

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL™
ENTERTAINMENT GROUP



Press



Kit





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Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group

Cirque du Soleil's mission is to invoke the imagination, provoke the senses and evoke the emotions of people around the world.

Originally composed of 20 street performers in 1984, *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* completely reinvented circus arts and went on to become a world leader in live entertainment. Established in Montreal, the Canadian organization has brought wonder and delight to millions of spectators worldwide.

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group currently has over 3,900 employees including 1,155 artists, comprised of nearly 80 different nationalities.

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group creates content for a broad range of audacious projects. In addition to producing world-renowned shows, the organization has extended its creative approach to various entertainment forms such as multimedia productions, immersive experiences, theme parks and special events. Going beyond its various creations, *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* aims to make a positive impact on people, communities and the planet with its most important tools: creativity and art.

3,988
employees



1,155
artists

80
nationalities



36
languages



9.5M
tickets sold on a yearly basis



More than

45 shows
presented around the world



International Headquarters: Cirque du Soleil's Creative Hub



Cirque du Soleil's International Headquarters (IHQ), located in Montreal (Quebec, Canada), is a unique world-class creative laboratory where creators from all disciplines hailing from the four corners of the world gather to collaborate on various creative projects. Because of its role as a catalyst in bringing talent together, *Cirque du Soleil* can continually renew itself.

Total surface: 36,600 m²



The Studios



Since 1997, all *Cirque du Soleil* shows have been created at the international headquarters, also called the Creation Studios. It is a full-fledged creation, innovation and training laboratory that provides excellent flexibility for the creative teams working on various *Cirque du Soleil* projects.

Upon being hired by *Cirque du Soleil*, performers come to the Creation Studios for a few weeks or months of preliminary training before joining a show.

To support performer training programs, the Studios employ more than one hundred trainers from around the world. These trainers specialize in fields such as dance, theatre, singing, and acrobatics. In addition to these coaches and trainers, an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified specialists is made available to each artist, ensuring his physical and psychological well-being. The presence of these experts helps create a controlled and safe environment.

The Training Studios house four main rooms totaling 3,300 m² of training space. The biggest room is 23m high. It can fit a Big Top show's entire set and can recreate actual technical show conditions.

Since 2003, *Cirque du Soleil's* International Headquarters complex has added a residence for the artists that are in Montreal for their acrobatic and artistic training.



The Workshops

Costumes and props needed for the various *Cirque du Soleil* shows are created in the costume workshops in Montreal. The workshop, the only one of its kind in North America, employs specialists in shoemaking, textile design, lacemaking, wig-making, patternmaking, costume-making and millinery.

To create its costumes, *Cirque du Soleil* employs the talents of renowned designers both in Canada and abroad. Kym Barrett, Zaldy Goco, Philippe Guillotel, Eiko Ishioka and Thierry Mugler are some of the world's most reputable designers that have worked with *Cirque du Soleil*.

Research and development serving designers

Research and development play an essential role in costume design. *Cirque du Soleil* is constantly looking for new materials or products that are likely to stimulate the imagination or facilitate the work of designers.



The Costume workshop has approximately 150 full-time employees.



The costume workshop produces some 10,000 pieces (bodysuits, hats, wigs, dresses, pants, shoes, etc.) per year and use close to 20 kilometres of fabric.



Moleskin is the type of Lycra most used at *Cirque du Soleil*. 92% of all fabrics are treated and dyed in-house in Montreal.



To create custom-designed hats, the costume designers build a 3D life size reproduction of each of the artist's heads, with the help of a portable scanner and a 3D printer.



Approximately 1,500 pairs of shoes are produced every year.



Nearly 4,500 costumes are found on all show locations every night.



Finding Talent All Over The World

Our Casting team—composed of some 25 people, including 8 talent scouts—does everything in its power to find exceptional artists for current and upcoming *Cirque du Soleil* productions.

Talent scouts look for originality, talent and the unusual. The world is their playground, which they go over with a fine-tooth comb by holding auditions and scouting during competitions, festivals and various events.

Cirque du Soleil also holds auditions year-round all over the world. These auditions involve in-depth analysis of candidates' abilities, including their technical and artistic skills, their openness and ability to explore new ways of doing things and step outside their comfort zone.

Artistic disciplines

Singers, musicians, dancers, actors and clowns play a significant role in creating magic in our shows— whether through their musical talent, ability to convey emotion through movement, or aptitude for engaging the audience. All these artists have one thing in common — they all hail from the performing arts world.

In searching for and discovering unique candidates, the Casting team is supported by a global network of partners that act as *Cirque du Soleil's* eyes and ears in the field.

Over the years, the Casting team has received an impressive number of audition materials from candidates from around the world and has compiled them all in a database.

Athletic disciplines and circus arts

Around 40% of *Cirque du Soleil* artists come from a professional sports background. For many years now, *Cirque du Soleil* has offered stage career opportunities for athletes whose competitive career is coming to an end. This represents an opportunity for them to acquire new performing arts skills and transform their career. This approach opens new doors for athletes from sports such as artistic, acrobatic and rhythmic gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling, artistic swimming and diving. With their abilities and skills, many show promise as potential replacements in current shows or in upcoming creations.

The Casting team also plays a consulting role with the various creation teams, directors and artistic directors by showing them acts or artists discovered at auditions or scouting activities. The creation teams leave it up to the experts to find the talent to give each show its unique character.

Performers Origins

40%
Sports disciplines

35%
Circus Arts

25%
Artistic disciplines

→ Touring Shows

The genuine *Cirque du Soleil* experience under the Big Top.



Big Top



KOOZA

A TRADITIONAL CIRCUS HOMAGE

KOOZA is a show that blends, almost to perfection, its subcontinental sounds, its stunning lighting and costumes with theatrical ingenuity and acrobatic wonder. A return to our origins, it combines acrobatic performance and the art of clowning while exploring fear, identity, recognition and power. The audience will meet many colorful and intriguing characters who will surprise them and take them on a highly emotional journey where there is something for everyone.

Did you know?

There are more than 175 costumes and 160 hats in the show – 1,080 items in all, including all the shoes, props, wigs and so on.



KURIOS – Cabinet of Curiosities

A mysterious and fascinating realm that disorients your senses and challenges your perceptions. Step into the curios cabinet of an ambitious inventor who defies the laws of time, space and dimension to reinvent everything around him. Suddenly, the visible becomes invisible, perspectives are transformed, and the world is turned upside down.

DID you know?

To make the Accordion Man's attire, the costume-maker spent an entire week sewing inside the costume.



LUZIA

A WAKING DREAM OF MEXICO

Discover LUZIA, where a waking dream transports you to an imaginary Mexico. Experience a wondrous world that inspires you to explore your senses, enveloped in light and nurtured by rain.

Did you know?

Integrating the element of water inside the Big Top represented a huge technical challenge on several fronts. The water must be filtered, disinfected and maintained at a constant 28°C (82°F) for the well-being of the artists. All 6,000 litres (1,585 gallons) of water used during the performance are recycled for the entire duration of a stay in a given city.



BAZZAR

THE ECLECTIC LAB OF INFINITE CREATIVITY

Led by their maestro, they band together to invent a whimsical one-of-a-kind universe. In a place where the unexpected is expected, the colorful group reimagines, rebuilds and reinvents vibrant scenes in an artistic, acrobatic game of order and disorder.

Did you know?

For the first time in Cirque du Soleil history, **BAZZAR** features a mesmerizing act of Mallakhamb, a traditional Indian sport in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga postures and wrestling grips in concert with a vertical stationary



ALEGRIA

IN A NEW LIGHT

Beloved by fans worldwide, iconic *Alegría* is reinterpreted in a renewed version to share its timeless story. The classic power struggle of old meets new is reinterpreted for today's cultural pulse. Led by an intangible wind of change, an emerging movement strives to shake the established order, instilling hope and renewal to bring light to a world in perfect harmony. *Alegría* energizes the audience with a joyful spirit for a brighter and more inspiring tomorrow.

Did you know?

The finale of *Alegría* is the only Flying Trapeze act presented on *Cirque du Soleil* touring show given the complexity and size of the apparatus. Daring flyers are swinging side-by-side on trapezes set 10 meters above the stage performing incredible leaps to reach for the arms of mighty catchers suspended by their knees.



ECHO

With a tale about evolution as well as the symbiotic relationships that our lives depend on, *Cirque du Soleil* adds fresh and unexpected turns to its Big Top magic. A spectacular performance combining poetry, stagecraft, daring acrobatics, and technology explores the delicate balance between people, animals, and the world we all share. Our main female heroine Future and our characters discover that their choices have the potential to influence the world as they progress through the stages of evolution. They are motivated to work together to piece the planet we all wish to live on. *Cirque du Soleil* **ECHO** allows the audience to join in a world of color, inspired by the youth's optimism, the inventive power, and the value of empathy.

Did you know?

ECHO is *Cirque du Soleil's* 20th Big Top touring show and features a unique aesthetic and completely new visual effects. The audience is propelled into a universe of color, wonder and infinite possibilities



Arena



OVO

RUSH HEADLONG INTO A NEW ECOSYSTEM

OVO is teeming with life. Insects work, play, fight and look for love in a non-stop riot of energy in motion. Their home is filled with biodiversity, beauty, action and moments of quiet emotion. The awestruck insects are intensely curious when a mysterious egg appears, representing the enigma and cycles of their lives.

Did you know?

The Egg, which is inflatable, measures 28 ft wide by 22 ft tall.



CORTEO

A FESTIVE PARADE IMAGINED BY A CLOWN

Corteo, which means “cortege” in Italian, is a joyous procession, a festive parade imagined by a clown. The show brings together the passion of the actor with the grace and power of the acrobat to plunge the audience into a theatrical world of fun, comedy and spontaneity in a mysterious space between Heaven and Earth.

Did you know?

In the remount process, from the Big Top to the arena, new acts have been added to the Corteo show with a small adaptation to the original story line.



CRYSTAL

A BREAKTHROUGH ICE EXPERIENCE

Crystal is the first-ever experience on ice from *Cirque du Soleil*. World-class ice skaters and acrobats take their new frozen playground by storm with speed and fluidity as they challenge the laws of gravity with a flurry of unexpected acrobatics. A new kind of performance as *Cirque du Soleil* meets the ice.

Did you know?

Did you know most of the artists do up to 4 costume changes in one performance and the fastest is done in 35-seconds.

→ Resident Shows

Unparalleled production value in custom-built theatres.

→ MEXICO – RIVIERA MAYA



Dinner Shows

An immersive multisensory and intimate culinary and theatrical experience set in a custom-designed theater.

JOYÀ

This adventure was inspired by the fabulous migratory journey of the monarch butterfly, where life is passed on from one generation to the next to perpetuate the love of life. The beautiful theater and high-end culinary elements invoke your senses and reflect the unique charm of this show.

Did you know?

Each show serves 200 three-course gourmet dinners made by 20 chefs, 1,428 appetizers, and around 300 bottles of Champagne

→ FLORIDA – USA



DRAWN TO LIFE – Disney Springs

PRESENTED BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL AND DISNEY

Drawn to Life invites you into an astounding world where the art of Walt Disney Animation is experienced like never before. Gather your whole family for an unforgettable leap into this amazing new show—a live acrobatic journey where the stage is transformed into a giant animation table. The art of classic Disney animation is reinterpreted through Cirque du Soleil’s innovative design, acrobatic performances, dazzling choreography, and eclectic costuming alongside all-new Disney animation and an original score inspired by timeless Disney music. The show is absolutely alive with all the high-flying, mind-blowing exuberance that Cirque du Soleil is famous for.

Did you know?

The Squash & Stretch act was inspired by the rubber band fights Disney animators were known to have during their breaks.

→ LAS VEGAS — USA



“O”

BELLAGIO • LAS VEGAS

EXPERIENCE AN AQUATIC MASTERPIECE

Weaving a tapestry of artistry, surrealism and theatrical romance, “O” pays tribute to the beauty of theatre. Inspired by the concept of infinity and the elegance of water, world-class acrobats, synchronized swimmers and divers create a breathtaking experience.

Did you know?

In high dive, the performers jump from 60 feet above the stage into a 17-ft deep triangular section of the pool.



KÀ

MGM GRAND • LAS VEGAS

THIS IS YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

The unprecedented epic production by *Cirque du Soleil* takes adventure to an all-new level. Be awed by a dynamic theatrical landscape, as an entire empire appears on KÀ’s colossal 360 rotating stage.

Did you know?

The boat in the Storm scene weighs 1,800 pounds and is completely manipulated onstage by the artists.



MICHAEL JACKSON ONE

MANDALAY BAY • LAS VEGAS

MICHAEL JACKSON, AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY

Michael Jackson ONE is an electrifying fusion of acrobatics, dance and visuals that reflect the dynamic showmanship of the King of Pop, immersing the audience into the world of Michael’s music. Driven by his biggest hits heard like never before in a riveting state-of-the-art surround-sound environment.

Did you know?

In addition to the 28 strobe lights and 587 lighting fixtures in the show, there are 295 custom LED fixtures built into the show’s various set pieces.



THE BEATLES LOVE

MIRAGE • LAS VEGAS

A MUSIC REVOLUTION IN MOTION

Drawn from the poetry of the lyrics, LOVE explores the content of the songs in a series of scenes inhabited by real and imaginary people. The international cast of 60 channels a raw, youthful energy underscored by aerial performance, extreme sports and urban, freestyle dance.

Did you know?

LOVE is the winner of three Grammy Awards — there are more than 130 different Beatles songs used in the show.



MYSTÈRE

TREASURE ISLAND • LAS VEGAS

A CIRQUE DU SOLEIL CLASSIC

Powerful athleticism, high-energy acrobatics and inspiring imagery fill the air. Deemed a theatrical “flower in the desert”, *Mystère* thrills audiences with an exhilarating blend of whimsy, drama and the unimaginable. It offers the ultimate discovery that life itself is a mystery.

Did you know?

Mystère Guitarist Bruce Rickerd has performed in more than 10,000 shows in the show’s 22-year history, earning him a Guinness World Record.



MAD APPLE

NEW YORK-NEW YORK • LAS VEGAS

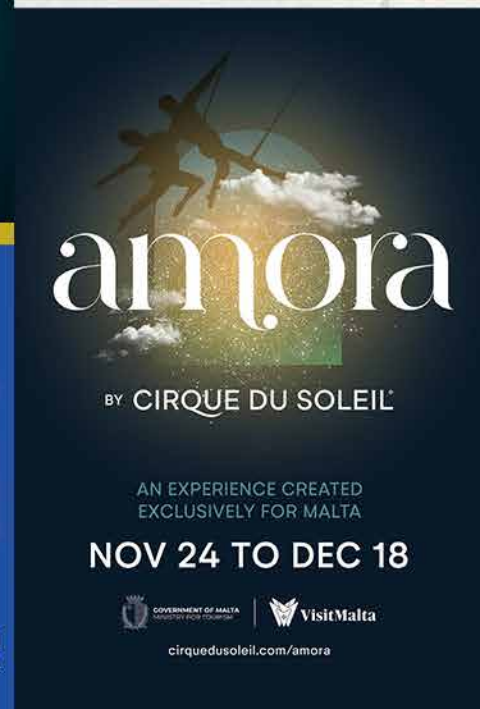
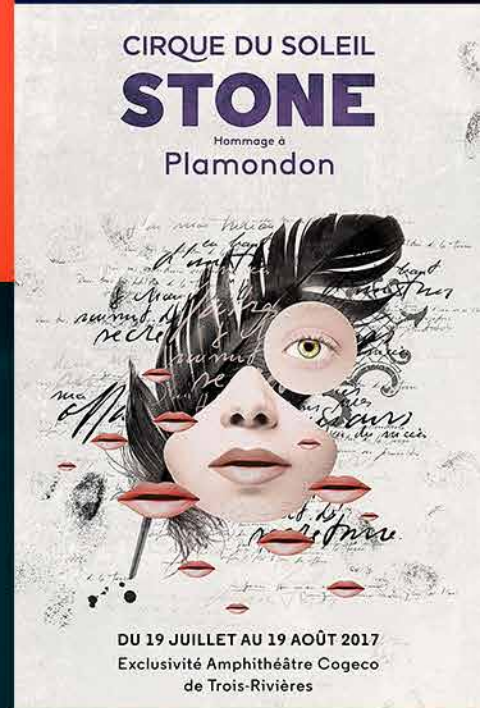
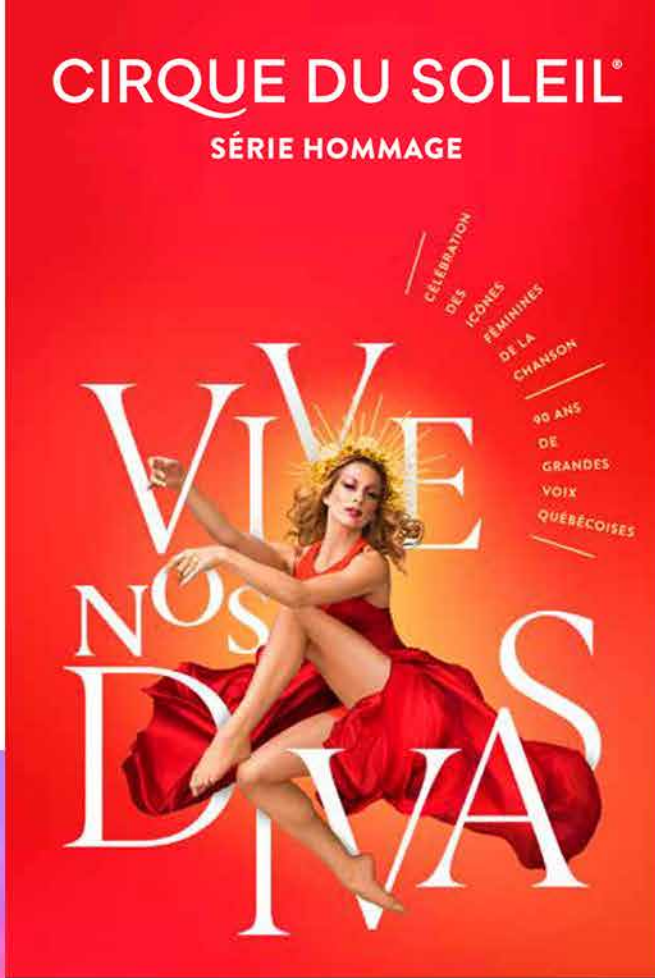
NYC’S WILDEST NIGHT OUT COMES TO THE LAS VEGAS STAGE!

Mad Apple is a delicious *Cirque du Soleil* cocktail of New York-inspired acrobatics, music, dance, magic, and comedy.

Celebrating the city that never sleeps, Mad Apple is a nonstop thrill ride from the moment you step into the theater. From pre-show magic and boozy libations at the stunning stage bar, to the band playing the biggest musical hits inspired by the city, Mad Apple blurs the lines between circus, live entertainment, and New York nightlife culture.

Did you know?

The Chrysler Building is a fiberglass structure that is about 6 feet in diameter and 9.3 feet tall.



→ CIRQUE DU SOLEIL EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES



Through its events and special projects division, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL EVENTS + EXPERIENCES has been delivering creative content for special projects and exclusive events worldwide for over 17 years. At the core of its prestigious shows is a unique wealth of creative excellence and expertise. We bring uniqueness to our esteemed partners to help them not only achieve their objectives but also deliver a lasting impression on their audience.

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL EVENTS + EXPERIENCES can be credited for some of the biggest productions in the world, including performances at the XLVI Super Bowl Halftime Show, the 84th Academy Awards, Eurovision, the NBA All-Star Game's Opening Show, the 2015 Pan American Game's opening ceremonies and Canada 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Custom-Made Shows

Cirque du Soleil puts forth the creativity and storytelling strength it is renowned for to the service of partners around the world who wish to present unparalleled bespoke experiences to their clients or public.

Services offered range from creation to production, including artistic direction, lighting, choreography (dance and acrobatics), SFX and props design, video content, costumes, hair and makeup, as well as pyrotechnics.

Cirque du Soleil EVENTS + EXPERIENCE expertise has been leveraged created tailor-made shows for many internationally renowned:

- A series of shows for the Jeddah Festival in Saudi Arabia, most recently VIZION in 2023.
- A series of tribute shows since 2015, most recently "VIVE NOS DIVAS" in 2022, most recently Guy! Guy! Guy! Trois-Rivières (Canada)
- "MUV" an event in 2022, Festa
- A series of shows since 2019, most recently AMORA in 2021, Valletta (Malta)
- "REFLEKT!", Expo Astana 2017, Astana (Kazakhstan)
- "JOEL", Cirque du Soleil Holiday Show, Barvikha Village (Russia)
- "LA FORGE AUX ÉTOILES" an aquatic fairy-tale fantasy from Cirque du Soleil from 2016 to 2021, Poitiers (France)
- The opening and closing ceremonies of the Dubai World Cup, 2018
- Helene Fischer's 2017/2018 Live Tour



→ BLUE MAN GROUP

Cirque du Soleil acquired New York based Blue Man Productions in July 2017, a global live entertainment company best known for the award winning Blue Man Group show. A dynamic combination of art, music, comedy and technology, the show's euphoric celebration of human connection has universal appeal for a broad range of age groups and cultural backgrounds. The show is continually refreshed with new music, fresh stories, custom instruments and unexpected moments. Since debuting at New York's Astor Place Theatre in 1991, the live show has expanded to additional domestic residencies in Boston, Chicago, and Las Vegas, an international residency in Berlin, and multiple North American and World tours, reaching more than 50 million people worldwide.

For more information, visit blueman.com

75

Blue Men

84

Band Members



→ VSTAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

VStar Entertainment Group is a leading entertainment company and producer of unforgettable live experiences for audiences in the U.S. and internationally. From concept through activation, VStar imagines and creates custom tours featuring original content and licensed, branded tours that provide highly engaging entertainment for fans of all ages. With nearly four decades of expertise in all aspects of event production and management, VStar delivers turnkey, in-house solutions for theatrical shows, interactive exhibits, and brand activations.

VStar also creates custom-fabricated mascots and costumes, large-scale sets, scenery and 3-D installations, serving as a valued resource for professional sports teams, Fortune 500 companies, and experiential marketing agencies. Acquired in 2018 by global live entertainment leader, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group, VStar has presented more than 40,000 live performances across 40 countries and entertains nearly three million guests annually.

For more information, visit vstarentertainment.com.

→ THE WORKS ENTERTAINMENT

Creative Producer Simon Painter and Executive Producer Tim Lawson established The Works Entertainment. It is one of the world's most successful live entertainment companies and has created, presented, and produced first-class entertainment in over 400 cities and 40 countries. Their award-winning shows have smashed box office records multiple times across the globe.

Their first collaboration was Le Grand Cirque at the Sydney Opera House. The show broke every box-office record in the history of that iconic venue and led to multiple international productions. This was followed by Aerial Dreams and Adrenaline, both launched at the Sydney Opera House and after that toured extensively in Australasia and beyond.

Painter and Lawson then created The Illusionists – Witness The Impossible. The show sold out its Sydney Opera House season before opening – a pattern that would follow quickly through arenas and theaters around the world. Along with its sequels, The Illusionists 2.0 – The Next Generation of Magic and The Illusionists: Turn of

the Century, The Illusionists is now the most successful magic show in history, playing multiple productions around the world and smashing records in venues such as The Sydney Opera House, London's Shaftesbury Theatre and Broadway's Marquis, St James and Palace Theatres.

Their touring shows include Cirque Paris, Cirque Adrenaline, Le Noir – The Dark Side of Cirque and The Unbelievables; which have played in arenas and theaters. Their latest acclaimed productions include Circus 1903 – The Golden Age of Circus, which has just completed a record-breaking season at London's Southbank Centre, and the international tour of Lionsgate's Now You See Me, which has just completed an extensive arena tour of China.

For more information, visit theworksent.com



→ OUTBOX

Outbox offers an innovative ticket selling tool in some 20 countries and in 10 different languages using signature interactive seat maps, 3D customized venue plans and one-page checkout. Outbox leverages its know-how to find customized, innovative and relevant ways to help its clients better sellout seats. Clients are typically major live

event global venues or international promoters looking for integrated, specialized solutions. Outbox helps manage ticket window sales, call center service, group sales, season tickets and special events.



Corporate Social Responsibility in Communities

More than

11,500

tickets donated to charities & social circus organisations in 52 cities and across 12 countries

We speak to youth in a language that is built into our DNA:

art



Montreal

City of Circus Arts

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group has aspired to have a positive impact on the world since its inception. The decision to establish its International Headquarters in the Saint-Michel district of Montreal sprang from the desire to select a location where the company's presence could be meaningful for its surrounding community. The choice of Saint-Michel, in the north of Montreal, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Canada at the time, allowed *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* to take actions that have a meaningful impact in the local community.

The late 1990s saw the rise of a great project in Montreal: assembling a critical mass of circus arts creation, training, production, and performance infrastructure. So, in 1999, *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* took the initiative of involving its private and public partners in creating La TOHU. Founded in 2003 in association with the National Circus School and En Piste, the Circus Arts professionals National Network, the non-profit organization (NPO) has a triple mission: to make Montreal a world capital of circus arts, to play an active part in the rehabilitation of the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex, one of the biggest urban waste disposal sites in North America, and to contribute to the development of the Saint-Michel district in Montreal.

Community

We strive to be a good neighbor at our offices and in the cities we visit by building relationships with communities through activities and programs that benefit at-risk youth. This cause is a natural fit for a company founded by street performers.

Using arts as an intervention tool *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* created the *Cirque du Monde* program to promote circus art as a means of intervention with at-risk youth, an approach known as social circus. *Cirque du Monde* offers training for practitioners, support for social circus organizations, and advocacy on the benefits of social circus.

Cirque du Monde uses art to contribute to its participants' personal and social development by fostering self-esteem, confidence, social skills, citizen development, and creativity. Still today, the social circus movement has a worldwide impact. Moreover, in each of the cities visited by our Big Top, we distribute 500 tickets to organizations working with at-risk youth and in the circus arts to offer access to our shows. In 2022, the Global Citizen program tallied more than 11,500 tickets distributed to non-profit organizations in 52 cities and across 12 countries.



Talent

At *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group*, our employees, artists, and artisans are the undeniable force on which our reputation is built. Their work environment has a significant influence on their overall quality of life. Hence, we ensure this environment is open, safe, creative, and friendly.

Well-being and energy

We aim to enrich our employees' experience by promoting well-being through organized sports, access to a gym, a cafeteria with a diverse menu, a recognition program, and easy access to meditation sessions. We want to offer our employees an environment where they can feel at home and find fulfillment.

Diversity and Inclusion

We aim to have a positive impact on people, communities and the planet using the things that set us apart: creativity and art. *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* works tirelessly to institute a strong diversity and inclusion program to offer our employees a chance to grow together.

Recently *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* created a new DCI community of practice in Montreal with over 15 companies participating and offered a training workshop on inclusive leadership to all *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group* managers and training sessions to all employees on the topic of unconscious bias and gender diversity.

Procurement and partnerships

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group has a social responsibility clause in its partnership agreements. This clause covers a set of social responsibility parameters, such as employee relations and working conditions, responsible procurement, environmental protection, and social and cultural action in the community.

Partners

Our business partners play a crucial role in developing and carrying out our operations. By harmonizing our practices with these leading partners, we can maximize our social impact and reduce our environmental footprint. Our values are concretely expressed through our many collaborations, including the one with MGM Resorts International, our long-time partner in Las Vegas.

Health and safety

At *Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group*, we strive to be a competent, responsible organization and a benchmark for health and safety in the entertainment industry. Health and safety are of the utmost importance in our management, operational and creative practices. As such, we adhere to the following principles: Establish, harmonize, and promote strong health and safety practices by adopting a risk management approach that meets the highest standards.



One Drop Foundation



One of our missions at *Cirque du Soleil* has always been to have a positive impact on individuals, communities, and the planet by using what sets us apart: art and creativity. Through our engagement programs, we aspire to build a better world, where we all have access to living conditions that allow us to develop and flourish. It is through the importance of water in communities worldwide and creating a more sustainable way of living that we believe our partnership with One Drop takes on its full meaning.

The One Drop Foundation is an international philanthropic organization whose mission is to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene services for communities facing extreme barriers, while contributing to climate action.

History



1984

It all started in Baie–Saint–Paul, a small town near Quebec City in Canada. A band of colorful characters roamed the streets, striding on stilts, juggling, dancing, breathing fire, and playing music, Guy Laliberté, Gilles Ste–Croix and their cronies began to cherish a crazy dream: to create a new form of circus and take the troupe traveling around the world.

In 1984, Quebec City was celebrating the 450th anniversary of Canada's discovery by Jacques Cartier, and they needed a show that would carry the festivities out across the province. Guy Laliberté presented a proposal for a show called *Cirque du Soleil* and succeeded in convincing the organizers. And *Cirque du Soleil* hasn't stopped since!

It is also *Le Grand Tour* show debuts in the small Quebec town of Gaspé and is then performed in 10 other cities throughout the province. The first blue–and–yellow Big Top seats 800.

1985 – 1986

After performing in Montreal, Sherbrooke and Quebec City with *Le Grand Tour*, *Cirque du Soleil* leaves its home province for the first time to take its show across Canada. The Big Top now has room for 1,500 spectators.

1987 – 1988

Le Cirque réinventé is performed at the Los Angeles Art Festival and then moves on to San Diego and Santa Monica. The participation of *Cirque du Soleil* at the Los Angeles Art Festival is not only an important milestone in its history but also its first visit to its American neighbors. *Le Cirque réinventé* continues its North American, after a brief appearance at the Calgary Winter Olympics.

1990

Montreal is the setting for the world premiere of a brand–new production, *Nouvelle Expérience*, in a new, 2,500 – seat Big Top. Meanwhile, *Cirque du Soleil* makes its first foray into Europe, staging *Le Cirque réinventé* in London and Paris.

1992

Fascination, a collage of the best acts from past shows, enables Cirque to make a name for itself in Japan. In North America, 1992 sees *Cirque du Soleil* make its Las Vegas debut when *Nouvelle Expérience* kicks off a year–long engagement under a Big Top at The Mirage Hotel. *Cirque du Soleil* adds a monument to its repertoire of shows: *Saltimbanco*. This latest production begins a lengthy tour of North America.



1993

Following the successful Las Vegas run of *Nouvelle Expérience*, *Cirque du Soleil* moves into a theatre built to its specifications at the new Treasure Island Hotel. A 10-year contract is signed with Mirage Resorts to stage *Mystère*, a gigantic production befitting this show-business capital.

1994

Cirque du Soleil celebrates its 10th anniversary with another production, *Alegría*. True to tradition, the world premiere is held in Montreal. *Saltimbanco* embarks on a six-month run in Tokyo that attracts a great deal of attention.



1995

Saltimbanco sets out to open officially the European market. Cirque's The white Big Top seating for 2,500 spectators makes its first stop in Amsterdam, followed by Munich, Berlin, Düsseldorf, and Vienna.

1996

In April, Cirque launches *Quidam* and heads off on a North American tour. Meanwhile, *Alegría* sets out to tour Japan for a few months.

1997

In Montreal, the inauguration of the brand new International Headquarters is held in The Saint-Michel district, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Canada. The Studio is now where all of Cirque's shows will be created and produced.



1998

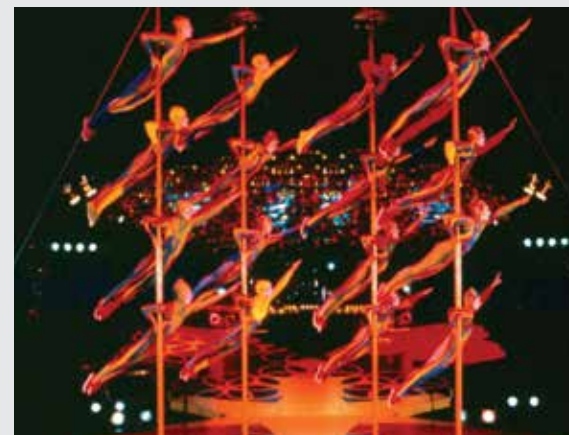
The second resident show for *Cirque du Soleil*, "O", takes the stage of a new theatre at the Bellagio in Las Vegas. This production is Cirque's first aquatic show and an important milestone in the company history. With this show, Cirque is now known internationally. In December of the same year, Cirque inaugurates yet another permanent show, *La Nouba*, at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

1999

A brand-new *Cirque du Soleil* production, *Dralion*, launches its North American tour. With *Saltimbanco*, Cirque sets up shop in Asia and the Pacific.

2000

Movie fans come out in droves to see *Cirque du Soleil* on the IMAX screen for the first time ever, as its large-format film production *Journey of Man* (Passages in French), distributed by Sony Pictures Classics, premieres worldwide.



2002

Varekai premieres in Montreal, and from there begins a tour of North America. *Cirque du Soleil* made its first stop in Mexico this year with *Alegría*.

2003

Zumanity, an adults-only resident show takes the stage at New York-New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

2004

Cirque du Soleil launches a new resident show, *KÀ*, in the fall at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.



2005

Cirque du Soleil launches a new Big Top show *Corteo* in Montreal.

2006

DELIRIUM, first-ever musical show in arena, premiered and has begun its US tour. *Cirque du Soleil* is also preparing a fifth permanent show in Las Vegas: *The Beatles LOVE*, which celebrates the musical legacy of The Beatles at The Mirage. After touring in North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, *Cirque du Soleil* has set out to make a name for itself in South America by presenting its show *Saltimbanco* in Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

2007

KOOZA, a new touring show, is launched in April. In February, *Cirque du Soleil* puts on a pre-game performance for Super Bowl XLI in Miami. In November, Cirque presents *Wintuk*, a show designed exclusively for the WaMu Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York. After having toured for 14 years and being performed before more than 9.5 million spectators, *Saltimbanco* is reborn and takes off on an arena tour of more than 40 cities in Canada and the U.S.



2008

This was a historical year for *Cirque du Soleil* as the company launched three new permanent shows that year: *ZAIA* at The Venetian Hotel in Macau (China), *ZED* at the Tokyo Disney Resort in Tokyo (Japan) and *CRISS ANGEL Believe* at The Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas (United States).

2009

Cirque du Soleil celebrates its 20th anniversary. A number of events mark the occasion: among other things, Cirque sets the first Guinness World Record for the largest number of stilt-walkers (544) at the same time and place.

Cirque du Soleil celebrates its 25th anniversary and launches the 25th production of its history: its creation, *OVO*.

Guy Laliberté became the first Canadian private space explorer. His mission was dedicated to raising awareness on water issues facing humankind on planet earth.





2010

Cirque du Soleil launches three new productions in 2010. **Viva ELVIS**, Cirque's seventh show in Las Vegas at ARIA Resort & Casino. **Banana Shpeel** is presented in Chicago and New York and **TOTEM**, first show designed to adapt to various performance spaces such as Big Top and arenas, celebrates its world premiere in Montreal. James Cameron (*Titanic*, *AVATAR*), and Andrew Adamson (*Shrek*, *Chronicles of Narnia*), joined their creative forces to develop and produce immersive theatrical 3D projects.

Cirque du Soleil's founder, Guy Laliberté gets a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

2011

Zarkana began at the legendary Radio City Music Hall in New York City. **IRIS** was created exclusively for the Dolby Theatre at the Hollywood & Highland Center and the show **Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL World Tour™** began in Montreal.

2012

Cirque du Soleil launched a new touring show in Montreal called **Amaluna**. Cirque du Soleil collaborated with pop star Madonna providing artistic direction services for her performance at the Super Bowl XLVI halftime show.

2013

Cirque du Soleil launched a new resident production inspired by pop icon Michael Jackson, **Michael Jackson ONE**, at Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas. **Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL World Tour** ranked among the 10 more lucrative tours of rock history, a first for a Canadian artist.

2014

Cirque du Soleil celebrates its 30th anniversary and launched a new touring show, **Kurios – Cabinet of Curiosities**. Cirque opened a new resident show in Riviera Maya (Mexico), **JOYÀ**, in a custom-designed theatre. As part of its 30th anniversary, and for the first time in its history, Cirque du Soleil presents a unique, exclusive music event in Montreal celebrating 30 years of music.

2015

To fuel growth and take its iconic Big Top to exciting new markets, Cirque du Soleil began a new chapter of its history with the arrival of new owners alongside Guy Laliberté: TPG Capital, Fosun and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec.

Cirque du Soleil launched **TORUK – The First Flight**, an arena-touring show inspired by the world of James Cameron's history-making motion picture **AVATAR**.

2016

Two new productions launched: **LUZIA**, a touring show under the Big Top inspired by the rich Mexican culture launched in Montreal, and **PARAMOUR**, a production created specifically for Broadway presented at the Lyric Theatre in New York.



2017

SEP7IMO DIA – NO DESCANSARÉ, a new arena show inspired by the music of a popular band from Argentina, Soda Stereo begin a South America tour. The most recent touring show **VOLTA**, inspired by action sports, lifted its marquee at the Old Port of Montreal in April.

Cirque du Soleil acquired New York-based **Blue Man Productions** in July 2017, a global live entertainment company best known for the award-winning Blue Man Group show, performed in over 20 countries and seen by more than 35 million people worldwide since 1991. For the very first time, a show merging circus arts and the world of ice is launched – **CRYSTAL**.

After entertaining more than 11 million guests with close to 9,000 shows, the curtain closed on **La Nouba** on December 31. Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group and Walt Disney Parks and Resorts announced the renewal of their long-lasting relationship with the development of a brand-new show which will draw its inspiration from Disney's heritage of animation.

2018

Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group continues its creative diversification through the acquisition of **VStar Entertainment Group**, thus expanding its audiences with plug-and-play creative content specifically designed for children and families. **BAZZAR**, a brand-new touring show destined to open new markets, also premiered in India, a company first.

The international success story known as Cirque du Soleil is, above all, the story of a remarkable bond between performers and spectators. For at the end of the day, it is the spectators who spark the creative passions of Cirque du Soleil.

2019

Cirque du Soleil acquires **The Works Entertainment**, the makers of "the Illusionists" franchise. As the 3rd acquisition in recent years, it confirms the company's leading position in the industry and testifies of its expansion from a company solely centered on circus arts to a live entertainment creator, producer and promoter.

In April, Cirque du Soleil presented in Montreal the revival of its signature production **Alegria** in the big top. In celebration of the show's 25th anniversary, Cirque du Soleil reinterprets this iconic show through today's creative lens.

Cirque du Soleil opened in August its most recent permanent show in Hangzhou (China): **Cirque du Soleil The Land of Fantasy**. The show offers an astonishing staging combining heart-pumping acrobatics, state-of-the-art visual and sound effects, and high-tech scenic and theatrical elements.

The theater offers an unprecedented immersive experience to 1,500 spectators who benefit from a unique perspective of 360° on the massive 100-meters wide mainstage and the central structure consisted of nine panels of 121m² each that shape-shift as the story unfolds.

Launch of **Twas' the Night Before....**, Cirque du Soleil's first Christmas show, based on the classic poem "A Visit from St Nicholas", the show tells the story about a jaded young girl who rediscovers the magic of Christmas. A festive flurry of love, cheer and incredible acrobatic feats.





2020

The COVID-19 pandemic causes a complete shutdown of all *Cirque du Soleil* Entertainment Group operations worldwide. Faced with a total lack of revenue, the layoff of 95% of employees and the placement of the company under the protection of its creditors are inevitable.

2021

In the spring of 2021, the company announces that **Intermission Is Over**. It is the beginning of a new chapter in the history of *Cirque du Soleil*. With a desire to fuel growth and take its iconic productions to exciting new markets, *Cirque du Soleil* relaunches its operations alongside new owners: a group of creditors led by Catalyst Capital Group.

In November, *Cirque du Soleil* presents *Drawn to Life* in partnership with Disney at Walt Disney World Resort. Then in December, Stéphane Lefebvre is appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the company. He will notably be responsible for driving the continued growth of *Cirque du Soleil* across markets.

2022

In May 2022, **Mad Apple** premiered in Las Vegas, **Mad Apple** is a delicious *Cirque du Soleil* cocktail of New York-inspired acrobatics, music, dance, magic, and comedy.

In August 2022, **Mystère** celebrated 13,000 shows, making it the longest running production of *Cirque du Soleil* history.

Later that year, *Cirque du Soleil* announced its 51th creation, a Big Top show: *Cirque du Soleil* **ECHO**. It will bring bold new visuals and a different aesthetic approach. High-level acrobatics will be woven within a striking and disruptive visual universe.

2023

The Company has successfully closed a US\$550 million term loan B issuance to refinance its existing debt, and issued a new US\$100 million revolving credit facility. With this transaction, the Company reduced its total debt by over US\$100M and further deleveraged its balance sheet. The refinancing will result in significant interest cost savings, which will enhance the Company's financial position and increase cash flow.

Cirque du Soleil brings surprising new twists under the Big Top with **ECHO**, a story of connection, intention, and the symbiotic unions between humans and the animal kingdom. Fueled by the power of change, the hope of the youth, and the value of empathy, **ECHO** follows an inquisitive young woman named **FUTURE** as she wanders into a fantasy world that explores our sacred bond with animals and nature. When **FUTURE** and her best friend the **DOG** encounter a mysterious **CUBE**, they quickly learn how their actions have the power to shape this world, and if we come together, we can rebuild our planet to create the world we all want to live in. *Cirque du Soleil's* 20th Big Top show brings bold new visuals and a unique aesthetic on tour. Packed with vibrant characters, inspiring music, astounding lights and projections, and never-before-seen acrobatic feats, **ECHO** invites audiences on a journey through a universe of color, wonder, and infinite possibilities.



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