

SONGS AND TRANSLATIONS

LES 3 FRÈRES

Nous sommes trois' frères partis pour un voyage,
dans les chantiers nous nous sommes engagés
mais au printemps y'a fallu faire la drave
se mettre aux risques de mille dangers.

Par un dimanche durant la sainte messe
je dis mes frères je me sentis frappé
sur la rivière, la rivière en détresse
sous une jam je me suis enfoncé.

Je descendais de rapide en rapide,
sans une branche que je puisse rencontrer.
Faut donc mourir sous ses eaux qui s'écoulent,
sans le secours de ses mille curés.

Vous autres mes frères qui irez vois mon père
vous lui direz que je suis décédé.
Vous lui direz qu'il ne prenne point de peine,
car tôt ou tard il faut subir la mort.

Triste nouvelle pour apprendre à sa mère
aussi son père aussi tous ses parents.
Vous prierez Dieu qu'il nous fasse la grâce,
de s'y revoir au dernier jugement.

THE 3 BROTHERS

We three brothers set out on a journey,
got ourselves jobs in the lumberyards
'til spring came and the log-drive called
to put us in the path of dangers aplenty.

One Sunday at the hour of Holy Mass
I sighed: "My brothers I've been thrown down
the river, the river in torrents
and shoved underneath a log jam!"

Down went I from rapid to rapid,
not one single branch crossed my path.
To die it seemed beneath waters flowing,
with no sign of help from its thousand priests.

You, my brothers, you'll see my father,
you'll tell him that I've passed away.
You'll tell him not to bear any sadness,
you'll sooner or later have death come your way.

Sad news to tell your mother,
your father too and all your kin.
You'll pray to God for his good grace,
And that we'll meet again on Judgement Day.

SONGS AND TRANSLATIONS

SHIRLEY – LA CHASSE A L'OURS – LES BATTEUX-SLAQUES

Un jour que je m'en allais prestement à la chasse à l'ours,
J'ai rencontré la belle pleurant pré d'un carrefour.
Elle m'a dit Michel ne va pas à la chasse à l'ours,
J'ai répondu: "nous devons donc faire l'amour".

Refrain:

Chérie je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
tu me croque la graine sans oublier le pourtour.
Chérie je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
Je ne veux pas te perdre mais j'aime mieux la chasse à l'ours.

En attendant mon ours je me cachais dans le bosquaille
(bosquet),
je me crosse à tous les jours en pensant à ma petite caille.
qui m'avait dit Michel ta graine je m'ennuie de elle,
et pis tes pognées d'amour pis mettre mon pain dans le four.

Refrain:

Chérie je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
tu me donne la fièvre quand tu te fais griller dans la cour.
Chérie je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
Je ne veux pas te perdre mais j'aime mieux la chasse à l'ours.

Un jour que tu as voulu me jouer un tout petit tour,
revêtant la peau d'ours grognant près d'un carrefour.
Je me suis dit Michel vas-y c'est à ton tour,
J'ai agrippé mon douze pis j'ai mis fin à ces jours.

Refrain:

Chérie je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
Je n'ai pas voulu te perdre mais tu m'as joué un tour.
Shirley je t'aime et je t'aimerai toujours,
maintenant que tu es mortes je ne vais plus à la chasse à l'ours.

SHIRLEY – BEAR HUNTING – LES BATTEUX-SLAQUES

Hurrying off to the bear hunt one day,
I met a fair maiden crying near the crossroads.
She said to me, "Michel don't go to the bear hunt."
I replied, "Fair maiden, then let's make love."

Chorus:

Darling, I love you and I always will,
you love my whole being and not just my pistol.
Darling, I love you and I always will,
I don't want to lose you but I'd rather go bear hunting.

I was hiding in the thicket waiting for my bear,
slipping up every day distracted by thoughts of my
sweetheart,
who had said to me, "Michel I'm getting bored of your pistol,
your love handles too and of bread in the oven."

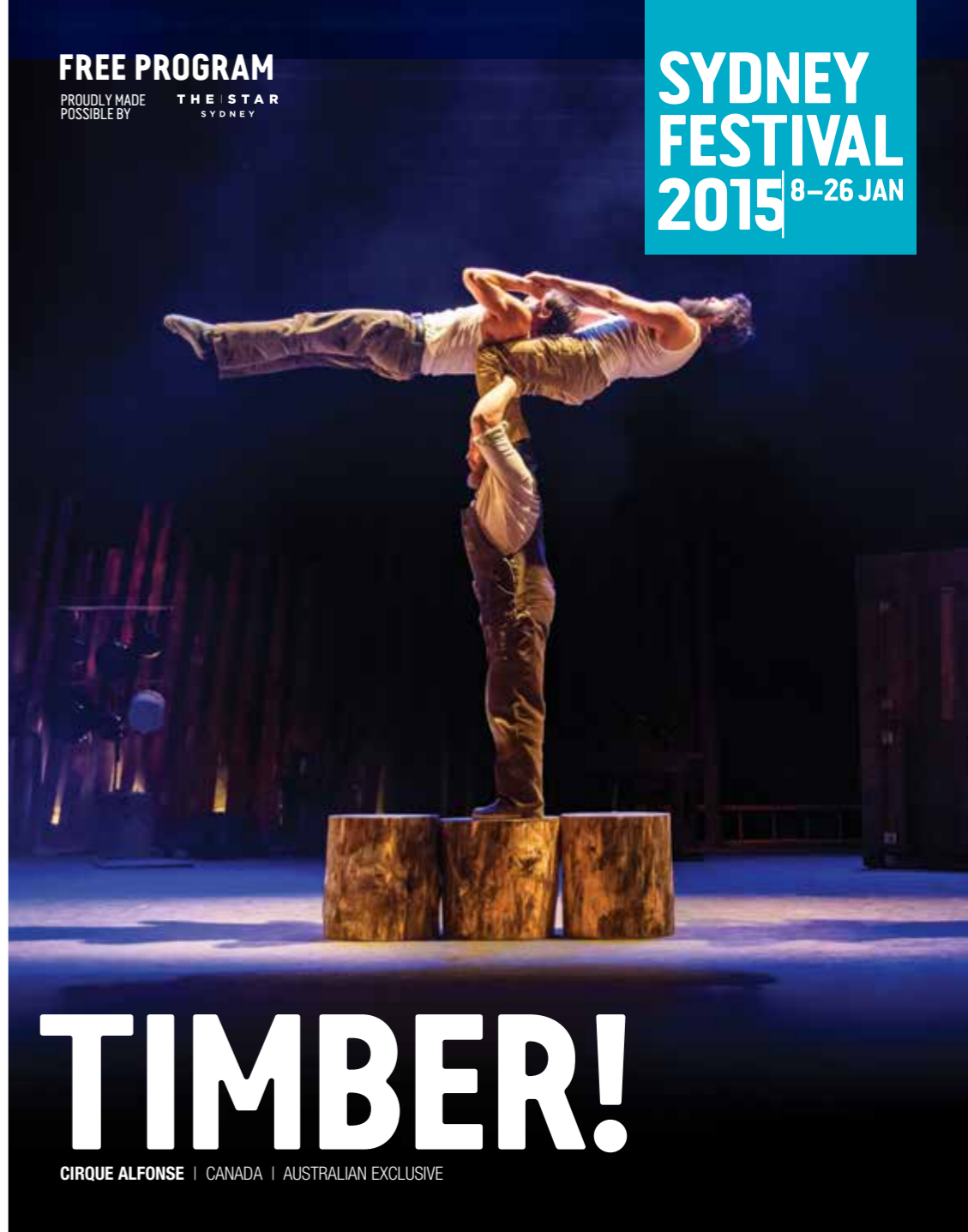
Chorus:

Darling, I love you and I always will,
my heart stops when you get caught out in the yard.
Darling, I love you and I always will,
I don't want to lose you but I'd rather go bear hunting.

On the day you played a trick on me,
by dressing in the bear skin and growling at the crossroads.
I said to myself: "Come on, Michel, this bear's yours,"
and I grabbed my pistol and ended your days.

Chorus:

Darling, I love you and I always will,
I didn't want to lose you but you played a trick on me.
Shirley, I love you and I always will,
now you are dead I don't go bear hunting anymore.



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TIMBER!

CIRQUE ALFONSE | CANADA | AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

TIMBER!

CIRQUE ALFONSE

RIVERSIDE THEATRE
8–18 JANUARY
90MINS NO INTERVAL

DIRECTOR

Alain Francoeur

COMPOSERS

David Boulanger
David Simard

ACROBATS

Antoine Carabinier Lépine
Jonathan Casaubon
Francis Roberge

DANCER

Julie Carabinier Lépine

ACTOR

Alain Carabinier

MUSICIANS

Josianne Laporte
David Simard
André Gagné

SOUND ENGINEER

Lionnel Dechamps

LIGHTING ENGINEER

Jean-Louis “Jello” Robert

LIGHTING & SET DESIGNER

Nicolas Descôteaux

REPRESENTATION

John Lambert (Australia)
Dolce Vita (Europe and Canada)

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CIRQUE ALFONSE

Established in 2005, Cirque Alfonse is a unique and innovative circus company from Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez in the province of Quebec. The company’s founding members have worked with some of the most renowned “nouveau cirque” companies in the world, including Montreal’s Les 7 doigts de la main and Cirque du Soleil, Cirkus Cirkör of Sweden, Cirque Starlight of Switzerland, and the Montreal dance company Bouge de là. The company features professional acrobats from the National Circus School Montreal, a professional dancer and three talented musicians. Cirque Alfonse is blazing a creative path that no-one has yet dared to explore – blending the arts and circus techniques with the most picturesque facets of traditional Quebec folklore. In 2006, the company launched its first show, *La Brunante*; *Timber!* is its second production.

ANTOINE CARABINIER LÉPINE

Acrobat

Antoine graduated with a diploma from the National Circus School Montreal in 2000. A multidisciplinary artist, he specialises in the German wheel and the Cyr wheel, as well as being a skilled acrobat, juggler and musician. His show/artistic credits include: *Nomade* and *Cirque Orchestra*, Cirque Éloize; *99% Unknown*, Cirkus Cirkör; *Celebrity Cruise Project*, Cirque du Soleil; *Maskarade*, Copenhagen Royal Opera; *Traces*, Les 7 doigts de la main; and *From the ground Up*, Circus Oz.

JULIE CARABINIER LÉPINE

Dancer

Julie began training in classical ballet at the age of eight and continued on to study modern dance and theatre. She graduated with a diploma in Contemporary Dance Interpretation from LADMMI contemporary dance school in 2003. She has danced for many noted choreographers, including Sonya Biernath, Manuel Roque, Mélanie Demers, Amélie Lévesque Demers and for dance companies such as Bouge de là, with Hélène Langevin, and Mandala Sitù. In 2007, she went on a European tour with Circus Knie’s *Salto Natale*.

JONATHAN CASAUBON

Acrobat

Jonathan is a highly regarded multidisciplinary artist. After teaching gymnastics and competing as a gymnast for ten years, he studied circus arts. He graduated with a diploma from the National Circus School Montreal in 2000, specialising in teeterboard and trampoline. After teaching circus in Switzerland, he joined the Cirque Starlight and for four years worked as a circus artist and assistant to the artistic director. Jonathan then worked with Cirque du Soleil, becoming a circus artist at the top of his game. His other show credits include: *Salto Natale*, Circus Knie; *Traces*, Les 7 doigts de la main.

FRANCIS ROBERGE

Acrobat

Francis studied circus arts at the Quebec City Circus School, specialising in hand-to-hand, banquine and axe handling. His show/artistic credits include: 400th Anniversary of Quebec City, *Ex Machina* and *Les Chemins invisibles*, Cirque du Soleil; and several projects with Rasposo Circus. One of Francis’ first jobs was on a horse farm, where he acquired lumberjack skills. He was also a member of the Canadian national rafting team.

ALAIN CARABINIER

Actor

Alain was born in Switzerland, where he was a competitive alpine skier and soccer player. He travelled around the world before settling down in Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez, where he actively participates in the community life of this small town of the Lanaudière region of Quebec. Alain is a soccer coach and designer of circus shows.

JOSIANNE LAPORTE

Musician

Josianne started studying percussion at the age of eight. She graduated with a diploma in music from the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) in 2001 and then went on tour with the musicians Gino Vannelli, Dan Bigras and Isabelle Boulay. For five years she travelled around the world as a musician in the Cirque Éloize show *Nomade*. She was also part of the music group François Roy et les As de la Frime. In 2006, she was a creative associate on Cirque Alfonse’s *La Brunante*.

DAVID SIMARD

Musician and Composer

David is a multi-instrumentalist, specialising in traditional Québécois music. He studied jazz guitar and traditional music at the Lanaudière Regional College in Joliette, Quebec. David plays jazz and old fiddle tunes on the banjo, guitar, dobro and violin.

ANDRÉ GAGNÉ

Musician

André is a musician and singer. He studied jazz guitar at the Saint-Laurent College and is a founding member of the traditional Québécois music group La Giroflée. The band recently completed a European tour with their album *J’ai dans la mémoire*. In 2006, André was a creative associate for Cirque Alfonse’s *La Brunante*, including assisting with musical arrangements.

ALAIN FRANCOEUR

Director

Alain graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Dramatic Arts from the UQAM in 1986. He worked as a dancer and an actor in experimental theatre before moving on to become a director and choreographer. Alain is interested in the interdisciplinary aspects of art and of the performing arts. In 1988, he joined the celebrated theatre troupe Carbonne 14, performing in *Le Dortoir*. Alain directed the well-loved show *Cirque Orchestra* by Cirque Éloize, and he has also created choreographies for several dance troupes, among them L’Agora de la danse of Montreal. He also directed Cirque Alfonse’s *La Brunante*.

SONGS AND TRANSLATIONS

LA MATAWIN

M’a vous conter l’histoire d’une fille qui est montée dans les chantiers. (bis)
Elle s’est engagée par Ernest Dufresne, lui faisait du bois dans les Ontario.
Montait là-bas avec 40 gars, des gars renommés pour leurs gros bras. (bis)

La fille D’Alban au mois de novembre “paqu’ta” ses p’tits jusqu’au printemps. (bis)
Faire cookerie pour 1 piastre par jour, nourrie logée qu’est cé qu’y’a de mieux.
Pour oublier son bel amant perdu aux mains d’une fille en fleur. (bis)

N’eu pas été rendue là-bas qu’l’ennui l’a prise per les deux pieds. (bis)
Pour passer l’temps après l’souper au lieu d’jouer aux cartes s’mît à gigner.
Les bou’tombaient sur le plancher et vous dansaient un set carré. (bis)

Un mois plus tard toujours dans l’camp quand y fait brun, y faut se l’ver. (bis)
Les hommes assis au pied d’leur bed s’enfilent leur culotte, ça lime leur sciotte.
La fille d’Alban elle dans cantine fait cuire les œufs, le lard, les bines. (bis)

C’est pas ben drôle la vie d’une fille de passer l’hiver dans les chantiers. (bis)
Laver ses hommes su’a planche de bois avec du savon fait à maison.
C’était donc pas d’la p’tite aria d’faire le lavage dans ce temps-là. (bis)

Au 3e mois d’la run de bois, les gars ça s’ennuient d’leur p’tite gayspette. (bis)
Le grand Trudell qui t’la r’luqua avec ses promesses, il l’enjôla.
Un p’tit coup d’gousse durant veillée et sur la paille se sont aimés. (bis)

Le 15 de mars l’chantier fermé ...

Une fois le stock toute ramassé ...

Les gars s’en r’tournent chacun chez eux ...

L’argent plein poches pis l’couer heureux ...

La fille d’Alban pis l’grand Trudell sur la peau d’ours s’font des m’amours.
Sont descendus en ptit bugee tout dret église pour se marier. (bis)

THE MATAWIN

I’ll tell you a story about an Alban girl who went off to the lumberyards. (repeat)
She was hired by Ernest Dufresne, on a wood in Ontario.

Off she went with 40 strong lads famous for their big strong arms. (repeat)

In November, the Alban girl bundles off her little ones ‘til springtime. (repeat)
Fed and housed, she did the cooking for a dollar a day, what could be better?
All to try and forget her handsome lover lost to the arms of a younger girl. (repeat)

She had barely arrived when boredom seized her with its iron grip. (repeat)
After dinner, she would rather dance a jig than play card games.
The cards soon fell to the ground and they would all dance a hoedown. (repeat)

One month later in Ontario, the lads would get up when darkness fell. (repeat)
Seated at the foot of their beds, they got dressed and sharpened their saws.
While the Alban girl was in the canteen cooking eggs, bacon and beans. (repeat)

So, the life of a girl in the lumberyards is not much fun in winter. (repeat)
Washing men’s clothes on a plane of wood with home-made soap.
Washing was no honeymoon in those days. (repeat)

Three months into the wood run, the lads tired of their little plaything. (repeat)
Big Trudell had been ogling her, and he coaxed her with promises.
Went for the girl one evening and they kissed on the straw. (repeat)

By the 15th March the lumberyard was closed ...

Once all the stock was collected up ...

All the lads went off home ...

With swollen pockets and a happy heart ...

The Alban girl and Big Trudell made sweet love on their bear skin.
And off they went in their little buggy straight to the church to wed. (repeat)



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Photos: Jane Hobson