



Press release for immediate release

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE **First Edition:** **Mission Accomplished!**

Montreal, July 29, 2010 – Still tingling with excitement from the first edition of **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE**, the festival organizers are happy to report the event has been officially inaugurated and is definitely here to stay! More than **200 artists from Germany, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Spain and Wales** put on **15 different shows** during the festival. That's **83 superb circus performances** given by leading international troupes! The **50,000 festivalgoers** were blown away by the variety of acts presented, the unconventional activities organized, the many different performance venues and the larger-than-life spirit of **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE**. Everyone taking part in the event had a wonderful time and enthusiastically let their imaginations run away with the circus. All in all, the experience was extremely positive and it confirmed how relevant it is for our city, one of the circus arts capitals of the world, to hold a stellar festival of this nature.

“With Cabaret, Montreal troupe Les 7 doigts de la main displays how incredibly diverse this first MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE Festival truly is. Every evening is captivating!” (*La Presse*)

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

An awe-inspiring, euphoria-inducing event full of humour, thrills and chills, **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** easily met the goals it set for year one. The festival successfully promoted circus arts by making them accessible to everyone, expanding their outreach and increasing the number of venues where they're performed.

The complex performances given by both top international troupes and newcomers to the scene **throughout the festival revealed how incredibly rich and eclectic today's circus arts are**. North American premieres, new creations and works-in-progress, as well as the Minutes Complètement Cirque – a brand new urban entertainment concept – were all part of the exciting lineup. And who can forget Cirque du Soleil's contribution to the birth of this new festival in our city, the *Corso Complètement Cirque* event, held at the Old Port!

The festival reached audiences of all ages and made use of many local performance venues including La TOHU, the Quais du Vieux-Port, the Quartier des Spectacles, Usine C, the Lion d'Or, the Olympia Theatre, Espace Go, the Salle Pauline-Julien, Studio B and Dalhousie Station. The Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Saint-Michel and Verdun neighbourhoods also celebrated the event by organizing various activities during their “circus weekends.”

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE invited and welcomed many performers from Canada and abroad in order to promote circus arts in the country and around the world. All invited acts, whether they were from Canada or elsewhere, were very happy with their experience.

All of these positive elements make for a very bright future, one the festival is looking forward to with great enthusiasm!

A WORLD-CLASS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LINEUP

Even though festival organizers had to put everything together in record time – **MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE** was only confirmed in March 2010! – they did an amazing job lining up acts and coordinating the event.

QUEBEC PERFORMERS

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE made sure to highlight Quebec troupes. **Cirque Éloïze** kicked off the festival with its latest creation, *iD*. Extra performances were scheduled until August 1 because of the show's tremendous success. **“You couldn't pick a better show. *iD* is totally circus. [...] A great example of Quebec's expertise in circus arts, *iD* is a must-see this summer because it bridges the gap between generations.”** (*Le Téléjournal Montréal, Radio-Canada*)

Les 7 Doigts de la main delighted audiences and critics alike: **“Cabaret is a beautiful show. Thanks to the quality of its acts, the ever-present humour and especially the performers' skill, it fits right in with the festival's philosophy.”** (*Le Journal de*

Montréal). Set up on the Public Square at La TOHU, performers from the **Carpe Diem** troupe showed off their high-trapeze skills and initiated only the bravest to the art of the flying trapeze. Two unconventional duos – **Bande artistique**, consisting of a very funny juggler and female singer, as well as **Mr. P.P. and Johnny Fillion** – also got top marks from festivalgoers. **Impro Cirque**, a circus version of the LNI (National Improvisation League) concept, attracted its share of curious onlookers at Dalhousie Station. And last but not least, MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE welcomed **Les Confins**, a young troupe based in Quebec City.

TROUPES FROM ABROAD

Performing in North America for the very first time, troupes from Europe and Australia – who simultaneously created turmoil and delight in audiences – also took part in the festival. **NoFit State** presented *Tabù*, a chaotic yet astounding show: “**It’s all about rebellion, electrifying music, lewd humour and the totally frivolous for this eclectic troupe of performers from 10 different countries.**” (*Le Devoir*). Festivalgoers also had the pleasure of discovering **EaEo**, the amazing Flemish jugglers, **Habbe and Meik**, the hilarious and incomparable German clowns, the fearless Belgian trio **Les Mains sales** and, also from Belgium, the unique **Zyrgomatik** troupe. The **A4 Circus Ensemble** from Australia proved there’s poetry in something as simple as an umbrella and the Spanish troupe **AlBadulake** charmed audiences with their flamenco circus.

MINUTES COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE: A BRAND NEW CONCEPT WELCOMED BY PASSERS-BY

If you happened to walk around the eastern side of the Quartier des Spectacles (Quartier Latin) during any of the three consecutive weekends the festival was on, you may have noticed strange things happening. That’s because twice a day, choreographed yet spontaneous circus activities took place in the middle of our very creative city. Out of the blue, about 50 performers invaded the public space much to the surprise of passers-by. As soon as the artists’ well orchestrated performances were over, they receded into the background leaving nothing behind but a special magical feeling lingering in the air.

THE CIRCUS COMMUNITY: IN FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

The MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE festival would not have been possible without the Quebec circus community’s solid support. La TOHU would especially like to thank En Piste (the national circus arts association), Cirque du Soleil, the École nationale de Cirque, Cirque Éloïze and Les 7 doigts de la main for their tremendous cooperation and faith in making this event a reality.

VALUED PARTNERS

The contagious delirium caused by MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE couldn’t have convulsed the city without the valued support of the Government of Quebec and the City of Montreal. Both organizations believed in this project despite all the hoops we had to jump through to get it done! Thanks to all our partners for their confidence and generous contributions.

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE would also like to thank the media and the thousands of festivalgoers who willingly went completely circus! We’re already planning next year’s event and promise it will be just as awesome as this year’s...and maybe even more. In the meantime, if you find yourself craving some circus action, head to La TOHU where circus is on the menu year round!

MONTRÉAL COMPLÈTEMENT CIRQUE is partly funded by the Government of Quebec and the City Montreal. It also receives valuable support from its major partners, the CBC and Cirque du Soleil. Special thanks to Tourisme Montréal, the Corporation for Economic Development and Community (CDEC Centre-Nord), the Quais du Vieux-Port, the Quartier des Spectacles partnership, *La Presse*, Astral Out of Home, RockDétente, NRJ, VOIR, ARTV, MétroMédia Plus, La Vitrine, Unibroue, orangetango, Univins, Naya and Agnus Dei.

La TOHU receives support from the SSSQ Financial Group (its principal partner), the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage, the Quebec Ministry of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and the City of Montreal, as well as from *La Presse*, MétroMédia Plus, CBC Television, the Admission Network, BCF Lawyers Patent and Trade Mark Agents, Uranium Interactive, Univins, Unibroue and Four O’Clock Teas.