

PRINCESS AGNUS DEI

An independent production created and directed by Astrid Lloyd

Original score by Ralph Denzer

Thursday, June 4th, 2015. 2pm and 8pm.

Tour de Lévis, Ile Ste Helene, Parc Jean Drapeau, Montreal

Princess Agnus Dei is a multimedia performance set against an elaborate architectural installation, *Hammock*. The focus of the work is the character Princess, performed by dancer Eva Kolarova, elaborated with an original score featuring piano, violin, clarinet, and voice; all punctuated with a heartbeat of Métis jig. The costume and installation are constructed of industrial materials: white electrical cable, red marrettes, black rubber tie-downs, and white zip ties. The architectural element, a giant hammock and tube ladder made of cable lace, functions as the bed of Princess. Both materially and conceptually, the structure is an extension of the costume, body and persona of Princess. Using traditional bobbin lacemaking techniques, 40 custom made steel bobbins, Hammock has been under construction since 2008.

Princess Agnus Dei and Hammock belong to a much larger art/life experiment called *The Superwoman Project; A Novel in Four Costumes* (2000-ongoing). The Superwoman Project can be described as a freedom quest, a study of archetypes, and an experiment in performativity. Each of the four costumes represents a distinct persona, who is also responsible for her own body of work. The project addresses a wide range of interconnected themes including sexuality and violence, freedom and bondage, liminality (interiority vs. exteriority), and the metaphysical relationship between bodies and architecture.

The character of Princess was developed in response to horrific images of slaughtered women which surfaced during the 2006 trial of mass murderer Robert Pickton. First exhibited as a solo performance, the current iteration of Princess is an ensemble production comprised of several performing artists. The ritual performance of Princess casts out the Sad Victim archetype.

As a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Concordia University, with concentration in Fibres and Material Practices, Lloyd has been studying the intersections of performance and architecture. Following the performance of Princess Agnus Dei in Montreal, the massive cable lace structure will be installed in a grove of Trembling Aspens on the shores of Lac Matagami in Northern Quebec where it will remain indefinitely. The June 4 performance draws together a rich group of artists all interested in experimental performance work.

FREE ADMISSION All guests must RSVP by emailing princessagnusdei@gmail.com

Venue has a maximum capacity of 50 per showing.

For further information please refer to the website (www.princessagnusdei.com)

Mature content. Nudity. www.PrincessAgnusDei.com

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CAST/PERFORMERS

Eva Kolarova - *Princess* - Lead Dancer

Yvonne Chartrand - *Heart of Princess* - Second Dancer (Métis jigger)

Emilie Monnet - *Voice of Princess* - Vocalist

Marie-Lys Trudel - *Sadness* - Violin

Milan Sumas - *Liberty* - Clarinet

Julie Migner-Laurin - *Beauty* - Piano

Solo Fugere - *Comfort* - Mime

ARTIST BIOS



Astrid Lloyd - Artist, Director

Astrid Lloyd is a Montreal-based interdisciplinary artist originally from Saskatchewan. Her work incorporates architecture, performance, theatre and textile methods in an embodied research practice that has spanned over a decade. Most notably, *The Superwoman Project; A Novel in Four Costumes* includes a palette of complex and conflicted characters united in an impossible search for freedom. Based on a foundational idea about skin as a place of contradiction and grace, the project has been elaborated in objects, images, performances and architectures that delineate the fictional worlds of four distinct personas. Her work has been presented in guerrilla and curated performances in Spain, France

and major Canadian cities. Astrid holds a BA in Political Studies and a BFA in Studio Art from the University of Saskatchewan, and is a current MFA candidate in Fibres and Material Practices at Concordia University. She is a Canada Graduate Scholar through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and a repeat grant recipient through the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Ralph Denzer - Composer

Montreal based composer/multi-instrumentalist. His theatre and dance scores have been performed in New York City and throughout the U.S., Canada, Scandinavia & Germany. Denzer has written for dance, puppetry, film, video, TV and radio plays. He performs New Orleans jazz and swing trumpet with Hungry Hollow Trio, On The Lam Street Band, Bread & Puppet Brass Band and others. In 2014 he helped form Swoon Quartet, which performs Gypsy, Francophone, Sefardic and Italian popular and traditional music at Montreal's downtown club, L'escalier. His trumpet will be heard in Quebec City at the Carrefour International de Théâtre with L.O.D.H.O. in their new outdoor piece, Le Palais, in May and early June.

Eva Kolarova - *Princess* - Lead Dancer

An accomplished dancer, Kolarova began her training in Europe at Actors Studio, and the National Dance Conservatory, both in Prague. At 15 she was the youngest person to be accepted to the world-famous school Maurice Béjart in Lausanne, Switzerland. She has worked in Germany and France, for *Ballet de l'Opéra National du Rhin*, From 2011-2015, she danced with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal. Since June 2015 Kolarova has been working as a free-lance dancer and choreographer. Kolarova has won several international awards.

Yvonne Chartrand - *Heart of Princess* - Second Dancer (Métis jigger)

Yvonne Chartrand is a contemporary dancer and choreographer as well as a national award-winning master Métis jigger. Her ancestors come from the Michif (Métis) settlement of St. Laurent, Manitoba. She is the Artistic Director of V'ni Dansi, whose name translates as "Come and Dance" in Michif.

Traditional and contemporary styles of Métis dance are performed under the name of the Louis Riel Métis Dancers and Indigenous contemporary dance works as V'ni Dansi. As a choreographer she has conceptualized and co-choreographed company group works *A Poet and Prophet*, *Gabriel's Crossing*, *The Crossing and Cooking It Up Métis*. Her solo works include *Marguerite*, *Stories from St. Laurent*, and she is presently creating *Eagle Spirit*. Recently performed is her commissioned solo *Sara Riel; The Long Journey* created by Robin Poitras and Edward Poitras. Yvonne was awarded a 2011 Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award from the Canada Council for the Arts.

Emilie Monnet - *Voice of Princess* - Vocalist

An interdisciplinary artist, Monnet founded ONISHKA in 2011 to herald performance-based work, created from unique collaborations between artists of different cultures and disciplines. Her work experiments and creates from a place where languages, imagination and memory intersect; telling stories with theatre and media art forms that weave the symbolic realms of dreams and mythology – both personal and collective. A graduate of Ondinnok's First Nations Theatre training program in partnership with the National Theatre School of Canada (Montreal, 2007), Emilie also studied media arts and holds a Masters in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution from Deusto University, Spain and from Uppsala University, Sweden. Her artistic engagement is inspired by years of social activism with indigenous organizations in Canada and Latin America as well as community art projects with incarcerated women and Aboriginal youth. Emilie is part Anishinabe and French, and lives in Montreal.

Marie-Lys Trudel - *Sadness* - Violin

A classically trained violinist Trudel has worked as a musician and Circassian with the socially engaged collective Cyclown from 2004 to 2007. In 2011 she produced her first album "Bait horsehair" with Anarchette group. She currently plays with the Kumbia Gypsy Orchestra, and Rubedoro. As part of multidisciplinary projects such as Eat Racine Puzzle Theatre and develops new sound materials with the use of effects pedals, soundtracks and in situ installation. She also continues to develop as a performer in contemporary dance and physical theatre.

Julie Migner Laurin - *Beauty* - Piano

As a pianist, keyboardist, vocalist and flutist, her hybrid training has translated into work for symphonic orchestras, world music bands, and the creation of an alternative postrock band SÖon. Laurin also has a music therapy practice with artists and conducts doctoral research on the role of music in transformation processes.

Solo Fugere - *Comfort* - Mime

Solo termine son baccalauréat en jeu à l'École supérieur de théâtre à l'UQAM. Auparavant il a obtenu son autre baccalauréat en littérature et philosophie à l'Université de Montréal en 2011. Il a également étudié pendant 4 ans à l'École de mime de Montréal et a parfait sa formation de mime corporel en France avec la compagnie Pas de Dieux, Hippocampe ainsi qu'avec Thomas Leabhart membre de l'ISTA (International School of Theater Anthropology). Il pratique le Breakdance et est très versatile.

LOCATION

Tour de Lévis, île Sainte-Hélène
Parc Jean-Drapeau

DIRECTIONS

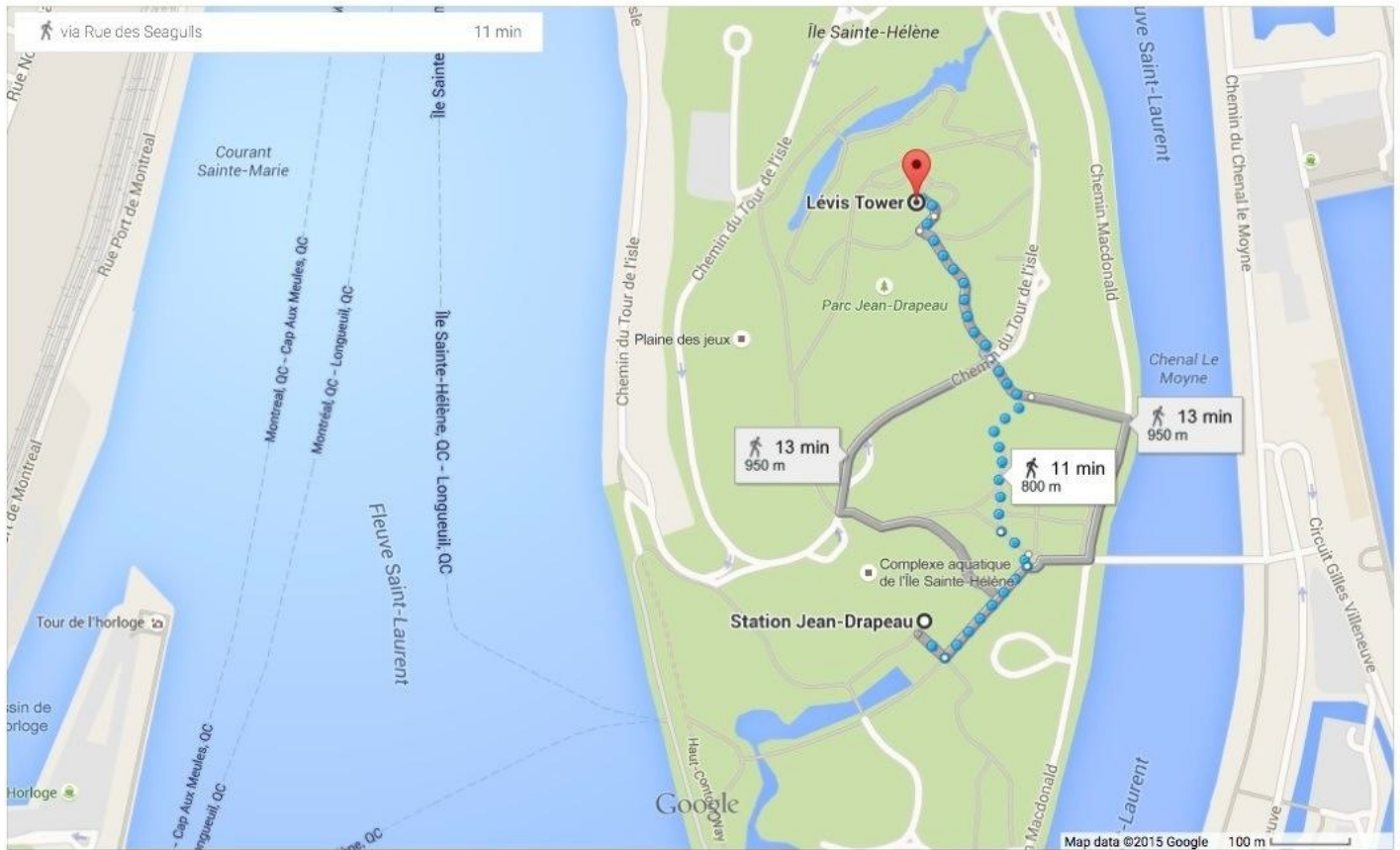
By Metro: From station Berri Uqam, take the yellow line toward Station Longueuil-Université de Sherbrooke. Get off at station Jean Drapeau. From here it is a 10 minute walk to the tower. (See attached "walking directions" map). You can also follow park signs for Tour de Lévis.

By Car: Once you have entered Parc Jean Drapeau, follow park signs for Ile Ste Helene and Tour de Lévis. Parking lot P12 is located directly below the tower. (See attached "parking" map) From the parking lot it is a one minute walk up the path to the tower. Parking is metered.

web: <http://www.parcjeandrapeau.com/en/tour-de-levis-hall-rental-montreal/>



Walking from Metro Jean Drapeau



Parking

Directions

