

Rémi Boucher - Director and Artistic Director of the international Festival Les Coups de Théâtre

Rémi Boucher is the Director and Artistic Director of the international Festival Les Coups de Théâtre, which he founded in 1990 and is presented in Montreal every two years to the enjoyment of thousands of festival participants.

Originally from Rimouski and a graduate of Ottawa University and The National Theatre School of Canada, Rémi Boucher is well known amongst his peers, he was a cultural agent and head of the theatre section at the Canada Council for the Arts from 1982 to 1988 and was the Director of La Maison Théâtre, pour l'enfance et la jeunesse in Montreal.

In 1995, Rémi Boucher founded the international festival of cinema for young audiences, Les 400 Coups, which he presented on alternating years with Les Coups de Théâtre until 2002. The success of Les 400 Coups led to a request by Daniel Langlois for Rémi Boucher to programme Ciné-Kid at the Ex-Centris cinéma which he did with brio from 1999 to 2003.

Mr. Boucher is very implicated in international relationships developed through organisations for theatre for young audiences; in 1999 Rémi Boucher was elected on to the executive of ASSITEJ International. Three years later in Seoul, he was elected vice president of the organisation and is currently the presiding President of ASSITEJ Canada. Rémi Boucher and the Festival Les Coups de Théâtre team were chosen in July 2002 to organize the 15th ASSITEJ International World Congress and Festival. Upon his return from Seoul, Rémi Boucher was named Personality of the Week by the Montreal newspaper La Presse. In 2005, Les Coups de Théâtre and ASSITEJ Canada presented the World Festival of the Arts for Young Audiences, event of great scale which, from the 20 to September 30, celebrated the audacity and the vitality of arts for children and young people.

Festival Les Coups de Théâtre / Background

Over the past twenty-five years, approximately forty theatre companies catering specifically to young audiences have been established in Montreal and Quebec. This flurry of development has resulted in Quebec being considered a major creative centre in the milieu. Literature, television and cinema have more recently followed suit. As creators from these disciplines focus their energy on creation for young audiences, supporting the emergence of new styles, Quebec's international reputation continues to be consolidated.

In 1990, Rémi Boucher, at the time Director of the Maison Théâtre, felt there was a need to open a window for young audiences onto the world theatre scene by creating Les Coups de Théâtre, Forum international des arts jeune public. He travelled extensively to all four corners of the world in search of innovative, contemporary productions aimed at a young public.

The first edition of Les Coups de Théâtre, which consisted of twelve productions, received an enthusiastic response from the artistic community, the press and the public. As the years have gone by, the Festival's success has not waned. Attendance has continued to grow, as people discover the astonishing creativity of the artists working in this milieu and the unique diversity of the Festival's program. Little by little, the editions have continued to improve the number of productions has doubled and conferences and workshops covering all artistic disciplines: dance, music and visual arts, have been added.

Today the International Festival Les Coups de Théâtre is a reflection of the vitality of creation taking place around the world in the arts for young audiences. Montreal has become an essential crossroads for those looking to understand where the arts for young audiences milieu fits into the ensemble of international dramaturgy.

Institutions such as the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Place des Arts, The Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, Mexico's Bellas Artes Museo, Akademie der Kunst in Berlin, among others, have developed partnerships with Les Coups de Théâtre for the creation and presentation of productions, installations, or large-scale exhibitions.

Numerous productions presented by Les Coups de Théâtre have been honoured by receiving prizes. In Quebec, Les Coups de Théâtre has received five Masques from Académie québécoise du théâtre including Best Production for Young Audiences, and Best Foreign Production.

In the autumn of 2002, the Montreal Council of the Arts declared Les Coups de Théâtre the winner of its theatre section, after having seen the quality and audacity of its 2002 edition. The International Festival Les Coups de Théâtre is presented every two years. Its offices are located in Montreal at Usine C.

The 11th Edition of the Festival Les Coups de Théâtre - November 15-28, 2010 - 22 productions on 11 Montreal stages
www.coupsdetheatre.com

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