

# TWAS

## THE CREATIVE TEAM



**JAMES HADLEY**  
STAGE DIRECTOR



**EDESIA MOREO**  
ACROBATIC CHOREOGRAPHY  
& PERFORMANCE DESIGNER



**ANNIE ST-PIERRE**  
LEAD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**GENEVIÈVE LIZOTTE**  
SET DESIGNER



**VINGH NGUYEN**  
CHOREOGRAPHER



**MARYSE GOSSELIN**  
MAKEUP DESIGNER



**JEAN-PHI GONCALVES**  
MUSICAL COMPOSER

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**JAMES LAVOIE**  
COSTUME DESIGNER

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**NICOLAS BRION**  
LIGHT DESIGNER

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## JAMES HADLEY

STAGE DIRECTOR OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

James has over 25 years of experience in creating and directing large-scale events, contemporary circus productions, and in professional theatre. He directed Marvel Entertainment's International Tour: Marvel Universe Live – Age of Heroes.

James created and directed the Closing Ceremony for The National Olympic Committee's first-ever European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan: an enormous multi-media performance with over 3,000 artists and musical acts seen by over 500 million people worldwide.

As Cirque du Soleil's Senior Artistic Director for North America, James was responsible for the artistic quality and evolution of world-renowned shows including *Mystère*, *Zumanity*, *The Beatles LOVE*, "O", KÀ and *Twas the Night Before*.

James Hadley led the production of Cirque du Soleil's first Holiday themed show, *Twas the Night Before...* in 2019. He also directed the Cirque du Soleil content in many large-scale promotional events including The Grammy Awards and The Tonight Show. James has created multiple contemporary circus productions that have toured throughout South America. These visually stunning, arena shows feature spectacular acts from all over the world.



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## **EDESIA MORENO**

ACROBATIC CHOREOGRAPHY & PERFORMANCE DESIGNER OF  
*TWAS' THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

In her debut, Edesia Moreno Barata was an elite athlete on the Spanish National Rhythmic Gymnastics Team. She was spotted in 1998 by Cirque du Soleil who recruited her as an artist. For 10 years, she traveled the world with the shows *Saltimbanco* and *Corteo*.

Driven by a contagious passion combining sense of movement and ability to produce results, Edesia held the position of artistic and acrobatic coach at Cirque du Soleil. More recently, she has been an acrobatic performance designer, acrobatic choreographer, director and event designer on many of Cirque du Soleil's creations, *Les 7 doigts de la Main* and *Friedrichstadt Palast Berlin*.

For 21 years, Edesia has collaborated on 40 productions around the world. With her experience, she has developed rare skills combining organizational sense, flexibility, respect, leadership, team spirit, creativity and passion.

“TO BE CREATIVE IS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION”



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



## **ANNIE ST-PIERRE**

LEAD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY  
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Annie St-Pierre embarked on her artistic journey through ten years of rigorous classical ballet training at the renowned school of the Grands Ballets Canadiens (L'ESDQ). Transitioning seamlessly into the world of jazz, cabaret, and musical dance, Annie has graced stages worldwide with her dynamic performances.

For many years now, Annie has flourished as an artistic quality director, choreographer, and director, with a recent addition to her repertoire as a creation director. Her creative vision has left an indelible mark on projects across diverse realms including Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Éloize, Just for Laughs, various theatre companies, festivals, events, and films, each offering its unique tapestry of challenges and triumphs.

Annie's journey with Cirque du Soleil began in 2007, evolving from an artistic coach to a distinguished choreographer, contributing significantly to projects at the Event & Experience Division. Currently, she holds the esteemed position of Lead Artistic Director for multiple groundbreaking shows, notably steering the direction of TWAS' *the Night Before...* by Cirque du Soleil and *Joyà* by Cirque du Soleil in Mexico.

In addition to her artistic prowess, Annie holds a bachelor's in communications and is completing a DESS in Management, enhancing her skills as a creative leader. Her passion for human connection remains at the core of her creative process, fueling her as a captivating, intuitive, and radiant personality in the industry.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



## GENEVIÈVE LIZOTTE

SET DESIGNER OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Geneviève boasts over two decades of experience as a versatile creative force, having excelled as a scenographer, costume designer, artistic director, and stylist. Within the realm of theater, she has lent her talents to over a hundred productions, collaborating with esteemed directors such as Robert Lepage, André Brassard, and Claude Poissant, among others. Her portfolio includes iconic productions like "La Mouette," "Peer Gynt," "Les Fourberies de Scapin," and "L'Idiot," to name just a few. Geneviève's expertise extends beyond traditional theater, as evidenced by her contributions to Cirque du Soleil shows like *LE MONDE EST FOU* and *'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS*, as well as the foresta lumina design project, *SakuyaLumina*, in Osaka, Japan, alongside Moment Factory.

Her talents have earned recognition, including a CALQ grant for a studio residency in New York in 2015. As a visual designer, she has collaborated on acclaimed shows with Pierre Lapointe, such as "La Forêt des Mal-aimés" and "Chansons hivernales." Furthermore, in the cinematic sphere, Geneviève has made significant contributions as an artistic director, leaving her mark on notable films such as "Cash Nexus," "Le Météore," and "Bà Noï," demonstrating her versatile and impactful presence in the world of cinema.



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## VINGH NGUYEN

CHOREOGRAPHER OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Vinh Nguyen is a Southern California native who has developed his own signature choreography style. Most notably, he's recently worked with Nike, the NBA, and the wildly popular boy band called BTS. Vinh has culminated easily over a billion views and sold out shows, creating for artists such as Justin Bieber, Jackson Wang, the Chainsmokers, Lecrae, Andy Mineo, Troyboi, Treasure, and Luhan. In 2017, he choreographed a tour for Helene Fischer that spanned across Europe, closely operating hand in hand with 45 degrees. Fusing together a wide variety of dance foundations, his movement can be distinguished by his power, musicality, and cleanliness.

His reputation continues to circle the globe and gains tremendous traction in numerous projects, performances, and media. Vinh Nguyen has traveled to over 30 countries, filling classrooms and conventions with students who seek out his unique movement and philosophy.

Vinh is also a member and principal choreographer for one of the most renowned dance companies in the world, the Kinjaz. They were finalists on America's Best Dance Crew and were featured favorites from Jennifer Lopez and NBC's World of Dance, Season 1. He currently resides in Los Angeles where he continues to push the boundaries on creative movement and artistic direction.



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## MARYSE GOSSELIN

MAKEUP DESIGNER OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY  
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Beauty, the arts and creation have always attracted Maryse. It is with passion that she quickly discovers an artistic sense for make-up and the light that reveals it. For nearly 17 years, Gosselin has distinguished herself by her creative, precise, and dynamic brushstrokes. In her 20 years of experience at Cirque du Soleil, she has been the makeup designer for a dozen shows including "Luzia", "Bazaar" and "T'was The Night Before". Maryse was invited by the British show "Glow-up" on Netflix as a guest judge and also was invited at the 2023 Prague Biennale to represent Canada in make-up design.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL





## JEAN-PHI GONCALVES

MUSICAL COMPOSER OF *TWAS' THE NIGHT BEFORE...*  
BY CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Jean-Phi is a musician, composer and producer from the Quebec music scene. He started his career as a tour musician with famous local artists, such as Dumas, Ariana Moffatt, Martin Léon, Daniel Bélanger amongst many others. He is a founding member of the band Plaster, as well as Beast with Betty Bonnifassi – band that was nominated at the prestigious Grammy Awards.

Jean-Phi now owns a motion picture music company, XS - La Petite Boîte à Musique, which has worked on notorious TV projects including the HBO series *Big Little Lies* and *Fanny* on Radio-Canada.

Over the past years, Jean-Phi was involved in numerous Cirque du Soleil productions in Québec (*Série Hommage*), in the US (*'Twas The Night Before*) and in Europe (*Diva*, *Rebel*) to name but a few, acting as Musical Director and Arranger. In 2019, he participated in the relaunch of an iconic show: *Alegría*.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL





## JAMES LAVOIE

COSTUME DESIGNER OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY  
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

James is a Montréal based set and costume designer for theatre, circus and other live events. He has designed over 100 productions that have been experienced by audiences across both North and South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle-East.

A regular collaborator of the Cirque du Soleil, James has designed the costumes for their resident show, JOYA in Riviera Maya, Mexico which has been playing since 2014. In 2019 he designed the costumes for two Cirque du Soleil productions: MESSI10 and 'Twas The Night Before... He also designed the costumes for the touring show BAZAAR, REFLEKT for EXPO17 in Astana, Kazakhstan and for two years of Les Chemins Invisible in Quebec City. James has also worked with the 7 Doigts de la Main to design the costumes for their show The Last Chapter in the United Arab Emirates, with Cirque Eloize on de mille feux, and he has also regularly collaborated with the Chilean circus company Circo Jumbo.

In theatre, James' work has been recognized 6 times by the Montreal Critics Circle Awards (MECCA) and Montreal English theatre Awards (META) for best set and/or costume design. He has also received Ottawa's Capital Critic's Circle Award for best set and costume Design in 2014. His career has been marked by his contribution to the creation of numerous new Canadian plays, including set and costume design for: Jordan Tannahill's Botticelli in the Fire and Sunday In Sodom at Canadian Stage, the English language premiere of Olivier Choinière's Bliss at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto, the English language premiere of Catherine-Anne Toupin's MOB at Centaur Theatre, Micheal Mackenzie's Instructions to Any Future Socialist Government and Bryden McDonald's Bated Breath also at the Centaur Theatre, among many others.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL



## NICOLAS BRION

LIGHT DESIGNER OF TWAS' *THE NIGHT BEFORE...* BY  
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

With a wealth of projects under his belt, Nicolas Brion succeeded in becoming a reference in the French industry as a Lighting Designer. After graduating from Grim Edif (lighting design school), he was first Lighting Technician and then Board Operator before becoming Nicolas Maisonneuve's Assistant (a renowned French lighting designer). Quickly, he was entrusted with the lighting creations of prestigious tours such as *Ben l'Oncle soul* (arena tour) and *Woodkid* (world tour). He also worked with Emilien Grèzes of All Access Design

on developing video engineering and synchronization tools to push further the integration of music, light and video.

Nicolas started to bring his artistic eye to scenic creations; He signed both the lighting design and scenography of many ambitious French projects: Olivia Ruiz, Fauve, Sahr, Sébastien Tellier, Lillywood and the prick, The Shoes, Thomas Azier.

In 2015, Cirque du Soleil entrusted to him with the light design of the show *La Forge aux Étoiles* for the Futuroscope in Poitiers, France. Followed a series of collaborations with the Cirque du Soleil: *Reflekt* in Astana, Helen Fischer (European Arena tour), *Messi10* and *'Twas The Night Before*.

At the same time, he also collaborated with Moment Factory on the Sakuya Lumina project in Osaka and designs lighting for Orelsan's latest tour, which won an award, the *Victoire de la musique* for best live show in 2019.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL