



TREE

a world in itself

Premiere: October 2020

60 minutes

Without words

6 person on tour

Ages 4 and up

5 families (15 spectators maximum)

or 1 class from a special needs school.

Companion site :

arbre-motus.com/en



Tree, a world in itself, was created for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and adapted for children with intellectual disabilities and/or reduced mobility.

Tree, a world in itself, is a multi-sensory, interactive universe enveloped in soft light, music, and silence, where five characters continually adapt to meet the needs of their audience.

In an intimate and welcoming atmosphere, the performance offers a ratio of one performing artist per child to facilitate numerous personalized interactions with audience members.



[Discover an
excerpt here](#)



For many years, H el ene Ducharme, co-artistic director of Motus, hoped to develop a theatre project designed for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or with intellectual and physical disabilities (IPD). Since 2017, Motus' creative team has visited special needs schools, meeting children with ASD and IPD and offering workshops specifically created for them. Team members have participated in numerous trainings including the Big Umbrella Festival organized by the Lincoln Education Centre in New York, and with Tim Webb, a world-renowned expert in the field who has 35 years of experience creating special needs shows with his company Oily Cart (U.K).

This learning process has been a joy for the team at each step. It has made Motus wholeheartedly believe in the validity of this approach and the importance of working with children who have special needs.

Unlike "relaxed" performances appropriate for children with mild autism, *Tree, a world in itself* is designed for children with all levels of autism. Audience size is limited to approximately 15 people - a school class or 5 families - with 5 artists on stage (a ratio of 1 artist to 3 audience members), to meet the audience's specific needs and increase interactions with the artists.

Motus has significantly contributed to the burgeoning practice of adapted theatre in Quebec with the flexible and versatile design, accompanying tools and workshops of *Tree, a world in itself*. Likewise, each of the distribution partners has become a leader in their community by offering more inclusive programming.





TREE



Premiere: May 2023
35 minutes
Without words
6 persons on tour
0-3 years
20 babies (50 spectators maximum)

Tree is an adaptation of our show *Tree, a world in itself* originally created for children with ASD. This version is specially intended for children aged 0 to 3.



Settle into your cozy nest with the mama bird brooding her luminous eggs. The magical world of the tree will open up to you, with its insects and animals accompanied by soft or rhythmic music. The moon will rise to lull you to sleep with its stars and milky way, to give you the strength to take flight like a baby bird of light.

[Discover an excerpt here](#)





MOTUS

Marionnettes & Théâtre

Launched at the turn of the millennium, Motus celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2021. We have produced 19 original pieces aimed at young audiences, performing them at the regional, national and international levels – racking up more than 2.100 performances here at home, and also abroad, in China, the U.S., Mexico, Spain, France, Switzerland, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Greece and Costa Rica.

We've performed for over 425,000 spectators. Several of our plays have been translated and performed in English, in Spanish, and two in Mandarin, as well as integrating 10 other languages into our pieces.

Co-artistic directors Hélène Ducharme et Mathilde Addy-Laird explore the relationship between puppets, acting, live music, black and color shadow theatre, and other complementary theatre forms.



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.

In addition to her work at Motus, Hélène is on the board of directors and several committees of the Centre des Auteurs Dramatiques (CEAD) and the Québec Association of Puppeteers (AQM). She is also treasurer of the Union Internationale de la Marionnette Canada (UNIMA- Canada) and the International Association of Theatres for Children and Young People Canada (ASSITEJ Canada).



Season 2024-2025

From October 26 to November 13, 2024:

Maison internationale des arts de la marionnette - Outremont, QC
Centre culturel Desjardins - Joliette, QC

From February 1 to May 3, 2025:

Maison de la culture Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension - Montreal, QC
Maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Montreal, QC
Spect'Art Rimouski - Rimouski, QC
Maison culturelle et communautaire de Montréal-Nord - Montreal, QC
Maison de la culture Ahuntsic - Montreal, QC
Côté Scène - Sherbrooke, QC

From May 16 to June 1, 2025:

Niagara Children's Festival - official selection, Saint Catharines, ON
Weefestival - official selection, Toronto, ON
Kinderfest - official selection, Hamilton, ON

Tour marketing manager
Juliette Dubreuil
juliette@theatremotus.com

Original idea and stage direction: Hélène Ducharme
Assistant stage direction: Danaëlle Ducharme-Massé
Artistic assistant and puppets: Marie-Claude Labrecque
Music: Julie Labrecque and Hugo Monroy Najera
Scenography: Normand Blais
Costumes: Érica Schmitz

Lighting and technical direction: Valérie Bourque
Production management: Valérie Bourque

Creative team: Mathilde Addy-Laird, Emmanuelle Calvé, Salim Hammad, Paola Huitrón,
Marie-Claude Labrecque, Julie Labrecque, Hugo Monroy Najera

Group of specialized consultants: Myriam Daigneault-Roy with Philomène Addy-Laird
and Eveline Payette
Mentor: Tim Webb

