Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6 & 7, 2007  
Fine Arts Center Concert Hall

PRODUCTIONS ÉLOIZE, COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT LLC AND NEDERLANDER PRESENTATIONS, INC. present

Starring artists-acrobats-singers-dancers
Jocelyn Bigras, Oksana Burliy, Jean-Philippe Cuerrier, Stéphane Gentilini, Catherine Girard, Krin Maren Haglund, Sandrine Merette, Nadine Louis, Bartlomiej Pankau, Jonas Woolverton, Jacek Wyskup

Set Design
Guillaume Lord

Costume Design
Mérédith Caron

Lighting Design
Martin Labrecque

Head Trainer
Krzysztof Soroczynski

Music Composer & arrangements on recorded soundtrack
Maria Bonzanigo

Music Composer & arrangements for live music
Lucie Cauchon

Lyrics
Daniele Finzi Pasca

Creator & Trainer for “Roue Cyr” act
Daniel Cyr

Acting Preparation
Dolores Heredia

Moving lights programming
Nicolas Descoteaux

Make up Design
Suzanne Trépanier

Assistant Director
Roch Jutras

Assistant Director & Stage Manager
Patrick Loubert

Creative Producer
Julie Hamelin

General Manager
Jeffrey M. Markowitz

Executive Producers
Jean-Jacques Cesbron

Cirque Éloize’s artistic direction
Jeannot Painchaud

The duration of the performance is two hours including intermission.

The use of any recording device, either video or audio, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited

Sponsored by Bank of America, El Dialogo, WRNX 100.9 and Hampshire Hospitality Group
SCENES
Cirque Éloize Rain

Prologue
Tumbling
Juggling
Banquine & Russian Bar
Strong Women
Shoes
Strong Men
Duo Trapeze
Juggling Bottles
Roue Cyr
Teeterboard

INTERMISSION

Monologue
Contortion
Tissue
Hand to hand
Passing and Swinging
Aerial Hoop
Finale

CAST

(All artists are singing and participating to group acts in addition to their specialty)

Jocelyn Bigras  Pianist, lyra glockenspiel
Oksana Burliy  banquine & Russian bar, teeterboard, juggling & swinging clubs, tissue, tambourine
Jean-Philippe Cuerrier  banquine & Russian bar, teeterboard, juggling, strong acrobats number, saxophone
Stéphane Gentilini  Juggling & object manipulation, teeterboard, strong acrobats number
Catherine Girard  aerial hoop, double fix trapeze, tissue, teeterboard, swinging clubs, saxophone
Krin Maren Haglund  Roue Cyr, tissue, swinging clubs, teeterboard, comedian, dancer, saxophone
Sandrine Merette  Double fix trapeze, tissue, teeterboard, strong acrobats number.
Nadine Louis  Contortion, tissue, swinging clubs, strong acrobats number, teeterboard, accordion
Bartłomiej Pankau  Hand to hand, banquine & Russian bar, teeterboard, strong acrobats number
Jonas Woolverton  Roue Cyr, strong acrobats number, teeterboard, rolling globe, accordion.
Jacek Wyskup  Hand to hand, Russian bar, teeterboard, strong acrobats number, cymbal
ABOUT

Cirque Éloize has been traveling the globe for over a decade, performing a magical brand of circus artistry that draws on the big-top tradition — and yet is entirely original. This unique ensemble trades the tent for the theater with a show that combines time-honored circus acts with music, dance, theater, and performance in a new and exciting way. Since their inception, this award-winning Canadian troupe has performed for more than three million spectators in more than 200 cities and 20 countries. Their shows serve up a visual and aural feast that’s at once poetic, mystical, acrobatic and entertaining.

A WORD FROM DIRECTOR DANIELE FINZI PASCA

I come from a family of photographers. My great-grandfather, my grandfather, and my father were all photographers. Later, my mom took up painting. I grew up in a world where memories were made up of moments snatched from time and frozen forever. In my shows, I simply make these images move.

The story takes place in a theatre where a circus show is in rehearsal, where theatre and reality blend into one another and you can't tell where one begins and the other ends. The protagonists exchange glances revealing little love stories, secret passions, flashes of intimacy. Their fragilities have slowly blossomed, surfaced in the ultimate moments of effort in the interplay of extreme equilibria. The artists are out of the past, characters from collections of old photos, handsome and strong like our grandparents. And then there is the sky, a vast sky.

When I was little, when the first summer storm came, I was allowed to go out in the garden and play in the rain and get soaked to the skin. I still love that feeling of freedom — shoes full of water, clothes drenched, hair dripping. "Let it rain," we’d say. “It was as if we welcomed whatever came from the sky” sun or rain, we didn't care. Unexpected things can come from the sky: messages, signs, promises. On our stage, not only rain will fall. Surprises will pour down as well.

There’s a certain kind of feeling in this show, almost a sense of nostalgia, like a strange need to go back to the house you came from, the house where a family once lived, where your roots are. In our house we called this kind of beautiful, sweet sadness that you feel when you look at a sunset, "rain in your eyes."

I want this show to be like a caress: simple, direct, filled with sensuality and tender hope. The protagonists in this adventure appear and gaze searchingly at the audience from the front of the stage. They begin a dialogue with the spectators, looking them straight in the eye. Then they are once again swallowed up by the surreal images of the story.

If I had to describe this show, I would say it is full of hope, joy, and a sweet longing, and that it is made of the stuff of my grandmother's stories. I dedicate it to all those who love to feel the rain pouring down on them.

-Daniele Finzi Pasca

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JOCELYN BIGRAS studied the classical repertoire before branching out into other genres. Since completing his music studies, he has been asked to collaborate as musician, accompanist, programmer or arranger, in many studio and stage productions. Over time, learning to play with voice and pen, he has become an author-composer and a performer. As well as touring throughout many cities in Quebec and France with his songs and music, he has been the opening act for shows of Gilles Vigneault (Coups de coeur Francophone 1996) and Julos Beaucarne (tour in Quebec cities in 2000), and took part in a Claude Leveillé show (Festival d'été de Québec, 1999). Grand prize winner at the Francouvertes (Montreal, 1996), then winner of the Prix de l'amitié francophone (Visa francophone -France, 2001), this former finalist in the Canadian Music Competitions is joining Cirque Éloize, after many shows and involvement in two original albums, delighted by this unique opportunity for magical exchanges and collaboration.

OKSANA BURLIY studied acrobatics with her sister from the age of six, in the city of Kiev, Ukraine. Since that time, her passion for the discipline has never faded, and through her skills she has been able to discover the world. She has performed her Russian bar act with many international circus companies such as Zaporaja, the Cirque Gasser Olympia (Switzerland), the Cirque Arlequin (Poland), the Cirque Imagine and Zavata (France) and finally Cirque Voyage in Germany. Oksana was also a trainer for École de cirque Michellète in France.

JEAN-PHILIPPE CUERRIER was introduced to the circus arts at the age of eight when he attended the Verde Circus School. There he discovered a passion for acrobatics and juggling, and ten years later he entered the National Circus School in Montreal. While perfecting his skills in his favorite disciplines, Jean-Philippe also mastered other apparatuses, including the aerial cradle. After graduation, he flew off for an 8-month tour in Switzerland with the Circus Starlight. Today, in addition to being part of Cirque Éloize's latest creation, Jean-Philippe tries to pass on his first passion to young people of the coming generation by teaching at the Verdun Circus School.

STÉPHANE GENTILINI a native of France, Stéphane began his training with street theatre groups. In order to specialize in juggling, he entered the École nationale de cirque de Châtelerault in 1998, which in turned gained him admission to the National Circus School in Montreal; he studied there from 1999 to 2002. Since then his work has focused on manipulation of objects, which led to appearances with various circus and dance companies.

CATHERINE GIRARD started training at the age of four in classic ballet, rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, and theatre. After graduating from college in dance, she concentrated on the only discipline that combines all her interests: the arts of the circus. She is a graduate of the National Circus School where she studied three years with Jean-Philippe Cuerrier, another member of the Cirque Éloize. Since then the two artists have combined their talents in aerial cradle acts. Since her encounter with this marvellous world, her passion for the circus has never left her. Subsequently, she worked with the Circus Starlight in Switzerland, then in France and with the Tout Fou Tout Fly. After winning in 2003 a Piste de bronze (Bronze Award) at the Festival de Tournai in Belgium, she has finally come and joined the Cirque Éloize.

KRIN MAREN HAGLUND fell deeply in love with the circus as a little girl. After years of ballet, modern dance, gymnastics, and climbing everything in sight, she discovered an emerging voice in physical performance. While continuing to dance, Krin...
studied in Japan for two years and completed her B.A. in pre-med and Asian languages at Smith College in Massachusetts. Krin was satisfied with her academic pursuits, but she knew she had to give her childhood dream a chance. Krin headed for San Francisco to train at the Circus Center, where she attended the Clown Conservatory. In the Bay Area she danced, acted and performed in circus shows, including two seasons with the New Pickle Circus. Krin has many loves and interests in her life, but nothing inspires her as much as the circus.

SANDRINE MERETTE
Sandra was introduced to gymnastics at a very young age and, at age nine, this sport led her towards the circus arts, which she mastered with great enthusiasm. She entered the École Nationale de Cirque's preparatory program for professional training, then, deciding to make the circus her trade, she completed her secondary and college-level studies there. She graduated in 2003. This balancing artist, acrobat, contortionist and actress has shared her talents between the circus, acrobatic theatre for children (DynamO Théâtre) and various television appearances. Sandrine is pleased to join Cirque Éloize's Rain, an opportunity to express her many artistic talents.

NADINE LOUIS
began training very young at the National Circus School in Montreal, then toured with the Cirque du Soleil for seven years in the shows Nouvelle Expérience, Fascination and Saltimbanco. One of a quartet of contortionists, she and her three partners jointly received many recognition awards: the Golden Clown at Festival de cirque de Monaco, the Gold Medal at the 13ème Festival du cirque de l'Avenir in Paris, the Silver Crane at the Wuhan Circus Festival in China and a Gemini Award for the best performance in a variety program on Y.T.V. She has appeared on many television broadcasts, including the “Tonight Show with Johnny Carson”, and performed the main role in the film Satie and Suzanne (Rhombus Media Inc.). Following her circus experience, she completed her studies in arts and communications at Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, then trained for four years in acting at the National Theatre School of Canada.

BARTLOMIEJ PANKAU
was born in Poland, and began doing Acro Sports at the age of eight. In 1997 he placed first in the international competition in Switzerland, and then won several championships in Poland and had other international successes. From 1999 to 2002 Pankau toured Europe with circus troupe Ocelot's production, M a s t e r. During the winter seasons, he worked with Circus Sarasarassani in Germany. Pankau met his partner, Jacek Wyskup, while working in Ocelot, where they began to master their hand-balancing act. Pankau's first contact with theatre came when he performed in the opera, Nabucco by Verdi and more recently he was hired as an actor and physical comedian in the play, Ghetto by Konzertdirektion Landgraf which toured Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Lichtenstein. He has also performed in many special events all over Europe. It is his life's dream to perform onstage as a circus artist and he is thrilled to be a cast member of Cirque Éloize's Rain because it's the perfect fusion between circus and theatre.

JONAS WOOLVERTON
is a native of New York City. He studied dance, theatre, played accordion in a circus-rock band, Ciruppenique and graduated with a B.A. in film production from Vassar College. While working as a filmmaker in San Francisco, Woolverton saw Cirque Éloize's Excentricus and his life and his career path were forever changed. He knew that he had to find a way to work with this theatrical circus company and dedicate himself to the study of the enigmatic Cyr Wheel. The Clown Conservatory at the Circus Center in San Francisco gave him the formal circus training he needed, and he was hired to perform German Wheel and play accordion in the New Pickle Circus’ Circumstance, directed by Gypsy Snider. Ecstatic to now be a part of the international ensemble of Rain, he is living his dream of performing with Cirque Éloize. One day Woolverton plans to combine his passion and experiences in the circus with his love for making films.

JACEK WYSKUP
was born in a small town in Poland, Jacek Wyskup studied with two coaches who were world champions in Acro Sports many times over. He became a full-time performer when he was hired by the legendary cabarets Winter Garden in Berlin and Apollo Variete in Düsseldorf, where he perfected the art of hand balancing. Wyskup began working with his partner, Bartek Pankau, when both were performing in the circus troupe, Ocelot, and they mastered their hand-balancing act in Pasca founded Teatro Sunil in Lugano, Switzerland in 1983. Fascinated by the world of clowns, he developed the concept of Teatro della carezza (“the Theatre of the Caress”). In 1991, he created the one-man show Icaro, which defined his aesthetics and style as a creator. He has written and directed 14 stage plays and produced more than 20 shows both with his own troupe and elsewhere around the world. His shows, which are marked by profound humanity and a playful spirit, have toured the globe. Over the years, he has developed a structured vision of the theatre and a unique acting technique, which he is often

CREATIVE TEAM

DANIELE FINZI PASCA
(Manager of Teatro Sunil and Author and Director)

Director, author, choreographer, and clown, Daniele Finzi Pasca was born into a family of photographers and grew up in his father's darkroom, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and great-grandfather. His collaboration with his brother Marco began early in life, and together they founded two small soccer teams: Finfazu first, followed by Canarivi. Daniel's introduction to the world of the circus came through gymnastics, and he later took his first steps on stage under the guidance of a clown named Pery.

In 1983, he moved to India, where he worked as a volunteer looking after the sick. Upon returning to Switzerland, he founded Teatro Sunil, which he still heads to this day. His lifelong fascination with clowning led to a collaboration with Maria Bonzanigo, from which sprang a theatrical technique that they would call „Teatro della Carezza“.

Finzi Pasca was sentenced to a short stay in prison for acting as a conscientious objector, and during that time, he put the finishing touches on his trilogy dedicated to "escape". One part of this trilogy was Icaro, a monologue for an audience of one. Interpreted by Finzi Pasca, and performed for more than 15 years in six different languages, Icaro has been presented around the world. This "benchmark" show would come to define the essence of style and elegance that is Teatro Sunil.

The years that followed saw Finzi Pasca create and direct some 25 shows with Teatro Sunil. His projects have been seen in more than 20 countries, and are marked by a profound sense of humanity and playfulness. They include: Rituale, Viaggio al Conflite, Dialoghi col Sonno, Percossi Obbligati, Giacobbe, 1337, Altestas and Visitatio (a production of Teatro Sunil)
and Carbone 14 of Montréal).

In recent years has written and directed Te amo, a production of Poramor Producciones and Teatro Sunil, featuring Ana and Dolores Heredia, and two shows for the Cirque Éloize of Montreal: Nomade - At night, the sky is endless and Rain - Comme une pluie dans tes yeux.

Nomade opened in 2002 and has met with enormous success in Paris, London, Vienna, Montréal, Athens, Rotterdam, Beirut, Hong Kong, Rome, Milan, Madrid etc, with more than 700 performances. Rain opened in 2003 at Irvine, California, and has had great success in New York and San Francisco, as well as receiving the Best Touring Production of the Year Theatre Award in Great Britain. For this show Daniele Finzi Pasca was nominated as the best director at the Drama Desk Awards in New York. In 2003 the Cirque du Soleil asked him to write and direct their new touring show, Corteo, which opened in April 2005. Daniele Finzi Pasca was also commissioned to devise and direct the closing ceremony of the XX Olympic Winter Games in Turin in 2006.

Ever-faithful to his early influences, the projects that Daniele Finzi Pasca produces are stamped with his personal theatrical style and vision, creating a distinctive stage presence and methodology for his performers, which he is often asked to present in theatre schools and academies. Casagrande has published his collection of short stories entitled Come Acqua allo specchio as well as the complete script of Viaggio al Confine.

**JULIE HAMELIN** *(Cirque Éloize Co-Director and Rain’s Creative Producer)* After studying psychology and communications in university, Julie Hamelin pursued her career in cinema before entering the world of the circus. She joined Cirque Éloize a few months after it was founded as assistant to Claudette Morin, who was General Manager at the time. Following Claudette's departure in 1998, Julie continued to build the Company with Jeannot Painchaud, and soon became one of its key players. She works in several areas within the Company, including marketing, where she helps to define the image of the young company, both nationally and internationally; market development, where she oversees the international outreach of productions; and creatively in the area of artistic direction, in collaboration with Jeannot Painchaud.

In 1999, Julie propelled the company onto the international market by producing a four-week series of the Excentricus show at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland, hosting 150 international producers and presenters in the process. In 2001, she signed a partnership agreement with the largest talent agency in the United States, and has forged major partnerships in several European markets. Thanks to Julie's international development, the Company has presented more than 3,000 performances in more than 20 countries, and has participated in many prestigious international festivals.

In 2001, Julie and Jeannot initiated and cultivated a relationship with Daniele Finzi Pasca and his company, Teatro Sunil. This partnership led to the creation of Nomade - At night, the sky is endless in 2002, followed by Rain in 2004.

In 2003, she brought together partners for the production of the show Rain for which, as Creative Producer, she plays a determining role in the shows artistic direction.

During that same time period, Julie Hamelin and Jeannot Painchaud founded Theatre T & Co, which produced and supervised the international promotion of a show by Jamie Adkins entitled Typo. Adkins is an artist whose evolution in Excentricus was observed with great interest. In 2004, Julie developed a strategy that resulted in Rain being presented on Broadway for a six-week run, where it piqued the interest of the press and major producers. She subsequently developed the strategy for the presentation of a four-week run in a key theatre on the San Francisco Broadway circuit. Once again, the show garnered rave reviews from the press, and from producers on the American West Coast. The result: In 2006, Julie signed a partnership with Nederlandse, one of the two most important producers on Broadway, and with CAMI Theatricals.

In the summer of 2005, Julie was invited by Daniele Finzi Pasca and Teatro Sunil to join the creative team that assisted Finzi Pasca in the creation and production of the closing ceremonies for the XX Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. As "First Assistant Stage Director", Julie helped Finzi Pasca with the writing of the closing ceremonies, and was responsible for monitoring the progress of the project up to the point where the finishing touches were put on the final script. She also worked with the production department on the production process, and was responsible for overseeing the design of all group choreographies for the production team. Today, Julie Hamelin and Jeannot Painchaud are Co-Directors of Cirque Éloize.

**JEANNOT PAINCHAUD** *(Cirque Éloize Co-director)*

A graduate of Montreal's National Circus School, Jeannot Painchaud's career has spanned two decades. He started out as an artist, working with various circus companies and multidisciplinary artistic groups for twelve years. He performed on stage or under the big top as part of a trio, a duet, and even solo, and toured the world constantly. At the start of his career, Jeannot traveled extensively throughout Europe as a public entertainer. He continued his training at the same time, mainly in acting, through a series of internships. An acrobat and juggler, Jeannot's specialty is artistic bicycling. In 1989, he spent some time at the Centre national des arts du cirque (CNAC) in Chalon sur Marne, France. He was a member of the Québec-based Cirque du Tonnerre company in 1990-1991, and he earned a bronze medal at the 1992 Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris for his artistic bicycling presentation. He then joined Cirque du Soleil on tour, which took him on his first trip to Japan.

In 1993, Jeannot founded Cirque Éloize with Daniel Cyr and Claudette Morin. During the early years, he performed on stage and directed the company's productions. In 1998, he left the stage to dedicate himself fully to the direction of Cirque Éloize. He has continued to focus on the company's evolution ever since, working in collaboration with Julie Hamelin, who is responsible for international development.

In 2001, Jeannot staged the first version of the show entitled Cirque Orchestra. The integration of other forms of entertainment with acrobatics is a driving force for Jeannot, and this vision demands the support of creators in the theatre and contemporary dance milieus.

In 2001, Jeannot and Julie Hamelin met Daniele Finzi Pasca, a stage director and founder of Teatro Sunil, who has become a major influence on Cirque Éloize. Finzi Pasca has created two shows for the company: Nomade - At night, the sky is endless, for which Jeannot was responsible for artistic direction and collaborated on the writing, and Rain, for which the Painchaud-Hamelin team assumed responsibility the artistic direction. Jeannot is also the artistic direction and staging advisor for Typo, a show produced by Theatre T & Co., which was created by the directors of Cirque Éloize.
In 2003, Jeannot founded the first North American Circus Festival, the Semaine des arts du Cirque, which was held in the Magdalen Islands, where he was raised. A self-directed artist and entrepreneur, Jeannot’s extensive travels have taken him to more than 30 countries, and today, he continues to pursue his dream and primary mission: to have the circus arts recognized as a full art form. Jeannot Painchaud is also head of the Special Events department at Cirque Éloize, where he is responsible for the stage direction and development of customized concepts for large-scale projects that are presented around the world, including galas, corporate events, special television presentations, and more.

In 2005, Jeannot was invited by Daniele Finzi Pasca and Teatro Sunil to join the creative team for the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. The 7-person team included 5 members of Teatro Sunil and 2 members of Cirque Éloize. As assistant to the stage director, Jeannot was in charge of the acrobatic component of the ceremony. Today, Jeannot Painchaud and Julie Hamelin are Co-Directors of Cirque Éloize.

To learn more about the rest of the creative team behind Rain, visit www.raintheshow.com.
Communications coordinator    Chantale Potvin
Head trainer & casting agent    Krzysztof Soroczynski

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