

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 8pm
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 8pm
Friday, February 6, 2015, 8pm
Saturday, February 7, 2015, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall

Les 7 doigts de la main



Séquence 8

Creation and Production Les 7 doigts de la main
Direction and Choreography Shana Carroll and Sébastien Soldevila
Co-Production Les Nuits de Fourvière/Département du Rhône
(Lyon), TOHU (Montréal)

With the support of the Programme d'Aide à la coproduction du Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Commissioning Partners: Printemps des Comédiens (Montpellier, France) Arts Emerson (Boston), Live Arts Festival (Philadelphia), La Strada (Graz, Austria), Monaco Dance Forum (Monaco), Teatro Circo Price (Madrid), CE Works (Japan).

With the support of Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Conseil des Arts du Canada, and Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Cal Performances' 2014–2015 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.



PROGRAM

SÉQUENCE 8

THE MEETING OF TWO personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.”—C. G. Jung
Our eighth and newest creation carries emotional dynamics to a point of explosion and propulsion.

In this show we find emotions so heightened they spring into action, relationships that transform and evolve until they create actual velocity. Set not in a specific time or place but rather on a vertical canvas of sorts, this acrobatic dance and theater piece contemplates the role of the “other,” and how we define ourselves through and against it.

Photo credits:

*Ensemble photo by Lionel Montagnier; company photos by Olivier Tétreault
Company photos by Olivier Tétreault; Samuel Tétreault photo by Marion Bellin*

CREATION

<i>Assistant to the Directors and Stage Manager</i>	Sabrina Gilbert
<i>Set and Prop Design</i>	Anne-Séguin Poirier
<i>Costume Design</i>	Manon Desmarais
<i>Light Design</i>	Nol Van Genuchten
<i>Acrobatic Design</i>	Sébastien Soldevila
<i>Acrobatic Equipment Design</i>	Alexandre Lemay, Danny Zen
<i>Original Music</i>	Seth Stachowski
<i>Remix</i>	Nans Bortuzzo
<i>Music</i>	Dr. Opin, Liza Ekdahl, Ben Harper, Chinese Man, That Handsome Devil, C2C, Tung, Tosca, The Mountain Goats, Jónsi & Alex

PRODUCTION

<i>Production Director</i>	Jérémie Niel
<i>Technical Direction</i>	Guy Lévesque
<i>Acrobatic Coaches</i>	Jérôme Le Baut, André St-Jean, Émilie Bonnavaud
<i>Physiotherapist</i>	Hugo Rioux
<i>Voice Coach</i>	Linda Benoy
<i>Trumpet Coach</i>	Hubert Côté
<i>Translation, Adaptation and Diction Coach</i>	Michel Vézina
<i>Head Rigger</i>	Robert Ouellette
<i>Support to Rigging and Construction</i>	Stéphane Beauchet
<i>Light Operator</i>	Élaine Ducasse
<i>Texts</i>	John Carroll, Shana Carroll, Colin Davis, Sébastien Soldevila, Michel Vézina
<i>Graphic Design</i>	Studio Pastis
<i>Assistant for Setup and Props</i>	Camille Boyer

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Shana Carroll, Isabelle Chassé, Patrick Léonard, Gypsy Snider,
Sébastien Soldevila, Samuel Tétreault

C.E.O. Nassib El-Husseini

*Touring, Development, and
Special Events Director* Tina Diab

TOURING TEAM

<i>Tour Director</i>	Jérémie Niel
<i>Technical Director</i>	Antoine Protat
<i>Lights</i>	Gabrielle Bérubé-Forest
<i>Rigging</i>	Frédéric Dallaire-Pelletier



LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN translates literally as “the seven fingers of the hand.” It is a twist on a French idiom (“the five fingers of the hand”) used to describe distinct parts united tightly, moving in coordination towards one common goal. Here it refers to the seven founding directors of the company (Isabelle Chassé, Shana Carroll, Patrick Léonard, Faon Shane, Gypsy Snider, Sébastien Soldevila, and Samuel Tétréault) who, by combining their distinct talents and experiences, work towards their common artistic goals with the beautifully awkward dexterity of a seven-fingered hand.

Founded in Montreal in 2002, Les 7 doigts de la main’s initial goal was to bring circus to a human scale. They began as artists on stage, creating collectively, and soon branched out, expanding their creative talents as directors, choreographers, writers and coaches, passing on their collaborative and unique 7 doigts process to a new generation of circus artists. Out of this emerged *Loft*, *Traces*, *La Vie*, *Psy*, *The Fibonacci Project*, *Patinoire*, *A Muse*, *Séquence 8*, *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*, and *Cuisine & Confessions*. A relaxed and funky artist’s loft, a bunker, purgatory, or a psychiatrist’s office, an international collaboration of cultures or a solo clown show, each show offers a distinct setting and yet carries the same seven finger-print.

Celebrating their tenth anniversary this year, Les 7 doigts de la main are constantly developing new shows back home in Montreal, applying their unique brand of hands-on creativity to all their ventures.



Shana Carroll is co-founding artistic director of Montreal’s Les 7 doigts de la main, where she has co-directed and choreographed the company’s major touring shows, whether together with the collective (*Loft*, *La Vie*) with partner Gypsy Snider (*Traces*), with partner and husband Sébastien Soldevila (*Séquence 8*, *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*), or alone (*Psy*, *Cabaret 2010*, *FeriAmuse*). In 2013, Ms. Carroll directed the circus show of *Queen Of the Night* at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York.

In addition to her work with Les 7 doigts, Ms. Carroll’s circus directing and choreography credits include the Cirque du Soleil performance at the 84th Annual Academy Awards (2012), the acrobatic design and choreography of Cirque du Soleil’s show *Iris* at Los Angeles’s Dolby Theatre, the creation of four gold-medal winning acts at the Festival de Cirque de Demain, *Il Fait Dimanche* for l’École Nationale de Cirque de Montreal, and Quebec’s 400th anniversary performance with 40 trapeze artists (2008). She also received a Drama Desk Award nomination for best choreography for *Traces* (2008), and a Bay Area Theater Critics’ Circle nomination for best choreography for *Circumstance* (2003).

A former trapeze artist, Ms. Carroll performed for 20 years in the air, within 7 doigts shows *Loft* and *La Vie* (2002–2008), and with a wide variety of circus and dance companies around the world, most notably seven years as original solo trapeze artist for Cirque du Soleil’s *Saltimbanco* (1994–2001).

Originally from Berkeley, California, Ms. Carroll first started circus at age 18 with San Francisco’s Pickle Family Circus (1988–1991), and furthered her trapeze training at Montreal’s École Nationale de Cirque (1991–1993) and France’s École Nationale de Cirque de Rosny-sous-Bois (1993–1994). She currently lives in Montreal with her husband and daughter, in a renovated convent with other fellow-Fingers.



Well advanced in his studies in biochemistry, **Sébastien Soldevila** would most likely have become a doctor had he not been so passionate about acrobatics. Growing up, the voracious athlete delved in trampoline, diving, acrobatic skiing, tumbling with the French Junior National Team, and sports acrobatics, where he and partner Emilie Bonnevaud maintained the title of French National Champions in Mixed Pairs four years in a row.

After working as a choreographer for the Dutch National Team, Mr. Soldevila was recruited to perform in Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco*. Upon co-founding Les 7 doigts de la main in 2002, Mr. Soldevila joined forces with Patrick Léonard to create an award-winning duo (Prix Nikouline, Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain de Paris), since performed on over 15 television programs around the world. In 2007, he and Emilie Bonnevaud developed a new hand-to-hand act, choreographed by Mr. Soldevila's wife and fellow 7 doigt, Shana Carroll. The act won the gold medal at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain de Paris.

Mr. Soldevila co-created *Loft, La Vie, Séquence 8*, and *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*, and co-directed and wrote *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*. He coaches acrobatics with many 7 doigt shows and at the National Circus School of Montreal.

A native of Paris, Mr. Soldevila lives with his family in Montreal.



Eric Bates (United States) has always been a juggler. Circus has been a major part of his life since his days of being a rugby captain, competitive skier, and football player. In 2008, his life took a serious turn when he abandoned his studies at McGill University and entered the National Circus School in

Montreal, in what was decidedly for Mr. Bates one of the best choices of his life. Harmonica, chess, cooking, break-dancing, skateboarding...beyond his specialty of cigar-box juggling—for which he is considered one of the best in the world—Mr. Bates is an active jack of many trades.



Ugo Dario discovered circus at age eight in a recreational circus school in France. Immediately impassioned, he tried every discipline he could, finally moving to central France to attend the full-time l'École de Cirque Châtelleraut. In 2008, the young artist traveled to Montreal and entered the National Circus School of Montreal, where he and partner Maxim Laurin specialized in Korean Board. Mr. Dario graduated in 2011, and quickly joined Les 7 doigts de la main, participating in the Completement Cirque Festival's Cabaret before embarking on the new creation.

In 2012, he and Mr. Laurin took their teeterboard number to the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, where they were awarded multiple prizes, including the Gold Medal.

Mr. Dario is also a brown belt in karate, painter, graffiti artist, photographer, and musician. A multidisciplinary artist, he believes that dance and theater should be integrated with circus, and it is in this way he wishes to give his performances his personal mark.



Surrounded by the arts from a young age (his father was the founder of the San Francisco Mime Troupe), **Colin Davis** (United States) discovered circus by watching the Pickle Family Circus. At eleven, he decided to give it a shot and entered the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. He so enjoyed learning Chinese acrobatics that he then chose to

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

further his training in Montreal. With his partner Devin, he entered the National Circus School for three more years of intensive training. An accomplished musician, Mr. Davis has been playing instruments since he was eleven, with a particular passion for the trumpet. A high-level acrobat, he aspires, through his fertile imagination, to invoke laughter as well as tears.



Raised in a family which welcomed the arts, **Devin Henderson** (United States) was barely five years old when he entered the San Francisco School of Circus Arts. Within two years, he advanced to the Chinese acrobatics classes with Master Lu Yi, and a year later, at age eight, he performed in his first professional show. After spending much time at the San Francisco School of Circus Arts, Mr. Henderson entered Montreal's National Circus School, where he perfected a duo number with Colin Davis, his partner for over twelve years. A lover of sports, food, and especially film, Mr. Henderson frequently creates shorts movies about circus.



A highly active child, **Maxim Laurin** dabbled in theater, magic, and circus before enrolling in Montreal's National Circus School at age 11. Placed in an intensive collegial circus program, he trained in acrobatics, dance, theater, and trapeze while completing his academic studies.

At 16, Mr. Laurin was sent by the National Circus School to France for a workshop. There he met his future partner, Ugo Dario, with whom he decided to specialize in Korean Board. Upon graduating from school in 2011 and the pair immediately joined Les 7 doigts de la main.

In 2012, he and Mr. Dario were granted the Gold Medal and numerous other awards for

their teeterboard duo at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris.

Mr. Laurin strives for constant artistic renewal, and aims to find his own way of being a circus artist.



Camille Legris (Canada) began gymnastics at age five. At 15, her walls covered with medals, she was named Athlete of the Year in her native town in Quebec. After watching Cirque du Soleil on television, she enrolled at the National Circus School of Montreal. She studied at the circus school for seven years, performing along the way in special events and professional shows. Ms. Legris trained with hand to hand partner Tristan Nielsen under the guidance and coaching of Les 7 doigts de la main artists Sébastien Soldevila and Émilie Bonnavaud. The duo found strengths in their differences and developed an acrobatic and artistic harmony.



From a young age, **Tristan Nielsen** (United States) showed perseverance in almost everything he tried. He signed up for a circus program offered through his school at age 12, and by 19 had already participated in two tours with the established youth troupe Circus Smirkus, and spent a season with the Zoppé Family Circus. After spending two months at the San Francisco Circus Center, Mr. Nielsen felt ready to take his hand to hand level further, and, at 20, entered the National Circus School of Montreal. It was there that he met partner Camille Legris. Despite their initial language barrier, the two found a common ground in their love of hand to hand, and together created a dynamic and accomplished act.



From a young age, **Alexandra Royer** (Canada) was drawn to sports, the more extreme the better. At age eight, she moved with her family to Morocco and began classical horseback riding. Upon her return from Morocco, at eleven, she signed up for the Circus School of Quebec City.

She explored many circus disciplines while continuing horseback riding and equestrian vaulting. In 2008, she entered the National Circus School of Montreal. After training in Russian bar and other disciplines, Ms. Royer graduated in 2011 with a specialty in aerial hoop and won the Gold Medal at SOLyCIRCO (Germany). Her strength as an artist lies in the mix of energy and elegance in her performance.