

MAKINGOUIN

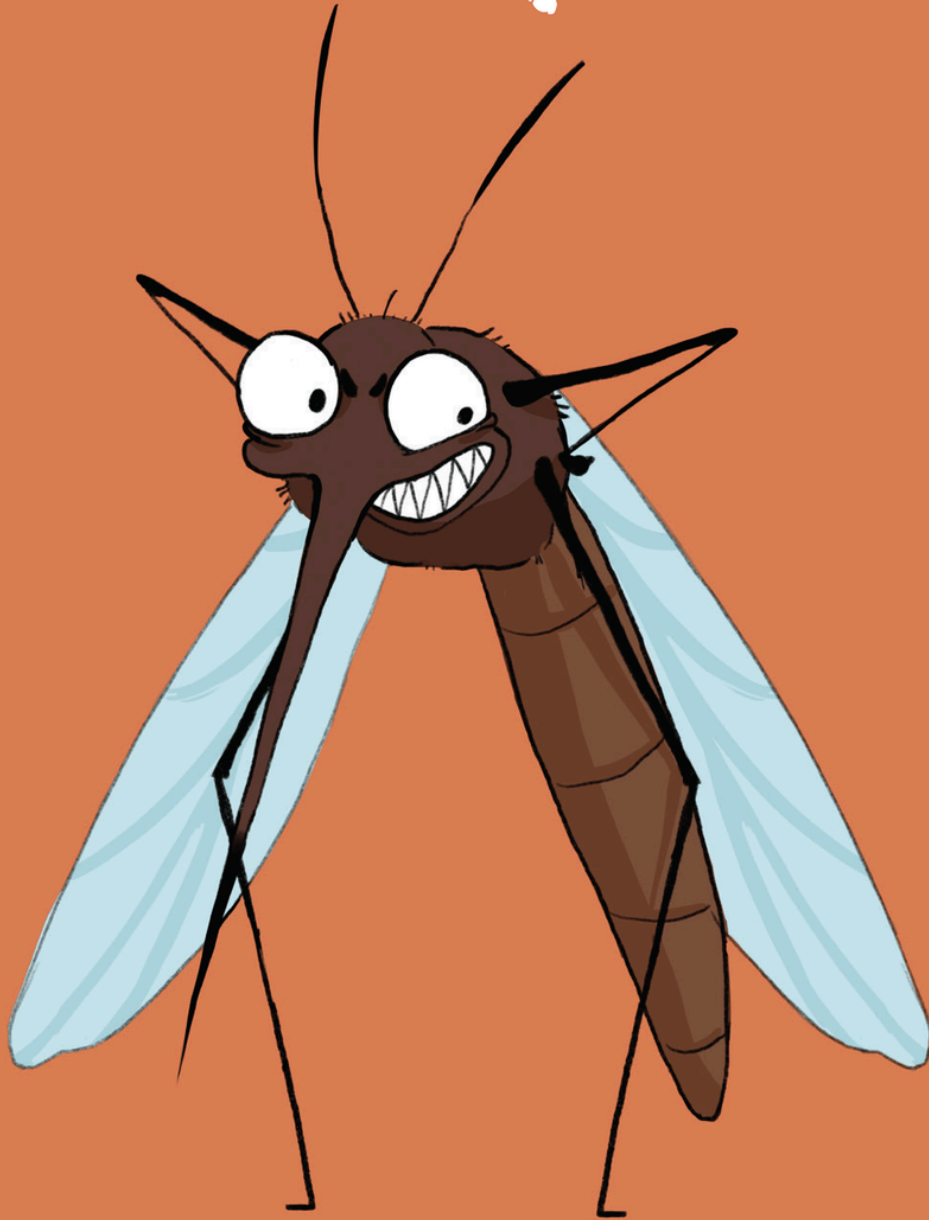


Illustration : Quinn Brisindi-Bégin
Conception graphique : Crocus

Mission

Le Gros Orteil is an organization whose mission is to create high quality shows for young audiences, combining the disciplines of clown, theater, and circus. We advocate improvisation as a starting point when bringing a show to life, truthful emotions and interaction with the audience are also a priority. Because children are spontaneous sparks with an overflowing imagination, our performances give a large space for the imagination to flourish, with themes related to travelling and dreaming. Without the fourth wall, the artists embark the children in a journey made out of stories, emotions and personal thoughts. Without necessarily it being the main objective, a pedagogical focus is always present in the productions of the company. The educational message gets incorporated subtly into the performing arts, without taking away their essence.





Mosquito

Circus and clowning

In the heart of a forest that feels both fictional and familiar, a campsite lives up all too well to its name. It's here that Gus and Zoé, two characters as quirky as they are clownish, cross paths. He's methodical, prepared, and slightly anxious... so naturally, he forgot his tent. She embodies inner peace... and thought she was arriving at a silent meditation retreat.

When a storm breaks out, the unlikely pair is forced to cooperate under a makeshift shelter. But the weather is the least of their worries. First one mosquito appears, then two... then hundreds on a mission. Peace becomes impossible.

Mosquito is a physical comedy where clowning meets circus arts. Hand-to-hand, balancing acts, Rola Bola, and acrobatic ladders become the choreography of an improbable bond, filled with laughter and wonder.

Mosquito

Circus and clowning

Direction and writing: François Isabelle

Artistic direction: Marie-Hélène D'Amours and Sarah Touchette

Artists: Quinn Vale and Simon Nadeau

Creative technical direction: Justin Lalande

Costumes : Marie-Hélène D'Amours and Quinn Vale

Sound design: Frédérick Desroches

Illustration: Quinn Brisindi-Bégin

Graphic design: Crocus

Video: Chad Carrière

Available for tour

5 to 12 years olds and family

30 or 45 min (depending of the context)

Indoor or outdoor show

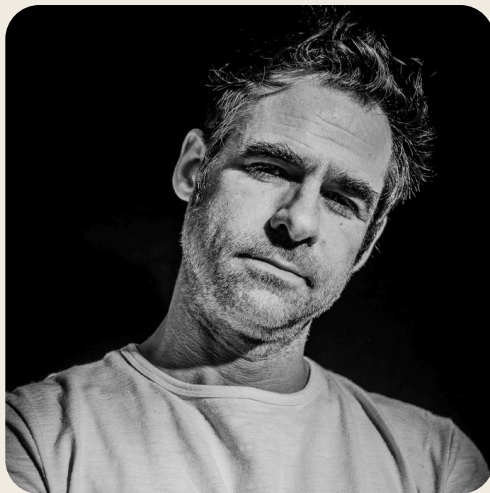


Artistique approach

The creation of *Mosquito* began in January 2025, with a premiere scheduled for the summer of 2025. This quirky summer production, inspired by my many adventures in wilderness camping, comes to life in the heart of popular family vacation destinations.

Mosquito draws inspiration from the Lazzi of commedia dell'arte: every time the irritating buzz of the mosquito is heard, the clown duo exclaims "Mosquito!" creating a comedic thread that runs throughout the performance.

Primarily focused on clowning, this artistic creation also incorporates a variety of disciplines such as hand-to-hand acrobatics, hula hoop, juggling with camping gear, and the ladder. It's a playful and humorous adventure that will transport you into the heart of the forest and leave you laughing! Clowning, juggling, acrobatics, and hand-to-hand acts will take center stage in this fun and refreshing experience.



François Isabelle

Direction and writing

François Isabelle has been active on the artistic scene for over 30 years. Initially an acrobat, dancer and actor, he worked for several years with companies of international renown before refocusing his practice on Quebec youth audiences. Today, he is also an artistic advisor, acrobatic choreographer and stage director, working mainly in the theater. Specializing in clowning, he creates and performs *Cartoon*, a 50-minute solo show, invents comic characters

for various contexts and passes on his knowledge through workshops and training courses. He has been collaborating with *Le Gros Orteil* since 2016 on various projects as artistic advisor, assistant director, performer and technician.



Sarah Touchette

Artistic direction

With a BAC in Dramatic Art (acting profile) from UQAM, Sarah Touchette has made a career mainly in circus, where she shines in several Cirque du Soleil creations. From 2004 to 2008, she starred in the show La Nouba, in Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. She and her partner Alexandre “Alexo” Tessier travel across Quebec to present the duo “ALEXO ET BISHA”, a circus clown duo created for children and young people. Sarah “Bisha” Touchette is a loyal

collaborator of Le Gros Orteil; she directed the show “Hisse et Ho”, created the show “FÉLIE” and proudly sits on the Board of Directors as President.



Marie-Hélène D'Amours

Artistic direction

Marie-Hélène D'Amours grew up in Montreal. After studying at the Cégep de Saint-Laurent (college) in Community Recreation and Leadership Training, she continues her academic development in theatre at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) and then the circus arts at l'École de Cirque de Québec. She is also the founder of a company specialized in aerial shows: Le Cirque en L'Air, who performed in schools and several

festivals around the province of Quebec. This experience led her to a new passion: clown. From 2001 to 2003, she pursues clown training with Francine Côté, with whom she elaborated the character of Mademoiselle Manon. She will soon present her clown acts in many international events, then tour for 275 performances in Switzerland and Belgium with Starlight Circus in a show staged by Yves Dagenais. At the end of 2005, she created the 4company Swigne la Bacaisse, who produced circus, music and clown. They performed in France and Belgium for numerous festivals in French-speaking Europe. In 2007, she develops a new project with her spouse and children, it's called: Entre Rhone et Saint Laurent or between the Rhone and Saint-Lawrence River. With this project, she will travel on a sailboat with her family for a world tour around half the globe for 2 years. She will perform circus shows and ecology education workshops in France, Morocco, Cape Verde, Senegal, the West Indies and Quebec. Upon her return to Quebec, she will create Le Gros Orteil company and present young-audience shows in Quebec's theatres.



Quinn Vale

As Zoé

Quinn Vale grew up in New Zealand. She discovered her passion for circus and performance arts with The Dust Palace, an independent circus-theatre company based in Auckland. It was with this group of creative and daring artists that she began her career as a circus performer. She gave numerous performances across New Zealand until her departure in 2018, when she left to begin her

professional training at L'École de Cirque de Québec, where she specialized in hand balancing. She graduated with a degree in circus arts in 2021. Since 2021, she has continued to appear in festivals and various circus performances in Canada and internationally as a hand balancer, hand-to-hand flyer, performer, and more recently, in 2025, she made her debut as a clown with Le Gros Orteil.



Simon Nadeau

As Gus

Trained in circus arts and physical theatre, Simon Nadeau is an acrobat, dreamer, and clown. A graduate of the National Circus School and a multidisciplinary artist, he is also the co-founder of the Arctic Circus Festival. Simon has created and performed numerous acts, including a solo show. There's certainly a lot to say about this vibrant character, but let's just highlight his versatility, talent, and

passion for performing in front of an audience! Notably, he has performed as a lead artist and acrobat with Cirque du Soleil, Les Parfaits Inconnus, and Cirque Monti.

Press

Behind Le Gros Orteil, there is a woman: Marie-Hélène D'Amours. A woman and mother of three, deeply connected to the circus arts—a world in which she has spent nearly twenty years as a performer, taking her to Francophone Europe, including France and Switzerland.

"...It's safe to say that Le Gros Orteil has truly fulfilled its mission and achieved its goal." – Élektik Média



Company history

Founded in 2013, Le Gros Orteil has, to date, created 12 productions:

Hisse et Ho

2013

Sarah Touchette
300 representations in Québec and Europe

Octave

2020

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & François Isabelle
95 representations in Québec

Petit Voilier

2013

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Yves Dagenais
(Artistic advisor)
250 representations in Québec

Brrr !

2021

Sarah Touchette
130 representations in Canada

Félie

2014

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Sarah Touchette
75 representations in Québec

Plouf !

2021

Soizick Hébert & Marie-Hélène D'Amours
65 representations in Québec

Aweye Manon

2015

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Soizick Hébert
(conseillère artistique)
75 representations in Québec and Europe

Les Voisines

2023

Soizick Hébert
More than 165 representations in Canada

Le Bibliothécaire

2016

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Hippolyte
More than 750 representations in Canada,
Europe, Asia and Australia

Maringouin

2025

François Isabelle
More than 55 representations in Canada

Bouge

2016

Marie-Hélène D'Amours
225 representations in Canada

Dans ma tête

2026

Marie-Hélène D'Amours
Coming soon

Le Gros Orteil

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