scattering pearls of light along the way.

In the course of their journey, they meet curious and fascinating insular creatures, who lead them further towards the discovery of others, of themselves and of their ever-changing universe.

## CREATIVE TEAM

**ORIGINAL IDEA AND STAGE DIRECTION** : SABRINA BARAN

**DRAMATURGY AND TEXT**: LOUIS-CHARLES SYLVESTRE

**SCENOGRAPHY** : LAURENCE GAGNON LEFEBVRE

**SOUND DESIGN** : MARYSE POULIN

**PUPPET DESIGN** : SOPHIE DESLAURIERS ET LAURENCE GAGNON LEFEBVRE

**ASSISTANT PUPPET MAKER** : CÉLINE CHEVRIER

**COSTUME DESIGN** : SOPHIE DESLAURIERS

**LIGHT DESIGN** : AUDREY-ANNE BOUCHARD

**CAST** : PAOLA HUITRÓN, MARYSE POULIN AND CITLALI GERMÉ (ALTERNATING WITH CLAUDE BELLEMARE)

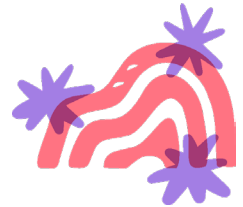
# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It all began with a spark.

While staying on the archipelago of Japan, I recalled, almost like a dream, *Et moi, je suis une île*, by author Anthony Phelps. In this tale, the island of Montreal tells a poet how one day it rose from its bed in the St. Lawrence River to meet its sisters, the Caribbean islands.

I began to dream about this sorority of islands, about what they evoke, their mythologies and the magic that surrounds them. I asked myself: what do the islands have to say to me? I then ventured to listen to them, to give them a voice and the freedom to move. They took me far beyond anything I could have imagined... I brought together a team of artists who inspire me so we could seek out our imaginary islands and connect them to each other. Together, we explored islands as a metaphor for "us". We began by roaming the four corners of our island of Montreal, then made our way to the legendary Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Facing the open sea, words, images and sounds emerged, all imbued with the magic of this archipelago. We swirled them in all directions, following our inspiration. The result is a cosmic archipelago floating in the midst of immensity, a world where anything is possible, where everything is in constant motion.

Welcome to our archipelago, enjoy the show, and above all, enjoy the journey!



# CREATIVE TEAM

## ORIGINAL IDEA AND DIRECTOR

### SABRINA BARAN

Artistic director of L'illusion, Sabrina trained in puppet theater and creation for young audiences with artists from Quebec and Europe. She is involved in the creation, development and performance of the company's shows, including *Chantefable*, *À la belle étoile* and *Philémon et Baucis*. In 2012, she created *Ondin*, her first show, followed by *Tommelise* (2017) and *Conte du Littoral* (2018). These shows have been presented in Quebec, Canada and internationally.

## DRAMATURGY AND TEXT

### LOUIS-CHARLES SYLVESTRE

Louis-Charles is a long-time collaborator with L'illusion. He was a performer in *Histoire à dormir debout* and *Conte du Littoral*, for which he also wrote the text. He has extensive experience in writing for young audiences, both for theater (*Chico et la montagne*, *Polo le voyage de l'autre côté*, *La chasse aux cookies*) and television (*Les Sapiens*, *Les Mutants*, *Nicolas Noël*). Since 2020, he teaches at the National Theatre School of Canada (French section).

## PERFORMANCE

### CITLALI GERMÉ

Born in Mexico, Citlali trains as a dancer in France. She begins her career in Paris, working with several up-and-coming choreographers. In 2013, Citlali moves to Tiohtià:ke (Montreal). Since then, she collaborates with several local companies, including Ondinnok, L'illusion, Le Carrousel, Dynamo théâtre, Sinha Danse and Van Grimde corps secret. Citlali also develops her own creations, including *À l'Aube de l'Amertume* (2019) and *Moi, Chiquita* (2022).

## PERFORMANCE

### PAOLA HUITRÓN

After graduating in acting in Mexico, Paola works with various professional puppet theater companies. In 2013, she begins a research project on puppetry and materials that takes her around the world. She moves here to complete a master's degree on virtual puppetry at L'École Supérieure de Théâtre de l'UQAM. In addition to working on her own creations, she collaborates with several Quebec companies, including Valise Théâtre, L'illusion and Théâtre Motus.

## SOUND DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

### MARYSE POULIN

An artist of the body, sound and image, Maryse uses and integrates a variety of artistic languages into her work. After five seasons with O'Vertigo, she begins her own research into movement. A self-taught musician, sound designer for theatre, accompanist for poetry and sound hunter in life, she creates music for the stage using a vast array of instruments. The Académie Québécoise du théâtre has twice awarded her the Masque for sound design.

# REVIEW EXCERPTS

The show offers itself as a sensory journey to the heart of a reinvented archipelago, where everything is to be done, imagined and discovered. A puppet show, object of all possibilities, that allows us to go beyond what is real, to invent a new world, an entire archipelago. (translated)

**LE DEVOIR - MAY 2022 | MARIE FRADETTE**

Travelling through sound and light. Learning about yourself through travelling. Opening yourself up to appreciate beauty. Relying on others to overcome fears. These are just some of the fundamental issues that *Archipelago's* kindhearted adventurers tackle in a simple, fun and deeply authentic way. (translated)

**JEU, REVUE DE THÉÂTRE - DECEMBRE 2022 | SYLVIE ST-JACQUES**



# THEATRICAL RELEASE CALENDAR

|                               |                                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>MAY 22 TO 23, 2024</b>     | Salle Pauline Julien, Montréal                      | <b>4 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>MAY 9 TO 11, 2024</b>      | Maison des Arts de Laval                            | <b>3 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>MAY 5, 2024</b>            | Culture 3R, Trois-Rivières                          | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>APRIL 7 TO 10, 2024</b>    | Théâtre Gilles Vigneault, Saint-Jérôme              | <b>6 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>MARCH 16, 2024</b>         | Centre communautaire Gerry Robertson, Pierrefond    | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>FEB. 6 TO 8, 2024</b>      | Maison culturelle et communautaire de Montréal-Nord | <b>5 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>DEC. 9, 2023</b>           | Maison de la culture Janine Sutto, Montréal         | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>NOV. 19, 2023</b>          | Salle de diffusion de Parc-Extension, Montréal      | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>NOV. 18, 2023</b>          | Quai 5160 - Maison de la culture de Verdun          | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>NOV 12 TO 13, 2023</b>     | Théâtre Desjardins, LaSalle                         | <b>2 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>OCT. 22, 2023</b>          | Théâtre Mirella et Lino Saputo, Saint-Léonard       | <b>1 SHOW</b>   |
| <b>OCT. 3 TO 15, 2023</b>     | L'Illusion, Montréal                                | <b>12 SHOWS</b> |
| <b>MARCH 5 TO 8, 2023</b>     | L'Arrière Scène, Beloeil                            | <b>3 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>DEC. 27 TO JAN 8, 2023</b> | Maison Théâtre, Montréal                            | <b>12 SHOWS</b> |
| <b>DEC. 1 TO 13, 2022</b>     | Théâtre français, National Art Centre, Ottawa       | <b>5 SHOWS</b>  |
| <b>MAY 13 TO 15, 2022</b>     | Festival Petits Bonheurs, Montréal                  | <b>6 SHOWS</b>  |

**64 SHOWS**

# ABOUT L'ILLUSION

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 young audiences ASTONISHING, SURPRISING AND FASCINATING PRODUCTIONS both in terms of content and form.

# HISTORY

**1979 - 1989** Thanks to an original approach to their craft that is rooted in the history of their artistic discipline and its ever-evolving innovative approaches, the artists of L'illusion establish strong foundations in 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 its own space and produce its plays. By 1996, it was meeting the demand of its public, who visited its Studio-théâtre in great numbers, a unique space in Montreal dedicated to puppet theater and children's theater.

**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** The artistic director is now Sabrina Baran. L'illusion stands out for the enthusiasm and passion of the artists who work there, for its openness to newcomers and innovation, and for its efforts to facilitate access to its activities. Today, L'illusion has realised a long-awaited dream: the construction of a true theatrical hub, anchored at the corner of St-Denis and Beaubien streets in Montreal. Since the inauguration of its new space in 2023, L'illusion has once more become a gathering place for children, adults and all those who are passionate about the puppet arts.

