



LEO



PRODUCTIONS

Productions Y2D (Montréal)

in association with Chamäleon Productions (Berlin)

présent

LEO

Directed by **Daniel Brière**

Creative Producer - **Gregg Parks**
Original performer/idea - **Tobias Wegner**
Set and Lighting Design - **Flavia Hevia**
Video Design by **Heiko Kalmbach**
Animation realized by **Ingo Panke**

Performers **William Bonnet, Julian Schultz, Tobias Wegner**



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LEO

***What would happen if the laws of gravity
were to suddenly change?***

LEO is a mind-bending, funny, surreal, and surprisingly touching work that challenges the senses and tests perceptions of reality through the clever interplay of live performance and video projection. LEO leaves audience members wondering which way is up and which way is down. Directed by the Montréal actor and director Daniel Brière, and based on an original idea by the multi-talented performer Tobias Wegner, LEO has won several major awards including the ***Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award***, the ***Three Weeks Editors Award***, the ***Scotsman Fringe First Award*** at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and more recently, won the ***John Chataway Award for Innovation*** at the 2013 Adelaide Fringe Festival. LEO has dazzled audiences and critics from New York to Berlin, from Melbourne to Hong Kong with stops in Montréal, Moscow and London along the way. LEO is now touring in countries all around the world.





SYNOPSIS

LEO is the unusual journey of an otherwise ordinary man whose world becomes physically unhinged.

When we discover LEO, he is alone with just a small suitcase, whiling away time in a simple room. As time passes LEO becomes increasingly aware that all may not be what it seems in his world.

As his awareness grows LEO's reaction to his situation evolves from alarm and insecurity to curiosity and eventually to playfulness. LEO not only begins to enjoy his situation but finds new and ingenious ways to exploit it.

LEO exhausts himself playing within his new reality until he again realizes that he is alone. Then LEO's suitcase offers him a new, totally unexpected, way to make himself comfortable and at home.

This path leads LEO to new unexpected adventures through worlds both ephemeral and imaginary until he finds himself, once again, simply alone.

With his confidence now shaken, LEO begins to accept that he needs to break the bonds of his confinement, this room holding him hostage. In his search for release LEO not only calls on all that has gone on before but enlists the aide of a most unlikely ally - himself.

Having explored his dreams and desires and exercised his lust for life, LEO's final odyssey is the most important of all... the quest for freedom.





Y2D Productions Inc. is a Montréal-based Production Company, whose principal focus is to create and tour original, innovative and entertaining shows for the international performing arts market. The company specializes in working with a broad spectrum of creative talent to develop shows that combine various artistic disciplines including theatre, dance, music, acrobatics and the circus arts into a unique and exciting form of art and entertainment.

Y2D's shows, usually developed in collaboration with other internationally known production companies, draw upon the creative talents of renowned directors, choreographers, lighting, set and costume designers, composers and performers.

Y2D Productions has collaborated with, amongst others, Media-FX, Debra Brown and Apogee Productions, Les Gens d'Aire, Les 7 Doigts de la Main and the Berlin-based production companies Circle of Eleven, Brix Productions and Chamäleon Productions.

Y2D Productions is led by Gregg Parks.





LEO



CREATIVE TEAM

Daniel Brière – DIRECTOR

Actor, Director and Playwright, **DANIEL BRIÈRE** is a founding member of the Groupement Forestier du Théâtre (**Matroni et moi**) and associate artistic director of the NTE, where he has performed and created new plays since 2003. As an actor, he has performed in many theatre productions in Canada since his graduation from the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal in 1985. On television, he has appeared in many different productions and since 2008 he has been a part of the popular family comedy series on CBC, **Les Parent** which earned him the Artis award for "Best Actor in a comedy" for 3 consecutive years. On the big screen, his performances include parts in **Le déclin de l'empire américain** (D. Arcand), **La moitié gauche du frigo** (Ph. Falardeau), **Gaz Bar Blues** (L. Bélanger) and **C'est pas moi je le jure** (Ph. Falardeau), all presented at several international film festivals. He has directed more than twenty plays and stand-up comedy shows and during 2010-2011, he directed the creation of **LEO** which has been presented around the world and has won many awards. His unique approach to theatrical creation has made him a leader in Quebec's contemporary theatre.

Tobias Wegner – ORIGINAL PERFORMER / IDEA

Tobias Wegner completed his acrobatic training at the Belgium University of Contemporary Circus Arts (E.S.A.C.) in Brussels. His professional career has taken him to, among other places, Brazil, Spain, and India. He has also performed at the Southbank Centre (London), the Théâtre de la Cité Internationale (Paris), the Schauspiel Frankfurt, and the Staatsoper unter den Linden (Berlin). Tobias won the European competition "Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe" with the project AUAIO and his own company of the same name.

Gregg Parks – CREATIVE PRODUCER

Gregg toured the world as an onstage performer and was always fascinated with production and its extraordinary possibilities. It was a natural evolution, as Gregg withdrew from the spotlight, to continue creating theatre from behind the scenes. Since then Gregg has worked creating and touring original works all over the world. In 2005 he was introduced to the Chamaleon Theater in Berlin and for more than 9 years he worked continuously with the theatre and its offshoots. In addition to **LEO**, Gregg was the Creative Producer/ Producer for the productions *SOAP – The Show*, *myLIFE*, *VERSUS* and just last year, 4 productions – *EARTH*, *AIR*, *WATER*, *FIRE* – created for the Hapag-Lloyd 5 star cruise ship MS Europa 2.



CREATIVE TEAM (continued)

Flavia Hevia – SET AND LIGHTING DESIGNER

Flavia Hevia est une artiste peintre, une scénographe et une Flavia is a visual artist and a set and lighting designer for theatre, opera and circus whose design and art work has been exhibited and presented around the world. Flavia's design work includes, amongst many others, the light design for the opera *TOSCA* (Palace of the Fine Arts, Mexico), the set design for *TRACES*, a production of The 7 Fingers (Montreal) and the set and lighting for LEO which won THE BEST OF EDINBURGH Award. More recently Flavia has been working with Alameda Theatre (Toronto), Y2D Productions (Montreal) and Las Manas, an emerging multidisciplinary puppet company (Montreal).

Heiko Kalmbach – VIDEO DESIGNER

Heiko Kalmbach studied theater in Germany and film at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His films have screened internationally at Festivals like Berlinale. He is a co-founder of the Berlin and NY based performance group Naturaleza Humana. His work as a theater director, projection designer and video artist has been presented in Europe, North America and India.



PERFORMERS



William Bonnet

William Bonnet, born in Avignon, France, took his first steps in the circus world with the French company *Couleurs Mécaniques*. He toured throughout Europe with the company for 6 months. Afterwards, he attended the *École de Cirque de Lomme* near Lille, where he specialised in aerial acrobatics on the aerial straps. He eventually added various disciplines, such as hand-to-hand acrobatics, hip hop dance, floor acrobatics and clown performance, to his artistic repertoire at the *National Circus School* in Montréal, Canada. William is a true all-rounder whose skills were seen at the opening of the 30th *Festival Mondial de Cirque de Demain* in Paris and Montréal, and with many other companies and directors including *Circle of Eleven*, Franco Dragone and *Les 7 doigts de la main / the 7 fingers*.



Julian Schulz

Julian Schulz is a Berlin native and graduated from the school of the Performing Arts *Die Etage*. He combines the most diverse acrobatic forms with dance elements and ingenious choreographies in his performances, which has already earned him a part in the ensemble of the Berlin company *Die Artistokraten*. After completing an intense training phase in Brussels, where he worked together with the choreographer Cruz Mata among others, he joined the ensemble of the Circle of Eleven production VERSUS.



Tobias Wegner – (REPEATED FROM CREATIVE TEAM)

Tobias Wegner completed his acrobatic training at the Belgium University of Contemporary Circus Arts (E.S.A.C.) in Brussels. His professional career has taken him to, among other places, Brazil, Spain, and India. He has also performed at the Southbank Centre (London), the Théâtre de la Cité Internationale (Paris), the Schauspiel Frankfurt, and the Staatsoper unter den Linden (Berlin). Tobias won the European competition "Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe" with the project AIUAIO and his own company of the same name.



ADDITIONAL CREATIVE PERSONNEL

Ingo Panke – ANIMATION

Ingo studied at the Konrad Wolf Academy for Film & Television in Potsdam-Babelsberg. He has created award-winning animated films, computer game designs and illustrations for leading companies in the motion picture, marketing and video game industries.

Heather MacCrimmon – COSTUME DESIGNER

Heather MacCrimmon is a costume designer formerly based in Toronto and now dividing her time between Germany and Canada. She has worked in film, television and theatre, with a focus on costuming contemporary dance.





LEO



AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Awards Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011

The Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award
The Three Weeks Editors Award
The Scotsman Fringe First Award

Awards Adelaide Fringe Festival 2013

Adelaide Critics Circle Award
Adelaide Fringe Award
John Chattaway Innovation Award

Nominations Adelaide Fringe Festival 2013

Banksa Award Best Theatre Production
Banksa Award Tobias Wegner: Best Theatre Performer
Banksa Award Pick of the Fringe



PRESS

***"AN EYE-TEASING, GRIN-INDUCING, DEEPLY IMPRESSIVE
WORK OF SUSTAINED ABSURDIST MAGIC."***

– Time Out New York / USA

"ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT!"

In this spectacular show, LEO lives at a ninety-degree angle to the rest of us. (...) The joy of LEO is partly seeing his gravity-defying antics as his world and ours collide. (...) Just when you think it can get no better, LEO amazes once more by introducing CGI effects that only we can see but with which Wegner interacts perfectly. Absolutely brilliant! Buy your tickets before they sell out."

– Three Weeks / UK

"LEO IS UTTERLY DELIGHTFUL."

You're likely to find yourself grinning like a fool while watching LEO. This utterly delightful show combines acrobatics and film work to create a rather unique piece of theater."

– Theatermania / USA

"LEO is a superb physical one-man show that is highly likely to have you on your feet by the end, giving a standing ovation. The show is mind-bending, illusionistic and spellbinding.... All of the audience were standing up at the end! This show is destined for a great future."

– The Edinburgh Reporter / UK

***"THE AUDIENCE GETS GRAVITY-DEFYING SPECTACLE AND
THE WIZARD BEHIND THE CURTAIN AT THE SAME TIME."***

– The New York Times / USA

***"IT'S UNUSUAL TO HEAR SO MANY CHILD-LIKE GASPS OF
SHEER DELIGHTED ASTONISHMENT IN A THEATER."***

– The Village Voice / USA

"ALTERNATELY FUNNY AND POETIC... LEO SOARS!"

– New York Post / USA



PRESS (continued)

"BRILLIANTLY BIZARRE!"

Sequences defy gravity to leave audiences surprised, delighted and laughing. When one Tobias Wegner is sprawled flat on what (he thinks) is the floor, the other Wegner is pinned halfway up a wall as if by magic, (...). For even as the comedy builds, with Wegner creating a Leo character who has the naive charm and vulnerable optimism of silent film players like Buster Keaton, there is always a nightmare hint of circumstances beyond his control. Wegner's stamina and skill is awesome. But it's the way Wegner, who created the concept, uses his physicality to tell a story about the human spirit and the value of freedom that brings cheering audiences to their feet, all standing right way up of course."

– *The Edinburgh Herald* / UK

"ELOQUENT AND MEMORABLE

LEO has an intense theatricality and a haunting sense of character and narrative. In Daniel Brière's beautiful staging we see the real Leo on the right-hand side of the stage, moving through his sideways world, while on the left, a large screen shows him on live camera, as it were, the right way up. The effect of this is startlingly poignant, as Tobias Wegner's Leo—in what must be one of the finest movement performances on the Fringe—achieves with terrific elegance, strength and artistry what we simply take for granted so long as gravity anchors us to the earth: to stand firmly on our two feet, to dance, to jump, to lean against a wall. What LEO has to say is both eloquent and memorable."

– *The Scotsman* / UK

"BRILLIANT, CHARMING, CLEVER... one man's quest for freedom takes Leo and the audience on a fantastical, memorable journey together."

- *Associated Press* / USA

"LEO IS MIND-BLOWING, A REFRESHINGLY ORIGINAL CONCEPT THAT ENCHANTS AT EVERY TURN."

- *Backstage* / USA

"GREAT INNOVATIVE ENTERTAINMENT"

- *Dominion Post* / New Zealand



PRESS (continued)

“LEO IS A BRILLIANT ONE-MAN-SHOW, CLEVER, PLAYFUL AND EXTREMELY FUNNY”

– Berliner Morgenpost / Germany

“SPELLBINDING PHYSICAL THEATRE!”

LEO is a spellbinding and inventive piece of physical theatre. The concept is simple – yet remarkably effective. (...) as the performance progresses, real-world handstands, tumbles and falls produce effects on the projected screen which not only defy gravity but create something quite mesmerizing. (...) a fluid and beautiful work of physical theatre.”

– Edinburgh Spotlight / UK

“LEO SPECTACULARLY MARRIES THE ARTS OF THEATRE, MIME, MOVEMENT, ILLUSION, ANIMATION

LEO is indescribable and indefinable. I cannot even begin to classify this work of strange orderlessness. With total simplicity, the show reinvents how we view the world – beginning with gravity.

What stays with you are the graceful moments when Leo discovers the all-powerful secrets of the forces of attraction. LEO spectacularly marries the arts of theatre, mime, movement, illusion, animation. It flirts with the art of technology. All while we, the audience, are trained in the imaginary and the ephemeral, losing our contact with life as we know it.

How wonderful it would be to have a LEO in every country, every city, and every house. It would make us all want to reinvent our worlds, break out of isolation, redefine our stations in life and tear down our walls to put it all back together again in a state of marvellous disorder. For all of us who are captive in a place, a situation, an emotion, or who are haunted by the past, LEO shows us that we can break away and find that door, however small it may be, and open it to freedom.

Leo, in his little rectangular box, projected onto a screen, makes us laugh, astonishes us, turns us around and lifts us up. LEO is a work that is rich, intelligent and luminous. You'll leave the theatre floating on air. LEO will make us forget all about Newton. And what a fascinating world it will be.”

– Le Devoir / Canada





ON TOUR

2012

| | |
|----------------|---|
| January – Feb. | Clurman Theatre, Theatre Row, New York / USA |
| February | Fadjr International Theatre Festival, Téhéran / Iran |
| March | International Arts Festival, Wellington/ N.Z. |
| April – August | Chamäleon Theater, Berlin / Germany |
| May | HIFA Festival, Harare / Zimbabwe |
| May | Theatromania Festival, Bytom / Poland |
| May | Spoletto Festival, Charleston SC / USA |
| June | Carrefour Festival, Québec / Canada |
| July | Festival Montréal Complètement Cirque, Québec / CA |
| August | Edinburgh Fringe Festival / Scotland |
| September | Forum Leverkusen, Leverkusen / Germany |
| September | Performing Arts Exchange, Miami Beach FL / USA |
| October | Edison Theatre, Washington Univ., St. Louis, Mo / USA |
| October | Fluid Festival, Calgary / Canada |
| November | NTE, Montréal, Québec / Canada |
| November | The Cultch, Vancouver, BC / Canada |

2013

| | |
|-------------|--|
| January | Arts Center Melbourne / Australia |
| January | London International Mime Festival / UK |
| February | New York, New York / USA |
| February | Adelaide Fringe Festival / Australia |
| February | Historic Asolo Theatre, Sarasota, FL / USA |
| Feb. – Mar. | Hong Kong Festival / Hong Kong |
| March | Broad Stage, Santa Monica CA / USA |
| March | Auckland Arts Festival / New Zealand |
| April | Festival de Teatro de Curitiba / Brazil |
| April | Baltoppen, Ballerup / Denmark |
| April | Belgium-Holland Tour |
| April | Moscow & St. Petersburg / Russia |
| May | Music Theater Festival Uijeongbu / South Korea |
| May – June | Spanish Tour / Madrid |
| June | Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen / Germany |
| June | Jacob's Pillow / Becket MA / EU |
| July | Kijimuna Festa / Okinawa / Japan |



ONTOUR (continued)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| August | Mimos Festival / Périgueux / France |
| August | Edinburgh Fringe Festival / UK |
| August | Taranaki Festival / New Plymouth / NZ |
| September | Christchurch Arts Festival / NZ |
| September | Brisbane Arts Festival / Australia |
| September | Philadelphia Live Arts Festival / USA |
| October | Irvine Barclay Theatre / Irvine CA / USA |
| October | Purdue Convocations / West Lafayette IN / USA |
| November | South Africa State Theatre, Pretoria / South Africa |
| November | Tour Russia |

2014

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| January – Feb. | Denmark Tour |
| January – Feb. | Tour Winnipeg and Edmonton, Canada |
| February | Créteil, France |
| February - Mar. | USA Tour |
| March | Taipei, Taiwan |
| March - April | Tour Ottawa, Sudbury, Saint John, Canada |
| April | Brighton, UK |
| May | Tour China – Beijing, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Shanghai |
| June – July | Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia |



LEO



TRACK LIST

• OPENING

Last Chance to Dance Trance

BY **MEDESKI, MARTIN & WOOD**

FROM THE ALBUM: *FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN THE UNIVERSE*

• JUKEBOX SECTION MUSIC

African Sky

BY **AFRICAN DRUMS**

FROM THE RECORD *AFRICAN DRUMS*

Raga Bairagi -Todi Jod, Jhala

BY **RAVI SHANKAR**

FROM THE RECORD *SPIRIT OF INDIA*

Soukous

BY **AFRICAN DRUMS**

FROM THE RECORD *AFRICAN DRUMS*

War Ensemble

BY **SLAYER**

FROM THE RECORD *SOUNDTRACK TO THE APOCALYPSE*

Francescamaria!

BY **PANZERI, RASTELLI & SCHISA**

PERFORMED BY **ALDO MASSEGLIA**

FROM THE RECORD *THE MUSIC OF ITALY:
POPULAR MUSIC HISTORY 1920-1960 /
STORIA DELL'CANZONE ITALIANA VOL.3*

Funky Soul Brother

BY **THE GRITS**

FROM THE RECORD *THE GRITS*

My Favourite Ballet Class

MUSICAL PREPARATION GIVEN FOR THIS TRACK

BALLET CLASS COMPANY

ALBUM: *BALLET! BALLET BALLET ! LA PRIMERA BALLERINA.*

Sous les ponts de Paris

PLAYED BY : **KURT LARSEN**

ALBUM: *LA MUSETTE À LA KURT LARSEN*

I've Got the World On a String

MUSIQUE BY **HAROLD ARLEN,**

LYRICS BY **TED KOEHLER (1932)**

PERFORMED BY **FRANK SINATRA**

FROM THE RECORD *THE RAT PACK -THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION*

• DRAWING SCENE

Symphony No.7 IN A OP92

II ALLEGRETTO (EXTRAIT) BY **BEETHOVEN**

PERFORMED BY **PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA**

CONDUCTED BY **KURT SANDERLING 1981**

FROM THE RECORD *100 BEST CLASSICS*

• ANIMATION/OCEAN SCENE

Swan Lake

SCÈNE (ACT II, No 10) BY **TCHAIKOVSKY**

PERFORMED BY **LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

CONDUCTED BY **ANDRÉ PRÉVIN 1976/1988**

FROM THE RECORD *100 BEST CLASSICS*

• FINALE

Giftshop

BY **LARVAE**

FROM THE RECORD *LOSS LEADER*



PRODUCTIONS

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PRODUCTIONS