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DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTIF BUS123

ARTISTIC INTENT:

Collectif Bus123 is a performance-based collective of culturally diverse multi-disciplinary artists. Their artistic intent is to create and express innovative multi-layered hybrid experiences of presentation with imaginative daring in situational space.

Their unique brand of interdisciplinarity merges their separate approaches, insights, methods, and perspectives into a contemporary experience of living art. They become a convergent performative expression that frames, composes and liberates participative public engagement, shared in spaces anchored in human history.

Collectif Bus123 is a living algorithm in the practice of everyday life that gathers and stimulates the unpredictability of transcultural artistic practices. They are players of tragic-comic happenings in this era of uncertainty. Their aim is to reflect and challenge the biases of media and the digitalised chaos of communication proliferating in our topsy-turvy world.

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTIVE:

The Collectif Bus123's beginnings were in the 1990s in the age of television. The first eponymous piece created by this group of artist friends was as an indictment of the monopoly of that technology and the way it represented reality on screen. Twenty years later, the same members of the group joined again. There is a liquidity and conviviality to the foundation of the collective that persists to this day and demonstrates its openness to each member's reality. Now propelled into the age of the internet, the group decided to examine the state of the digital and virtual worlds fabricated by that technology and their impact on our lives.

The result of that research was Babelle et Barbarie, a full multimedia theatrical piece presented at the Winchester St. Theatre in Toronto in the fall of 2015. The collective followed it up with the third phase of this project on the same themes. Titled Babel-o-drome, it's a series of interactive interior and exterior site-specific immersive promenade performances in collaboration with Christine Duncan's Element improvising choir and a participating multi-generational public.

The piece was presented outside on the grounds of Wychwood Barns in Toronto in June and July 2018, inside the Rialto Theatre as part of the Phénomèna festival in October 2018 in Montréal and in the form of excerpts during Culture Days 2018. It was presented outside in 2019 on the grounds of the Museum of Steam and Tech in Hamilton during that city's Fringe festival. Following pandemic health and safety measures, the collective turned to online shows. Babel-o-drome NUGEN 1 and 2 were born - videos recorded live through zoom then edited for the digital screens with a filmic aesthetic. They were broadcast in Toronto at the virtual Fringe 2020, as well as at the Journées de la Culture 2020 and at the Videoformes festival 2021 (France).

LIST OF ARTISTS

AFANASEV Nikolai : performer

Nikolai Afanasev is an actor, director and a guitar-strummer born and raised in Russia, who is currently based in Canada. He recently graduated from the University of Toronto Mississauga with the Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre, Drama and Performance studies. His recent acting works include an ensemble member in an independent Verbatim production of Dom Kulturi by Mesto theatre in Russia and he is presently an ensemble member in Post-Humanum with Collectifbus123. He is self-producing and acting as Jerry in a production of The Zoo Story by Edward Albee. As a director and writer, he recently initiated Quarantine Plays, an online web-reading series of several original plays on Isolation and Quarantine. His passionate interest in human artistic psychology has taken him from studying in Michael Chekhov's physical acting and Japanese theatre Butoh workshops to self-learning through Rajadhiraja yoga and regular meditation.

BANOUN Dominique : Coordinator and collective representative.

After studying dance and computer programming in England, she became involved in multimedia shows across Canada, utilising dance-theatre, video, music and improvisation. One of her co-creations with the collectif BUS 1.2.3. of which she was a founding member in 1991, is a theatrical version of Babelle et Barbarie, a multilingual, multigenerational and multimedia production presented at the Winchester St. Theatre in September 2015. She has since presented with the collective Babel-o-drome, a deconstruction of Babelle et Barbarie into a site- specific interactive participatory performance. Dominique's art videos have been broadcast in many festivals including Vidéoformes, the International Video Festival of Liège, Les Rencontres Video Art Plastique Hérouville St. Clair, the Belleville Festival (France), Ovarvideo (Portugal) and Les Rendez-vous du cinema québécois (Canada). The art video Mythofemmes received the Bronze Bear award at the festival Der Nationen Festival (Austria, 1995). Her art installations and site specific performances have been mounted at Vidéoformes in France, the LABO (Toronto), the Distillery District in Toronto for Nuit Blanche (Phare/Far, 2011), the GNO in Sudbury. Her vocal and dance performances have taken her across Canada, and in some parts of the States and France. They include choral shows with Choeur Maha and the Element choir and historical dance with the Madame Cadillac dance theatre (Michigan, Illinois -USA; France).

BERGERON Audrey-Barbara : actress and improviser - Instagram: [barbaraaudreybergeron](https://www.instagram.com/barbaraaudreybergeron)

Barbara has a diverse artistic background which includes acting, puppeteering, improvising, video making, producing, hosting, writing and directing in both official languages. She starred in short films (Starcasters 2018, 15 Kumquats 2018, House of Britney 2019), appeared in webseries (Sidekicks 2016), and performed on stage (Les Murs ont des Yeux 2016-2017, Babel-o-Drome 2019), in escape games (King of the Bootleggers 2015-2017, Station M 2016-2017) as well as in corporate videos (OPS The Move 2018-2019). She also created, produced and directed French-language improvisation and theatre companies (2008-2015). Diversity, audible minorities, communications, and teamwork are important themes for her.

FRANCOIS Florian : actor and writer - <https://www.instagram.com/florian.j.francois/> - https://twitter.com/Fef_Florian - www.florianfrancois.com

Florian François is a bilingual, dual citizen (France-Canada) actor, producer and writer. As a film and TV actor, Florian has starred in series such as 'Amélie et Compagnie', 'Good Witch', or

'Paranormal Survivor', commercials, and many short feature length films and series including: 'Quebexit', 'Titan Down' or 'Cheers to Reunions'. In 2017, Bell Media picked up his series Rencontres, which was adapted from the award winning short film Rencontre (Best Actor, Best Film TAPFest 2016). With his co producer Brennan Martin, he wrote, produced and starred in the 10 episode series. He is also a theatre performer, Florian has toured with Little Red Theatre, DMC Productions and is a member of Collectif Bus 123 since 2019.

As an improviser, he graduated from the LongForm Conservatory at Second City and regularly performs at festivals around the country in English and French.

LIMA Elizabeth: improve, clarinetist

Originally from Quebec City, Elizabeth Lima performs as an improviser, clarinetist and singer in a multitude of genres. Her practice revolves around two main poles: the emotional response to sound as well as the complex human relationships developed between musicians and spectators. Her performances seek to create a meeting between traditional instrumental techniques and exploratory ones, combined with performance and theatrical elements. She is interested in both ancient and contemporary music. She honed her vocal skills with Maggie Nicols and Phil Minton (UK) in 2016.

Elizabeth regularly performs as a soloist and as a member of the ensemble GGRIL (Rimouski), the duo Framboos (Montréal-Québec) and Joker, a sounding choir under the direction of Joane Hêtu (Montreal). She was also part of the Ample collective and the ensemble Kô. She also offers vocal improvisation workshops to musicians and non-musicians.

LYNN, Michael : Performer, musician

Michael is an improvising upright bass player who has been active both within the Brisbane, Australia and Toronto improvising music scene. He has played in the Now, Now festival and winter tragic festival (Australia), the New Music Marathon (Dundas Square), the Somewhere There Festival and the 416 Festival, and he is a regular player for Somewhere There, the Array Sessions and Coexisdance. He was a member of the NourbeSe Phillips' Zong Ensemble and Colin Anthony's Dream Dance. For the past 7 years he has curated a monthly improvising music series Audiopollination at Array Space.

RANJBARI Dorsai : performer

Dorsai is a young Iranian-born artist who is pursuing a career in science as well as art. She recently graduated in art and cognitive science from McGill University and has gained experience in production and directing while studying there. She was an artistic director for different theatre companies in Montreal, such as l'atelier Reynold et le festival de théâtre de McGill. She has also performed in Théâtre Laboratory and for the Fringe festival of Saint Amboise (Montreal).