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When Angels Fall

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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THE 18/19 SEASON
THE HEIGHTS OF IMAGINATION

American Premiere!

Raphaëlle Boitel

When Angels Fall

Raphaëlle Boitel. Photo: Emmanuel Simiand



February 9–17, 2019

Alexander Kasser Theater

**Large
Print**

**Arts + Cultural
Programming**



**MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President

Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts

Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

American Premiere!

Raphaëlle Boitel

When Angels Fall

Direction and Choreography **Raphaëlle Boitel**

Artistic Collaboration, Set Design, Lighting Design **Tristan Baudoin**

Original Soundtrack/Sound Design **Arthur Bison**

Costumes **Lilou Hérin**

Rigging, Machinery, Set Design Partner **Nicolas Lourdelle**

Artistic Assistant **Clara Henry**

Performers **Tristan Baudoin, Alba Faivre, Clara Henry, Lilou Hérin, Loïc Leviel, Nicolas Lourdelle, Emily Zuckerman**

Production: Cie L'Oublié(e)—Raphaëlle Boitel.

Coproduction: OARA—Office Artistique de la Région Nouvelle-Aquitaine; Agora, Pôle national des arts du cirque de Boulazac Aquitaine; Le Grand T—Théâtre de Loire-Atlantique; Peak Performances @ Montclair State University, Montclair (USA); Plateforme 2 pôles cirque en Normandie; La Brèche à Cherbourg—Cirque Théâtre d'Elbeuf; Le Carré Magique, Pôle national des arts du cirque en Bretagne, Lannion; Le Grand R scène nationale de La Roche-sur-Yon; Carré Colonnes à St-Médard-en-Jalles et Blanquefort, Relais Culturel d'Argentan; Les 3T—scène conventionnée de Châtelleraut.

Production Assistance from the Ministère de la Culture, DRAC Nouvelle Aquitaine, Ville de Boulazac Isle Manoire, Département de la Dordogne, SPEDIDAM.

US Tour Partners: Peak Performances at Montclair State University (NJ), ArtsEmerson, Emerson College (MA), and Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College (PA).

This production supported by FACE Contemporary Theater, a program developed by FACE Foundation and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States with the support from the Florence Gould Foundation, Institut français-Paris, the French Ministry of Culture, and private donors. Additional support for women artists has been provided by Fondation CHANEL.



CULTURAL SERVICES
FRENCH EMBASSY
IN THE UNITED STATES



Duration: 70 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

Program Notes

A dystopia... imagining the future may be the best way to look at the present.

In a microcosm under heavy control, mechanics play the role of what was once biological. A group of men and women, manipulated, survivors in a silent world, look but don't see each other, clinging to life.

To their lives.

Men aspiring to fly or angels caught by something that plays at their expense?

More than characters, symbols. Carrying inside themselves, in their free will, in love and the beauty of letting go, the strength they need to change things.

What if nothing was unchangeable?

Since my first show and through the operas I have worked on, I have been looking to develop a choreographic language. This language emerges from the relationships between beings and situations from day-to-day life. Its foundation is a physical and visual vocabulary mixing dance, theater, cinema, and circus material. It allows me to summon every emotion, virtuosity, contortion, connection between the performers, in a metaphorical structure where every detail matters, up to the fingertips... This structure builds itself from a strong visual universe, which is a part of the dramaturgical frame, and is based on an important work in lighting design.

Each of my projects is a step, part of a “global” project to create this language of motion. Language that I hope to be for the audience a channel of reflections, wonder and emotions.

—*Raphaëlle Boitel*

PEAK
JOURNAL
BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES. PUBLIC AND PERSONAL.

“The Wayward Line: When are the circus arts allowed to be experimental?”
by Cori Olinghouse in *PEAK Journal*

About the Artists

Raphaëlle Boitel (Direction and Choreography), after working alongside James Thierrée in *La Symphonie du Hanne-ton* and *La Veillée des Abysses* and having distinguished herself in fields other than the circus (theater, cinema, television film, cabaret), founded her own company, Cie L’Oublié(e), in 2012. In 2013, she directed her first production, *Consolations ou interdiction de passer par-dessus bord* with three artists from the Académie Fratellini, and her first choreography for opera,

Macbeth, directed by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti at La Scala in Milan. Since then, Boitel has constantly navigated between these two fields of artistic creation, circus arts and opera, writing and staging her own shows: *L'Oublié(e)* in 2014, *5es Hurlants* in 2015, *La Bête Noire* in 2017, and *When Angels Fall* in 2018; and choreographing two other operas: *La Belle Hélène*, directed by Giorgio Barberio Corsetti and Pierrick Sorin at the Théâtre du Châtelet in 2015, and *Alcione*, directed by Louise Moaty in 2017 at the Opéra Comique. She is working on a project in collaboration with the Opéra National de Bordeaux at its home, the Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux. A new performance for young audiences, *Un Contre Un*, will debut in France in January 2020, and in May 2020, *Alcione* will be performed at Barcelona's Liceu.

Creative Team

Tristan Baudoin (Set and Lighting Designer/Performer) grew up in an artistic environment. Passionate about the visual arts, he started working at age 17 in show techniques. His training focused heavily on lighting and stage machinery techniques. He accumulated experience in live shows, television, and events. In 1998, he focused his activities on theater, music, and dance, favoring creation work, with many artists of the Toulouse region. In 2004, he met Aurélien Bory and joined the Cie 111, to which he fully committed, and became its stage manager for 10 years. He developed his knowledge in stage design, machinery, human flight, and robotics, driving the industrial robot of *No Object*. In 2011, he met Raphaëlle Boitel. He now collaborates with her in the conception, stage design, lighting, and technical management on all her artistic projects.

Arthur Bison (Original Soundtrack/Sound Designer) started working at 19 as a studio assistant for Dan Levy, composer for film and dance and founding member of the band The Do. Between 2006 and 2013, he notably participated in the recordings of the score of the movie *Darling* and on award-winning albums *A mouthful* and *Both Ways Open Jaws*. He also accompanied the band on tour as a backliner and tour manager. Alongside this work, he started working with choreographer Johanna Levy in 2008, composing and recording the music for her shows *Hotel Mind* (2008), *After* (2014), and *Twist* (2016). He met Raphaëlle Boitel in 2011 and has since written and recorded the music for her shows *The Forgotten* (2014), *5es Hurlants* (2015), and now *When Angels Fall* (2018).

Lilou Hérin (Costume Designer/Performer) has mainly worked as a costume designer and accessories manager since 1998. In 2006, she and her collaborator Victoria Chaplin won the Molière award for the costumes of *The Junebug Symphony*. Until 2012, she participated in the creation of all of James Thierrée's shows before leaving to work with Raphaëlle Boitel on her creations. Alongside her work on costumes, she has joined the cast as a performer ever since *The Forgotten*.

Performers

Alba Faivre is an accomplished aerial artist, specializing in Chinese pole, aerial rope, and trapeze. In 2009, she joined the National Circus School of Montreal where she graduated in 2012, moved by her encounter with the choreographer Johanne Madore. Since then, her work has combined circus and dance, focusing on research around emotion. In France and abroad, she has practiced traditional and contemporary circus, cabaret, opera, dance, and street theater. This wide range of forms is unified by a constant personal search: that of the danced circus motion. In 2016, she met Raphaëlle Boitel on the opera *Alcione*, and she continues to work with her in *When Angels Fall*.

Clara Henry, dancer and actress, studied at the Conservatoire Régional de Nancy where in 2009 she won the gold medal in classical and contemporary dance. In 2014, she joined the Ecole Internationale Jacques Lecoq and in 2015 studied the Art de la performance et sculpture course at the Académie royale des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles. She continued her formation with Ana Rodriguez (Maguy Marin Cie). Between 2004 and 2016, she performed in shows from Julien Ficely, Christian Bourigault, Brice Kapel, and Richard Siegel with the companies Bud Blumenthal, Micantis, Silex, Good Dog, T&T and the Flying Circus (Brussels), Encounter, Les Butineurs, 104 (Australia), and Cie Maria-Clara Villa Lobos. In 2017, she founded her own company, GingerCandy, and created the show *Appel d'air*. The same year, she joined the Cie L'Oublié(e) and performed in *5es Hurlants* and *When Angels Fall*.

Loïc Leviel was born in Lille in 1993. He started in the circus at six years old before getting into theater, dance, and improvisation. He began specializing in tight wire at the Piste d'Azur school and developed his clown skills. In 2013, he

joined the Académie Fratellini as a tight wire artist, continued in street theater, and joined the Cie El Teatro del Silencio. As part of his curriculum, he also worked with Pierre Meunier, Stuart Seide, and Philippe Fenwick. A graduate of the National School of Circus Arts, he continues his work with Raphaëlle Boitel in *5es Hurlants* and *When Angels Fall*.

Nicolas Lourdelle graduated from the 12th National Circus Arts Center promotion in 2000, performing *The Iota Tribe*, directed by Francesca Lattuada, with the specialties of Chinese pole and wire. The same year, he participated in the creation of the company Baro d'Evel Cirk and performed in three of their works. In 2006, he met David Bobée, Cie Rictus, and worked on three of his creations. Following that, he performed roles in various creations of Aurélien Bory, Cie 111, where he met Raphaëlle Boitel and Tristan Baudoin. From 2009, alongside his career as an artist, he trained and perfected his techniques in rigging and as a cordist. Since then, he has worked at the Pôle national des arts du cirque d'Amiens, as a referent for Zénith d'Amiens, helping artists, directors, and choreographers with rigging and safety issues. In 2017, he joined Raphaëlle Boitel on the opera *Alcione* and now works with her in all the Company's work in a role mixing his artistic and technical abilities.

Emily Zuckerman is an artist and performer specializing in acrobatics, dance, and aerial rope. A passion for creative practice and a desire to understand the invisible brought her to study visual arts and cognitive science at the University of California–Berkeley. Interested in further exploring the limits and nuances of human experience, Zuckerman moved to Paris in 2012 to study at Académie Fratellini. In 2016 she joined Raphaëlle Boitel in the opera *Alcione*, after which Boitel proposed they continue their work together in *When Angels Fall*.

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The **Office of Arts + Cultural Programming** (ACP) enhances the cultural, creative, and academic life of the Montclair State campus and the broader community. Its signature program, Peak Performances, features innovative works by international contemporary artists of exceptional merit, and by the next generation of great artists training at Montclair State University's College of the Arts. Through its Cultural Engagement program, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

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Next Up

Ann Carlson *Elizabeth, the Dance*

March 28–31, 2019

Performed by Ririe-Woodbury
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Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts



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Undergraduate students at Montclair State University attend performances without charge through the Performing Arts Fee.

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.

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