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La Belle et la Bête

Lemieux Pilon 4D Art
Created and directed by
Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon
Created and written by Pierre Yves Lemieux

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
Nov 21—23 at 7:30pm

Approximate running time: one hour & 30 minutes, no intermission

Translated by **Maureen Labonté**
Original score by **Michel Smith**
Set, costume, and prop design by **Anne-Séguin Poirier**
Visual design by **Michel Lemieux** and **Victor Pilon** with
Mathieu St-Arnaud
Lighting design by **Alain Lortie**

BAM 2013 Next Wave Festival sponsor



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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for
Opera and Music-Theater*

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The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund
The SHS Foundation
The Shubert Foundation, Inc.*

A co-production by the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde and
LEMIEUX PILON 4D ART



CAST

La Belle **Janine Thériault**
La Dame **Diane d'Aquila**
La Bête **Vincent Leclerc**

VIRTUAL CHARACTERS

The Sisters **Anne-Marie Cadieux**
The Demon **Peter James**
The Horse **Champagne**, trained by
Azalée Gaudreau

CREATIVE TEAM

Stage manager and Assistant to the directors

Isabelle Painchaud

Set, costumes, accessories **Anne-Séguin Poirier**

Original music composer **Michel Smith**

Visual designers **Michel Lemieux, Victor Pilon**

Visual co-designer **Mathieu St-Arnaud**

Lighting designer **Alain Lortie**

Make-up designer **Jacques-Lee Pelletier**

LEMIEUX PILON 4D ART'S TECHNICAL TEAM

Technical director **Michel Daudelin**

Assistant to the Technical director and Lighting
director **Mathieu Ferdais**

Sound directors **Peter Balov, Stephan Ritch**

Video directors **Dave MacLeod, Pascal Marcotte**

Stagehands **Dominique Larose, Jean-François
Beaudoin, Hugo Bourque**

LEMIEUX PILON 4D ART

Artistic directors **Michel Lemieux, Victor Pilon**

Executive director **Marie-Christine Dufour**

Administrative and Tour Director

Michel Maillochon

Communications and Tour director **Valérie
Archain**

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Artistic co-director of Lemieux Pilon 4D Art

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Artistic co-director of Lemieux Pilon 4D Art

Agent for the Americas, Asia, and Oceania:

John Lambert & Assoc. inc., info@johnlambert.ca

Other regions: Marie-Christine Dufour,
info@4dart.com

During its creation, the show was granted a re-
hearsal space at the Place des Arts of Montreal.

SOLOTECH, grand parter and Clay Paky – Profes-
sional Show Lighting, partner of Lemieux Pilon
4D Art.

Lemieux Pilon 4D Art is supported by the Conseil
des arts and des lettres du Québec, the Canada
Council for the Arts, and the Conseil des arts de
Montréal.



Photo: Yves Renaud

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are all monsters, disfigured by wounds to our self-esteem, deformed by the pain of our losses, our grief, our injuries. Sometimes we seek to withdraw from the world, to protect our bruised humanity from the gaze of others too similar to ourselves. Consumed by a darkness we can never completely get rid of, we see the never-ending quest for beauty in the mirror of an individualistic society. Our beast lurks under the varnish of our education and social conventions, always threatening to erupt. Beyond our differences, we are the bearers of a similar beauty, which attracts, recognizes, and brings us to each other.

Beauty and Beast: inside each one of us. Between each one of us.

Isolated in his castle, Bête expects nothing from existence. He no longer belongs to the world. He lets himself live outside of time, prisoner of his memories. Wounded, he hasn't laughed in a long time. His meeting with Belle surprises him, as it does her. Both very raw, they will come to discover each other. The beauty of their bond will trouble them, separate them, and then save them. The Lady, protector of the Bête, keeper of many secrets, will not take this well.

This adult fairytale could only come to life under the auspices of a formidable team, to whom we are hugely indebted. To Lorraine Pintal, who offered us this raw material from which to shape the show, we offer our warmest gratitude; our thanks to Pierre-Yves Lemieux for investing the words with his remarkable poetry, and to Maureen Labonté for beautifully translating the emotions and the poetry of the work. This show was born as much from them as it was from us, and we can only hope that from now on it will survive in you.

SYNOPSIS

In a contemporary take on a beloved classic, the creative team of Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon (*Norman*, *La Tempête*, *Anima*) delivers a timeless tale of resilience and redemptive love in a new multi-disciplinary production. After the sudden departure of the love of his life, a man seeks solitude in his manor. When he finds no peace, he tries to escape his unbearable pain through an act that leaves him grossly disfigured—la Bête. One day, Belle, a young artist who bears her own personal heartache, delivers the last rose of a stone medallion to the manor on behalf of her father, an art dealer.

The meeting dramatically disrupts the lives of these two tortured souls, but while Belle yields to the feelings that begin to fill her heart, the Bête is terrified by the breach in his emotional armor. In order to protect himself, he chooses to waste away and die, unless Belle can find a way to breathe new life into him. All the while, La Dame—a striking older woman who has long harbored a deep love for la Bête—finally relinquishes all hope, and concedes that only La Belle is the one who can possibly breathe life back into la Bête.



Photo: Yves Renaud

MICHEL LEMIEUX and **VICTOR PILON** are the driving force behind Montreal-based **LEMIEUX PILON 4D ART**, a multi-disciplinary company with more than 30 original productions to its credit. As co-directors, their work masterfully integrates theater, film, dance, poetry, visual arts, music, and sound, resulting in rich, immersive storytelling that both delights and amazes audiences.

Their latest work, *La Belle et la Bête*, a contemporary version of the old fairy tale which delighted audiences and critiques alike at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde in 2011. The interaction between the characters and the projections allowed the set to change with fluidity and openness, liberating the theater from its physical boundaries, where the actors were able to evolve in a constantly changing imaginary world. In this new work, Lemieux and Pilon immerse the spectator in the play via the intervention of the narrator, and the interaction with the inner thoughts of the characters with their virtual selves and sets that surround the audience.

Their productions include the acclaimed *Norman*, *La Tempête* (2006 Next Wave Festival), *Anima*, *Orfeo*, *Poles*, *Grand Hôtel des Étrangers*, and *Free Fall*. As well, their productions *Starmania*, *the Opera* (in collaboration with the Montréal and Quebec Opera companies), *DELIRIUM* (with the Cirque du Soleil), and *Midnight Sun* (commemorating, respectively, the 20th and 25th anniversaries of Cirque du Soleil and the Montreal International Jazz Festival), recently made Montreal's largest daily newspaper's top 10 list of the city's most memorable shows of the decade.

Lemieux and Pilon have also collaborated on many exhibitions and special events. They have recently finished *Continuum*, a half-hour show for the new Montréal Rio Tinto Planetarium with

the music from the catalogue of Philip Glass. Other productions include: *This is a Sphere*, an outdoor multimedia extravaganza presented at the Montreal High Lights Festival, *Harmony 2000*, a mega-celebration of the new millennium and the 200th anniversary of the city of Hull; *Act of Faith*, a permanent multimedia presentation at the Basilica of Notre Dame in Quebec; and *La Nuit de Montréal*, the majestic opening parade marking Montreal's 350th birthday celebrations.

The company's earlier works, including *L'Oeil Rechargeable*, *Solide Salad*, and *Mutations* were the result of musical and multimedia experimentation by the shows' creator and performer Michel Lemieux, and garnered considerable international recognition.

Presentations of Lemieux Pilon 4D Art's bold productions have toured extensively in Canada, the US, Europe (France, UK, Germany, Austria, and Spain), South and Central America (Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico), Australia, and Asia (China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea).

PIERRE YVES LEMIEUX (playwright) was born in Trois-Rivières, Québec. He studied literature and then acting at the Lionel-Groulx College from 1981 to 1984. As an actor, he performed on many stages around the province of Quebec. As a playwright, many theaters have produced his work: big institutions as well as private theaters. From early in his career, he has been known for the re-writing of famous repertory plays. Through the years, his productions earned him a large following. Lemieux often works as a consultant at the National Theatre School of Canada and for the Centre des auteurs dramatiques du Québec. He has also been on many juries in theater: Governor General's Awards, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and Canada Council for the Arts.





DIANE D'AQUILA's (La Dame) most recent theater credits include: *Wallenstein* and *Coriolanus* (Shakespeare Theatre Co., Seattle), *La Belle et la Bête* (Luminato), and *The Maids* (Bad Times Theatre). D'Aquila originated the role of Elizabeth in the debut production of *Elizabeth Rex* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, then went on to play the role with the Chicago Shakespeare Festival 10 years later, winning the Jeff Award for Best Actress. She won a Canadian film award (Gemini) and an ACTRA award for best actress in the film version. A member of the Stratford Shakespeare for 15 years, D'Aquila starred in productions such as *Caesar and Cleopatra*, *The Swanne*, *King John*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Richard III*, and *King Lear*. Other recent theater includes *Ste. Carmen of the Main*, *Macbeth* (National Arts Centre), *Jitters*, *Leaving Home*, *Of the Fields*, *Lately* (Soulpepper), and *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (Goodman Theatre). A company member of the American Repertory Theatre for two years, she starred in *Hot and Throbbing* and *Dido, Queen of Carthage*. Television credits include: two seasons on *Slings and Arrows* (TMN) and *24hr Rental* (Super Channel). Film credits include *Take This Waltz* (directed by Sarah Polley), *Good Neighbours* (Park Ex Pictures), and *Mary Sillman's War* (PBS).