

The Far Side of the Moon credits and biographies

by Robert Lepage

based on an original idea by Peder Bjurman

written in collaboration with Adam Nashman

produced by Ex Machina

Ex Machina

In 1994, when Robert Lepage asked his collaborators to help find a name for his new company, he had one condition: the word theatre could not be part of the name. Ex Machina is thus a multidisciplinary company bringing together actors, writers, set designers, technicians, opera singers, puppeteers, computer graphic designers, video artists, contortionists and musicians.

Ex Machina's creative team believes that the performing arts - dance, opera, music - should be mixed with recorded arts - filmmaking, video art and multimedia. That there must be meetings between scientists and playwrights, between set painters and architects, and between artists from Québec and the rest of the world. New artistic forms will surely emerge from these gatherings. Ex Machina wants to rise to the challenge and become a laboratory, an incubator for a form of theatre that will reach and touch audiences from this new millennium.

Robert Lepage

Versatile in every form of theatre craft, Robert Lepage is equally talented as a director, playwright, actor and film director. His creative and original approach to theatre has won him international acclaim and shaken the dogma of classical stage direction to its foundations, especially through his use of new technologies.

Among his most noticed work for the stage: *Dragons' Trilogy* (1985), *Needles and Opium* (1991), *The Far Side of The Moon* (2000), *The Andersen Project* (2005), *Lipsynch* (2007), his solo performance *887* (2015) and his most recent production *Quills* (2016); his multimedia creations: *The Image Mill* (2008) and *The Library at Night* (2015); at the opera: *The Damnation of Faust* (1999), *The Nightingale and Other short Fables* (2009), Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (2010) and *L'Amour de loin* (2015).

Steve Blanchet

Creative director at Ex Machina, Steve Blanchet has worked in the artistic, cultural and advertising world for 20 years. Trained as a graphic designer, he completed his education at l'Ecole francophone des attachés de presse (ÉFAP) in France in 1994 and worked as a designer at the Carré Noir agency in Paris. From 1996 to 2013, he worked at Cossette, where several of his social campaigns received national and international awards. He began his collaboration with Ex Machina in 2005 with the creation of the architectural projection *The Image Mill* (2008).

He would be co-creator and image co-designer until the final edition in 2013, about Norman McLaren's work. Followed by work on the creation of *887*, Robert Lepage's most recent solo

show, and The library at night, an immersive exhibition using virtual reality inspired by the Alberto Manguel's work, for which Steve Blanchet directed the creation and co-signed the design with Robert Lepage. His career is punctuated with various collaborations in numerous short films, shows, plays and publications.

Yves Jacques

His career led him from his native Quebec City to Montreal, then Paris where he's been playing since, on stage as well as in movies. Working with French Canadian director Denis Arcand, on 5 films including ***Decline of the American Empire***, ***Jesus of Montreal*** and the ***Barbarian Invasions***, along with French director Claude Miller with whom he worked on 7 films including ***La Chambre des Magiciennes***, ***La petite Lily*** and ***Voyez Comme ils Dansent***, confirmed his talent, and his renown grew steadily in France and in Quebec. On stage, he has been touring worldwide for almost ten years with two Robert Lepage's plays, ***The Far Side of the Moon*** (from 2001) and ***The Andersen Project*** (from 2007) in their French and English versions. His work with Lepage made Luc Bondy, the late Director of the Odéon Théâtre de l'Europe in Paris, to offer him to play alongside Isabelle Huppert in Marivaux's ***Les Fausses Confidences (False Acquaintances)***.

A film inspired by the play was also produced for ARTE with the same director and cast. Other directors with whom Yves had the privilege to work include, Xavier Dolan ***Laurence Anyways***, Jean-Paul Rappenneau ***Belles Familles***, Olivier Dahan ***Grace of Monaco***, as well as Martin Scorsese ***Aviator***. Yves Jacques was appointed *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, in February 2001, and he is an *Officer of the Order of Canada* since 2009 for his achievements as an actor in theater, television and film, in Canada and abroad.

(All rights reserved, Robert Lepage Inc. and Le Projet Ex Machina, 2000)