

THE 7 FINGERS

DUEL REALITY

DIRECTOR Shana Carroll

PERFORMERS Daniela Corradi, Adam Fullick, Gerardo Gutiérrez Flores, Michelle Hernandez, Einar Kling Odencrants, Miliève Modin-Brisebois, Anton Erik Persson, Santiago Rivera Laugerud, Asleigh Roper, Arata Urawa

LIGHTING DESIGNER Alexander Nichols

COSTUME DESIGNER Camille Thibault-Bédard

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Maude St-Pierre

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Simon Carrière

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR Audrey Belzile

ASSISTANT TO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Anna Kichtchenko

ACROBATIC COACH Francisco Cruz

TOUR MANAGER Pauline Baud-Guillard

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND SOUND

ENGINEER Delphine Quenneville

LIGHT OPERATOR Benoît Rouillard

RIGGER Florent Pattou

MUSICAL DIRECTOR AND COMPOSER Colin Gagné

LYRICS Colin Gagné and Ricardo Isaías Collier

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS Colin Gagné, Jean-Sébastien Leblanc, Ricardo Isaías Collier

EXCERPTS FROM Sergei Prokofiev's "Dance of the Knights"

ADDITIONAL LYRICS William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED AND CREATED WITH Virgin Voyages

COMMISSIONING PARTNER ArtsEmerson (Boston)

Zellerbach Theatre

Saturday, April 5 @ 2 PM

Saturday, April 5 @ 8 PM

There will be no intermission.

The 7 Fingers' tour is made possible thanks to the touring assistance program of the Québec Council for the Arts and Letters.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The 7 Fingers is an arts collective unlike any other. In 2002, the seven founders set out to redefine circus by stripping down the spectacle to its thrilling essence. The contemporary company tells stories using death-defying acrobatics with a life-affirming theatricality that is unique to The 7 Fingers. Since its inception, the company has expanded from its own signature touring shows to creating theatrical experiences as diverse as the very artistic directors themselves: original productions varying from intimate one-man shows to large-scale arena performances; Broadway musicals; artistic collaborations with renowned international artists and companies; production design and direction; special events; Olympic ceremonies; televised performances; fashion, art and music events; immersive experiences and much more.

Every one of these projects carries The 7 Fingers' unequivocal mark. The company has consistently spread its horizons by mixing genres and exploring new ways to tell stories. Fascinated by the human condition, The 7 Fingers create performances that celebrate our world, our time and our humanity. Their shows tour the globe and bring audiences to their feet wherever they go. In 2018, The 7 Fingers opened their very own Centre of Creation and Production. Situated in the heart of Montreal's downtown theatre district, the new center houses all of the company's activities, departments and dreams under one roof.

Shana Carroll (Director)

Carroll is the co-founding artistic director of the Montreal-based contemporary circus company Les 7 doigts de la main (The 7 Fingers). Since its founding in 2002, Carroll performed and created (alongside the collective) the group's shows *Loff* and *La Vie*, then went on to direct, write and choreograph (often in partnership with fellow "Fingers") *Traces*, *Psy*, *Sequence 8*, *Feriamuse*, *Le Murmure du Coquelicot*, *Cuisine & Confessions*, *Passengers*, *Duel Reality* (for Virgin Voyages), *Dear San Francisco* and *Mon Ile Mon Cœur*.

Outside of The 7 Fingers, Carroll directed Cirque du Soleil's first-ever ice show, *Crystal*, in addition to its performance at the Academy Awards in 2012. For Cirque du Soleil, Carroll was also acrobatic designer and choreographer for *Iris* (Los Angeles) and *Paramour* (Broadway). Other collaborations include *Queen of the Night* (World Wide Variety), *Soul of the Ocean* (Moment Factory), *Temporel* (Lemieux-Pilon), *Cité Mémoire* (Lemieux-Pilon) and the Sochi Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies. In 2023, Carroll worked as co-choreographer and circus designer for the musical *Water for Elephants* with Phippen Theatre Co.

Carroll has also created many world-renowned circus acts, her work receiving six gold medals at international circus festivals through the years. In 2023, Carroll became a member of the Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec in tribute to her remarkable contribution to development and reputation for excellence of Quebec's arts domestically and abroad. Carroll is a professor and artist-in-residence at Concordia University.

Born and raised in Berkeley, California, and daughter of beloved *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Jon Carroll, she began her career as a trapeze artist with San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus. Carroll went on to a 20-year career in the air, including seven years as original solo trapeze artist for Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco*. She currently lives in Montreal, Canada.

Daniela Corradi (Performer)

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Corradi is a circus artist specialized in juggling. She started developing her skills in 2014 while traveling through South America, studying with numerous artists from Argentina and Brazil. She has performed in multiple festivals and circus conventions, winning an accolade in 2018 for her act in the International Jugglers Association Regional South American Competition. She has also been an active member of groups that have an inclusive and independent focus like the Centro Cultural Ocupação Ouvridor 63 and the circus collective 6/12 Circus as a performer, and she has worked on event production and technical teams. In 2022, she started to work with The 7 Fingers in *Duel Reality*.

Adam Fullick (Performer)

After 12 years of elite international competing experience within sport acrobatics, Fullick finished his athletic career as a British champion in 2016. He then went on to graduate from the National Centre for Circus Arts in 2018, specializing in hand-to-hand, general acrobatics and Cyr wheel. Since then, Fullick has performed across many avenues within performing arts. He has toured the world in award-winning contemporary circus shows (*Bromance, Fauna*), been on award-winning cruise lines (Virgin Voyages) and worked with acclaimed film and TV companies (Disney, Apple TV, Marvel, Channel 4, BBC and Sky Sports). Fullick has also performed at various international cultural art festivals such as the Glastonbury Festival 2017 and 2020, Latitude Festival 2019 and 2021, Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2021 and 2022, and Brighton Fringe Festival 2021 and 2022. He has taken part of numerous prestigious international events and ceremonies, including performing at The Brit Awards with Dua Lipa in 2024, the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in 2022, the Riyadh Season opening ceremony in 2021 and many others.

Gerardo Gutierrez Flores (Performer)

Gutierrez Flores was born and raised in Mexico City. His passion for the circus began at 15, practicing juggling and floor acrobatics through self-teaching. At the age of 22, he entered the Cirko de mente diploma program, graduating in floor acrobatics and hoop diving. Shortly after, he and his partner, Michelle Hernandez, began their hand-to-hand training with Professor Vladimir Lissovky at Cirko de Mente in Mexico City. After four years of arduous training, Gutierrez Flores and Hernandez began working in circuses, companies, television shows and festivals in their country. They had their first work experience abroad traveling to Canada, Germany and Austria. In 2022, they had the privilege of joining *Duel Reality* with The 7 Fingers and Virgin Voyages in the main roles of Romeo and Juliet.

Michelle Hernandez (Performer)

Hernandez was born and raised in Mexico City. Since childhood, she has been passionate about dance. She graduated in ballet from Mexico City's National Institute of Fine Arts in 2012. At 20, she felt drawn to the circus arts and began her training with aerial apparatus such as canvas and ribbons. A year later, she and her partner, Gerardo Gutierrez Flores, began hand-to-hand training with teacher Vladimir Lissovky at Cirko de Mente in Mexico City. After four years of arduous training, Hernandez and Gutierrez Flores began to work in cirque companies, TV shows and festivals in their country. Their first professional experience abroad was in Canada, followed by Germany and Austria. In 2022, they had the privilege of joining The 7 Fingers and Virgin Voyages' magnificent cruise show, *Duel Reality*, in the lead roles of Romeo and Juliet.

Einar Kling Odencrants (Performer)

Kling Odencrants is a Swedish teeterboard jumper who studied at the University of Dance and Circus in Stockholm. After graduating, he flipped his way around the world performing and competing internationally. Kling Odencrants has a gold medal from Cirque de Demain, a gold elephant from the Moscow International Circus Festival and a bronze clown from Monaco International Circus Festival. He is also an accomplished circus designer and photographer. @ekopics

Milève Modin-Brisebois (Performer)

Modin-Brisebois is an acrobat from a family of artists. Growing up surrounded by music, theatre, painting and circus arts, Modin-Brisebois stands out for her playfulness and straightforwardness. These qualities are evident in her performances and artistic approach. A graduate of the École de cirque de Québec in Chinese pole, she has joined several different companies and shows. She often says, "If you don't make me laugh, I don't want to know," in the nicest way, of course.

Anton Erik Persson (Performer)

Persson is a teeterboard artist and acrobat from a small town in Sweden who loves to fight against the laws of gravity. He started in gymnastics and later upgraded to a one-year circus school in Denmark where he met the teeterboard for the first time. After this, he was obsessed with this sensation of flying and flipping. To carry on with this obsession, Persson continued his studies of circus at CNAC in France for three years, perfecting his technique. He has flipped around in Hungary, Sweden, France, Spain and Australia, among other places. Persson is a sucker for trampoline, snowboard, cliff diving, circus, parkour... yeah, basically anything fun!

Santiago Rivera Laugerud (Performer)

Rivera Laugerud was born in Guatemala in 1997 and is a multidisciplinary artist and owner of his own circus, Cie. Zirconium. Dedicated to the arts from an early age, he was influenced by contemporary dance and physical theatre. Rivera Laugerud specializes in juggling and has gotten the chance to develop other disciplines such as hoop diving and Chinese pole. He is the first Central American to be accepted into Montreal's National Circus School in Canada, recognized as one of the best circus schools in the world. Rivera Laugerud was part of different art institutions in Guatemala which helped its international launch and recognition in the circus arts. Among them are the art ministry En el arte producciones, Teatro Fantasia at IRTRA Petapa and the Batz circus school. His work has been recognized by multiple organizations such as Guatecirko, Montreal Completément Cirque, TOHU and Cirque Éloize. Representing Guatemala internationally in the circus field is complicated due to the lack of support for art from the Guatemalan government, so much of this artist's work is the result of private and personal funding and the ability to create beautiful things out of simple materials.

Ashleigh Roper (Performer)

Roper was born in South Africa and moved to the UK at age five, where she started gymnastics. She immediately found she had a passion and a natural ability for the sport. A few years later, when her family moved again to Australia, she transitioned to rhythmic gymnastics, where she discovered her natural flexibility and her love for the hula hoop. Roper continued in rhythmic gymnastics until she was 18. Then, she felt the pull of a life in performing and left university to study at the National Institute of Circus Arts, specializing in hula hoops and aerial hoop. Since graduating, Roper has performed in multiple productions in spiegel tents and theatres across the globe. Most notably, she performed in The 7 Fingers' *Duel Reality* on board the Virgin Voyages cruise line and is now part of its touring cast.

Arata Urawa (Performer)

Urawa is a diabolist from Japan. After becoming a Japanese juggling champion and Asian diabolo champion, circus festivals began to invite him to perform. He decided to go into the world of professional circus and studied at the Montreal National Circus School after graduating from Tokyo University of Science. He got the bronze prize in the 39th Festival du Cirque de Demain. Being a part of The 7 Fingers used to be a dream just out of reach, but now he is living that dream.

MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS FOR SOUNDTRACK Sophie Beaudet, Katee Julien, Ricardo Isaías Collier, Alexandre Désilets, Mykalle Bielinski (vocals); Guido del Fabbro (violin), Cédric Dind-Lavoie, Mathieu Roberge (upright bass); Jean-Sébastien Leblanc (clarinet); Olivier Hébert (trombone); Gabriel Godbout-Castonguay (piano); Jonathan Gagné (drums); Alexandre Dodier (saxophone); Raphaël D'Amours (electric guitar); Sheila Hannigan (cello)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Did you know that The 7 Fingers has a year-round show at Club Fugazi in San Francisco and will be performing *Passengers* in New York this June? Stay in the loop—join their mailing list.