



# BaObab

★  
"A LITTLE GEM OF  
INTERNATIONAL THEATER"

Winnipeg Free Press

★  
"A POETIC PERFORMANCE THAT  
TRANSCENDS BORDERS"

Mary Rose Lloyd, New 42 Artistic  
Director

★  
"A VIBRANT PLEA FOR  
ECOLOGY AND SOLIDARITY"

Jeu revue de théâtre



**HÉLÈNE DUCHARME**  
Playwright and director

# THE STORY OF BAOBAB



In this region of West Africa where a drought has been persisting for very long, stands a big ancient baobab. One day, the ancient baobab brings forth an egg and from this egg is born a little boy. The people in the village discover that he is the only one who can free the source of water. Then begins a quest during which only the courage of a child might change the history of the World. In this sunny environment where shade provides a soothing break, the African percussions turn into animals while masks and puppets become genies or witches! [Discover a video excerpt here](#)



4 to 8 years old

6 people on tour

400 spectators

Available in French, English and Spanish

Mediation workshops



**+750** performances on 4 continents (Canada, United-States, China, Mexico, Spain, Mali, Senegal, etc.)

**+166 000** spectators

# THE GRIOTS



Griots who are storytellers are also looked upon as poets, traveling musicians and the guardians of the oral tradition. A man named Balla Fasséké, believed to be the first griot, began the line of Kouyaté griots that are still active to this day.

Since the beginning of time, adults have been telling stories to children and sometimes to adults. They do not always know how to read, but they all remember the stories that others had told them and so on from one to the next. This collection of stories is part of what is known as the oral tradition.

As a result, griots, like other storytellers in other cultures of oral tradition, are very important because for a very long time there weren't any books to keep an account of the very old and beautiful stories they tell.

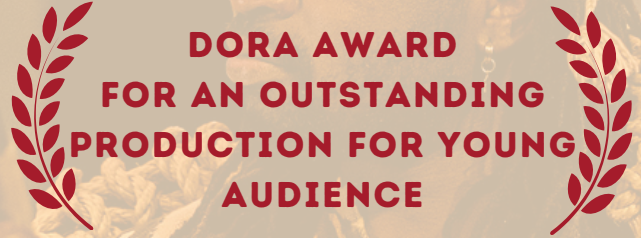


# AWARDS



**PRIZE FOR THE BEST  
CANADA AND U.S.A.  
TOUR**

Quebec Arts Council's (CALQ) - 2014



**DORA AWARD  
FOR AN OUTSTANDING  
PRODUCTION FOR YOUNG  
AUDIENCE**

Dora Awards - June 2012



**ARTS  
AMBASSADOR  
PRIZE**

Longueuil Culture Gala - 2011



**CRITICS' CHOICE  
AWARD YOUNG  
AUDIENCE CATEGORY**

Quebec Association of critics - 2010



**2009-2010  
PUBLIC'S AWARD**

L'Arrière Scène, a regional  
presenter dedicated to young  
audiences - 2010



**ÉDUCATION-CULTURE  
AWARD FOR FIRST  
EXPLORATION PROJECT  
WITH CHILDREN**

Longueuil Culture Gala - 2007



# NOMINATION



Finalist for the Victor's People Choice Award, in the 2010 edition of IPAY (International Performing Arts for Youth).



# MOTUS

Marionnettes & Théâtre

Founded at the beginning of the millennium, Motus celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2021. We have produced 19 original creations aimed at young audiences and have presented them on a regional, national, and international scale. We have already given more than 2,000 performances in Canada, China, the United States, Mexico, Spain, France, Switzerland, Greece, Mali, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal. This has allowed us to reach over 425,000 spectators. Many of our plays have been translated and performed in English, Spanish, and two in Mandarin, not to mention the integration of more than 10 other languages within our plays.

The artistic co-directors, Hélène Ducharme and Mathilde Addy-Laird, explore the fusion of puppetry, live acting, live music, black and colored shadow theater, and any other theatrical forms that might complement puppetry.



Hélène Ducharme is an author, director, actor, puppeteer, and co-founder of Motus Theatre. For the past 20 years, she has written, co-written, or co-adapted every Motus creation and directed most of the company's productions. She explores her passion for puppetry, dramatic acting, and shadow theatre through her bold, adventurous texts and productions for young audiences. Deeply respectful of her young audience members, Hélène collaborates with children throughout her creative process. Her training as an educator allows her to design activities for each production. Since 2017, she has been developing shows and creative workshops for children with special needs.

She has been involved in various boards and committees, including the Centre des Auteurs Dramatiques (CEAD) and the Québec Association of Puppeteers (AQM), International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY) and ASSITEJ-Canada. She is currently Treasurer of UNIMA-Canada.

# INFORMATION

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# TEAM

**Written and directed by:** Helene Ducharme

**Playwright collaborator:** Hamadoun Kassogue

**English version:** Leanna Brodie

**Assistant to the director:** Annie Bélanger

**Scenography:** †Ismaila Manga and Hélène Ducharme

**Performers:** Philippe Racine, Widemir Normil or Epanda « Robine » Kaseka Kia, Aboulaye Koné and Nathalie Cora or Salif « Lasso » Sanou

**Puppets:** Jean Cummings, Sylvain Racine and Claude Rodrigue

**Music:** Aboulaye Koné assisted by Nathalie Cora

**Lighting:** Michel St-Amand

**Shadow theater:** Marcelle Hudon

**Costumes:** Louis Hudon

**Research collaboration:** Marie-Claude Labrecque, Sylvain Massé and Louis- Philippe Paul-Hus



Baobab is a co-production of Théâtre Motus and the Sô troupe (Mali) with the support of Théâtre de la Ville for hosting the residency and the collaboration of Hamadoun Kassogué (Mali) and Ismaila Manga (Senegal).



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