



CIRQUE ALFONSE

TIMBER!

Directed by Alain Francoeur
Music by David Boulanger and David Simard
Lighting Design by Nicolas Descôteaux

Post-Performance Discussion

You are invited to remain in the theater immediately following the performance for an informal discussion with the artists.

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Cosponsored by VPR

Thursday, December 5, 2013 | 7 pm

Friday, December 6, 2013 | 8 pm

The Moore Theater | Dartmouth College

TIMBER!

This program is presented without an intermission.

Acrobats..... Antoine Carabinier Lépine, Jonathan Casaubon, Guillaume Saladin
Dance Julie Carabinier Lépine
Acting.....Alain Carabinier
Music..... Josianne Laporte, David Simard, André Gagné
Director Alain Francoeur
Musical Composers David Boulanger and David Simard
Lights Conception and Set Design..... Nicolas Descôteaux

Cirque Alfonse is presented with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts
and the Conseil des Arts et Lettres du Québec.

Cirque Alfonse is represented in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific
region by John Lambert & Assoc. (Montreal). www.johnlambert.ca

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Established in 2005, **Cirque Alfonse** is a fresh and innovative addition to Quebec's circus tradition. Having worked with the most renowned "nouveau cirque" companies of Quebec and Europe, the company's founding members are all well experienced in the circus world. Comprising a team of professional acrobats (graduates from the National Circus School in Montréal), a professional dancer, an ex-skiing champion and three hot versatile musicians, this audacious group of young performers is blazing a creative path that no one had thought to explore. In an inspired look to the future with a nod to tradition, Cirque Alfonse has dared to blend the artistry and techniques of contemporary circus with traditional Quebecois music and some of the liveliest aspects of Quebec's traditions and folklore.

Cirque Alfonse produced its first production, *La Brunante*, in 2006, and the production met with

enthusiastic response, becoming the spark for the creation of *Timber!* Following the run of *La Brunante*, the company members each went off to pursue their own solo careers, performing with Sweden's Cirkus Cirkör, Switzerland's Cirque Starlight and Montreal's 7 Fingers (Les 7 doigts de la main), Cirque Éloize, Cirque du Soleil, and dance company Bouge de là, before embarking on the creation of *Timber!* in 2010. This is Cirque Alfonse's first engagement at the Hopkins Center.

Antoine Carabinier Lépine acrobat received his diploma from the École nationale de cirque de Montréal in the year 2000. A multidisciplinary artist and virtuoso, he excels on the German wheel, the Cyr wheel, general acrobatics, juggling and music. Over the past eleven years, Antoine has collaborated on numerous shows and artistic projects including: *Nomade* and *Cirque Orchestra* by Cirque Éloize, Cirkus Cirkör's

ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED

show 99% *Unknown*, the Cirque du Soleil's Celebrity Cruise Project, *Maskarade* by the Copenhagen Royal Opera and *Traces* by the 7 Fingers.

Julie Carabinier Lépine dancer hails from the town of Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez. At the age of eight she was initiated into the world of classical ballet, and later became fascinated by modern dance and theatre. She signed up for the LADMMI contemporary dance school, where in 2003 she received her diploma in contemporary dance interpretation. She went on to dance for noted choreographers Sonia Biernath, Manuel Roque, Mélanie Demers, Amélie Lévesque Demers and for the dance company Bouge de là with Hélène Langevin, as well as the Mandala Sitù company.

Jonathan Casaubon acrobat at the age of seven began somersaulting and perfecting his flips in the family garden. From a very young age, Jonathan was a regular at his neighborhood gymnastics club, and, within a few years of coaching, was able to reach competitive levels. He went on to practice this discipline for the next ten years of his life. Soon after obtaining his diploma in 2000 from the École Nationale de Cirque de Montréal, specializing in teeterboard and trampoline, Jonathan flew off to Switzerland to teach circus arts before joining the Starlight Circus as a performer and as the Assistant to the Artistic Director for four years. Jonathan then joined Cirque du Soleil where he developed into a highly regarded multidisciplinary artist. In 2007, he participated in *Salto Natale* with the prestigious Swiss circus Knie and he later collaborated on the show *Traces* presented by the 7 Fingers.

Guillaume Saladin acrobat grew up in a family of anthropologists in the town of Igloolik, in the North-West Territories, Canada, until the age of 15. He is the instigator of the Artcirq Project. He

started his artistic training at the École Nationale de Cirque de Montréal. In 2001, he joined Cirque Éloïze for *Nomade*. He worked in the show for four years. Guillaume is currently living in Igloolik where he is pursuing his dream and his commitment with the Artcirq company as artistic co-director, trainer and circus performer.

Alain Carabinier actor was born in Switzerland, and his early years were busy with competitive alpine skiing and soccer. He travelled and worked around the world before settling down in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, where he actively participates in the community life of this small town of the Lanaudière region of Québec. Alain is a soccer trainer and a designer of circus shows that showcase the immense talent of the young circus performers of the troupe.

Josianne Laporte music started studying and practicing classical percussion at the age of eight. Upon receiving her diploma in music from the Université du Québec à Montréal in 2001, she went on to tour with musicians Gino Vanelli, Dan Bigras and Isabelle Boulay. For five years, she travelled around the world as a musician in Cirque Éloïze's show *Nomade*. Over the last several years, Josianne has gained experience in numerous television shows. She was also part of the music group François Roy et les As de la Frime, an up-and-coming rock group that received second prize at the Festi Rock Festival of Richmond. In 2006, she participated in creating Cirque Alfonse's *La Brunante*.

David Boulanger musical composer studied violin and jazz interpretation in Montreal before joining the traditional music group La part du quêteux, which won the Best Album award for Traditional Music at the Folk Canadian Music Awards in 2007. He went on to work with the famous Quebec group La Bottine Souriante as a violinist. He joined Cirque Alfonse in 2006.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS CONTINUED

André Gagné *music* is a musician and singer from the Lanaudière region of the province of Quebec. This region has been named "the national capital of call and response singing." He studied jazz guitar in Montreal. He is a founding member of the traditional Quebecois music group La Giroflée, with whom he has travelled on tour throughout his native Quebec as well as in Europe, with their recent album *J'ai dans la mémoire*. In 2006, André participated in creating the first show with Cirque Alfonse, *La Brunante*, including the musical arrangements. Now he is very pleased to join the Alphonse team once again for its latest opus, *Timber!*

Alain Francoeur *director* has a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts from, earned at the Université du Québec à Montréal in 1986. He first worked as a dance artist and as an actor in experimental theatre before moving on to becoming a director and choreographer. Alain is interested in the interdisciplinary aspects of art and performing arts in his artistic development and creativity. In 1988, he joined the celebrated theater troupe Carbone 14 as a performance artist in *Le Dortoir* and later danced for several other companies. Alain directed the well-loved show

Cirque Orchestra by Cirque Éloize, and he also choreographed for several dance troupes, among them L'Agora de la danse of Montréal. He also directed Cirque Alfonse's *La Brunante*.

Nicolas Descôteaux *lights conception and set designer*, since receiving his diploma from the theater program of the Cégep de Sainte-Thérèse College in 1992, has designed more than sixty lighting creations. He has worked with internationally renowned creators and artists such as Robert Lepage, Marie Chouinard, Kristian Fredric, Denis Marleau and Daniele Finzi Pasqua. Recently, Nicolas worked on several creative projects with Cirque Eloize and Cirque du Soleil.

David Simard *musical composer*, a native of Lac St-Jean, specializes in traditional Quebec music. After discovering the music from Ireland and France, he decided to focus on the music of his ancestors. In 2010, he graduated with a degree in jazz-guitar technique and traditional music at the Lanaudière Regional College in Joliette, Quebec. Whether on the banjo, guitar, dobro or the violin, Simard juggles between jazz and old fiddle tunes of yesteryear.

CONNECTING ARTISTS TO THE COMMUNITY

While at Dartmouth, Cirque Alfonse performs in the School Matinee Program and participates in post-performance discussions. For more information on Hop Outreach & Arts Education, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/online/outreach.

FREE ONLINE STUDY GUIDE

In conjunction with its School Matinee Series, the Hop prepares study guides to enhance student learning prior to and following performances. The Cirque Alfonse study guide can be found on its performance page at hop.dartmouth.edu and on the Outreach and Arts Education section of the Hop's website.