

Press release for immediate use – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Images and trailer available for download [here](#)

Underbelly & Cirque Alfonse present

# TABARNAK



Photo by Guillaume Morin

- **Electro-trad Canadian circus stars Cirque Alfonse bring TABARNAK to the Underbelly Circus Hub at Edinburgh Festival Fringe in UK Premiere**
- **Quebecois expletive TABARNAK reflects on the importance of heritage, tradition and coming together through raucous contemporary circus cabaret**

- **The sacred and profane are spliced with audacious circus skills and thunderous live music to serve up an unbridled high mass of entertainment**
- **Tickets on sale from 10am on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May via [www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk)**

This August the inimitable **Circus Alfonse** invite Edinburgh Fringe audiences to gather together at the altar of circus, **The Underbelly Circus Hub** to celebrate tradition, heritage and community via an innovative fusion of circus and music as **TABARNAK** makes its UK Premiere.

**Inspired by the village church** that was once the gathering place of the small Quebec community where company members grew up, **Cirque Alfonse have created their newest production, TABARNAK**. A Quebecois expletive, which once formed a religious rebellious cry now acts as **an invitation to audiences to come together in a contemporary circus congregation**, to celebrate heaven, hell and everything in-between and have a rollicking good time!

As with previous acclaimed shows *Timber* and *Barbu*, music is fundamental to TABARNAK. A **trio of frenetic electro-trad musicians** led by David Simard perform live on stage **alongside six incredibly talented acrobats** who deliver the most demanding and daring acrobatic feats set to an explosive original soundtrack. TABARNAK embarks on an anarchic and poetic 'way of the cross' with a raucous circus rock musical. The stage is set as the organ takes a riff on the traditional and the acrobatics turn the church pews upside down, all in the infectious jubilant style offered up only by Cirque Alfonse.

From the basement to the nave, from the altar to the choir, from hallowed hand-vaulting to poi-delivered incense and of course, plenty of spectacular skating – join us and take sanctuary in circus this Fringe!



Photo by Guillaume Morin

## ENDS

For more information, interviews and review ticket requests please contact **Kate Bouchier-Hayes** on 078 25335489/ [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) or **Will Moss** on 07443334085/ [will@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:will@thecornershoppr.com)

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## LISTINGS INFORMATION

Underbelly and Cirque Alfonse present  
TABARNAK

Venue: The Lafayette, The Underbelly Circus Hub, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018

Dates: Sat 4<sup>th</sup> August – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> August, (not 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>), 7pm

Prices:

Aug 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 £19.50 (£18.50)

Aug 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 £17.50 (£16.50)

Running time: 60 mins

Tickets available at [www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk)

**Ends/**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### CAST & CREATIVES

**Directed by:** Alain Francoeur

**Composition of the original music:** David Simard

**Lighting design:** Nicolas Descôteaux

**Scenography:** Francis Farley

**Costumes:** Sarah Balleux

**Artistic direction:** Antoine and Julie Carabinier Lépine

**Technical direction:** Hugo Hamel and Nicolas Descôteaux

**Creation support:** Alain Carabinier and Louise Lépine

**Construction of scenographic elements:** Alain Carabinier and Sylvain Lafrenière

**Conception of the acrobatic swing:** Renaud Blais

### **Acrobats**

Antoine Carabinier Lépine, Julie Carabinier Lépine, Jonathan Casaubon, Jean-Philippe Cuerrier, Genevieve Morin, Nikolas Pulka.

### **Musicians**

Josianne Laporte, David Simard, Guillaume Turcotte.

### **Cirque Alfonse**

Cirque Alfonse is a young circus company from Saint-Alphonse-Rodriguez in the province of Quebec, established in 2005. Its founding members have all worked with some of the most renowned “nouveau cirque” companies around the world. This young company is comprised of a team of professional acrobats graduated from the École nationale de cirque de Montréal, as well as a professional dancer, an ex-skiing champion and three talented and versatile musicians. This brave and creative group of young performers is blazing a creative path that no one has yet dared to explore, blending the arts and techniques of the circus and infusing them with the most picturesque facets of traditional Quebec folklore.

The story starts in 2005 when the Cirque Alfonse project is created and first takes shape. In 2006, the company launches its first show La Brunante. The show is of short duration but it serves as a very successful first experience. It will later become the foundation for Timber! After La Brunante, the members of the company each pursue their own solo careers with Montreal's Les 7 doigts de la main, Cirque du Soleil, Cirkus Cirkör of Sweden, the Cirque Starlight of Switzerland and the Montreal dance company Bouge de là, before starting work in 2010 on their second creative project, a show called Timber! And in 2012 on a show called BARBU foire electro trad.

### **Underbelly**

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company, its festivals and events division produces a number of events annually, including Underbelly at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Underbelly Festival on London's Southbank, Underbelly Festival Hong Kong, Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, Christmas in Leicester Square, Pride in London and, West End Live in Trafalgar Square on behalf of the Society of London Theatre and Westminster City Council.

2017 marked their fifth year producing Edinburgh's Christmas for the City of Edinburgh Council, and their first year producing Edinburgh's Hogmanay (also for the City of Edinburgh Council), one of the world's leading New Year Festivals lasting three days in Scotland's stunning capital city drawing an estimated 150,000 people from Scotland and around the world.

Through its Underbelly Productions arm it produces and promotes live theatre in London's West End, throughout the UK and on tour internationally. Focusing on revivals of plays and musicals as well as commissions, their credits to date include, a revival of Clarke Peters' Five Guys Named Moe in association with Cameron Mackintosh and directed by Clarke Peters' himself, performed in a specially constructed theatre at Marble Arch; Frankie Vah by Luke Wright at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe; and Big Fish at The Other Palace. In December 2017, Underbelly Productions brought improv group Austentatious to London's West End for the first time.



In 2017, Underbelly sold over 1.3 million tickets to their various events.