



Théâtre Motus Fall Newsletter

Number 8, Fall 2009



A feverish season opener to the beat of the djembes!

Djembes beat feverishly as the entire Motus team dances, sings - and rushes- in preparation for the beginning of a fall season jam-packed with activities! Our newest production is in fact keeping us very busy. *Baobab* has come from far and away and is opening doors in many fabulous lands. We want the production to develop and grow beautifully, so we need to take good care of it!



The 150th performance of **Baobab** is expected by the 2009-2010 season

A cosy Christmas season! Our season will begin on December 1, 2009, at the Maison Théâtre with a 38-performance run and the school performances are already fully booked. What a great opportunity for our audience and our team to spend December under the African sun in a marvellous venue designed for theatre for young audiences! Afterwards, the production will be touring Québec, from the Abitibi to the Saguenay and the Gaspésie. We will also be going to the U.S. and traveling to Western Canada for the first time. We'll tell you all about it later.

Baobab has laid another



Last September 7, Amondo (Philippe Racine) became the proud father of a second daughter, Kiyane. Congratulations and best wishes to the entire family! Philippe will resume his role in early December at the Maison Théâtre, but later, we will give him time to take care of his little darlings.



A new... Amondo!

Sharon James will be joining the cast on December 21, 2009! This perfectly bilingual actress and singer has been featured on television in programs such as *Une grenade avec ça*, *L'auberge du chien noir* and *Virginie*. On stage, she performed in Alice Ronfard's *Le grand théâtre du monde*, Louise Bombardier's *Le Cas rare de Carat* and Daniel Danis' *Le langue-à-langue des chiens de roche*. In *Baobab*, she will take on the character of Amondo, both in French and in English.

Baobab translated in English by Leanna Brodie

Hélène Ducharme and Toronto playwright and translator Leanna Brodie met in 2005 during a residency at Playwrights' Workshop. Over the years they developed close ties, which is why Leanna Brodie was asked to translate *Baobab*. The playwright and the translator were able to put the finishing touches to their work, once again at Playwrights' Workshop. Théâtre Motus would like to acknowledge Playwrights' Workshop and Emma Tibaldo who directed the workshop as well as the two actors, Craig Thomas and Tristan D. Lalla who were involved in the project.





Pittsburgh is where the English-language premiere of *Baobab* will take place!

We were delighted to learn that *Baobab* had been selected for the 2010 edition of the annual conference of the International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY). This important showcase will take place in Pittsburgh next January.

Baobab is already generating a lot of interest among American presenters and festivals specializing in theatre for young audiences. We hope that our trip to Pittsburgh will not be our last over the border.



The *Choeur de Baobab* project wins the Prix éducation-culture award at the 2nd culture gala in Longueuil

In the fall of 2008, six groups of children from 3 to 8 years old were involved for the first time in creating a mural designed to build new ties between West African culture and our own. Inspired by the remarkable work of two artists, Longueuil visual artist Michel Beaucage and Senegal born painter Ismaïla Manga, they worked together on the set design of the production. This mural project was designed to allow children to replicate the artists' techniques both based on the passage of time. The children's sketches on kraft paper incorporated into the mural bear witness to the spontaneity of the meeting. Once assembled in alternating strips, the final exhibit is evocative of the Dogon bogolan of Mali.

30 classes selected by the Support for Montreal schools program



Building on the success of the **Choeur de Baobabs** project, the creative team at Motus wanted to repeat the experience by working in cooperation with the Support for Montreal schools program and the Maison Théâtre. Throughout the fall season, nursery school children from 15 schools are taking part in various percussion-, African story telling- and performance-introduction workshops. They are also involved in a mural project organized once again by painter Michel Beaucage (www.michelbeaucage.com). All spectators who will go to the Maison Théâtre in December will be able to see the results of the children's work.



INUSSIA Our seal woman is off to Spain!

After performing the character of Inuussia, the seal woman in Mexico in 2007 and in Québec in 2008, renowned Mexican actress Luisa Huertas will be taking part in two international puppet festivals in Tolosa and Alicante in Spain along with the cast and crew.

As the Tolosa performances are taking place as part of a Québec puppetry showcase, Hélène Ducharme has also been invited to take part in a round table on her creative approach, including her company's recent coproduction with African counterparts.

In addition, various Théâtre Motus props and puppets will be accessible to the general public in the context of the exhibit organized by the Association québécoise des marionnettistes (AQM) at the new TOPIC international puppet centre in Tolosa. We hope that this first presence in the land of Cervantes will introduce the company to a new adventure.



A new project in the works: **Cyrano, objet de ?**

Imagine Roxane, sitting in Cyrano's hand. His hand becomes the balcony and the shadow hiding him...

The project is born of two ideas, the first being to adapt a timeless classic for object theatre and the second being to reach teenagers.

Object theatre

Imagine Cyrano having been hit by a log on the head and sensing his death approaching. He finds himself at home, surrounded by objects that have marked his life: candlestick, cape, glove, sword and pen. In a fit of delirium, they come to life and allow him to relive his great feats of arms, his moments of glory and defeat and even his unfulfilled dreams. Just prior to his final meeting with Roxane.

Motus for teenagers???

The creative team at Motus is eager to explore a production designed for a keen and demanding audience: teenagers. Why them? Because, if there is a time in life when secret love is felt everywhere, a time when a simple pimple can prevent a lover from declaring himself or herself, an age when everything is eternal, it is definitely that time. All its excesses lead us back to Cyrano! Not having yet the opportunity to meet teenage audiences, Théâtre Motus chose this unbelievably modern classic to reach audiences.



The creative team:

Originator and adapter of the Edmond Rostand text: **Sylvain Massé**
Directing: **Hélène Ducharme**
Performers: **Stéphane Côté, Hélène Ducharme** and **Sylvain Massé**
Props and objects: **Normand Blais**
Puppets and objects: **Claude Rodrigue**
Mechanics and shadow theatre: **Jean Cummings** and **Sylvain Racine**
Costumes: **Diane Lavoie**
Lighting: **Michel St-Amand**
Music: **Jean-Pierre Lambert**
Artistic advisors: **Joël Beddows** and **Martin Genest**

In the early stages of the project, we have been lucky to count on creative partners: Théâtre du Bic and Théâtre de la Ville, which is welcoming us again for a creative residency this season.

Sylvain Massé, newly elected president of the Conseil Québécois du Théâtre

In Sylvain Massé's words, federating, defending and promoting Québec theatre is the mission of the CQT that he will have the honour of presiding over for the next two years. He adds that throughout his mandate, he will need the daily involvement of all to give the profession the respect it deserves. At the last meeting, the lifeblood of Québec theatre was brought together and he believes that while grant organizations need to feel the pressure, it is up to each member to improve practice conditions.

Sylvain Massé



The Théâtre Motus team

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General manager : Hélène Ducharme

Head of marketing and communications : Danyèle Fortin

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