

LIPSYNCH



Lipsynch © Erick Labbé

Direction
Robert Lepage

Production **Ex Machina & Théâtre Sans Frontières**

Lipsynch — the director statement

We often confuse voice, speech and language, but those are indeed three very distinct and totally different things. **Lipsynch** is about the specific signification of all three and their interaction in modern human expression.

Up until now, our work at Ex Machina had focused mainly on telling stories using image, movement, space and music. Voice was rather an afterthought. This time around, we have decided to make it our focal point, and see where the exploration of oral communication in all its forms would take us. This endeavor has lead us to unsuspected places, a dizzying trek forcing us, as individuals involved in this artistic project, to delve deeper than ever before into our own selves. The voice is an internal machinery that finds its ultimate expression outside of the body, but in order to examine it and try to understand it properly one needs to pull away from visual stimuli for a while and go where the voice is « seated ». As in our other shows, the form and structure of **Lipsynch** is baroque and unconstrained but this time, the characters seem to have emerged from a place that is more profound.

I often compare our evolving artistic process to the image of a tree. The audience only sees the trunk, bark, branches and leaves. But the artist should be preoccupied by the growth happening underground, in that unseen network of roots digging erratically yet so expertly that it can hold, sustain and nurture the whole tree.

Robert Lepage

Lipsynch — to an epic journey

*From its most primitive expression – a baby's cry – to its most sophisticated – opera singing – the human voice is a select locus of identity and emotion. **Lipsynch** explores its many manifestations, declensions and implications through different procedures that convey and reproduce it.*

Telephone, radio, sound tracks and silent films, playback and post-synchronization: singing voices, synthesized voices, voices of the conscience, voices of blood relatives, voices from beyond, hallucinated voices. Nine stories unfold in nine hours, focussing on nine protagonists whose lives answer, relay and echo each other.

*As in **The Dragons' Trilogy** and **The Seven Streams of the River Ota**, the singularity of individual destinies is superimposed on the magnitude of collective history, forming a gigantic modern fresco in the image of our modern world, fragmented and plural, burlesque and tragic, and layered with multiple languages, sounds and meanings.*

Directed by
Robert Lepage

Text by
Carlos Belda
Rebecca Blankenship
Lise Castonguay
John Cobb
Nuria Garcia
Marie Gignac
Sarah Kemp
Robert Lepage
Rick Miller
Hans Piesbergen

Performed by
Frédérique Bédard
Carlos Belda
Rebecca Blankenship
Lise Castonguay
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Sarah Kemp
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Lipsynch — the biographies

Frédérique Bédard

Performer

Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada (1980), Frédérique Bédard also studied classical singing and harpsichord at Quebec City's Conservatoire de musique. Since then she has worked in theatre and television as actor, singer and musician. She worked with Robert Lepage in his productions of Die Dreigroschenoper Songspiel and The Busker's Opera.

Lise Castonguay

Writer and performer

Graduate of Quebec City's Conservatoire d'art dramatique (1981), Lise Castonguay has pursued a career in acting, writing and directing. Winner of the Masque Award for Best Supporting Performance, the 1996 Jeanine Angers Prize, and the 2002 Denise Pelletier Theatre Best Actress Award, she first worked with Robert Lepage in 1984 on the show Circulations.

Carlos Belda

Writer and performer

A graduate of the Escuela de Actores de Canarias in Tenerife (1982), Carlos Belda continued his studies in Paris with Monika Pagneux, Philippe Gaulier, Arianne Mnouchkine, Daniel Stein and Nicole Jaspard. He has worked with numerous Spanish theatre companies, and since 1992 has been teaching at the Escuela de Actores de Canarias. He is also the director of the Teatro Tamaska, in Tenerife.

John Cobb

Writer and performer

John Cobb is an actor/director. He trained in theatre in Paris with Philippe Gaulier and Monika Pagneux. He is a founder member of Theatre Sans Frontières and has performed in and directed many of the company's productions. He has worked with Robert Lepage in A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Royal National Theatre and in his production Tectonic Plates for Théâtre Repère, Quebec.

Rebecca Blankenship

Writer and performer

Rebecca Blankenship, born in New York and raised in Vienna, first worked with Lepage in the Canadian Opera Production Erwartung then co-authored and performed in Seven Streams of the River Ota, Kindertotenlieder. As Dramatic Soprano she has sung in many international Opera Houses and is presently gaining her therapy degree at the London Centre of Psychodrama.

Nuria Garcia

Writer and performer

Nuria Garcia has graduated from the Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático from Valencia in 1998. She also trained with artists from the Moscow Art Theatre School (MXAT), the Odin Teatret and the Roy Hart Theatre, among others. From 2004 to 2006, she has performed in La Celestina (directed by Lepage), a role for which she has won the 2005 Best Supporting Actress in Valencia award, and for which she was nominated for the MAX awards in 2006.

Lipsynch — the biographies

Marie Gignac

Writer

Marie Gignac has been working with Robert Lepage for more than 20 years. She was both author and actor in The Dragons' Trilogy, Tectonic Plates, and The Seven Streams of the River Ota. She played in the films The Confessional and Nô, and contributed to the writing of The Andersen Project. Also a director, she is Artistic Director of the Carrefour international de théâtre de Québec. She has played numerous Quebec film and television roles.

Sarah Kemp

Writer and performer

Sarah Kemp trained at Ecole Philippe Gaulier and also with Monika Pagneux in Paris, France. Prior to that, she studied Spanish and Drama in Education at Newcastle University in UK. In 1991 she co-founded the UK based international touring theatre company Theatre Sans Frontières. Sarah has either directed or performed in most of the company's shows, including the award winning Candide and Notre Dame de Paris. She plays soprano saxophone with the 10th Avenue band in Newcastle

Robert Lepage

Writer and director

Robert Lepage is equally talented as an author, director, actor and producer. Founder and Artistic Director of Ex Machina, the multidisciplinary production company, he invites artists from all over the world to take part in his projects. His work has won international critical acclaim and many awards.

Rick Miller

Writer and performer

Rick Miller trained in Montreal as an architect, actor, musician, and playwright. As artistic director of WYRD Productions, his acclaimed solo shows MacHomer and Bigger Than Jesus have toured the world and won numerous awards. This is his 4th collaboration with Robert Lepage, after tours of Geometry of Miracles, Zulu Time, and the film Possible Worlds.

Hans Piesbergen

Writer and performer

Born in Stuttgart, Germany; youth in Vienna, Austria. His theatre work includes fringe to national companies and even musicals (Disney's Lion King). He has worked with George Tabori, Steven Berkoff, Julie Taymor and Barrie Kosky, amongst others. His first collaboration with Robert Lepage was a Shakespeare collage, Map Of Dreams, produced by the Munich National Theatre in 1993.

Lipsynch — Robert Lepage



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Versatile in every form of theatre craft, Robert Lepage is equally talented as a director, scenic artist, 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. Contemporary history is his source of inspiration, and his modern and unusual work transcends all boundaries.

Robert Lepage was born in Quebec in 1957. He took an early interest in geography, and when he later discovered all art forms, theatre caught his particular attention. He entered the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec in 1975 at the age of 17. After a study period in Paris in 1978 he returned to Quebec and became involved in many creative projects, gaining experience as actor, author and director. Two years later he joined the Théâtre Repère.

In 1984, his play *Circulations* toured Canada and received Best Canadian Production award at the Quinzaine Internationale de Théâtre de Québec. The next year *The Dragon's Trilogy* gained him an international reputation, quickly followed by *Vinci* (1986), *Polygraph* (1987) and *Tectonic Plates* (1988). In 1988 he formed his own professional management company, Robert Lepage Inc. (RLI).

From 1989 to 1993 he was Artistic Director of the Théâtre français at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Meanwhile pursuing his own creative projects, he directed *Needles and Opium* (1991), *Coriolanus*, *Macbeth*, and *The Tempest* (1992). With *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 1992 he became the first North American to direct a Shakespeare play at the Royal National Theatre in London.

A turning point in his career came with the founding of his multidisciplinary production company, Ex Machina, in 1994. Under his artistic direction, this new team produced a steady output of plays, beginning with *The Seven Streams of the River Ota* (1994), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1995) and a solo production, *Elsinore* (1995). In 1994, he made his début in the world of cinema. He wrote and directed his first feature film, *Le Confessionnal*, which appeared the following year at the Cannes Festival Directors' Fortnight. He went on to direct *Polygraph* in 1996, *Nô* in 1997, *Possible Worlds* in 2000 (his first feature film written in English), and finally, in 2003, a film adaptation of his play *The Far Side of the Moon*.

La Caserne, a multidisciplinary production centre in Quebec City, opened in 1997 under Robert Lepage's leadership. In their new quarters he and his team created and produced *Geometry of Miracles* (1998), *Zulu Time* (1999), *The Far Side of The Moon* (2000), *La Casa Azul* (2001), a new version of *The Dragons' Trilogy* with a new cast (2003) and *The Busker's Opera* (2004). This was followed by *The Andersen Project* (2005), *Lipsynch* (2007), *The Blue Dragon* (2008) and *Eonnagata* (2009).

Lipsynch — Robert Lepage

Robert Lepage is often asked to turn his creative hand to new fields. In 1993, he directed Peter Gabriel's *Secret World Tour*. In 2000, he was involved in producing *Métissages*, an exhibition at the Musée de la civilisation in Quebec City. In 2002, he joined forces with Peter Gabriel again to direct *Growing Up Tour*. He later designed and directed Cirque du Soleil shows: *KÁ* in 2005, a permanent show in Las Vegas, and *TOTEM* in 2010, a show under Grand Chapiteau that will tour worldwide. For Quebec City's 400th anniversary in 2008, Robert Lepage and Ex Machina created the largest architectural projection ever achieved: *The Image Mill*™. In 2009, *Aurora Borealis*, a permanent lighting installation inspired by the colors of the northern lights was created on the same location.

Robert Lepage made a grand entrance in the opera world when he staged the successful double bill: *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Erwartung* (1993). His presence on the operatic stage continued with *La Damnation de Faust* presented for the first time in the Saito Kinen Festival Matsumoto, Japan (1999), then at the Opera National de Paris and the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Among his achievements in opera: *1984* based on the novel by George Orwell, with Maestro Lorin Maazel providing the musical direction (2005), *The Rake's Progress* (2007) and *The Nightingale and Other short Fables* which premiered in Toronto at the Canadian Opera Company (2009), and has been presented at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and Opéra de Lyon in 2010. *Das Rheingold*, Wagner's Ring prelude, premiered September 2010 at The Metropolitan Opera with the cycle being presented during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons.

Robert Lepage's work has been recognized by many awards. Among the most important was the medal of the Officers of the Ordre national du Québec in 1999. In September 2000, he was given the SORIQ Award (La Société des relations internationales de Québec) for the impact of his work outside Quebec. In October, 2001, he was recognized with the World Leaders Association of Harbourfront Centre, once again in honour of the international scope of his career. In 2002, France received him into the Légion d'honneur, the Quebec Chamber of Commerce named him "Grand Québécois", and he won the Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award for his outstanding contribution to Canadian theatre. The following year he won the Denise Pelletier Prize, the highest distinction awarded by the Quebec government in the performing arts field, as well as the National Theatre School's Gascon Thomas Award. In 2004 he was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Prize for his outstanding artistic contribution to honouring Hans Christian Andersen worldwide. In 2005 he received the Institut France-Canada's Samuel de Champlain Prize for his contribution to French culture and the Stanislavski Award for his contribution to international theatre and the dissemination of his productions *The Dragons' Trilogy*, *The Seven Streams of the River Ota* and *The Busker's Opera*. In 2007, the Festival de l'Union des Théâtres de l'Europe honoured him with the distinguished Prix Europe, previously awarded to Ariane Mnouchkine and Bob Wilson among others. The production of *The Far Side of the Moon* was recognized by The Golden Mask Festival of Russian Performing Arts 2007 in the category of Best Foreign Production. In 2009, he received the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of the country.

Lipsynch



Lipsynch — the credits

Director	Robert Lepage
Text	Frédérique Bédard Carlos Belda Rebecca Blankenship Lise Castonguay John Cobb Nuria Garcia Marie Gignac Sarah Kemp Robert Lepage Rick Miller Hans Piesbergen
Performed by	Frédérique Bédard Marie & others Carlos Belda Sebastian & others Rebecca Blankenship Ada & others Lise Castonguay Michelle & others John Cobb Jackson & others Nuria Garcia Lupe & others Sarah Kemp Sarah & others Rick Miller Jeremy & others Hans Piesbergen Thomas & others
Dramaturgy Consultant	Marie Gignac
Assistant Director	Félix Dagenais
Set Designer	Jean Hazel
Lighting Designer	Étienne Boucher
Sound Designer	Jean-Sébastien Côté
Costume Designer	Yasmina Giguère
Assisted by	Jeanne Lapierre
Props Designer	Virginie Leclerc
Images produced by	Jacques Collin
Wigs	Richard Hansen
Creative Collaboration during rehearsals	Sophie Martin
Robert Lepage's agent	Lynda Beaulieu
Production and Tour manager	Louise Roussel
Production Assistant	Marie-Pierre Gagné

Lipsynch — the credits

Technical Director	Paul Bourque
Stage Manager	Judith Saint-Pierre
Lighting Manager	Renaud Pettigrew
Sound Manager	Stanislas Elie
Video Manager	David Leclerc
Wardrobe Manager	Sylvie Courbron
Props Manager	Virginie Leclerc
Head Stagehand	Anne Marie Bureau
Stagehands	Simon Laplante Éric Lapointe
Technical Consultants	Catherine Guay Tobie Horswill
Set Design Collaborator - Thomas part	Carl Fillion
Music	Bist du bei mir by J.S. Bach Do you know the way to San José? & The Look of Love by Bacharach / David Le petit berger by Debussy April in Paris by Duke / Harburg Symphony # 3 by Henryk Mikolaj Górecki Every Mother's Son by Rick Miller, arranged by Jean-Sébastien Côté Transmission by Joy Division All the things you are by Kern / Hammerstein Bunte Blatter, Opus 9, Funf Albumblätter I, II, III, IV, V by Robert Schumann Symphony #3 by Gorecki performed by Quatuor Cartier, Martin Gauthier, Jean-Sébastien Côté
Poems	Les Boucliers Mégalomanes #3 & Les Boucliers Mégalomanes # 78 by Claude Gauvreau used by kind permission of Mr. Pierre Gauvreau Monumenta Linguae by Juan Hidalgo
Recorded voices	Adrian Egan, Philip Graeme, Mary Harris, Helen King, Rick Miller
Set building	Astuce Décors Les Conceptions visuelles Jean-Marc Cyr
Seamstresses	Janie Gagnon, Annie Simard, Sophie Royer
Video footage production	Ciné-Scène.ca

Lipsynch — the credits

Lipsynch
an Ex Machina / Théâtre Sans Frontières production
in association with Cultural Industry Ltd and Northern Stage
coproduced by

Arts 276/Automne en Normandie
barbicanbite08, London
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Cabildo Insular de Tenerife
Chekhov International Theatre Festival, Moscow
Festival de Otoño Madrid
Festival TransAmériques, Montréal
La Comète (scène nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne)
Le Théâtre Denise-Pelletier, Montréal
Le Volcan Scène nationale du Havre
Luminato, Toronto Festival of Arts & Creativity
Napoli Teatro Festival Italia
The Sydney Festival
Wiener Festwochen

Associate Producer, Europe, Japan
Associate producer's management team,
Europe, Japan

Richard Castelli
Rossana Di Vincenzo, Florence Berthaud, Pierre Lalé

Associate Producer, United Kingdom

Michael Morris

Associate Producer, The Americas, Asia (except Japan), Australia, NZ

Menno Plukker

Producer for Ex Machina

Michel Bernatchez

DubStudio software is used by arrangement with Ryshco Media.



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et des lettres

Québec



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www.lacaserne.net
www.tsf.org.uk
www.epidemic.net

Contact
EPIDEMIC

Richard Castelli : Directeur / Director — rc@epidemic.net
Florence Berthaud : Coordination & communication — fb@epidemic.net
Rossana Di Vincenzo : Spectacles / Performances — production@epidemic.net
Hélène Stril : Installations & expositions / exhibitions — exhibitions@epidemic.net

EPIDEMIC
15 – 15 bis, allée Massenet
F-93270 SEVRAN, FRANCE
T : 33 (0)1 43 83 49 53
F : 33 (0)1 49 36 04 39
production@epidemic.net
<http://www.epidemic.net>