

# SANCTUARY FOR SIMPLE SOULS

*Working title*

A CREATION  
FOR TEENAGERS



**ACTING  
PUPPETRY  
VIDEO  
& SHADOW  
THEATER**

Duration :  
60 to 75 minutes

On tour :  
5 people

Target  
audience:  
Ages 12 and up

Audience :  
250 spectators

Premiere in  
March 2026  
(French version)

Photo credit: Sylvie-Ann Paré

**SHOW IN CREATION**





*The Sanctuary for simple souls* is a production directed and written by Mathilde Addy-Laird, Artistic Co-Director of Motus. Aimed for ages 12 and up, this creation uses the poetry of puppets, shadows, illusions, acting and video (both live and pre-recorded) for an intimate audience of 250 spectators.

It's autumn, nighttime. It's hot, very hot. It smells like burnt toast, or the end of the world... Forest fires are raging across much of the land... 11:30 p.m. She, a 16-year-old, can't sleep. She's worried... She gets up and sneaks out to the nearby park... a neglected patch of greenery that seems devoid of any poetry...

Night after night, she trades her anxiety for this outdoor refuge, a mysterious sanctuary that makes her feel better. But unlike previous nights, two strange characters appear and disturb her...

This encounter will allow the teenager to learn to see things differently, to perceive an unknown reality... She will soon realize that these unusual homeless people accompany the souls of those who leave the world of the living to enter this park, which is in fact a magical sanctuary.

Through the story of each of the deceased, she will embark on a journey around the world and a philosophical quest that will open unexpected paths for her, even giving her hope that no longer seemed possible.

PROJECT ↑



# APPROACH ↓

The puppetry approach of *The Sanctuary for simple souls* hinges on a refined visual language where symbolism prompts the audience's imagination, allowing space for them to create in turn. We work with different types and sizes of puppets to evoke the diversity of humanity. We work with fixed and sometimes articulated puppets, allowing us to evoke different temporalities.

The scenography will evoke an urban park. Throughout the story, the characters will modify their environment, in the manner of a puppeteer, manipulating different elements. The homeless shelter will burst open and the fabrics forming it will rise up like immense drapes evoking the vaporous walls of a magical sanctuary. Like tulle, the transparency of these worn fabrics will allow for interesting lighting effects to evoke the world of the dead that coexists with the world of the living. These fabric screens will allow for surprising appearances: shadows, specters, video.

The music also nurtures the mystical dimension of the project. Listen to a first composition by Benoît Côté here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uWLEwUk8\\_hGCDAB9EAX4TPfee0JxVABQ/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uWLEwUk8_hGCDAB9EAX4TPfee0JxVABQ/view?usp=drive_link).

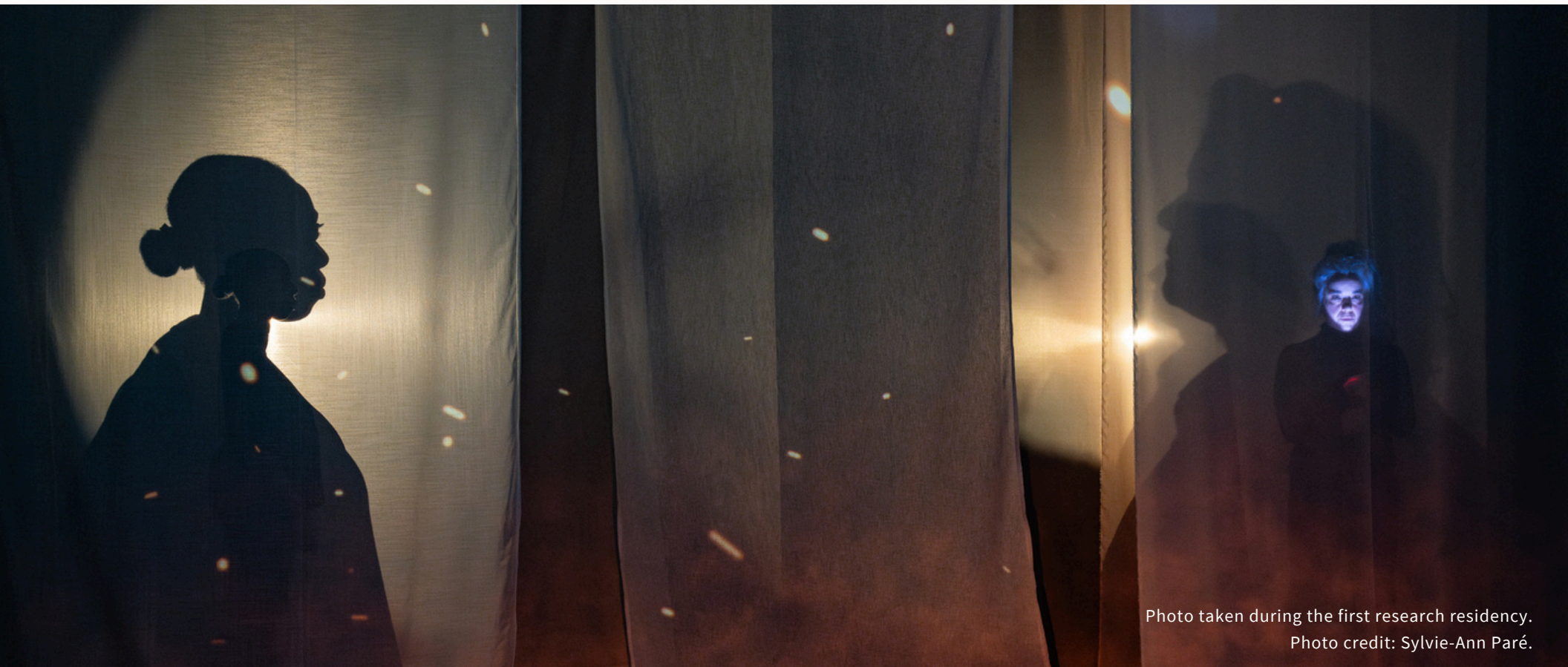


Photo taken during the first research residency.  
Photo credit: Sylvie-Ann Paré.



# BIO



## **MATHILDE ADDY-LAIRD, Playwright and Director**

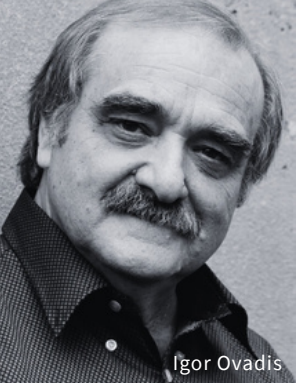


Mathilde Addy-Laird participates in the creation of contemporary works as an actress, performer, puppeteer, dancer, and director since her graduation from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique in Montreal in 2008. Meeting has always been the cornerstone of her approach: the meeting between a work and its words, the one between artists and the audience, but also with the material, and above all, the meeting between human beings. Her background is marked by collaborations with PPS Danse, Théâtre AcharnéE, Théâtre Advienne que Pourra, Qu'en dit Raton, and L'Allumette, Théâtre de marionnettes. Within Motus, she has participated in many projects since 2012 and joined the team as Co-Artistic Director in 2022.

Through her numerous projects for young audiences, Mathilde has had the chance to meet thousands of young people who have shaped her as both an artist and a human being through their authenticity. Creating for young people has always been a privilege for her. Mathilde seeks to positively nurture their reflection, hope, and autonomy... and they give it back to her a thousand times for each project, each performance, each mediation.



Photo taken during the research residency.  
Photo credit: Sylvie-Ann Paré.



Igor Ovadis



Marie-Claude  
Labrecque



Robine Kaseka



## CREATIVE TEAM

Direction and dramaturgy: **Mathilde Addy-Laird**

Assistant and production management: **Danaëlle Ducharme-Massé**

Performance: **Robine Kaseka, Marie-Claude Labrecque  
and Igor Ovadis**

Set design and costumes: **Sophie El-Assaad**

Puppets: **Marie-Claude Labrecque**

Video: **William V. Saumur**

Music: **Benoît Côté**

Lighting: **Valérie Bourque**

Shadow theatre consulting: **Marcelle Hudon**

Dramaturgical consulting: **Sasha Dion**

Philosophical consulting: **Gilles Abel**

We would like to thank the Cole Foundation for its valuable support.

## CREATION

**August 2025:** Technical residency at Côté Scène (Sherbrooke) to validate the scenography

**October 2025:** Rehearsals

**November 2025:** Creative residency at the Théâtre de la Ville (Longueuil)

**February 2026:** Creative residency as part of the Parcours Cré'Ados (RTA - Laval)

**March 2026:** Final creative residency at the Maison de la culture Maisonneuve (Montreal)

## PERFORMANCES

Maison de la culture Maisonneuve - March 6, 2026 - Montreal, QC

Rencontre Théâtre Ados - April 21, 2026 - Laval, QC

Théâtre de la Ville - May 25 and 26, 2026 - Longueuil, QC



Work by Dolores Previtali  
Inspiration for the puppet's universe