

# LES SAGES FOUS TRICYCLE



## PRESENTATION DOCUMENT

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# LES SAGES FOUS TRICYCLE

A loner and his trike embark on a mysterious voyage; peddling through dark alleys, at the crossroads between the worlds.

**I was born in a cardboard box**

**I was raised by the women of the harbor**

**I rode the Ferris wheel**

**I paid my ride**

**I have captured my memories**

**and piled them in boxes**

**And now I ride through in the shadows.**



## **A quest for freedom:**

A renegade “carny” from the Fairground rides a tricycle and pulls a trailer full of objects that seem most insignificant; boxes and scraps of things rusted and broken. However, hidden within is a deep mystery of buried memories and fragmented dreams. His Tricycle becomes his accomplice; transforming itself at moments into a Wheel of Fortune, a Ferris Wheel, a Punch Clock, a Beautiful Woman and a Beast. His Trailer and the boxes within it reveal secrets; changing into cityscapes, back alleys, cargo ships and fairgrounds.

Through a strange and mysterious ritual of introspection, the Tricycle guides the man who relives his birth in a cardboard box, his first love, his life as a showman and his escape from the entertainment industry. His boxes mirror him as a sad jack in the box, a cannonball man... he confronts his mother in the form of a spider, and gets caught in her web, and finally becomes a moth that flies away like a shadow. Free.





## Origins

This solo show continues the reflection of the company, started with the Orphan Circus, on the underbelly of the entertainment industry.

Our company is inspired, among others, by men who roam the city of Trois-Rivières on their old tricycles, looking for all kinds of materials they carry on their makeshift trailers. We are also inspired by people who make folk art; those who are not professional artists, with all the baggage and allegiance to the institutions involved. With Tricycle we hope to break down barriers between high culture and popular art.





## Our vision of puppetry

Puppets are a link between humanity and mystery. The dual nature of puppetry, animated / inanimate, parallels our experience of life and death.

The paradoxical and mysterious nature of the puppet has led us to create visual theatre that seeks to express the invisible. In search of this mystery, we offer a world of images and sensations, where impressions and memories blend to create stories. We propose an exciting, mysterious voyage: sailing through troubled waters, at the crossroads between the worlds.

Our creative process is a deliberate walk in the darkness of the unknown. By trial and error, collage of images, poetic correspondence, we write the shows whose sense often eludes us until the last minute. For it is only in contact with the public that our desires are revealed. It is as if the play is a double-sided mirror in which each sees the dreams that inhabit themselves.





## Scenographic project: simplicity and versatility

The scenography of Tricycle is made from recycled materials and abandoned objects. It is intended to reflect the independence and the worldview of our protagonist. We have worked to create a naive aesthetic, not bearing the traces of artistic schools or the mark of the entertainment industry. We want the scenography to be as independent as our protagonist; all components used fit in his trailer.



We created several spectacular effects by exploring new techniques with light and shadow. Using only the beam of a flashlight projected through the wheel of the tricycle or trailer (on the back of the stage), we managed to create striking images: the Ferris wheel, a factory clock, a spider web, a cargo ship, a beast with horns...

The tricycle, in different positions, transforms into multiple characters: it becomes a beautiful woman, a wheel of fortune, a beast, a circus horse, a whole fairground.

Each accessory on stage is carefully chosen to organically integrate the world of the protagonist. Examples: a bicycle pump becomes the trigger of a cannon; the cover of an old paint can sometimes become a moon, sometimes a shield; a crank mechanism becomes a jack in the box mechanism.



## Puppets

The puppets are manifestations of the imagination of our protagonist. They are his psyche and his memories. They come to him like ghosts of his past. All are made with simple materials that are easy to find, mainly in paper mache. At the moment, we have several puppet maquettes that are very functional.







## Lighting

The lights are made with tin cans and vegetable strainers. The protagonist uses his flashlight as the main source of lighting effects. There are several small lights built into boxes, that the protagonist illuminates himself.



## Music

Alongside our explorations, the musician Christian Laflamme invented instruments with found objects and laid the foundation of a musical landscape for Tricycle. He has created the beginnings of an unusual soundscape; a mysterious music that is both urban and fairground, in perfect harmony with the protagonist of our story.

\* The beginnings of Christian's intriguing soundscape can be heard at this link as well as in the video mentioned above :  
[http://www.sagesfous.com/tricycle/musique\\_en.html](http://www.sagesfous.com/tricycle/musique_en.html)



## The development of Tricycle so far

We have already taken the first steps of this project. A 30-minute version was presented in our Micro-Festival of Unfinished puppetry in September 2014. A first draft of 60 minutes was successfully presented at our Season of Unusual Theatre in August 2015, and the festival Zones Theatre at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa in September 2015.

During our sessions of research and exploration, we left room for the domino effect to allow each idea to influence others. This fed our creation and drove us to the project we are proposing today: A strangely captivating piece where the inner speech of a loner, and the great fairground of his imagination are materialized into object theatre.







## Next steps in creation

### - Nordland Visual Theatre/Figurteatret i Nordland

The next show's production workshop will be in partnership with a major co-producer, Nordland Visual Theatre / Figurteatret i Nordland in Norway. The theater, located in the city of Stamsund, above the Arctic Circle, specializes in international co-production of visual theatre. Artists such as Duda Paiva, Green Ginger, Wakka Wakka and Ulrike Quade have already taken advantage of this generous co-production program.

We will be hosted by the Nordland Visual Theatre during the months of April and May 2017 to work on the final stages of the creation of Tricycle. The show workshop version will then be presented as part of Stamsund Internasjonale Teaterfestival.



## Credits

INTERPRETATION: Jacob Brindamour

STAGING AND PUPPETS: South Miller

SET DESIGN AND PROPS: Sylvain Longpré

MUSIC: Christian Laflamme

LIGHTING: Patrice Daigneault and Jan Erik Skarby



Here is the link to a video of our work-in-progress filmed in  
September 2015 :

<http://www.sagesfous.com/tricycle/video2016.html>

Here is a link to photos of our work-in-progress :

[http://www.sagesfous.com/tricycle/photos\\_en.html](http://www.sagesfous.com/tricycle/photos_en.html)







