

CIRCUS, CLOWNING & LIVE MUSIC

The Librarian

Young audience aged 5-12
and families

www.legrosorteil.com



Over 750 performances
in Canada, Europe,
Asia, and Oceania

Direction :
Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Hippolyte

Artist : Hippolyte



Conseil
des arts
et des lettres
de Québec



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil canadien
des arts

Photo : Robert Gilbert / Graphique : Jérémy Gagné - Aurélie Tesson

Artistic approach

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.





The Librarian

Acrobatic theater, clown, beat box and circus-requires a 12 feet Chinese pole (autonomous structure)

Original idea: Marie-Hélène D'Amours & Hippolyte

Directed by: Marie-Hélène D'Amours

Artist: Hippolyte

Target audience: Children between 5 and 12 years old

Duration: 55 minutes

Stand-alone version: available

Paul-Émile Dumoulin has been working at his town's library for 25 years. He's serious and nervous, also proud and sometimes so clumsy. Bookshelves must be impeccable, each book in its place. But pay attention, because when

Paul-Emile Dumoulin begins to read, he enters completely in the story and

a taste for adventure shows him in another light. He embodies the book's characters for them to become suddenly very alive and expressing themselves with acrobatics, acrobalance, juggling, break dance and beat box.

A HILARIOUS SHOW THAT WILL MAKE YOU READ!

A director's word

Reading has always been an outmost stimulating, exciting and accessible activity for me. It's a hobby that remarkably helps children in the development of language and the imaginary, as well as encouraging their interest for the written stories. Libraries are a place where everything is possible, travelling over the shelves, from the novel to the documentary book. It's a place so quiet and yet so noisy because of all these words locked behind covers, words just waiting to be read to come alive and take the reader into an adventure, a distant land, a fiction or a love story.

The show *The librarian* gives a voice to books through Paul-Emile Dumoulin, interpreted by Hippolyte a multidisciplinary artist who largely contributed in the making of the show.



Marie-Hélène D'Amours

Stage director and artistic director

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

company 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.



Hippolyte

Co-director and actor, in the role of Paul-Emile Dumoulin:
The Librarian

After studying dramatic arts for 4 years in his high school in France, this self-taught and multidisciplinary artist started his career presenting street performances in New Zealand, Australia, France, Quebec,

Indonesia, Bolivia, Peru and Palestine. An experience that he considers was the best of schools. During the past few years, he was trained as a physical

actor and in acrobatics with Dynamo Theater, in giant puppets with Le Théâtre de la Dame de Cœur, also in break dance and Chinese pole.

Since then, he has been interpreting physical characters for various companies' productions such as: Le Gros Orteil, Cirquantique and Cavaland.



Julie Laroche

Technical Director, Lighting Designer, and Tour Manager for all indoor shows

Julie Laroche has a very diverse career, always in the field of lighting.

She graduated in 1998 in cinema at Cégep de Saint-Laurent (college) and in 2002 at Vancouver Film School. She was drawn to performing arts when back to Montreal in 2003. From the Black and Blue Festival to the International Jazz Festival, Julie first specialized as an electric manager. Circus and theatre were then added to her many assets.

She was recently part of the creation / production team of the Cirque Eloize's

new show called Saloon as a project manager for stage lighting as well as lighting assistant.

Since 2009, she is also the house's electric manager at L'Espace Go.

Since 2011, she has been an assistant for André Rioux, a lighting designer. Nowadays, she travels around Quebec with productions for the general public. In 2015 and 2016, she signs the lighting designs of two productions of the Le Gros Orteil company: Hisse and Ho and The Librarian.

Stage director: Marie-Hélène D'Amours

Artist: Hippolyte

Costume designer: Elizabeth Cognard

Music: Hippolyte

Stage sets: Ghislain Buisson Lighting

Design: Julie Laroche

Length: 55 minutes

Requested stage dimension (m): Large 22 x Deep 18 x Height 12 (negotiable)

Presse

«Le Gros Orteil will be visiting the Maison de la culture Mercier on September 18th to present one of its creations: The Librarian. The librarian is Paul Émile Dumoulin, who transforms himself into an acrobat and dancer immediately when getting into a book.

Behind this company, there is a woman: Marie-Hélène D'Amours. A woman and a mother of 3 children viscerally attached to the circus arts, an environment where she has evolved for years as an artist and that took her to French-speaking Europe (France and Switzerland especially).

The Librarian poses as an ambassador of reading, which benefits no longer need to be demonstrated.»

– **Culture MHM**

Parent's opinion

«Great! We enjoyed your show !!!»

«Super show! Artist, staging, lighting, sound and light! There is talent in there!»

«The kids really liked it and they laughed a lot with the actor. The interaction with the audience is as good as the team who introduced Hisse and Ho! Thank you again for your excellent work!»

«Hello. I took my granddaughter to see The Librarian this past Sunday. What an amazing show and actor! “



Company history

Founded in 2013, the company has, to date, 12 productions to its credit:

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 & 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