



COMPAGNIE
LA MACHINE
CONSTRUCTEURS DE SPECTACLES VIVANTS





©Jordi Bover

Summary



The Company
pages 4 & 5



Large-scale shows
pages 6 & 7



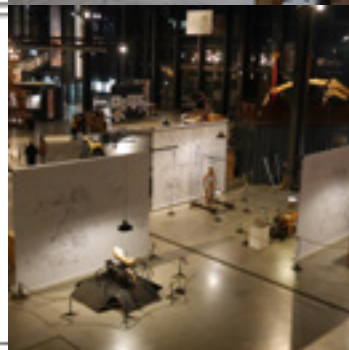
Medium-size shows
pages 8 & 9



Indoor shows
page 10



The Exhibitions
page 11



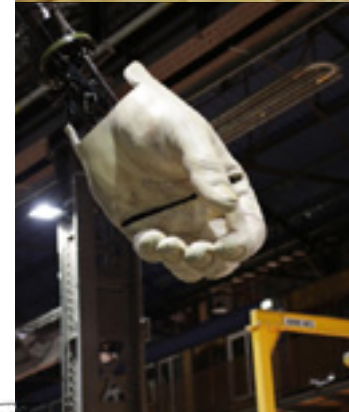
Permanent Urban projects
pages 12 to 15



Portraits of artists
page 16



The workshop
page 18



La Machine in images
pages 19 to 21

Partnerships & Co-productions
page 23

The company



1999

Creation of *Compagnie La Machine* by François Delaroziere, Claude Rigo and Gina Mayeur

2003

La Symphonie Mécanique
(Bruges, Martigues, Dijon, Madrid, Nantes, Paris, Besançon, Anvers...)

2004
Le Bateau Lavoir et La Serre Volante
Nantes

2007
Opening of *Les Machines de l'île*
by François Delaroziere and Pierre Orefice
Creation of the Grand Éléphant

2008
Manège Carré Sénart

2009
The Giant spider
Yokohama - Japan

2000

Andréa's merry-go-round

2003

Le Grand Répertoire Machines de spectacle
(Nantes, Anvers, Marseille, Toulouse, Paris...)

2005

Rehabilitation of the Calais abattoirs as a national stage
The Channel

2008

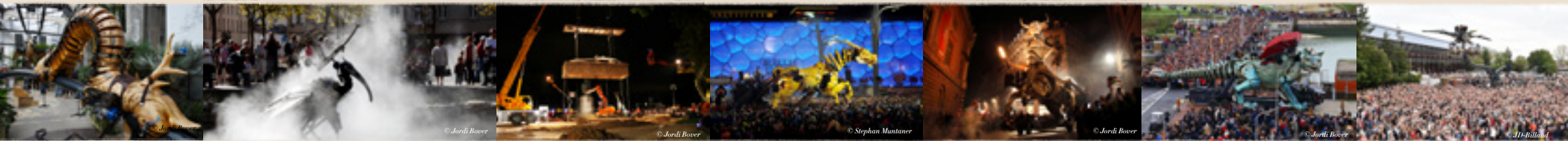
Les Mécaniques Savantes
Liverpool- United Kingdom

La Machine is a street theatre company founded in 1999 with François Delaroziere as Artistic Director. The company was born from the creative input of artists, technicians and stage designers brought together to create unusual objects-creatures for street performances.

Over the last twenty five years, La Machine has developed a number of major projects for cities urban development, in France and worldwide. Movement is at the heart of La Machine artistic approach. It is both language and a source of emotions.

Through each living architectural creature, we imagine the 'city of tomorrow' and thus transform the vision of our own city.

Design and construction work is done in Nantes (France). Our workshop is a hub of creativity where the worlds of art, industry, innovative technologies and performance meet. Man and human skills are the very essence of our creative process.



2009
La Kermesse

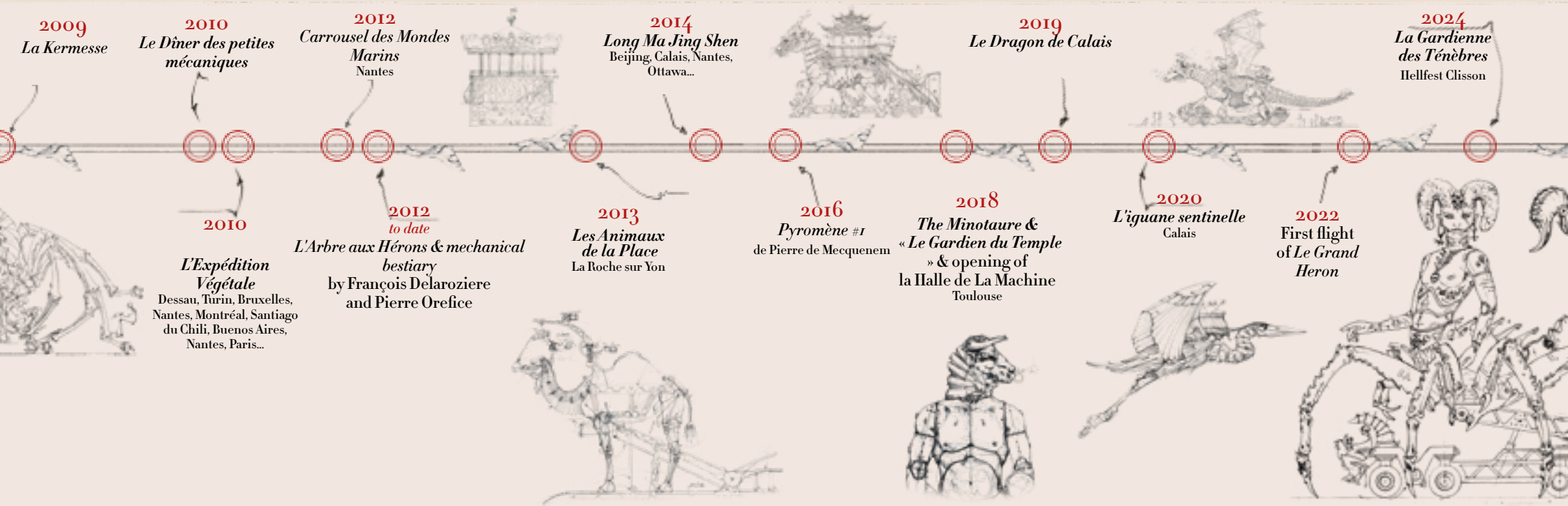
2010
*Le Dîner des petites
mécaniques*

2012
*Carrousel des Mondes
Marins*
Nantes

2014
Long Ma Jing Shen
Beijing, Calais, Nantes,
Ottawa...

2019
Le Dragon de Calais

2024
*La Gardienne
des Ténèbres*
Hellfest Clisson



2010
*L'Expédition
Végétale*
Dessau, Turin, Bruxelles,
Nantes, Montréal, Santiago
du Chili, Buenos Aires,
Nantes, Paris...

2012
to date
*L'Arbre aux Hérons & mechanical
bestiary*
by François Delaroziere
and Pierre Orefice

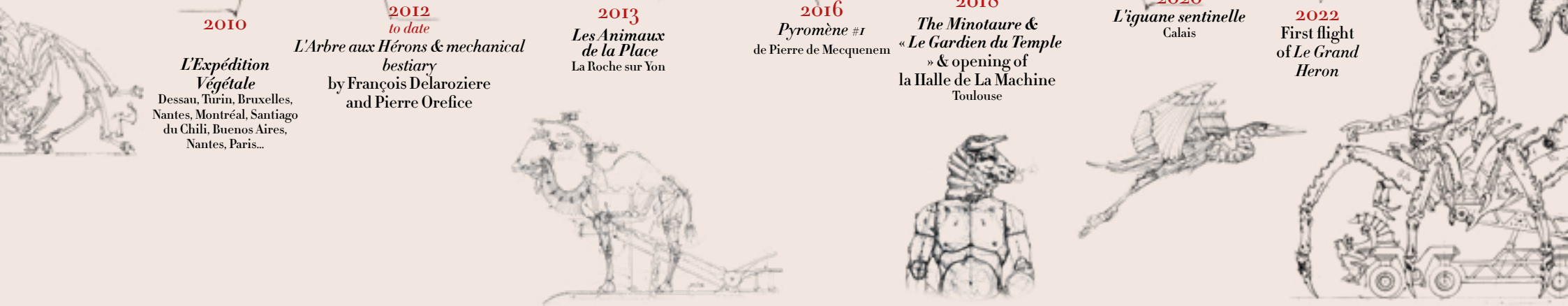
2013
*Les Animaux
de la Place*
La Roche sur Yon

2016
Pyromène #1
de Pierre de Mecquenem

2018
*The Minotaure &
« Le Gardien du Temple
» & opening of
la Halle de La Machine*
Toulouse

2020
L'iguane sentinelle
Calais

2022
*First flight
of Le Grand
Heron*



Large-scale shows



Ottawa Canada, 2017

LONG MA JING SHEN L'ESPRIT DU CHEVAL DRAGON

A Dragon Horse battles with a Giant Spider amidst an outburst of special visual and sound effects. The Dragon Horse returns to France in preparation for a journey around the world, ancient Chinese history and modern French craftsmanship. Long Ma Jing Shen was created for the 50th anniversary of Sino-French diplomatic relations in Beijing (China), in October 2014.

LE GARDIEN DU TEMPLE

The Guardian of the Temple is the myth of Ariane performed with two monumental machines, the Minotaur and a Giant Spider, in the streets of Toulouse (France), a truly natural labyrinth.



Toulouse France, 2018



Yokohama Japan, 2009

LES MÉCANIQUES SAVANTES

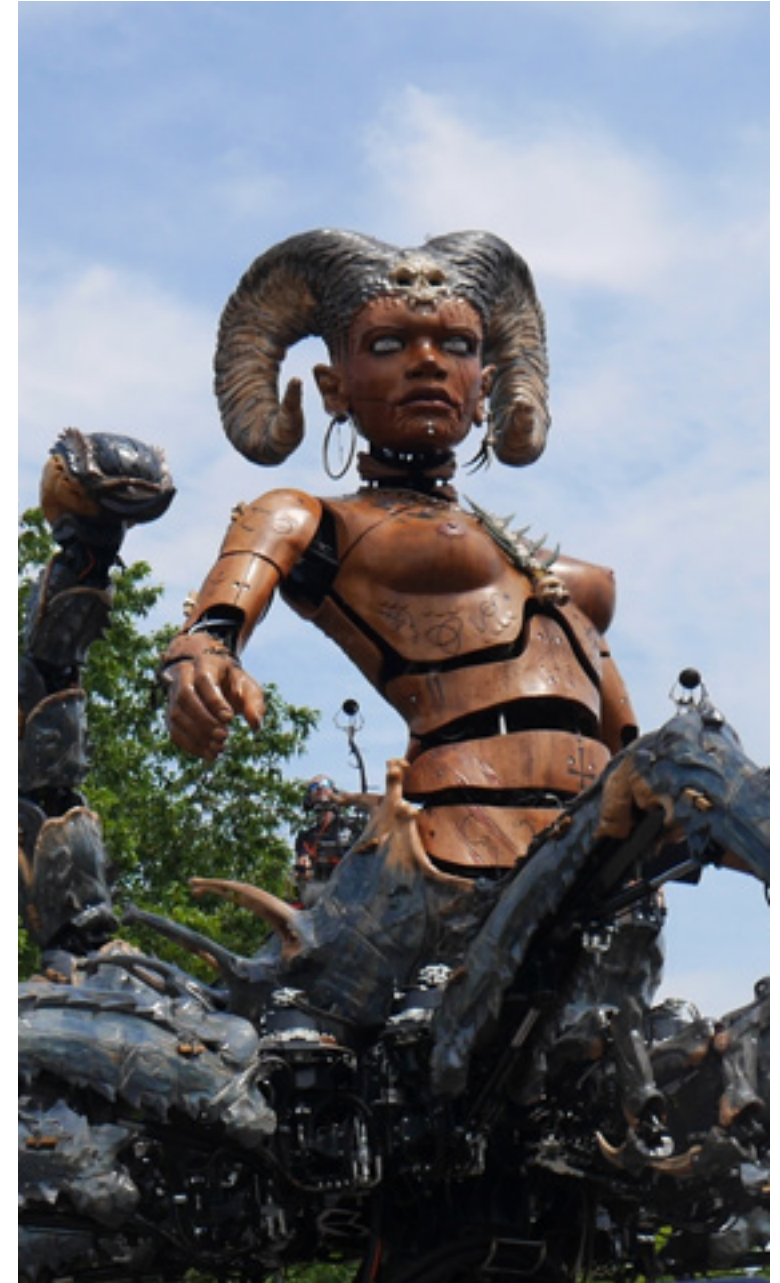


Two giant spiders appear in the city, revealing its public spaces and architecture to the inhabitants through their graceful movements.

LA GARDIENNE DES TÉNÉBRES

The Guardian of Darkness is a scorpion-woman who controls the passage between our world and the underworld, kingdom of Hades.

Her name is Lilith. Her mission is to wander from town to town in search of damned souls. La Gardienne des Ténèbres was created for Hellfest festival, Europe's largest heavy metal festival in Clisson (France) 1.



Clisson France, 2024

Medium size shows



LA SYMPHONIE MÉCANIQUE

With a classical orchestra, fifty music machines, music loving machinists and a symphony composed by Mino Malan. A 360° sound and visual experience.

L'Expédition Végétale

L'Aéroflorale II, a flying greenhouse, is the main protagonist of the show. It travels the world collecting plants. The crew of scientists share their latest discoveries in phytovoltaics with the towns and cities they land in by night.



>

PYROMÈNES #1



Pyromènes#1 by Pierre de Mecquenem, celebrates fire through dance, street theatre and music performed by machine artists and a dozen of volunteer actors.

INCANDESCENCES



With its fire installations, this flamboyant show sets the scene for the night and poetises the public space. Those who only see it as fire will be surprised...

LA KERMESSE



Pyrotechnics and culinary extravaganza revisiting the fairground tradition, or how to play with fire while delighting your taste buds!

Indoor shows



©Emmanuel Bourgeau

Blois France, 2015

UNE NOUVELLE FORME DE VIE NON RÉPERTORIÉE

Workers excavated an unrecorded life form.
Biologists carried out DNA and genome research and suggest that this life form is not completely extinct...

LE DINER DES PETITES MÉCANIQUES

Le Dîner des petites mécaniques explores playfully the codes of French gastronomy through a skilful use of machines and small mechanisms. Gourmet cuisine and enjoying life together are the core of the show with strange masters of ceremony.

>



©D. Darrault

Abbaye de Fontevraud, 2010

Exhibitions

François Delaroziere is prolific. Some of these drawings become monumental machines that roam the cities, but many remain creatures of paper.

These drawings exist for themselves, outwith his spectacular productions. They are a sensitive language, a concrete trace of the imagination and virtuosity of this polymathic contemporary artist. La Machine presents a protean exhibition. Drawings are printed on large surfaces which can be hung between trees, on the corner of buildings or indoors.

From the originals, models are produced, real works of art. Displaying a model beside its drawing shows visitors how drawing and construction are one single language. In truth, the drawing is both work of art and architect's plan, that includes all technical details needed to construct the machines and set them in motion in the city.



« It's not enough to have an idea, you have to know down to the last detail what to do with it practically and how to build it. Drawing also means knowing how to choose a scale. The monumental scale of the machines instantly projects the viewer into a relationship akin to a child looking at his parents. For an adult, this unexpected situation releases him/her from many prejudices; then the magic can work. Drawing on paper a large elephant that will carry fifty people on his back becomes a fragile moment in which the elements of the composition come together in a hierarchy of meanings. This is how a technical drawing in pencil, sometimes coloured, annotated in a spontaneous and intuitive way, becomes what it is.»

François Delaroziere

Permanent Urban Projects



Premier Coup de Pelleteuse, Les Animaux de la Place, La Roche-sur-Yon, France 2012

Taking action in the streets is not a trivial matter, because right there, collective imagination, an intangible heritage and a shared identity come into being. In short, a common culture. Performing in the streets is about interacting with the city and its inhabitants.

On the strength of this experience, La Machine company is developing research work at the crossroads between culture and city planning.

When the performing machine breaks free from the ephemeral, it changes status to become the City Machine. These moving architectural creatures aim to support new urban projects, to transcend the changes underway. With the impetus of new dynamics, these machine-citizens create disturbances in the urban continuity.

In Nantes, on the island at the heart of the city, The Great Elephant lumbers all year round along the resuscitated old dockland overlooking the Loire river. Le Carrousel des Mondes Marins seems to have been born in the belly of Nantes Island, the most maritime spot in the city. The Heron's Tree is a monumental sculpture displaying twenty two branches that house hanging gardens and mechanical animals.

In La Roche-sur-Yon, Les Animaux de la Place are part of a complete, animal-based renewal of Napoleon Square.

In Toulouse La Halle de la Machine and Le Minotaure bring back life to the 100 year old runway of the first French airmail service, now known as the Runway of the Giants.

Rehabilitation of the Calais seafront

Since november 2019, Le Dragon de Calais lives on the city's seafront and La Compagnie du Dragon offers daily dragon rides. Le Dragon de Calais is the first creature of an 8-year project featuring several types of saurian-inspired creatures - travelling lizards, iguanas, a varan due to arrive in November 2025, and capable to carry 25 people on its back.



HALLE DE LA MACHINE

In 2018, François Delaroziere staged an urban opera featuring a Giant Minotaur and a Giant Spider. Over 900,000 people attended the show over 4 days. That event heralded the opening of La Halle de La Machine, a building designed by architect Patrick Arotcharen on the edge of a former runway which made Toulouse famous in aeronautics. It is part of a project to transform the urban fabric of the Montaudran district, led by David Mangin of the urban planning firm SEURA. Supported by La Machine and François Delaroziere, the project was designed around a city policy - reinvesting a unique place of memory in a unique way, for the general public to come face to face with performing machines. La Halle houses these performing machines (*Le Dîner des Petites Mécaniques*, *L'Expédition Végétale*, *La Symphonie Mécanique*, *Les Mécaniques Savantes*, *La Kermesse*) and *The Great Improv* show is on every day performs. Les Véritables Machinistes put on their show suits, play with the machines and tell their stories to audiences in that glass and steel theatre. Actors, circus performers, show technicians and builders are Les Véritables Machinistes, sharing with spectators the unusual stories of these poetic and singular machines. Inside La Halle the show is on-going, a journey into the unusual world of La Machine. Each encounter between audiences and these machines, between art and technology, is unique.





Artists Portraits

François Delaroziere

Artistic director, draughtsman, builder, stage and set designer, François Delaroziere never ceases to explore the world of theatre and the city. He is founder and artistic director of *La Machine*.

His relentless search and creativity has taken him to art schools in Aix-en-Provence, Brest., and prestigious public institutions - La Sorbonne in Paris, the Bartlett School in London. He lectures at the National School of Architecture in Nantes.



Pierre de Mecquenem

Fire artist and pyrotechnician, he developed performances with La Machine Company. With *Flammes* (2007) and *La Kermesse* (2009), coproduced by national theater *The Channel* in Calais, he reveals a world of poetry and passion. His fascination with fire led him to stage luminous installations in public spaces, to the delight of spectators. Audiences are centre stage in his explosive visual and sound shows.



Mino Malan

Composer, conductor and musician, Mino Malan has devoted nearly 30 years to street theater.

He has written music inspired by both classical and modern forms. In a long standing partnership with François Delaroziere, he is co-writer of *La Symphonie Mécanique*, and composed the music for La Machine shows dating back to *Les Mécaniques Savantes* in 2008.



Polo Loridant

Special effects creator, Polo has been working in street theatre for over twenty years. He has developed a unique - and explosive - artistic world ! In performances, he puts his skills to good use as a builder, plumber and musician, combining fire, water, gas and unbridled sound. He has worked with La Machine since its inception and is associate writer of *Les Mécaniques Savantes*. Polo also pursues occasional collaborations on audio-visual projects.





The workshop and technical know-how



A multi-talented workshop staff - Automation specialist, special effects technician, electro-mechanic technician, landscaper, painter, decorator, stage manager, sail-maker, administrator, circulation coordinator, production manager, technical director, research director, draughtsman, mechanical designer, structural engineer, courier, wardrobe mistress, graphic designer, set designer, cabinet maker, carpenter, joiner, sculptor, turner, boilermaker, welder, ironworker, hydraulic engineer, actor, dancer, musician, singer, composer, photographer, videographer, artistic director, etc. La Machine employ staff ranging over 60 trades and professions.

In the workshop



The sloth
Nantes, 2019

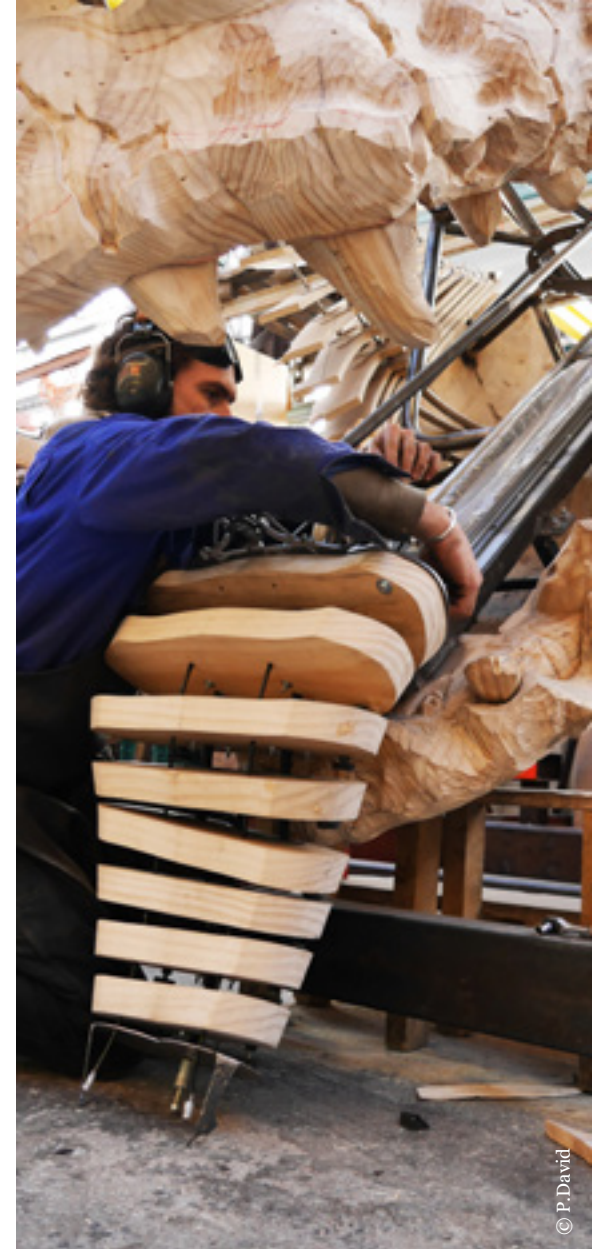


© Emmanuel Bourgeau



© P. David

Above: *The Minotaur's hand*, Nantes, 2018
Below: *Le Dragon de Calais*, Nantes, 2019



© P. David

Le Dragon de Calais's head,
Nantes, 2019

Shows



Les Mécaniques Savantes, Liverpool 2008



La Symphonie Mécanique, Paris 2008



Audience at *Long Ma Jing Sen, The Spirit of the Dragon Horse* show, Beijing 2014



L'Expédition Végétale, Turin 2013

Permanent Urban projects



La Halle de la Machine, Toulouse 2018



Les Animaux de la Place, La Roche-sur-Yon 2013



Le Carrousel des Mondes Marins & Le Grand Eléphant, Nantes 2012



Partnerships & Coproduction

Institutional partners

La Machine acknowledges financial support from the French Central Government and Region Pays de la Loire Region. The company is labelled « Company of National and International Renown ».



Private Partners



La Machine is supported by companies as Members of Moteur, its business sponsors club :



Co-producers of the shows

Le Dragon de Calais (2019)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*.
Music by Mino Malan, initiated by [Ville de Calais](#)
With the support from [Région Hauts-de-France](#) and [Ministère de la Culture](#).

Le Gardien du Temple (2018)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*.
Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduced by [Toulouse Métropole](#),
Compagnie *La Machine*

Une nouvelle forme de vie non répertoriée (2016)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*.
Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduced by «Onze», bi-annual Puppets Fair - Mayenne, Sarthe et Maine-et-Loire.
Résidence de création : [Le Carré, Scène nationale de Château Gonthier](#) —
Support from [Le Channel, scène nationale de Calais](#).

Long Ma Jing Shen

L'Esprit du Cheval Dragon (2014)
Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*.
Music by Mino Malan,
Production : Winland
An event [France-Chine 50](#)

Le Dîner des Petites Mécaniques (2010)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*.
Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduce by [Centre Culturel de l'Ouest – Abbaye de Fontevraud](#), [Le Channel](#), [Scène nationale de Calais](#).

L'Expédition Végétale (2010)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*. Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduced by : Centres Nationaux des Arts de la Rue de Niort ([Les Usines Boinot](#)) et d'Angers ([La Paperie](#)), [l'AFPA de Nantes St Herblain](#), [l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes](#), la [Ville de Dessau-Rosslau](#) (All), la [Hochschule Anhalt](#) (All), la [Fondation Bauhaus](#) (All)
Support from : [Etat- Direction Générale de la Création Artistique](#), [Région des Pays de la Loire](#), [Service des Espaces Verts et de l'Environnement de la Ville de Nantes](#) et de [Techni-Brume Diffusion](#).

Les Mécaniques Savantes (2008)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*. Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduced by [Artichoke Trust](#) (UK) et [Conversation Ltd](#) (Jp) — Support from : [Camac harpe](#)

La Symphonie Mécanique (2003)

Show by François Delaroziere / *La Machine*. Music by Mino Malan,
Coproduced by [Le Channel, scène nationale de Calais](#), [Lieux Publics- centre national des Arts de la Rue](#) (Marseille), [L'Usine](#) – lieu conventionné dédié aux Arts de la Rue (Tournefeuille), [Le Parapluie](#) – centre international de production artistique (Aurillac)
Support from : Villes de [Nantes](#) et de [Tournefeuille](#), [Conseil général de Loire Atlantique](#), [Direction régionale des affaires culturelles des Pays de la Loire](#), [Région PACA](#), [Région Midi-Pyrénées](#), [EDF- délégation régionale des Pays de la Loire](#), [Camac](#), [Desevedavy musique](#).

La Kermesse (2009)

Show by Pierre de Mecquenem & *La Machine*,
Coproduced by: [Le Channel, scène nationale de Calais](#)

Pyromènes #1 (2007)

Show by Pierre de Mecquenem & *La Machine*,
Coproduced by [L'Usine – Centre National des arts de la rue](#) (Tournefeuille / Toulouse Métropole), le [Channel, scène nationale de Calais](#), [Lieux publics – Centre national de création en espace public](#), [Le Sillon - Clermont-l'Hérault - Scène conventionnée pour le théâtre dans l'espace public](#) ; With the support from la [Direction Générale de la Création Artistique](#), de [l'Atelline](#) dans le cadre d'[Agiter Avant Emploi](#), dispositif d'accompagnement à l'écriture, de la [Chartreuse de Villeneuve lez Avignon](#) – [Centre National des Ecritures du Spectacle](#).

Incandescences (2007)

Show by Pierre de Mecquenem & *La Machine*,
Coproduced by [Le Channel, scène nationale de Calais](#), [Le Grand T](#), scène conventionnée [Loire Atlantique](#), [Pronomade\(s\) en Haute Garonne](#), centre national des arts de la rue. With the participation of Cyril Jaubert, C^{ie} Opéra Pagaï.

CULTURAL MEDIATION

La Machine develops outreach activities to pass on its expertise and give people a behind-the-scene perspective of its unique world. It offers projects tailored to the expectations, desires and curiosity of educational, social and cultural organisations. It is supported in these initiatives by Pays de la Loire Region (Culture and Solidarity Charter), by the Département (Growing up with culture), by the DRAC ARS and by private foundations.



2 Bd Léon Bureau 44200 Nantes
+33 (0)2 40 47 58 08
www.lamachine.fr

Contact : Frédette Lampre
fredette.lampre@lamachine.fr
+33 (0)6 87 77 28 71