

LES  
PARFAITS  
INCONNUS



# JUKEBOX

Educational book



# LES PARFAITS INCONNUS

Since 2006, *Les Parfaits Inconnus* has been presenting circus shows to a wide audience in Quebec, Canada and abroad.

*Les Parfaits Inconnus* are not only circus artists. They are also musicians and actors.

*Les Parfaits Inconnus* have only one desire; to share the fruit of hundreds of hours of work with a receptive audience willing to enjoy an hour of pleasure. Are you going to be part of the adventure?

Up to now *Les Parfaits Inconnus* accounts for:

- 3 different shows...
- presented nearly 1000 times...
- in 13 countries...
- on 3 continents...
- in nearly a hundred cities!

Today, *Les Parfaits Inconnus* invites you to discover JUKEBOX.

# THE CIRCUS... A LITTLE JUMP INTO THE PAST

Did you know that the first performing and circus arts demonstrations appeared a long time ago. China is even said to be the cradle of acrobatics (5000 years BC) and juggling (3500 years BC). Later, during the Roman era, shows were presented in large stadiums or arenas called circuses. There were gladiators' fights, fights with wild animals (lions, tigers or others), chariot races and games of skill. It was sometimes quite violent, cruel and barbaric!



Modern circus appeared in 1769 in England. The idea came from Philip Astley, a former cavalry officer. The first circus show was a horse act on a round track. It was an equestrian circus.

Around 1850, the traditional circus, as we know it, became increasingly important. A wide variety of acts such as that of clowns, tamers, acrobats, magicians, tightrope walkers, knife throwers, trapeze artists, cannon men, etc. were following one another. Acts were announced by a ringmaster named Mr. Loyal. Shows presented on a circular track take place in a large tent called big top. One of the characteristics of the traditional circus was to present a menagerie of several animals, most often exotic (lions, ostriches, tigers, etc.). In America, shows were gigantic. Circuses, such as the famous Barnum and Bailey Circus, were presenting three shows simultaneously under huge big tops on three different tracks... enough to get a stiff neck.

In the 1970s, the modern circus was born and a multitude of companies tried to reinvent the genre. Shows are presented under big tops but also in the street or in theatres. As well, circus arts are increasingly blending with other art forms such as theatre, dance and music.

# THE JUKEBOX... THE SHORT HISTORY

The jukebox appeared in the 1930s in the United States. It was designed to provide music in public places such as bars or clubs. It was offering a selection of songs recorded on vinyl discs that could be listened to. The principle was simple. You would slip a coin into the machine and select the desired song with the touch of a button. A mechanism would then pick and play the corresponding disc allowing a group of persons to listen to the song.

From the mid-1940s to the 1970s, the jukebox enjoyed its heyday. More than two million machines were manufactured during that period, which would forever associate the jukebox with the rise of rock'n' roll music.

As a result of technological and social trends, the use of jukeboxes dropped from the 1970s onwards. Later, with the appearance of CDs and especially personal music players, people were increasingly listening to music alone or in small groups. The jukebox lost a lot of its usefulness and its golden age seems very long ago.

Today, the jukebox has become above all a collector's item that enthusiasts and nostalgic people are looking for in this age forever gone.



The next part of the story...  
*Les Parfaits Inconnus* and the alive jukebox!  
Thanks to *Les Parfaits Inconnus*, the jukebox  
is alive! Giant... of course! And the artists  
are taking their place within.

# JUKEBOX: THE SHOW

Soon, you will have the chance to attend JUKEBOX, a show that unites three performing arts. JUKEBOX is circus, music and comedy at its best. Pure moments of emotion and poetry to be savoured.

## THE HISTORY OF THE SHOW

The jukebox, like your grandparents' vinyl and 45 rpm, is an object from a very different age. It has almost disappeared. It was a beautiful luminous object, around which people gathered to listen to music and dance. In short, to have fun. Today, thanks to *Les Parfaits Inconnus*, the jukebox is alive again.

In the JUKEBOX show, *Les Parfaits Inconnus* tells the story of a circus artist who feels increasingly old. Especially in the eyes of his young friends.

The curtain opens on five characters grouped around a jukebox. But imagine that the musicians occupy a place within. Let them enter and leave before your eyes. Each of the musical selections will allow you to discover, through surprising, breathtaking, hilarious, and touching performance, the link that unites the characters to the dean of the troupe.



## A CHARACTER... A LITTLE OLDER!

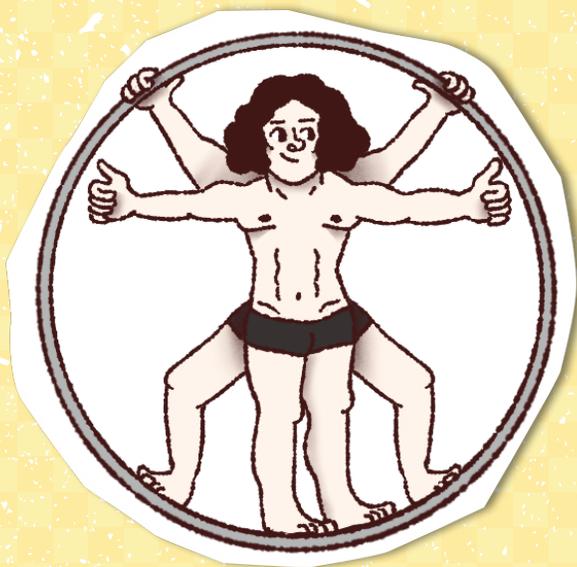
In the show, the oldest character in the group is the dean. Young people like him and try to help him with his tasks. But above all... it's a lot of fun teasing him! Believe me, this is only a demonstration of affection. Whether small or large, young or old, there is always a way to have fun together!

# THE SHOW CIRCUS TECHNIQUES

*Les Parfaits Inconnus* is a troupe of multidisciplinary circus artists. They present acts involving several circus disciplines. Let's do a brief overview of their specific characteristics.

## THE CYR WHEEL

Invented and made famous by Daniel Cyr, the circus artist and founding member of the Quebec company *Le Cirque Éloize*, the Cyr wheel is a simple and gigantic metal ring inside which the acrobat stands, mimicking the man of Leonardo da Vinci's famous drawing, « the Vitruvian Man ».



The Cyr wheel is an exciting device. The acrobat performs acrobatic tricks by rolling like a giant tire or twirling on himself, like a coin!

## BALANCING ON HANDS OR HEAD

Balancing, a basic technique of acrobatics, consists in keeping your body in balance on your hands (one or two) or head. At circus, the equilibrist is the specialist of balance. In our show, equilibrists perform balance figures on canes. For a balance act on the head, a special cane is used to support the head.

Balance seems easy! But it takes a lot of work and perseverance!



## HANDS-TO-HANDS ACROBATICS

Hands-to-hands acrobatics is a discipline involving two or more people. The goal is to keep one's partner(s) in balance on one's own body in order to form human structures. In hands-to-hands action, there are two important roles. The « base » supports one or more people referred to as « middle(s) » or « top(s) ».

Hands-to-hands acrobatics does not only belong to the circus. It is also a competitive sport. Much similar to Olympic disciplines! The International Federation of Gymnastics organizes the competitions.



## ARTISTIC CYCLING

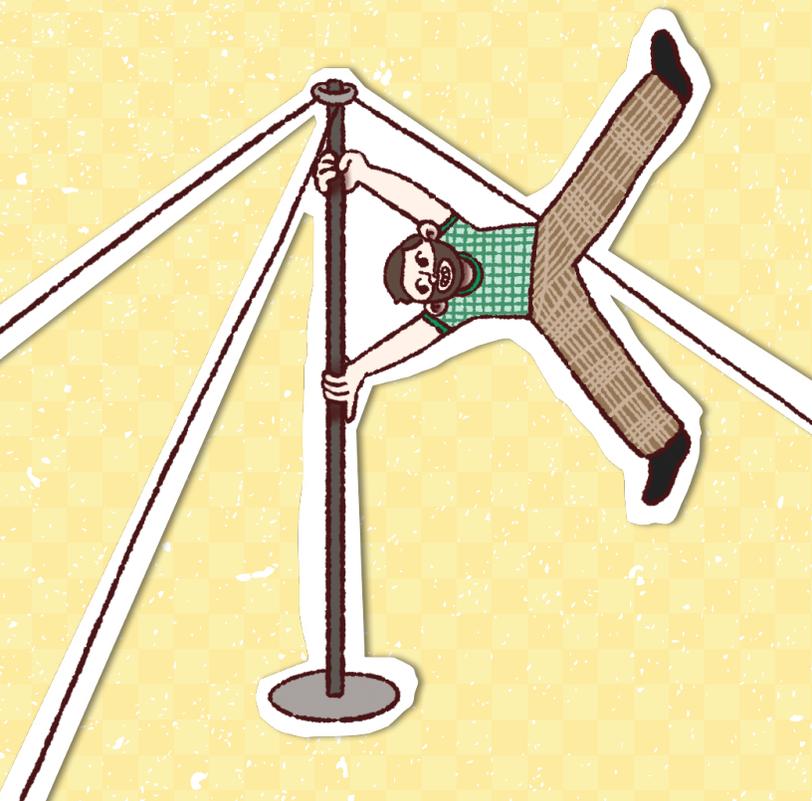
Who has never thought of doing acrobatics on his bike? Putting both feet on the seat? Well, artistic cycling allows it. Originating from Europe, the artistic bicycle enables you to move forward, backward and perform different figures. For example, stand on it, use it as a unicycle, twirl the handlebars and even... ride with your head on the saddle.

Like hands-to-hands, artistic cycling is also a competitive sport. Competitions are regulated by the International Cycling Union. There are even soccer games presented on bicycles. It is known as cycle-ball.

## BALANCING OBJECTS

Who hasn't already tried to hold a stick on the tip of their finger? Not easy, is it?

But we can also balance different objects, small or large, on other parts of the body such as foot, chin, etc. At this point, there is no limit but your imagination.



## THE CHINESE POLE

The Chinese pole is a simple horizontal metal pole in which we go up or down to make acrobatic figures. We can even slip into it like in a fire station! The post is held in place using steel cables that run from the top of the pole to the ground around the base of the pole. In the JUKEBOX show, the artists hold the cables to keep the pole in place. Making the Chinese pole requires a lot of strength and endurance. Moreover ... it's often painful!

## THE TEETERBOARD

The teeterboard is a rather impressive circus device. The idea consists in catapulting a person into the air using a pivot board. One person stands at one end of the board and another jumps from a tower on the other end. The result is striking!



Several countries in Eastern Europe and Asia have extensive expertise using this device, notably Poland, Hungary, Russia and China.



## UNUSUAL CIRCUS OBJECTS

With imagination, anything can be a circus pretext. Who would associate a cane, a walker or crutches to a circus act? *Les Parfaits Inconnus* explores these rather particular creativity territories with JUKEBOX!

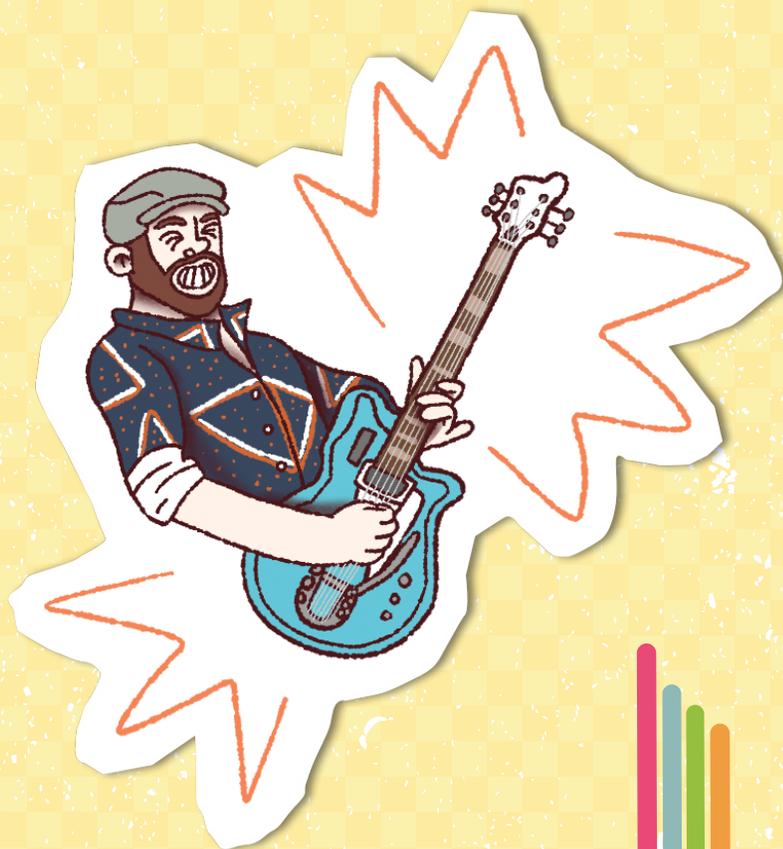


# THE MUSIC OF THE SHOW

All of the music of the JUKEBOX show is original. The music different parts have been developed to accompany the diversity of the show's acts and to follow the action. The variations in musical sections accompany the moments of the show and emphasize the execution timing of acrobatic figures. Therefore the show music is... elastic! And the person who calls these variations is the musical director. All artists participate in the musical performance. Thus, an acrobat will at times be a musician and vice versa.

In the show, the members of *Les Parfaits Inconnus* play different musical instruments. You will be able to hear acoustic or electric guitar, electric bass, clarinet, synthesizers, rain stick and... human voice.

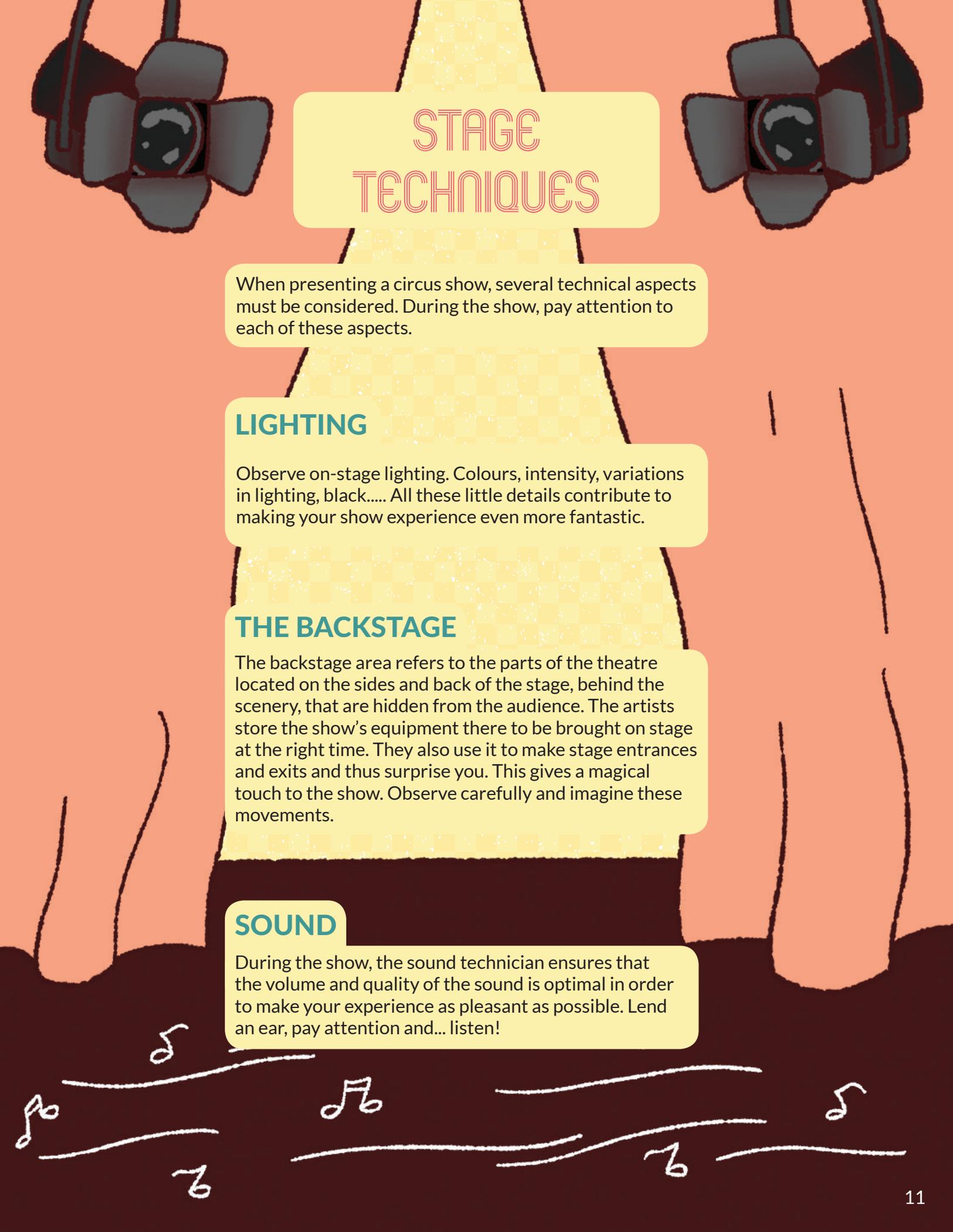
Do you know the rain stick? You won't find any drops of water in there! It is a percussion instrument used by some of the world's aboriginal peoples whose sound is similar to that of a waterfall.



# THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF ARTISTS

In life, we can never overlook the importance of good physical fitness. For a circus artist, this is essential. In order to perform, artists must maintain a high level of fitness. A good physical preparation will also reduce the risk of injury.

How about you, are you an active person? What sport do you like? How much time do you spend on it? *Les Parfaits Inconnus* wishes you to always stay active. And don't forget... eat all your vegetables! Ha ha ha !



# STAGE TECHNIQUES

When presenting a circus show, several technical aspects must be considered. During the show, pay attention to each of these aspects.

## LIGHTING

Observe on-stage lighting. Colours, intensity, variations in lighting, black.... All these little details contribute to making your show experience even more fantastic.

## THE BACKSTAGE

The backstage area refers to the parts of the theatre located on the sides and back of the stage, behind the scenery, that are hidden from the audience. The artists store the show's equipment there to be brought on stage at the right time. They also use it to make stage entrances and exits and thus surprise you. This gives a magical touch to the show. Observe carefully and imagine these movements.

## SOUND

During the show, the sound technician ensures that the volume and quality of the sound is optimal in order to make your experience as pleasant as possible. Lend an ear, pay attention and... listen!



# PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

## ACTIVITY 1

Become a geographer and associate each of the countries visited by *Les Parfaits Inconnus* with its respective continent.



HONG-KONG  
(CHINA) •



BRAZIL •



ITALIA •

• NORTH  
AMERICA



MEXICO •



SPAIN •

• ASIA



IRELAND •



BELGIUM •

• EUROPE



FRANCE •



UNITED-STATES •



ROMANIA •

• SOUTH  
AMERICA



CANADA •



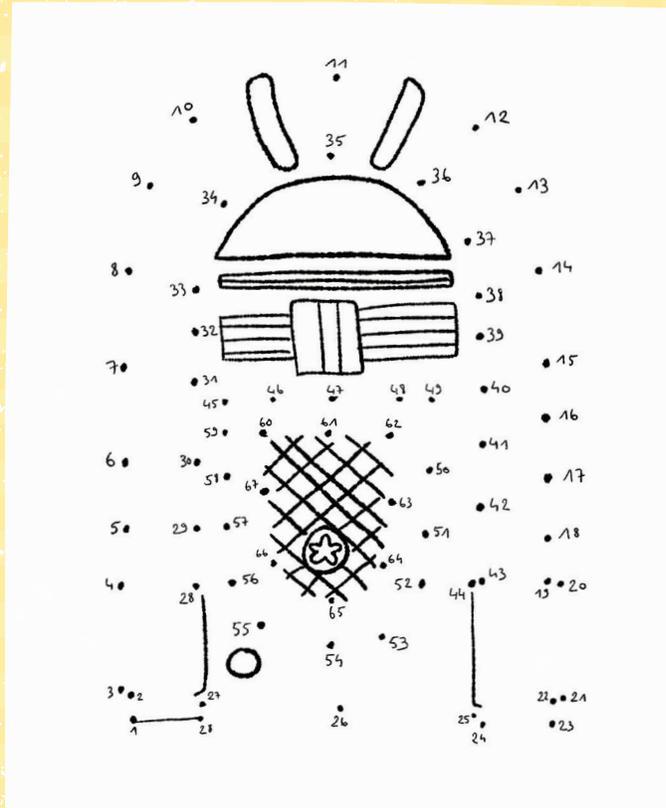
SOUTH KOREA •



REPUBLIC  
OF MALTA •

## ACTIVITY 2

Connect the points to reveal the drawing. Then colour it.



## ACTIVITY 3

Have fun playing the jukebox and develop your musical ear.

- 1- Write several songs on pieces of paper.
- 2- Place them into a hat or a small box.
- 3- Pick a paper and choose a friend who will sing your song.
- 4- No need to be professional. A pinch of folly, two pinches of imagination... and that's it.

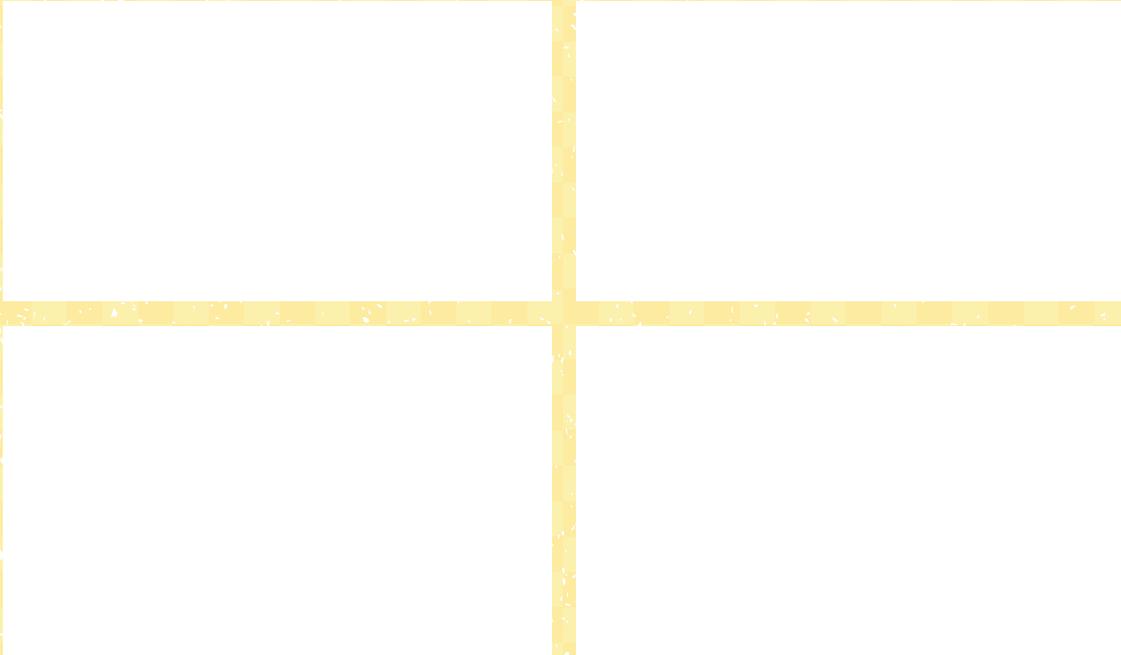
Laughs guaranteed!



## ACTIVITY 4

Imagine your own circus show.

Make a drawing of three or four disciplines and invent a show where they will be showcased.



## ACTIVITY 5

7 letters mystery word.

S	E	J	T	R	A	P	E	Z	E
U	N	S	T	I	A	F	R	A	P
C	A	B	A	L	L	I	O	N	G
R	C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R
I	U	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	O
C	D	A	E	H	H	A	N	D	U
X	O	N	I	O	C	B	E	K	P

Character  
Trapeze  
Parfaits

Hand  
Ball  
Cane

Group  
Musical  
Head

Lion  
Circus  
Coin

# AFTER THE SHOW... TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

## CHALLENGE 1: TRY TO HOLD AN OBJECT IN BALANCE ON A FINGER

- 1- Take a reasonably long stick (eg. a broom or a hockey stick)
- 2- Place your hand at belt level and pull out your index finger.
- 3- Position the stick on your index finger and keep an eye on the top of the stick.
- 4- Let go of the stick and try to keep it in balance. Caution!  
ALWAYS look up at the top of the stick and avoid running around!



## CHALLENGE 2: HULA HOOPING

- 1- Grab two hoops and place them around your arms.
- 2- Make smaller and smaller circles with your arms and accelerate gradually.  
You'll see. Gradually, the hoops will turn faster and faster around your arms.
- 3- You can do the same by putting a hoop around your waist. This discipline is called hula-hoop.



# LOOKING BACK AT THE SHOW

What was your favourite discipline?

.....

What was your favourite music?

.....

What is your favourite instrument?

.....

Share your choices with your friends.

## Which act calls:

For balance? .....

For strength? .....

For cooperation? .....

For agility? .....

# WORKSHOPS ON TOUR

When on tour, *Les Parfaits Inconnus* are always eager to share their circus arts passion. You would like to attend a circus workshop? Ask your teacher to share it with us. We would be pleased to be among you.

## FEEDBACK

Did you enjoy the show? Do you have any comments?  
Let us know and email us: [info@lesparfaitsinconnus.com](mailto:info@lesparfaitsinconnus.com)  
We are always looking forward to hearing your opinion.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Les Parfaits Inconnus* sincerely thanks their partners.



Conseil  
des arts  
et des lettres  
du Québec



Canada Council  
for the Arts  
Conseil des arts  
du Canada



LES  
PARFAITS  
INCONNUS

# JUKEBOX