Cirque Flip Fabrique: Six°
Randolph W. Bromery Center for the Arts

Frederick C. Tillis Performance Hall

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 7:30 p.m.
**Land acknowledgement**

In a year-long consultative and deeply collaborative process with respected advisors from local Tribal Nations, the UMass Native Advisory Council co-developed this campus Land Acknowledgement. This Acknowledgement affirms our campus connection and relationship to the land the campus is built upon and our continued connection to the Nations who were the original inhabitants and caretakers of this land. The University of Massachusetts Amherst acknowledges that it was founded and built on the unceded homelands of the Pocumtuc Nation on the land of the Norrwutuck community.

We begin with gratitude for nearby waters and lands, including the Kwinitekw -- the southern portion of what’s now called the Connecticut River. We recognize these lands and waters as important Relations with which we are all interconnected and depend on to sustain life and wellbeing.

The Norrwutuck community was one of many Pocumtuc Indian towns, including the Tribal seat at Pocumtuc (in present day Deerfield), Agawam (Springfield), and Woronoco (Westfield) to name just a few. The Pocumtuc, who had connections with these lands for millennia, are part of a vast expanse of Algonquian relations. Over 400 years of colonization, Pocumtuc Peoples were displaced. Many joined their Algonquian relatives to the east, south, west and north— extant communities of Wampanoag, including Aquinnah, Herring Pond, and Mashpee, Massachusetts; the Nipmuc with a reservation at Grafton/Hassanamisco, Massachusetts; the Narragansett in Kingstown, Rhode Island; Schaghticoke, Mohegan and Pequot Peoples in Connecticut; the Abenaki and other Nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy extending northward into Canada; and the Stockbridge Munsee Mohican of New York and Massachusetts, who were removed to Wisconsin in the 19th century. Over hundreds of years of removal, members of Southern New England Tribes would make the journey home to tend important places and renew their connections to their ancestral lands. Such care and connection to land and waters continues to the present day.

Today, Indigenous Nations in southern New England continue to employ diverse strategies to resist ongoing colonization, genocide, and erasure begun by the English, French, Dutch, Portuguese and other European Nations, and that continued when Tribal homelands became part of the United States. Native Americans from Tribal Nations across the U.S. and Indigenous peoples from around the world also travel into these Pocumtuc homelands to live and work. This land has always been and always will be, Native Land.

We also acknowledge that the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a Land Grant University. As part of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, Tribal lands from 84 Native Nations west of the Mississippi were sold to provide the resources to found and build this university.

This Land Acknowledgement is the first step in the university’s commitment to practice intellectual humility whilst working with Tribal Nations toward a better shared future on Turtle Island. We aim to foster understanding, deep respect, and honor for sovereign Tribal Nations; to develop relationships of reciprocity; and to be inclusive of Native perspectives and thriving Native Nations far into the future. Members of Massachusetts-based Tribal Nations who are kin to the historic Pocumtuc contributed their insights in composing this acknowledgement -- namely Tribal representatives from Mashpee, Aquinnah, and Stockbridge Munsee. As an active first step toward decolonization, we encourage you to learn more about the Indigenous peoples on whose homelands UMass Amherst now resides on and the Indigenous homelands on which you live and work.
**About the Performance**

One of Canada’s leading contemporary circus troupes, Cirque FLIP Fabrique is at the peak of their artistic talents. The troupe is inspired by imagery, personality and the human experience. Hailing from Québec and having performed internationally for more than a million spectators, Cirque FLIP Fabrique brings their latest show exploring the restlessness of waiting, the intricate beauty of unexpected encounters, and the joy of laughter through slapstick comedy, juggling tricks and breathtaking acrobatic feats.

Five strangers receive a mysterious invitation that, one stormy night, leads them, to an old, abandoned building in the heart of the forest.

The visitors will discover that this house has a soul and a personality all its own. When you’ve been invited by the house, and when you cross its threshold, you have the strange impression that it knows you inside-out.

During your stay, it talks to you (that’s right, this house can talk!), guides you, and reveals aspects of your personality you didn’t know you had. The house and its control box might throw you challenges along the way. But there will also be fun and good cheer, and some amazing acrobatic feats!

Join master trickster Jamie Adkins and his friends for this amazing acrobatic comedy from FLIP Fabrique, in which mundane turns to magical and ingenuity’s always involved!

On this planet, there are just six degrees of separation between us all.
And since there are only five people on stage, what if the sixth person — the missing link — is you?

**About the Artists**

**Jamie Adkins** is known and loved around the world for his unique brand of acrobatic physical comedy. He began his career at age 13 in San Diego, California, delighting passersby as a street performer. At 22 he joined the Pickle Family Circus and embarked on the life of a full-fledged circus artist, finally following his talent to his adopted home, Québec, in the 2000s. Jamie has collaborated with some of Canada’s biggest circuses to create shows including *Excentricus* and *Typo*. His work puts comedy and interpersonal emotions at the heart of circus performance. The experience of building new and more intimate relationships with audiences motivated him, in 2008, to transition from major productions to creating his own shows, starting with *Circus Icognitus* and *A Fool’s Errand* — popular successes that have been presented more than 1,000 times around the world. He has often been compared to Charlie Chaplin or Buster Keaton, yet the poetic, cartoonesque world he has created over the years is very much his own. Through the prism of Jamie’s teeming imagination, everyday objects become magical and the mundane blossoms into the extraordinary.

**Olivier Lépine** is an award-winning director who has been active in circus and the theatre since 2005. His work with FLIP Fabrique includes *Crépuscule Vents & Marées*, which wowed 65,000 people in summer 2017, and *Le cirque donne vie à Petrouchka*, a 2018 collaboration with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec that had an additional Paris run in 2019. He is the founder of a theatre company, Portrait Robot, whose play *Chapitre de la chute* won an award for best scenography in 2018. In both his theater and circus work, Olivier is driven by his trust in his audience and a riveting, poignant story. His collaborative approach embraces a wider movement in the contemporary circus that makes acrobatic performances a vehicle for
storytelling. Taking inspiration from cinema and classic British comedy, Olivier subtly combines drama and sly humor to create unique performances that can be enjoyed repeatedly.

Hailing from Gatineau, **Amélie Bolduc** is a circus artist who specializes in baton twirling and Cyr wheel. After discovering baton twirling at the age of eight, she became famous on the competition circuit, notably at the Canadian championships. Passionate about the sport, she enrolled at the École de Cirque de Québec where she discovered the Cyr wheel. Since graduating, Amélie has performed all over the world, mostly notably in cabarets in Germany. Amélie is an optimist: for her, always seeing the good side of things, especially in her training, is what fuels her progress. When she is not in the circus ring, Amélie is studying management, with her typically big smile.

**Camille Tremblay** is a hand-balancing artist originally from Repentigny, who now lives in Quebec. Camille began her acrobatic career at a very young age, practicing rhythmic gymnastics at the age of six and was named Quebec champion at 13. As a teenager, she discovered the circus and loved the freedom that this world gives her. After graduating from the National Circus School in Montreal, she traveled around the world to present her circus creations as a duo. During these six years, she won several awards, notably at the prestigious Monte Carlo festival. With FLIP Fabrique, she takes a new step and creates her first group show intended for the tour. Camille's circus is made up of delicate atmospheres centered around the beauty of movement. She is an artist who wants to achieve balance as much on stage as in life, so in her spare time, Camille loves to recharge her batteries near a campfire by the St. Lawrence River.

**Dylan Herrera** is a Swiss-born, Quebec-based flyer. As a child, Dylan dreamed of becoming an architect or an engineer. He began practicing circus disciplines in his spare time, and gradually his newfound passion took on an ever-larger place in his life. He was halfway through studies in robotics when he realized that the circus was his one true love. On a friend's advice, he enrolled at the École de cirque de Québec. Since Dylan is a natural-born prankster, it's no surprise that humor plays a central role in his numbers. He loves surprising people, and making them laugh. Working with FLIP Fabrique has given Dylan the space to develop this talent like never before. For Dylan, circus is at its best when the performer's passion is tangible and the action onstage is honest and authentic. He's a big fan of dance and electronic music, and composes original pieces with his drum machine.

**Jacob Grégoire** is a trampoline artist and acrobat from Quebec City. He began competitive gymnastics at the age of 7, and won gold at the Canadian championships at 17. Following in the footsteps of his brother, an actor, he quickly made himself at home on the stage. Jacob's aim was to explore the possibilities of acrobatics outside the rigid framework of competition. The circus beckoned, and soon he was enrolled at the École de cirque de Québec. Upon graduation, Jacob joined FLIP Fabrique. His practice finds joy in the moments when a story unfolds into movement, a context for which acrobatics is naturally suited. Another inspiration is the world of parkour, where athletes' movements evolve in response to their surroundings. It's hardly surprising, then, that Jacob begins every day by juggling — his toothbrush, fork, phone, or whatever else he can get his hands on!

**Shena Tschofen** specializes in Cyr wheel and lasso and occasionally performs in aerial disciplines. After graduating from Montreal's National Circus School, she toured with Cirque Éloize's Saloon as both an acrobat and musician. In 2019, she received the Grand Award of the Jury and the Pegasus Variety Award for her Cyr wheel act at the Newcomershow, an international variety festival.
CREDITS

Original Concept FLIP Fabrique
Coconceptor Jamie Adkins
Artistic Direction Bruno Gagnon
Director Olivier Lépine
Scenic Design Julie Levesque
Costumes Camila Comin
Light Design Bruno Matte

FLIP Fabrique wishes to thank the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the City of Québec for their financial support

Upcoming Events:

Emily Johnson/Catalyst: Being Future Being
Monday, February 28, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.
Bowker Auditorium

Guitarrá! Berta Rojas
Saturday, March 5, 2022 - 8 p.m.
Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

For more information on all Fine Arts Center events and for tickets please visit:

fineartscenter.com