



presents

**FAR SIDE OF THE
MOON**
(LA FACE CACHÉE DE LA LUNE)

A Film by
Robert Lepage

CONTACTS

National Press Liaison, New York

Lewis Tice
TLA Releasing
T: 215-733-0608 ext 227
F: 215-733-0637
E: ltice@tlavideo.com

Booking Agent

Jennifer Arndt-Johns
TLA Releasing
T: 763-780-9932
F: 763-205-2632
E: JenniferA@phillyfests.com

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Synopsis

Before Galileo, it was believed that the moon was a polished mirror, its surface a reflection of the globe. In the 1960s, a Soviet lunar probe exposed the far side of the moon (which can never be seen from Earth) as scored and disfigured by storms of celestial debris. From this discovery, writer-director Robert Lepage crafts an engaging metaphor of mysterious dualities, juxtaposing sibling rivalry with the US-Soviet space race. Estranged brothers Philippe and André (a brilliant dual performance by Lepage) relive childhood disputes as they dispose of the belongings of their recently deceased mother (Anne-Marie Cadieux). André, a television meteorologist, has little in common with his older sibling Philippe, a forty-something doctoral student, who has repeatedly failed to defend his dissertation. But, when Philippe receives an invitation to Russia to present his theories on the competitive exploration of the cosmos, André is the only person to whom he can turn for support. With his fifth feature, internationally acclaimed Quebec phenom Lepage returns to adapting his own theatrical work for the screen. His previous works include *Le Polygraphe* and *Nô*. This one-man show makes the transition with ease. Shot using High Definition digital technology, and featuring a soundtrack by renowned Cirque du Soleil composer Benoit Jutras, this captivating cinematic journey probes issues of competition and reconciliation while searching for meaning in the universe.

Canada's Choice for Best Foreign Language Film 2004, 77th Academy Awards

FIPRESCI AWARD, "Panorama Special," 2004 Berlin International Film Festival

BAYARD D'or AWARD for BEST FILM, 2004 Festival of Francophone Film

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY, 2004 Genie Awards

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Cast

Character	Played by
Philippe	Robert Lepage
André	Robert Lepage
La mère	Anne-Marie Cadieux
Carl	Marco Poulin
Nathalie	Céline Bonnier
Le traducteur	Gregory Hlady
Le barman	Yves Amyot
Le docteur	Richard Fréchette
La préposée au journal Le Soleil	Érika Gagnon

Crew

Director	Robert Lepage
Screenwriter	Robert Lepage
Producers	Bob Krupinski Mario St-Laurent
Executive Producers	Daniel Langlois Robert Lepage
Original music	Benoit Jutras
Production designer	Jean Le Bourdais
Director of photography	Ronald Plante, csc
Visual effects designer	Martin Lauzon
Editing	Philippe Gagnon
Casting director	Paul Cauffopé
Costumes	Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt
Sound	Mario Rodrigue Louis Gignac
Assistant director	François Senneville Pierre Bouchard Jacques Benoît

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Technical information

Running time: 105 minutes

Release Formats: Digital cinema

HDCAM 24p (1:1.78)

5.1 surround Dolby E and LT/RT stereo

D-5 24p (1:1.78)

5.1 surround discrete and LT/RT stereo

35mm (1:1.85) Dolby SR-D

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Biographies

Robert Lepage

Director and Actor

Québécois visionary and one of Canada's foremost cultural ambassadors, Robert Lepage has established himself as an internationally acclaimed director (stage and film), designer, playwright and performer. His dynamic and original approach constantly pushes the boundaries of theatrical performance, most notably with the use of new technologies. Drawing inspiration from contemporary life, his work has influenced a generation of artists and practitioners.

Born in Quebec, 1957, Robert Lepage had a profound interest in geography from an early age, so much so that he even dreamed of becoming a professor. However, it was his interest in art, which was to lead him to what would become his greatest passion, theatre. In 1975, at the age of 17, he began his training at the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique de Québec. On returning from an internship in Paris (1978), he spent two years acting, writing and directing various productions before joining Théâtre Repère.

In 1984, he created *Circulations*, which was presented across Canada and won an award as Best Canadian Production during La Quinzaine Internationale de Théâtre de Québec. The following year, with *The Dragon's Trilogy*, his work first received international recognition. This was followed by *Vinci* (1986), *Polygraph* (1987-1990) and *Tectonic Plates* (1988-1990).

From 1989 to 1993, he was the artistic director at the National Arts Center's French Theatre, in Ottawa. At the same time, he continued his innovative stage-directing with *Needles and Opium* (1991-1993/1994-1996), *Corolian*, *Macbeth et La Tempête* (1992-1994) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1992), for which he became the first North-American ever to direct a Shakespeare play at London's Royal National Theatre.

In 1994, Robert Lepage took an important step by founding his own multidisciplinary production company, *Ex Machina*. Taking on once more the role of artistic director, he led his new team through the creative process that produced the critically acclaimed *Seven Streams of the River Ota* (1991), *Le Songe d'une nuit d'été* (1995) along with his third one-man show, *Elsinore* (1995-1997). In 1994, he began to branch out, extending his talents into the world of cinema. His abilities as a scriptwriter and director were immediately recognised with his first feature film, *Le Confessionnal*, which was invited to open the Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival in 1995. He later went on to

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direct *Le Polygraphe* (1996), *Nô* (1998) and his first English feature-film, *Possible Worlds* (2000).

La Caserne Dalhousie, a multi-disciplinary production centre, opened in June of 1997 under Lepage's watchful eye. In their new workspace, he and his team created *Geometry of Miracles* (1998), *Zulu Time* (1999) and his latest solo piece, *The Far Side of the Moon* (2000). The many prizes won by his most recent one man show include four trophies at le Gala des Masques, a Time Out Award and the prestigious Evening Standard Award.

His growing reputation elicited offers from many different fields thus allowing him to broaden his artistic experience. Presenting the double-bill *Bluebeards Castle* and *Erwartung* at the Canadian Opera Company, Lepage proved to be as gifted in opera as he was in theatre. He repeated this feat in 1999 by presenting *The Damnation of Faust* in Japan; the production went on to play in Paris in 2001. In addition, he conceived and directed for the stage Peter Gabriel's *Secret World Tour* in 1992, which was hailed by critics worldwide. He later took on the role of artistic director of *Métissage* (1999), an exhibition at Le Musée de la Civilisation du Québec. He recently teamed up again with Gabriel to stage his 2002 tour, *Growing Up Live*.

Robert Lepage's work has been recognised and honoured numerous times. The most recent prizes include the medal of l'Ordre National du Québec, awarded in 1999. In September of 2000, he was the recipient of the SORIQ Award, acknowledging his dynamic and varied international career. In October 2001, he was honoured to become a 'World Leader' at the Harbourfront Centre, recognising once more the extent of his worldwide success. In March of 2002, the French embassy invited him to join the Legion of Honor. In April 2002, he was named "Grand Québécois" by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In November 2002, he was recipient of the Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award for his outstanding contribution to Canadian Theatre. Finally, in November 2003, he was recipient of the Prix Denise-Pelletier, the most prestigious award attributed by the Government of Québec in the field of stage arts.

Recently, he oversaw *La Casa Azul's* world tour, a biographical play about Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. He and a new cast also revived the cult-classic *Dragon's Trilogy* for the Festival de Théâtre des Amériques' 10th Edition. The show has since been presented in Europe and continues its worldwide tour. Finally, Robert Lepage directed in 2003 his 5th feature film, adapted from his award winning play *The Far Side of the Moon*.

The *Busker's Opera* was presented at the Montreal High Lights Festival in February 2004. For the second time, Robert Lepage worked with the robotics specialist Louis-Philippe Demers. The resulting "*jaquemart*" (jackdow), directed

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by Robert Lepage, is a special commission for the Lille 2004 – European Capital of Culture jaquemart programme.

Currently, he is collaborating with Cirque du Soleil who called on his talent to create their next permanent Las Vegas show named *Kà* at the MGM Grand Hotel. Along with Maestro Lorin Maazel, he is working on an opera based on George Orwell's novel, *1984*. He is also working on various new productions including *Elegant Universe*, *La Celestina* and his next one-man show that he hopes to present in 2005.

Bob Krupinski

Producer

A native New Yorker, after completing his studies at Arizona State University in Business Administration, Bob's first career was in dance. After touring with several internationally renowned US dance companies, he moved to Canada in 1983. There he created and performed for four years with the experimental company *Le Groupe de la Place Royale* where he saw its transition from an experimental performance company integrating live music and technology into an established laboratory on the creative process.

After retiring from performing in 1988, he worked for several years in production management and after receiving several CTV fellowships, Bob attended the *Canadian Film Centre* in Toronto as a producer/writer in 1993. He co-founded *Winter Films*, an Ottawa-based production company that produced interactive and multi-media video art exhibitions as well as award-winning short films, dramatic television and documentaries.

The Baroness and the Pig was his first feature as well as the first feature of the new-media, technology-oriented production company *Media Principia* where he now works as producer. Bob used the *Baroness* with executive producer Daniel Langlois to re-evaluate some of the creative and technological production paradigms of filmmaking. For this, he created under the direction of Mr. Langlois a virtual digital studio environment integrated within Ex-centris.

Since then, Bob has produced for Media Principia the digital FX for Lea Pool's feature *The Blue Butterfly* (due for release in 2004). He also co-produced Edouard Lock's *Amélia* and *La Face cachée de la lune* by Robert Lepage, both featured at this year's FCMM. He is currently developing, as its in-house producer, the slate of future projects for Media Principia.

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Mario St-Laurent

Producer

Mario Saint-Laurent became Executive Producer at In Extremis Images in May 2002. Last fall, he produced a multimedia website and documentary film. *Anamorphoses* (www.anamorphoses.com) is a unique website that was presented during the last edition of the Montreal Festival of New Cinema and New Media. It was also nominated in the Best Website for Cinema category at the prestigious South by Southwest Festival (SWSW).

Robert Lepage Tuned To A Different Frequency is a documentary film that was presented at the last edition of the Festival of Films On Art in Montreal, the film was also broadcast last fall on CBC and ARTV. *La Face cachée de la Lune* is his latest production with Films FCL. Mario Saint-Laurent is now working on two first feature films, one by Hugo Latulippe and the other by Best Documentary Oscar nominee in 1999, Shuibo Wang.

Daniel Langlois

Producer

Daniel Langlois is the president and founder of Ex-Centris, the Daniel Langlois Foundation, DigiScreen, Media Principia Inc. and the founder of Softimage Inc.

Ex-Centris is a state-of-the-art multi-theater and production facility designed to evolve with the emergence of new digital production technologies. It is an avant-garde complex dedicated to the support of independent creators and producers involved in experimenting with the new generation of cinematographic tools. Ex-Centris offers in its movie theaters a combination of all the best projection and sound capabilities available in theater settings. Digital production and post-production installations are integrated within the theater complex allowing a level of integration between film production and public theater screening never achieved before. Conceived and built by Mr. Langlois, Ex-Centris is a blend of an image research laboratory and a high quality cinema venue.

www.ex-centris.com

The Daniel Langlois Foundation is a private, philanthropic organization that Mr. Langlois created in 1997. The purpose of the Foundation is to further artistic and scientific knowledge by fostering the meeting of art and science in the field of technologies. The Foundation seeks to nurture a critical awareness of

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technology's implications for human beings and their natural and cultural environment, but also to explore the characteristic aesthetics of new human environments. The foundation's international jury meets yearly and has granted funding to a variety of projects worldwide. www.fondation-langlois.org

DigiScreen is a corporation operating a global digital cinema distribution network utilizing direct satellite delivery to service theatres venues around the world. DigiScreen offers cinema exhibitors a complete solution including all the components necessary to schedule, order, and receive automatic delivery of high definition digital films via a simple and efficient system adapted to the exhibitors market. DigiScreen networking technology is called Pixnet. www.pixnet.com

Media Principia Inc. is a film production company formed by Mr. Langlois in 1998. The company specializes in making films that draw on new digital production technologies. Media Principia inc. has released a first feature film shot entirely in digital high definition entitled *The Baroness and the Pig* and more recently *Far Side of the Moon* by Robert Lepage and *Amelia* by Édouard Lock. The post-production work in digital high definition was completed in the Ex-Centris studios in Montreal. www.mediaprincipia.com

Daniel Langlois also presides over the **Montreal International Festival of New Cinema and New Media**, which he co-founded in 1996. The festival is a world of discovery for anyone intrigued by independent films, video and new media. It

merges genres and vigorously promotes the selected works to help ensure they're widely distributed and seen. <http://www.fcmm.com>

Daniel Langlois also founded **Softimage Inc.**, serving as its president and chief technology officer from November 1986 to July 1998. The company is recognized internationally in the fields of cinema and media creation for its advanced digital technologies and especially its 3-D computer animation techniques. Softimage software was used to create most of the dazzling 3-D effects in the blockbuster movies Harry Potter, Moulin Rouge, The Lord of the Rings, AI Artificial Intelligence, Pearl Harbor, The Mummy Returns, Jurassic Park III, Gladiator, X-Men, *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace*, *The Matrix*, *Titanic*, *Men in Black*, *Twister*, *The Mask*, *Jurassic Park*. www.softimage.com

Before establishing Softimage Inc., Mr. Langlois earned a bachelor of design degree from the Université du Québec à Montréal. He also worked eight years as a film director and animator for private companies and the National Film Board of Canada. During this time, he made significant contributions to the film industry and especially to the field of computer graphics. In addition, he has gained recognition worldwide for his work on the first stereoscopic 3-D computer animation in IMAX format (presented at Expo 86). He was also co-director of the

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1985 computer animated film *Tony de Peltrie*, which has garnered several international awards.

Mr. Langlois has received many significant honours throughout his career. In 1994, Ernst & Young chose him as Canada's national entrepreneur of the year. The University of Sherbrooke bestowed an honorary doctorate degree in administration on Mr. Langlois in 1996. In 1997, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented him with a Scientific and Technical Oscar. In 1999, he became a Knight of the National Order of Quebec and was named as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2000.

Recently, in 2002, Daniel Langlois was granted the prestigious *Personnalité Arts-Affaires* distinction by the City of Montreal. The same year, he also received a Honorary Doctorate of Science from the Faculty of Management of McGill for the excellence of his work in the fields of art, science and technology, along with an award from the City of Montreal for the exemplary restoration of the former Commissioners' building located 357, de la Commune West, in the Old Port of Montreal.