

CIRCLE OF ELEVEN presents



Based on an Original Idea by Tobias Wegner

Directed by Daniel Brière

Creative Producer Gregg Parks

Set and Lighting Design by Flavia Hevia

Video Design by Heiko Kalmbach

Animation realized by Ingo Panke

Costume Design by Heather McCrimmon

Sound Design by Jean Gaudreau

Choreography by Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola



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. The newest creation of the innovative Berlin-based production company Circle of Eleven, LEO leaves audience members wondering which way is up and which way is down. Directed by the Montréal actor and director Daniel Bri  re, and based on an original idea by the multi-talented performer Tobias Wegner, LEO won several major awards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival including the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award, the Three Weeks Editors Award and the Scotsman Fringe First Award. LEO has since gone on to dazzle audiences and critics in New York, Berlin, Montr  al, and 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 a lone man with a small suitcase, whiling away time in a non-descript 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.



CREATIVE TEAM

(Credits 1st degree)

Daniel Brière – Director

Actor, Stage Director and Playwright Daniel Brière is Artistic Director of the Montréal based NTE (Nouvelle Theatre Experimental), where he has been performing and creating new plays since 2003. As an actor, he has performed in many theatres in Canada and Europe since his graduation from the Conservatoire. On television, he was seen in *Caméra café* and the popular family comedy on CBC *Les Parents*. On the big screen, his performances have included parts in *Le déclin de l'empire américain*, *La moitié gauche du frigo*, *Gaz Bar Blues* and *C'est pas moi je le jure*, presented in several film festivals. Daniel has directed some twenty plays including *Bashir Lazhar* and *La Fin*.

Tobias Wegner – Performer / Original 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 AIUAIO and his own company of the same name.

Gregg Parks – Creative Producer

Gregg toured the world as an onstage performer and gradually became fascinated with production and its limitless possibilities. It was a natural evolution to withdraw from the spotlight and continue creating theater from behind the scenes. Gregg was Production/Tour Manager for the Canadian circus company *Les 7 doigts de la main / The 7 Fingers* engagement at the Chamäleon Theatre in Berlin where his association with Circle of Eleven began. Gregg is now the Creative Producer for Circle of Eleven having played a key role in the success of the Circle of Eleven productions *SOAP – The Show*, *myLIFE*, *VERSUS* and now, *LEO*.



CREATIVE TEAM

(Credits 2nd degree)

Flavia Hevia – Set and Lighting Designer

Flavia is a visual artist and a set and lighting designer for theatre. Her visual art and designs have been seen around the world. Flavia's work appears in *TRACES* for *Les 7 doigts de la main* (The 7 Fingers) and *LEO* for Circle of Eleven among many others. Flavia recently established *Anonimato*, an emerging multidisciplinary puppet company.

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.

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.

Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola – Choreographer

Juan Kruz is a Spanish-born, Dutch-trained classical musician, dancer, choreographer and teacher who lives in Berlin. Juan Cruz has a long association with contemporary dance company Sasha Waltz & Guests. Juan Cruz has worked with DV8 Physical Theatre, dance companies around the world and recently choreographed and danced for the DVD release of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in a scenic performance produced by Harmonia Mundi France, which featured violinist Midori Seiler with Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin.





PRESS REVIEWS

LEO is the winner of the
The Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award
The Three Weeks Editors Award
The Scotsman Fringe First Award



>> 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. We see Leo's world via a real-time projection rotated to make our floor his wall, whilst also seeing Tobias Wegner perform in "our" world. The joy of LEO is partly seeing his gravity-defying antics as his world and ours collide. Mostly, however, it's from watching the amazing performance put in by Wegner as he presents an utterly convincing impression of altered gravity, dancing brilliantly and even playing the sax. 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 Circle of Eleven's LEO. This utterly delightful show combines acrobatics and film work to create a rather unique piece of theater. <<

-- Theatermania / USA



>> MIND-BENDING, ILLUSIONISTIC AND SPELLBINDING

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 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*



>> BRILLIANTLY BIZARRE!

LEO, from the Berlin-based producing house Circle of Eleven, makes its own brilliantly bizarre and unexpectedly moving foray into topsy-turvy realms. ...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, or maybe by some external manipulating force. 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*

>> 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*



>>***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*



>>***SPELLBINDING PHYSICAL THEATRE!***

LEO is a spellbinding and inventive piece of physical theatre from German company Circle of Eleven. The concept is simple – yet remarkably effective. ...The simple act of standing up is transformed into a superhuman feat; whilst, 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. The choreography and physical performance are expertly executed and creative, building from simple movements... to a complex and mind-boggling finale. ...a fluid and beautiful work of physical theatre which makes you – like Leo himself – begin to think walking up a wall is the most natural and effortless thing in the world. <<

-- *Edinburgh Spotlight / UK*

>>***LEO IS MIND-BLOWING, A REFRESHINGLY ORIGINAL CONCEPT THAT ENCHANTS AT EVERY TURN.*** << --*Backstage / USA*



>> **GREAT INNOVATIVE ENTERTAINMENT**<<

-- *Dominion Post / New Zealand*

>> **LEO SPECTCULARLY 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 marvelous 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*

>> **LEO IS A BRILLIANT ONE-MAN-SHOW, CLEVER, PLAYFUL AND EXTREMELY FUNNY**<<

-- *Berliner Morgenpost / Germany*



TOUR DATES 2012

January -- February	<i>Clurman Theatre, Theatre Row, New York / USA</i>
February	<i>Fadjr International Theatre Festival, Teheran / Iran</i>
March	<i>International Arts Festival, Wellington / New Zealand</i>
April -- August	<i>Chamäleon Theater, Berlin / Germany</i>
April	<i>Pazz Festival, Oldenburg / Germany</i>
April	<i>Junge Hunde Festival, Wiesbaden / Germany</i>
May	<i>HIFA Festival, Harare / Zimbabwe</i>
May	<i>Theatromania Festiwal, Bytom / Poland</i>
May	<i>Spoleto Festival, Charleston SC / USA</i>
June	<i>Carrefour Festival, Québec / Canada</i>
July	<i>Montréal Complement Cirque Festival, Québec / Canada</i>
August	<i>Edinburgh Fringe Festival / Scotland</i>
September	<i>Forum Leverkusen, Leverkusen / Germany</i>
September	<i>Performing Arts Exchange, Miami Beach FL / USA</i>
September	<i>Raritan Valley CC, Branchburgh , NJ / USA</i>
October	<i>Edison Theatre, Washington Univ., St. Louis, Mo / USA</i>
October	<i>Fluid Festival, Calgary / Canada</i>
October	<i>Sangamon Auditorium, Univ. of IL, Springfield / USA</i>
October	<i>Overture Center, Madison WI / USA</i>
October	<i>Blizzard Theater, Elgin CC, IL / USA</i>
November	<i>NTE, Montréal, Québec / Canada</i>
November	<i>The Cultch, Vancouver, BC / Canada</i>



TOUR DATES 2013

(as of July 2012)

January	<i>Sydney Opera House / Australia</i>
February	<i>Perth Fringe Festival / Australia</i>
February	<i>Brisbane World Theatre Festival / Australia</i>
February	<i>Merrigong Theatre, Wollongong / Australia</i>
February	<i>Asolo Theatre, Sarasota, FL / USA</i>
February-March	<i>Hong Kong Festival / Hong Kong</i>
March	<i>Broad Stage, Santa Monica CA / USA</i>
March	<i>Auckland Festival / New Zealand</i>
April	<i>REPS Theatre, Harare / Zimbabwe</i>
April	<i>Ballerup / Denmark</i>
April	<i>Holland Tour</i>
April - May	<i>South Africa State Theatre, Pretoria / South Africa</i>
July - August	<i>Sao Paolo / Brazil</i>



TRACK LIST

Opening Music

Last Chance to Dance Trance

By Medeski, Martin and Wood

From the Album: Friday Afternoon in the Universe

Suitcase 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 DellCanzone Italiana Vol.3

Funky Soul Brother

by The Grits

from the record The Grits



TRACK LIST

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

Music 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 OP.92

II Allegretto (extract) by Beethoven
performed by Philharmonia Orchestra
conducted by Kurt Sanderling 1981
from the record 100 Best Classics

Animation/Ocean

Swan Lake

Scène (Act II, No 10) by Tchaikovsky
performed by London Symphony Orchestra
conducted by André Previn 1976/1988
from the record 100 Best Classics

Finale

Giftshop

by Larvae
from the record Loss Leader



COMPANY PROFILE

Circle of Eleven is a creative platform for producing innovative, entertaining shows. We specialize in developing sophisticated show concepts that combine various artistic forms into single, dramatic works. These projects blend music, acrobatics, dance and theatre into a unique form of entertainment, which carries on the spirit of classic German variety theatre at a contemporary circus level.

The shows are produced in collaboration with renowned directors, choreographers, lighting and costume designers, stylists, composers and performers. Circle of Eleven also taps into this creative talent pool when developing and marketing their shows as well as adapting them to meet the needs and the wishes of other venues and presenters.

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