

= Cirque du Soleil =

Cirque du Soleil (pronounced : [si?k dy s?.l?j] , " Circus of the Sun ") is a Canadian entertainment company . It is the largest theatrical producer in the world . Based in Montreal , Quebec , Canada , and located in the inner @-@ city area of Saint @-@ Michel , it was founded in Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul in 1984 by two former street performers , Guy Laliberté and Gilles Ste @-@ Croix .

Initially named Les Échassiers ([lez ? e.?a.sje] , " The Waders ") , they toured Quebec in 1980 as a performing troupe . Their initial financial hardship was relieved in 1983 by a government grant from the Canada Council for the Arts , as part of the 450th anniversary celebrations of Jacques Cartier 's voyage to Canada . Le Grand Tour du Cirque du Soleil was a success in 1984 , and after securing a second year of funding , Laliberté hired Guy Caron from the National Circus School to re @-@ create it as a " proper circus " . Its theatrical , character @-@ driven approach and the absence of performing animals helped define Cirque du Soleil as the contemporary circus (" nouveau cirque ") that it remains today .

Each show is a synthesis of circus styles from around the world , with its own central theme and storyline . Shows employ continuous live music , with performers rather than stagehands changing the props . After financial successes and failures in the late 1980s , Nouvelle Expérience was created ? with the direction of Franco Dragone ? which not only made Cirque du Soleil profitable by 1990 , but allowed it to create new shows .

Cirque du Soleil expanded rapidly through the 1990s and 2000s , going from one show to 19 shows in over 271 cities on every continent except Antarctica . The shows employ approximately 4 @,@ 000 people from over 40 countries and generate an estimated annual revenue exceeding US \$ 810 million . The multiple permanent Las Vegas shows alone play to more than 9 @,@ 000 people a night , 5 % of the city 's visitors , adding to the 90 million people who have experienced Cirque du Soleil 's shows worldwide .

In 2000 , Laliberté bought out Gauthier , and with 95 % ownership , has continued to expand the brand . In 2008 , Laliberté split 20 % of his share equally between two investment groups Istithmar World and Nakheel of Dubai , in order to further finance the company 's goals . In partnership with these two groups , Cirque du Soleil had planned to build a residency show in the United Arab Emirates in 2012 directed by Guy Caron (Dralion) and Michael Curry . But since Dubai 's financial problems in 2010 caused by the 2008 recession , it was stated by Laliberté that the project has been " put on ice " for the time being and may be looking for another financial partner to bankroll the company 's future plans , even willing to give up another 10 % of his share . Several more shows are in development around the world , along with a television deal , women 's clothing line and the possible venture into other mediums such as spas , restaurants and nightclubs . Cirque du Soleil also produces a small number of private and corporate events each year (past clients have been the royal family of Dubai and the 2007 Super Bowl) .

The company 's creations have received numerous prizes and distinctions , including a Bambi Award in 1997 , a Rose d 'Or in 1989 , three Drama Desk Awards in 1991 , 1998 and 2013 , three Gemini Awards , four Primetime Emmy Awards , and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame . In 2000 , Cirque du Soleil was awarded the National Arts Centre Award , a companion award of the Governor General 's Performing Arts Awards . In 2002 , Cirque du Soleil was inducted into Canada 's Walk of Fame .

In 2015 , TPG Capital , Fosun Capital Group and Caisse de depot et placement du Quebec purchased 90 % of Cirque du Soleil . The sale received regulatory approval from the Government of Canada on 30 June 2015 .

= = Origins = =

At age 18 , interested in pursuing some kind of performing career , Guy Laliberté quit college and left home . He toured Europe as a folk musician and busker . By the time he returned home to Canada in 1979 , he had learned the art of fire breathing . Although he became " employed " at a hydroelectric power plant in James Bay , his job ended after only three days due to a labour strike .

He decided not to look for another job , instead supporting himself on his unemployment insurance . He helped organize a summer fair in Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul with the help of a pair of friends named Daniel Gauthier and Gilles Ste @-@ Croix .

Gauthier and Ste @-@ Croix were managing a youth hostel for performing artists named Le Balcon Vert at that time . By the summer of 1979 , Ste @-@ Croix had been developing the idea of turning the Balcon Vert , and the talented performers who lived there , into an organized performing troupe . As part of a publicity stunt to convince the Quebec government to help fund his production , Ste @-@ Croix walked the 56 miles (90 km) from Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul to Quebec City on stilts . The ploy worked , giving the three men the money to create Les Échassiers de Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul . Employing many of the people who would later make up Cirque du Soleil , Les Échassiers toured Quebec during the summer of 1980 .

Although well received by audiences and critics alike , Les Échassiers was a financial failure . Laliberté spent that winter in Hawaii plying his trade while Ste @-@ Croix stayed in Quebec to set up a nonprofit holding company named " The High @-@ Heeled Club " to mitigate the losses of the previous summer . In 1981 , they met with better results . By that fall , Les Échassiers de Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul had broken even . The success inspired Laliberté and Ste @-@ Croix to organize a summer fair in their hometown of Baie @-@ Saint @-@ Paul .

This touring festival , called " La Fête Foraine " , first took place in July 1982 . La Fête Foraine featured workshops to teach the circus arts to the public , after which those who participated could take part in a performance . Ironically , the festival was barred from its own hosting town after complaints from local citizens . Laliberté managed and produced the fair over the next couple years , nurturing it into a moderate financial success . But it was in 1983 that the government of Quebec gave him a \$ 1 @. @ 5 million grant to host a production the following year as part of Quebec 's 450th anniversary celebration of the French explorer Jacques Cartier 's discovery of Canada . Laliberté named his creation " Le Grand Tour du Cirque du Soleil " .

= = Shows = =

The duration of each touring show was traditionally split into two acts of an hour each separated by a 30 @-@ minute interval ; however , as of 2014 , due to cost cutting issues , the shows have now been reduced to a shorter 55 @-@ minute first act followed by a 50 @-@ minute second act , still including a 30 @-@ minute interval . Permanent shows are usually 90 minutes in length without any intermission . This excludes Joyà (the permanent show in Riviera Maya , Mexico) , which is only 70 minutes in length . Typically touring shows as well as resident shows perform a standard 10 shows a week . Touring shows usually have one ' dark day ' (with no performances) while resident shows have two .

= = = Le Grand Tour du Cirque du Soleil = = =

Originally intended to only be a one @-@ year project , Cirque du Soleil was scheduled to perform in 11 towns in Quebec over the course of 13 weeks running concurrent with the third La Fête Foraine . The first shows were riddled with difficulty , starting with the collapse of the big top after the increased weight of rainwater caused the central mast to snap . Working with a borrowed tent , Laliberté then had to contend with difficulties with the European performers . They were so unhappy with the Quebec circus 's inexperience that they had , at one point , sent a letter to the media complaining about how they were being treated .

The problems were only transient , however , and by the time 1984 had come to a close , Le Grand Tour du Cirque du Soleil was a success . Having only \$ 60 @, @ 000 left in the bank , Laliberté went back to the Canadian government to secure funding for a second year . While the Canadian federal government was enthusiastic , the Quebec provincial government was resistant to the idea . It was not until Quebec 's premier , René Lévesque , intervened on their behalf that the provincial government relented . The original big top tent that was used during the 1984 Le Grand Tour du Cirque du Soleil tour can now be seen at Carnaval Lune Bleue , a 1930s @-@ style carnival that is

home to the Cirque Maroc acrobats .

= = = La Magie Continue = = =

After securing funding from the Canadian government for a second year , Laliberté took steps to renovate Cirque du Soleil from a group of street performers into a " proper circus " . To accomplish this he hired the head of the National Circus School , Guy Caron , as Cirque du Soleil 's artistic director . The influences that Laliberté and Caron had in reshaping their circus were extensive . They wanted strong emotional music that was played from beginning to end by musicians . They wanted to emulate the Moscow Circus ' method of having the acts tell a story . Performers , rather than a technical crew , move equipment and props on and off stage so that it did not disrupt the momentum of the " storyline " . Most importantly , their vision was to create a circus with neither a ring nor animals . The rationale was that the lack of both of these things draws the audience more into the performance .

To help design the next major show , Laliberté and Caron hired Franco Dragone , another instructor from the National Circus School who had been working in Belgium . When he joined the troupe in 1985 , he brought with him his experience in commedia dell 'arte techniques , which he imparted to the performers . Although his experience would be limited in the next show due to budget restraints , he would go on to direct every show up to , but not including Dralion .

By 1986 , the company was once again in serious financial trouble . During 1985 they had taken the show outside Quebec to a lukewarm response . In Toronto they performed in front of a 25 % capacity crowd after not having enough money to properly market the show . Gilles Ste @-@ Croix , dressed in a monkey suit , walked through downtown Toronto as a desperate publicity stunt . A later stop in Niagara Falls turned out to be equally problematic .

Several factors prevented the company from going bankrupt that year . The Desjardins Group , which was Cirque du Soleil 's financial institution at the time , covered about \$ 200 @,@ 000 of bad checks . Also , a financier named Daniel Lamarre , who worked for one of the largest public relations firms in Quebec , represented the company for free , knowing that they didn 't have the money to pay his fee . The Quebec government itself also came through again , granting Laliberté enough money to stay solvent for another year .

= = = Le Cirque Réinventé = = =

In 1987 , after Laliberté re @-@ privatized Cirque du Soleil , it was invited to perform at the Los Angeles Arts Festival . Although they continued to be plagued by financial difficulties , Normand Latourelle took the gamble and went to Los Angeles , despite only having enough money to make a one @-@ way trip . Had the show been a failure , the company would not have had enough money to get their performers and equipment back to Montreal .

The festival turned out to be a huge success , both critically and financially . The show attracted the attention of entertainment executives , including Columbia Pictures , which met with Laliberté and Gauthier under the pretense of wanting to make a movie about Cirque du Soleil . Laliberté was unhappy with the deal , claiming that it gave too many rights to Columbia , which was attempting to secure all rights to the production . Laliberté pulled out of the deal before it could be concluded , and that experience stands out as a key reason why Cirque du Soleil remains independent and privately owned today .

In 1988 , Guy Caron left the company due to artistic differences over what to do with the money generated by Cirque du Soleil 's first financially successful tour . Laliberté wanted to use it to expand and start a second show while Caron wanted the money to be saved , with a portion going back to the National Circus School . An agreement was never met and Caron , along with a large number of artists loyal to him , departed . This stalled plans that year to start a new touring show .

Laliberté sought out Gilles Ste @-@ Croix as replacement for the artistic director position . Ste @-@ Croix , who had been away from the company since 1985 , agreed to return . The company went through more internal troubles , including a failed attempt to add Normand Latourelle as a third

man to the partnership . This triumvirate lasted only six months before internal disagreements prompted Gauthier and Laliberté to buy out Latourelle . By the end of 1989 , Cirque du Soleil was once again in a deficit .

== = Fascination = = =

With Saltimbanco finished and touring in the United States and Canada , Cirque du Soleil toured Japan in the summer of 1992 at the behest of the Fuji Television Network . Taking acts from Nouvelle Expérience and Cirque Réinventé , they created a show for this tour , titled Fascination . Although Fascination was never seen outside Japan , it represented the first time that Cirque du Soleil had produced a show that took place in an arena rather than a big top . It was also the first that Cirque du Soleil performed outside of North America .

== = Knie Presents Cirque du Soleil = = =

Also in 1992 , Cirque du Soleil made its first collaboration with Switzerland 's Circus Knie in a production named Knie Presents Cirque du Soleil that toured for nine months from 20 March to 29 November 1992 through 60 cities in Switzerland , opening in Rapperswil and closing in Bellinzona . The production merged Circus Knie 's animal acts with Cirque du Soleil 's acrobatic acts . The stage resembled that of Cirque du Soleil 's previous shows La Magie Continue and Le Cirque Reinventé , but was modified to accommodate Circus Knie 's animals . The show also featured acts seen previously in Le Cirque Reinventé , including :

The prologue

Les Pingouins (Korean plank)

Slack wire

Tower on Wheels

Trick cycling

== = Other shows = = =

== = Future productions = = =

Luna Petunia : It was announced on 11 October 2014 that in partnership with Saban Brands , Cirque du Soleil Media would produce an animated children 's (pre @-@ school aged) series called Luna Petunia and the showrunner was announced as children 's TV writer Bradley Zweig . The plot revolves around a little girl who plays in a dreamland where she learns how to make the impossible possible . It will be shown on Netflix around September ? November 2016 .

The Wiz : In a collaboration with NBC , Cirque du Soleil will help produce both a live @-@ television broadcast and Broadway revival of The Wiz . The broadcast will premiere December 2015 on NBC , the revival following soon after in the 2016 @-@ 2017 season . Tony Award @-@ winning director Kenny Leon will direct both productions with Broadway writer / actor Harvey Fierstein , who will be contributing new material to the original Broadway book . Queen Latifah , Mary J. Blige , Stephanie Mills , Ne @-@ Yo , David Alan Grier , Common , Elijah Kelley , Amber Riley , and Uzo Aduba and newcomer Shanice Williams are set to star . Additional casting and creative team announcements will be made later .

Cirque du Soleil - Soda Stereo : In partnership with Argentine promoters PopArt and Triple , Cirque du Soleil is producing a new touring show based on the rock band Soda Stereo , which will premiere in May 2017 in Buenos Aires before touring Latin America (including Chile , Mexico , Peru and Colombia) , Miami , Los Angeles and other US cities . The show will also coincide with the release of a soundtrack album , created by surviving Soda Stereo members Zeta Bosio and Charly Alberti , and some producers who have worked with the band . It will be directed by Michel Laprise and the director of creation will be Chantal Tremblay .

Cirque 2017 : On 5 December 2015 , Cirque du Soleil posted numerous job openings on their website for a new production nicknamed " Cirque 2017 " .

Hanzhou 2018 : On 15 June 2015 at the Shanghai International Film Festival , Cirque du Soleil announced their plans to develop a permanent show in the Xintiandi commercial complex in Hangzhou , China . The theater will seat 1400 spectators and Cirque du Soleil 's chief executive Daniel Lamarre has said that the show will have a ? local flavor ? but still be a ? Cirque show ? . It is scheduled to open in early 2018 with the development of the theatre on the site of an old warehouse of an old rail yard area currently underway .

Cirque du Soleil Theme Park : On 12 November 2014 , Cirque du Soleil , Grupo Vidanta , and Goddard Group announced plans for a theme park in Nuevo Vallarta , Mexico . The plans call for at least two lands , the Village of the Sun and the Village of the Moon , as well as an outdoor evening show accommodating as many as 3 @, @ 000 to 5 @, @ 000 spectators , and may include a water park and nature park elements . It is due to open some time in 2018 .

Dubai 2018 : On 10 November 2015 , Cirque du Soleil posted a job opening on their website for a new production nicknamed " Dubai 2018 " . A production had been originally scheduled to premiere in Dubai in 2011 , but due to financial instability that hit Cirque du Soleil around that time (including their Middle Eastern investors Nakheel and Istithmar World pulling out of their partnership) , they had postponed the show . The 2011 show was meant to be directed by Guy Caron (director of Dralion and Kà) and Michael Curry (who specialises in puppetry / props) , and was to be housed in a custom @-@ built theatre that would seat 1 @, @ 800 people on Palm Jumeirah (one of three man @-@ made , palm @-@ shaped islands in Dubai) . It is unclear whether these plans remain in place for the 2018 show .

= = Other works = =

= = = Projects = = =

Cirque du Monde : a social action project designed to reach marginalized youth .

Jukari Fit to Fly : A fitness program promoted cooperatively with Reebok .

Safewalls : An artistic project curated by Cirque du Soleil that is bringing time @-@ honoured circus posters into the 21st century by pairing up with renowned international street art and lowbrow artists .

Cultural Action Art Exhibitions : As part of its Cultural Action programs , Cirque du Soleil offers artists the opportunity to exhibit at its Montreal Headquarters and at its Las Vegas offices . Artists who have participated include : France Jodoin , Dominique Fortin @-@ Mues , Laurent Craste and Dominic Besner .

Desigual inspired by Cirque du Soleil : Cirque du Soleil partnered with Desigual fashion design in 2011 to develop a collection of clothing and accessories , which was made available at Desigual stores and Cirque du Soleil show boutiques .

Movi.Kanti.Revo : In association with Google , Cirque du Soleil released a Google Chrome extension in 2012 , meant to bring some of Cirque du Soleil 's imagination to the browser .

= = = Special events = = =

In April 2015 , Cirque du Soleil 's Special Events division , which had been responsible for coordinating various public and private events , formed a separate company called 45 Degrees . Led by Yasmine Khalil , the new company has continued to produce special events for Cirque du Soleil while expanding to offer creative content outside Cirque du Soleil as well .

= = = Lounges and nightclubs = = =

As of October 2015 , Cirque du Soleil renounced its intention to be involved in Las Vegas

nightclubs and has since dissociated itself from all lounges and clubs listed below . These lounges are no longer affiliated with Cirque du Soleil .

Revolution is a 5 @, @ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (500 m²) lounge concept designed for The Mirage resort in Las Vegas , in which cast members perform to the music of The Beatles . Cirque du Soleil drew inspiration from the Beatles ' lyrics to design some of the lounge 's features . For instance , the ceiling is decorated with 30 @, @ 000 dichroic crystals , representing " Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds " . The VIP tables use infrared technology that allows guests to create artwork , which is then projected onto amorphous columns .

Cirque du Soleil 's second lounge was the Gold Lounge , which is located in the Aria Resort and Casino in Las Vegas and is 3 @, @ 756 square feet (349 m²) . The design is reminiscent of Elvis ' mansion , Graceland , and black and gold are utilized extensively throughout the décor . The bar has the same shape as the bar in the Elvis mansion as well . The music played here changes throughout the night , including upbeat classic rock , commercial house music , upbeat Elvis remixes , minimal hip hop , Top 40 , and pop .

In May 2013 The Light Group opened the Light nightclub in collaboration with Cirque du Soleil at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas , costing \$ 25 million . Light was the first time Cirque du Soleil worked as part of a nightclub . Among other features the club has a large wall of LED screens , and the room is illuminated with fog , lasers and strobes . DJs at the events include charting artists such as Kaskade and Tiesto , with prices ranging from \$ 30 to \$ 10 @, @ 000 for certain table placements .

= = = Diversification = = =

In October 2011 , Cirque du Soleil was reported to be interested in purchasing Maison Alcan , as part of a diversification strategy .

= = Grand chapiteau tours = =

Cirque du Soleil shows normally tour under a grand chapiteau (i.e. big top) for an extended period of time until they are modified , if necessary , for touring in arenas and other venues . The company 's grands chapiteaux are easily recognizable by their blue and yellow coloring . The infrastructure that tours with each show could easily be called a mobile village ; it includes the Grand Chapiteau , a large entrance tent , artistic tent , kitchen , school , and other items necessary to support the cast and crew .

The company 's tours have significant financial impacts on the cities they visit by renting lots for shows , parking spaces , selling and buying promotions , and contributing to the local economy with hotel stays , purchasing food , and hiring local help . For example , during its stay in Santa Monica , California , Koozâ brought an estimated US \$ 16 @, @ 700 @, @ 000 (equivalent to \$ 18 @, @ 419 @, @ 994 in 2015) to the city government and local businesses .

= = = Site = = =

The site takes around eight days to construct and three days to pack up .

Anywhere from 50 ? 75 large tractor @-@ trailer containers are necessary to transport the vast amount of equipment . Totem , for example , requires 65 such containers to transport 1 @, @ 200 tonnes (1 @, @ 180 long tons ; 1 @, @ 320 short tons) .

Five generators are used to provide electricity to the site .

= = = Grand chapiteau = = =

Totem 's canvas tent is constructed by Les Voileries du Sud @-@ Ouest and weighs approximately 5 @, @ 227 @. @ 3 kilograms (11 @, @ 524 lb) .

The tent is 19 metres high (62 ft) and is 51 metres (167 ft) in diameter .

A single performance can seat more than 2 @, @ 600 spectators .

= = = Other tents = = =

The Entrance Tent holds the concessions and merchandise .

The Tapis Rouge is for VIP guests (up to 250) and is also available for private functions .

The Artistic Tent for the performers houses the wardrobe area , a fully equipped training area , and a physiotherapy room .

= = = Kitchen = = =

Used as the primary commons area , the kitchen serves 200 ? 250 meals a day (6 days a week) .

= = Discography = =

= = Filmography = =

Cirque du Soleil Images creates original products for television , video and DVD and distributes its productions worldwide .

Its creations have been awarded numerous prizes and distinctions , including two Gemini Awards and a Primetime Emmy Award for Cirque du Soleil : Fire Within (in 2003) and three Primetime Emmy Awards for Dralion (in 2001) .

= = Legal issues = =

= = = Suspension of artist due to HIV = = =

In November 2003 , a US federal discrimination complaint was filed against Cirque du Soleil by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of gymnast Matthew Cusick . The allegation was that in April 2002 , they fired Cusick because he tested HIV positive . Cusick had not yet performed , but had completed his training and was scheduled to begin working at Mystère just a few days after he was terminated . Even though company doctors had already cleared him as healthy enough to perform , Cirque du Soleil alleged that due to the nature of Cusick 's disease coupled with his job 's high risk of injury , there was a significant risk of his infecting other performers , crew or audience members . Cirque du Soleil said that they had several HIV @-@ positive employees , but in the case of Cusick , the risk of him spreading his infection while performing was too high to take the risk . A boycott ensued and Just Out ran a story on it with the headline " Flipping off the Cirque " .

An additional complaint was filed on Cusick 's behalf by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission . Their complaint stemmed from the issue that the City of San Francisco bans contracts (or in this case land leases) to discriminatory employers .

Although Cirque du Soleil 's position remains that this was a safety issue , not a discrimination issue , they settled with Cusick on 22 April 2004 . The terms of the settlement include that the company would initiate a companywide anti @-@ discrimination training program and alter its employment practices pertaining to HIV @-@ positive applicants . In addition , Matthew Cusick received \$ 60 @, @ 000 in lost wages , \$ 200 @, @ 000 in front pay , \$ 300 @, @ 000 in compensatory damages and Lambda Legal received \$ 40 @, @ 000 in attorney fees .

= = = Naming Rights = = =

Cirque du Soleil opposed Neil Goldberg and his company Cirque Productions over its use of the

word " Cirque " in the late 1990s . Goldberg 's company was awarded a trademark on its name " Cirque Dreams " in 2005 .

In August 1999 , Fremonster Theatrical filed an application for the trademark Cirque de Flambé . This application was opposed by the owners of the Cirque du Soleil trademark in August 2002 , on the grounds that it would cause confusion and " [dilute] the distinctive quality " of Cirque du Soleil 's trademarks . A judge dismissed the opposition and the Cirque de Flambé trademark application was approved in 2005 .

= = = Justin Timberlake plagiarism accusations = = =

On 2 April 2016 , it was revealed that Cirque du Soleil was suing Justin Timberlake , the co @-@ authors and producers of the song ' Don 't Hold the Wall ' \$ 800 @,@ 000 USD over copyright infringements with their song ' Steel Dreams ' from Quidam . The song from Timberlake 's ' 20 / 20 ' album (released in 2013) has a section of melody as well as instrumentation (between 4 : 03 to 4 : 20 in the song) which bears heavy resemblance to the opening of Steel Dreams , which prompted the claims from Cirque that ' Don 't Hold the Wall ' includes " unauthorised use of the musical composition and sound recording " .

= = = HB2 Laws in North Carolina = = =

On April 15 , Cirque du Soleil announced the cancellation of all their 2016 touring shows to North Carolina citing the recent signing of the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act by North Carolina governor Pat McCrory . This cancelations effected OVO in both Greensboro and Charlotte and of Toruk in Raleigh . The company announced in a press release that " Cirque du Soleil strongly believes in diversity and equality for every individual and is opposed to discrimination in any form . The new HB2 legislation passed in North Carolina is an important regression to ensuring human rights for all . " Cirque has been criticized for this decision and accused of taking a double standard , for cancelling the shows in North Carolina while many times they have performed their shows in countries like the United Arab Emirates which violates a number of fundamental human rights .

= = Fatalities = =

In 2009 , Oleksandr Zhurov , a 24 @-@ year @-@ old from Ukraine , fell off a trampoline while training at one of the company 's Montreal facilities . He died from head injuries sustained in the accident .

The first death during a performance occurred on June 29 , 2013 . Acrobat Sarah Guyard @-@ Guillot , from Paris , France , was killed after she fell ninety feet into an open pit at the MGM Grand during the Kà show . After the fall , everyone on the stage looked " visually scared and frightened " . Then the audience could hear her groans and screams from the floor .