



Jeux de cartes by Robert Lepage : back by popular demand

PIQUE : February 3-15, 2015 / CŒUR : February 18- 28, 2015

Montreal, Dec. 9th, 2014: Following the success of the first two instalments of **Ex Machina** and **Robert Lepage's** tetralogy *Jeux de cartes* last year, the TOHU is proud to showcase the return of *PIQUE* and *COEUR*. Performed in the round and therefore the perfect match for the TOHU space, the works have in the meantime been performed around the world, prompting exultant reviews wherever they go. Brilliant and ever-changing like their director, Lepage's works evolve over time. It will be in their latest incarnations that *PIQUE* and *COEUR* will take to the TOHU stage, starting February 3rd, 2015.

« **A FASCINATING DANCE WITH THE DEVIL.** » The Toronto Star – à propos de *PIQUE*

« **ROBERT LEPAGE (...) MAÎTRE DES ILLUSIONS.** » Le Soleil – à propos de *PIQUE*

« **UNE OEUVRE ÉBLOUISSANTE.** » El Pais – à propos de *PIQUE*

« **LA MISE EN SCÈNE DE CE JEU DE CARTES EST ÉPOUSTOUFLANTE, VRAIE PROUESSE THÉÂTRALE ET TECHNOLOGIQUE.** »

Le Monde – à propos de *PIQUE*

« **SENSATIONNEL** » Ruht Nachrichten Essen – à propos de *COEUR*

« **UN RENDEZ-VOUS QU'ON VOUS SOUHAITE ARDEMMENT.** » Le Devoir – à propos de *CŒUR*

« **WITH HEARTS, LEPAGE ONCE AGAIN SHOWS HIS OWN TALENTS AS A STAGE MAGICIAN – BUT THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVE. THIS TIME, HE'S WEARING HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE, TOO.** »

The Globe and Mail – à propos de *CŒUR*

PIQUE



Robert Lepage tells us that, "at one point in history, a spade was not called a Spade, but rather a Sword. *PIQUE*, or Spade, is hence intimately related to the military world, to the machinery of war." *PIQUE* explores this very theme by oscillating between two cities built in the middle of a desert: Baghdad, whilst being bombarded by the US Army, and Las Vegas, a city which serves as a caricature of the modern world's values. While the regulars on the Strip try to pull the best card in an escapist exercise, American soldiers in the Iraqi desert find themselves confronted with multiple moral dilemmas. In the end, all are left to grapple with their own contradictions and the uncertainty of a future that lies somewhere

between degradation and redemption. Since its first iteration in May 2012, *PIQUE* has elicited enthusiastic responses from both sides of the Atlantic, and after its first TOHU run, went on to play at the SESC Santo Amaro in Sao Paulo (Brazil), at the Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, as well as at the Westeergasfabriek Gashouder in Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Duration: 2h15 with NO INTERMISSION. Q&A with Robert Lepage and the actors after the February 4th show.

Text Sylvio Arriola, Carole Faisant, Nuria Garcia, Tony Guilfoyle, Martin Haberstroh, Robert Lepage, Sophie Martin, Roberto Mori
Directed by Robert Lepage **Dramaturge** Peder Bjurman **Assistant director** Félix Dagenais **With** Sylvio Arriola, Catherine Hugues, Tony Guilfoyle, Martin Haberstroh, Sophie Martin, Roberto Mori **Original music composed and performed by** Philippe Bachman
Set design Jean Hazel **Lighting design** Louis-Xavier Gagnon-Lebrun, assisted by Renaud Pettigrew **Sound design** Jean-Sébastien Côté **Costume design** Sébastien Dionne, assisted by Stéphanie Cléroux **Props design** Virginie Leclerc **Visuals** David Leclerc.

PIQUE is an Ex Machina production commissioned by the Réseau 360° and sponsored by Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts &

Creativity in coproduction with : Teatro Circo Price – Madrid°, Ruhrtriennale, La Comète – Scène nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne°, Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon, Cirque Jules Verne & Maison de la Culture – Scène nationale d’Amiens°, Roundhouse – Londres°, Odéon-Théâtre de l’Europe – Paris, Wiener Festwochen – Vienna, Chekhov International Theatre Festival – Moscow, Østre Gasværk Teater – Copenhagen°, La TOHU - Montréal °, International Stage at Gasverket Stockholm°, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Holland Festival. °Memeber of the Réseau 360°, a consortium of theatre venues in-the-round.

CŒUR

The explorations behind *Jeux de cartes* led necessarily to research on the Arab world. *COEUR*, like *PIQUE*, is about our past, present, and future relationships with Arab culture. *COEUR* takes us to colonial Algeria, juxtaposed to France in the same era, using the powers of the magician Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin – further highlighting the disjuncture with contemporary France and its relationship to their former colonies. Amidst these various eras and characters, we also meet Chaffik, a North African Arab taxi driver, in Québec City, who is trying to describe his somewhat vague origins to his girlfriend, Judith, a diplomat’s daughter. Assembling these various threads, a tapestry of family, political, and artistic histories is woven that transcends time and borders. Since its first appearance at the TOHU, *COEUR* has been performed at the SESC Santo Amaro in Sao Paulo (Brazil), and La Comète in Châlons-en-Champagne (France). In December, it will show at the Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg.

Duration: 3h30 WITH INTERMISSION. Q&A with the actors after the February 19th show.

Now with English surtitles.

Text Louis Fortier, Reda Guerinek, Ben Grant, Catherine Hugues, Kathryn Hunter, Robert Lepage, Marcello Magni, Olivier Normand **Directed by** Robert Lepage **Dramaturge** Peder Bjurman **Assistant director** Sybille Wilson **With** Louis Fortier, Ben Grant, Reda Guerinek, Catherine Hugues, Kathryn Hunter, Marcello Magni, Olivier Normand **Original music and sound design** Jean-Sébastien Côté, assisted by Donato Wharton **Set design** Michel Gauthier & Jean Hazel **Lighting design** Louis-Xavier Gagnon-Lebrun, assisted by Renaud Pettigrew **Costume design** Sébastien Dionne, assisted by Gabrielle Arseneault **Props design** Virginie Leclerc, assisted by Ariane Sauvé & Jeanne Lapierre **Visuals** David Leclerc.

CŒUR is an Ex Machina production commissioned by the Réseau 360°, in coproduction with : Ruhrtriennale, La Comète – Scène nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne °, Cirque Jules Verne & Maison de la Culture – Scène nationale d’Amiens°, La TOHU - Montréal °, Østre Gasværk Teater – Copenhagen °, Roundhouse – Londres °, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg. °Members of the Réseau 360°, a consortium of artistic venues in-the-round.



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PRESS AGENT

Natalie Dion, Press Agent and Media Contact - TOHU
514 266-3466; nataliedion@me.com

