

# The Lady next door



Public: Young audience aged 5-12 years

# Mission

Blending clowning, theatre and the circus arts, Le Gros Orteil performance company creates high-quality shows for young audiences.

Improvisation, truthful emotions and interaction with the audience bring our shows to life. With their themes of travel, dreaming and enriched with subtle educational messages, our performances leave plenty of room for children's avid imagination and spontaneity to flourish, embarking our young audiences on a journey of story, emotion and reflection.





# The Lady Next Door

## Circus, physical theatre and clowning

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**Director:** Soizick Hébert

**Artists taking part in the creation:**  
Marie-Hélène D'Amours et Vanessa Kneale

**Set Design:** Ghislain Buisson

**Costumes:** Marie-Hélène Gervais

**Lightning:** Julie Laroche

**Music:** Frédéric Desroches

**Audience:** Young audience aged 5-12 years

**Duration:** 55 minutes

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This is the story of two neighbors who share a common yard. The two women are very different, even antagonistic. One is rather orderly and organized, while the other is messy and exuberant. As you can see, the first one often disturbs the other one! Huguette, this exuberant woman, takes pleasure in hanging out her laundry with her singing very loudly, setting up her tent for nights of camping in her yard, or practicing her acrobatic bicycle with a disturbance.

But what bothers her neighbor Vana the most is her overflowing garbage cans, not to mention her snoring.

The neighbors learn to communicate and finally understand each other better. And a glimmer of friendship eventually appears between these two women, who are perhaps not so different after all. This clownish female duo will make you laugh till you cry!

**The Lady Next Door** is based on three interconnected reflections: the existence of tensions and competition between women, but also the solidarity that has the potential to emerge, and thirdly, the possibility of alleviating mutual misunderstandings.

This funny and impactful show creates several comedic situations, both bittersweet and sweet, featuring a female clown duo. The two protagonists, close neighbors sharing a common yard, have completely different temperaments.



## **Marie-Hélène D'Amours**

Artistic Director and in the role of neighbor Huguette

Marie-Hélène D'Amours grew up in Montreal. After studying Leisure Intervention Techniques, Dramatic Arts at UQAM, and Circus Arts at the École de Cirque de Québec, she founded an aerial performance company: Le Cirque en L'Air, which performed in schools and at various festivals in Quebec. This experience led her to a new passion: clowning. Between 2001 and 2003, she trained as a clown with Francine Côté, with whom she developed the character of Mademoiselle Manon. She later performed her clown acts at various international events. In late 2005, she created the company

Swigne la Bacaisse, producing circus, music, and clown shows in France and Belgium. In 2007, she created the project Entre Rhône et Saint-Laurent, and it was with this project that she embarked on a family voyage aboard a sailboat for a half-world tour lasting two years. She presented circus and ecological education workshops and shows in France, Morocco, Cape Verde, Senegal, the Caribbean, and Quebec. Upon returning, she founded the company Le Gros Orteil and began presenting her youth shows in venues across Quebec.



## Vanessa

In the role of neighbor Vana

After obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Contemporary Dance and a Certificate in Business, Vanessa continued her clown training with Francine Côté, James Keylon, Joe de Paul, Michel Dallaire, and Yves Dagenais. Her career then materialized through roles in Dance Animal (Juste Pour Rire), Ripopée from Théâtre de l'Aubergine (pan-Canadian tours),

Les Bunheads (America's Got Talent & other international televised talent competitions), Bibi & The Beast (Clown, Burlesque and Fringe Festivals), and her solo work as Vana, along with other characters on stage or at events (Les 7 Doigts de la Main, C2MontrePhil al, d'Ariane, Espace Forain, Richard LaCroix, Les Foutoukours, etc.)



## Soizick Hébert

Director

A clown, juggler, and musician for 40 years, Soizick Hébert performs solo, duo, or trio with Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil, and Teatro Zinzanni. After 20 years with the duo Les Voilà!, she teaches performance at Cirque du Soleil and the École de Cirque de Québec. She has directed for Théâtre

de l'Aubergine, Théâtre à Tempo, Les Parfaits Inconnus, and Le Gros Orteil. For 10 years, she portrayed the unforgettable Jackie in countless cabarets. She now performs in the duo Laurette et Arlette with her partner Marie-Hélène Côté.

# Critical Review from Parents and Teachers

« Wow!!!!!!! Bravo, I really loved it, and my two little audiences did too!!! Such a successful show, congratulations!!! We laughed, felt so many emotions, and everything was beautiful on stage! And you were excellent on stage! Bravo!” »

- Mylène Bergeron - Presenter at the Maison des Arts de Drummondville



# 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 in Europe

## Petit Voilier

2013

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Yves Dagenais  
(artistic advisor)

250 representations in Québec

## Félie

2014

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Sarah Touchette

75 representations in Québec

## Aweye Manon

2015

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Soizick Hébert

75 representations in Québec and in Europe

## Le Bibliothécaire

2016

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Hippolyte

More than 750 representations in Canada,  
Europe, Asia and Australia

## Bouge

2016

Marie-Hélène D'Amours

225 representations in Canada

## Octave

2020

Marie-Hélène D'Amours & François Isabelle

95 representations in Québec

## Brrr!

2021

Sarah Touchette

130 representations in Canada

## Plouf!

2021

Soizick Hébert et Marie-Hélène D'Amours

65 representations in Québec

## Les Voisines

2023

Soizick Hébert

More than 165 representations in Canada

## Maringouin

2025

François Isabelle

More than 55 representations in Canada

## Dans ma tête

2026

Marie-Hélène D'Amours

Coming soon