



FAR SIDE OF THE MOON

Ex Machina

Robert Lepage

To see a show from Canada's visionary director Robert Lepage is to experience pure theatrical magic.

His smash hit *The Far Side of the Moon* is a spellbinding, funny and technically exquisite exploration of both inner and outer space performed as a one-man show. Publicly the race to the moon is consuming Americans and Russians, while privately two estranged brothers are brought together by their mother's death. Phillipe is a shy philosopher struggling with his thesis about the effect of space travel on popular culture. Andre is a successful TV weatherman and extrovert who sees the galaxy's mysteries more pragmatically.

This visually stunning production brings together brilliant storytelling, ingenious effects and an atmospheric score from avant-garde composer Laurie Anderson.

It brings forth a mad but sincere project for a space elevator that would allow humans to confront the Void.

And it also sees a goofy but touching video recording by the main character sent out to space, in an attempt to show potential extra terrestrial viewers the poetry that sometimes hides in human daily life.

This solo show by Robert Lepage, also performed by Yves Jacques, premiered in Quebec City in March 2000, has since been shown in over forty-five cities all over the world.

EX MACHINA

In 1994, when Robert Lepage asked his collaborators to help find a name for his new company, he had one condition: the word theatre could not be part of the name.

Ex Machina is thus a multidisciplinary company bringing together actors, writers, set designers, technicians, opera singers, puppeteers, computer graphic designers, video artists, contortionists and musicians.

Ex Machina's creative team believes that the performing arts - dance, opera, music - should be mixed with recorded arts - filmmaking, video art and multimedia. That there must be meetings between scientists and playwrights, between set painters and architects, and between artists from Québec and the rest of the world.

New artistic forms will surely emerge from these gatherings. Ex Machina wants to rise to the challenge and become a laboratory, an incubator for a form of theatre that will reach and touch audiences from this new millennium.

ROBERT LEPAGE

Versatile in every form of theatre craft, Robert Lepage is equally talented as a director, playwright, actor and film director. His creative and original approach to theatre has won him international acclaim and shaken the dogma of classical stage direction to its foundations, especially through his use of new technologies.

Among his most noticed work for the stage: *Dragons' Trilogy*, his solos *Needles and Opium*, *The Far Side of The Moon*, *The Andersen Project* and *887*; at the opera: *The Damnation of Faust*, *The Nightingale and Other short Fables*, Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and *L'Amour de loin*; his multimedia creations: *The Image Mill*, *The Library at Night*, Peter Gabriel's *Secret World Tour* and *Growing Up Tour*, and *KÀ* and *TOTEM* for Cirque du Soleil.

At the invitation of Ariane Mnouchkine, he is currently working on *Kanata*, a new theatrical creation with Le Théâtre du Soleil.

Among Robert Lepage's most important awards are, the Légion d'honneur; the Stanislavski Award, the Prix Europe; the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, the Eugene McDermott Award at MIT; the Glenn Gould Prize, and he was made Compagnon des Arts et des lettres du Québec.

YVES JACQUES

Yves Jacques career led him from his native Quebec City to Montreal, then Paris where he's been playing since, on stage as well as in movies. Working with French Canadian director Denis Arcand, on 5 films including *Decline of the American Empire*, *Jesus of Montreal* and the *Barbarian Invasions*, along with French director Claude Miller with whom he worked on 7 films including *La Chambre des Magiciennes*, *La petite Lily* and *Voyez Comme ils Dansent*, confirmed his talent, and his renown grew steadily in France and in Quebec. On stage, he has been touring worldwide for almost ten years with two Robert Lepage's plays, *The Far Side of the Moon* (from 2001) and *The Andersen Project* (from 2007) in their French and English versions. His work with Lepage made Luc Bondy, the late Director of the Odéon Théâtre de l'Europe in Paris, to offer him to play alongside Isabelle Huppert in Marivaux's *Les Fausses Confidences (False Acquaintances)*. A film inspired by the play was also produced for ARTE with the same director and cast. Other directors with whom Yves had the privilege to work include, Xavier Dolan *Laurence Anyways*, Jean-Paul Rappenneau *Belles Familles*, Olivier Dahan *Grace of Monaco*, as well as Martin Scorsese *Aviator*.

Yves Jacques was appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, in February 2001, and he is an *Officer of the Order of Canada* since 2009 for his achievements as an actor in theater, television and film, in Canada and abroad.

Website: www.exmachina.qc.ca

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/exmachina.ca/?ref=br_rs

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ex_m

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Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LeProjetExMachina>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_HI70pLYhc

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Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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