



Ms. BRULÉ

PRESENTATION PACKAGE

Say what you will, but it truly is the best job in the world!

80 minutes | Adults (14 +)

Also available in a 60-minute version

Called in at the last minute as a substitute teacher, Mrs. Brûlé is thrilled to land her very first teaching contract. But her excitement quickly turns to panic when she discovers she is already the fourth substitute hired for the class that year. To make matters worse, her first day coincides with the annual parent-teacher meetings, where she is expected to hand out the report cards—which have mysteriously disappeared.

Through a fast-paced series of physical comedy routines blending slapstick and object theatre, the audience alternately takes on the role of student and parent, witnessing the hilarious downward spiral of a teacher desperately clinging to a single hope—her calling: to change the world, one child at a time.

Awards & Recognition

2019 | Audience Favourite | OUF! Off Casteliers Festival

2018 | Best Francophone Production | St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival

2018 | Nominee – Making Big Things Happen in Small Places Award | St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival

2018 | Nominee – The Montreal Clowns Festival Award | St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival



THE CREATIVE PROCESS

The creation of Ms. Brulé began by the end. In 2017, Évelyne Laniel took to the stage solo for the first time with a piece titled *Coming Out*, presented as part of a cabaret evening exploring the theme of parenthood. Inspired in part by her own experience working as an educator in an after-school program, the piece featured a teacher on the verge of burnout who, during a parent-teacher meeting, confesses that she hates children.

The audience's enthusiastic response—especially from the teachers and educators in attendance—encouraged her to explore the theme further, eventually leading to the creation of Ms. Brulé.

Since then, the production has gone through numerous revisions, cuts, and additions, but *Coming Out*—the piece that inspired the creation of Ms. Brulé—has remained virtually unchanged.

Recipient of the Best Francophone Production award and nominated for both the Making Big Things Happen in Small Places Award and The Montreal Clowns Festival Award at the 2018 St-Ambroise Montreal Fringe Festival, as well as the recipient of the Audience Favourite Award at the 2019 OUF! Off Casteliers Festival, Ms. Brulé shines a light on the gap between the aspirations of new teachers and the realities of the profession.



Beyond the comedy, Ms. Brulé is a critique of an education system that pushes teachers to their limits. In fact, nearly half of all new teachers leave the profession within their first five years.

Inspired by the work of Australian performer Thomas Monckton and his unique ability to create genuine complicity with the audience, we reimagined the role of the spectator during the creation of Ms. Brulé. For us, the audience is a character in its own right. There is no fourth wall separating the performer from the spectators.

Audience participation is also central to the experience. Their reactions, comments, and energy directly influence the course of the performance. Several scenes are partially improvised, allowing the audience to become co-creators of the show in real time. As a result, every performance is unique, taking on a different rhythm and atmosphere depending on the "class"—the audience.



Blending physical comedy with humour, this largely non-verbal production marks the second collaboration between Éveline Laniel and director Jed Tomlinson.

Ms. Brulé is conceived as the first installment in an ongoing series of performances. Over the years, audiences will be invited to follow this character through a variety of adventures—some exploring social issues, others revealing more personal aspects of her life—but all driven by the absurdity, contradictions, and delightful foolishness of human nature.

THE CREATIVE TEAM



ÉVELYNE LANIEL

Exploring the tragic and the ridiculous aspects of modern life through physical comedy and object theatre, Évelyne Laniel's artistic universe shines a light on our contradictions. A graduate of the Francine Côté School of Clown and Comedy (2015), she has been performing in Aquaphonie (Toxique Trottoir) since 2019. In 2022, she founded the non-profit arts organization Empire Pagaille, where she has created several works of physical comedy presented across Canada and in France. In 2025, she played the lead role in Off Balance (Wonderbolt Productions).

Alongside her own creations, Évelyne works as an outside eye on a variety of artistic projects and directed La Rébellion du Minuscule for Théâtre du Renard. Beyond the stage, she has been working as a therapeutic clown with the Dr. Clown Foundation since 2017 and teaches the art of clowning to teenagers through RTA.



JED TOMLINSON

Jed Tomlinson is a clown, director, teacher, and drummer. After completing his Pochinko-style clown training at the Manitoulin Conservatory for Creation and Performance (MCCP) under John Turner (Mump & Smoot), he co-founded Screaming Goats Collective and Sizzle & Spark Productions, whose productions *The Sama Kutra* and *Hushabye* have toured across Canada and internationally. As a performer, Jed has contributed to the creation of several productions, including *The Island* (Hectik Theatre), *The Lost and Lost Department* (The Pie Factory Collective), and *The Sleep Over* (The Pie Factory Collective). As a director, he staged *Ashes* for Sage Theatre's Ignite! Festival and has been collaborating with Évelyne Laniel since 2016 on *At home with Gisèle* and *Ms. Brulé*.

CALENDAR

2025 -2026

April 24, 2026 | Centre des arts de la petite Église d'Edmundston | Edmundston (Nouveau-Brunswick)

May 20, 2026 | Théâtre Gilles Laplante | Miramichi (Nouveau-Brunswick)

May 21, 2026 | Théâtre Louis Vermeersch | Saint-Jean (Nouveau-Brunswick)

May 22, 2026 | Auditorium Richelieu | Grand-Sault (Nouveau-Brunswick)

2024 -2025

February 27 2025 | L'Entrepôt, Maison de la Culture de Lachine | Montréal, arr. Lachine (Québec)

November 21, 2024 | Maison de la Culture Marie-Uguay | Montréal, arr. Sud-Ouest (Québec)

October 29, 2024 | Maison de la Culture Rosemont-Petite-Patrie | Montréal, arr. Rosemont-Petite-Patrie (Québec)

October 26, 2024 | Maison de la Culture Mercier | Montréal, arr. Mercier-Hochelaga- Maisonneuve (Québec)

October 3, 2024 | Pavillon des arts de Forestville | Forestville (Québec)

October 2, 2024 | Salle Jean-Marc Dion | Sept-Îles (Québec)

September 30, 2024 | Salle de diffusion la Shed-à-Morue | Havre-Saint-Pierre (Québec)

September 26, 2024 | Salle de spectacle régionale de spectacles Desjardins | New Richmond (Québec)

September 25, 2024 | Salle Francis-Pelletier | Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (Québec)

2023- 2024

May 10, 2024 | Centre Culturel du Midland | Midland (Ontario)

May 9, 2024 | Grand Event Centre | North Bay (Ontario)

May 8, 2024 | Club Calumet | Sturgeon Falls (Ontario)

May 7, 2024 | Centre Régional de Loisirs Culturels | Kapuskasing (Ontario)

April 25, 2024 | Maison de la Culture Claude-Léveillé | Montréal, arr. Villeray (Québec)

2022-2023

1 November 18, 2022 | Culture Saint-Laurent | Montréal, arr. Saint-Laurent (Québec)

October 1, 2022 | Festival des Clowns de Montréal | Montréal (Québec)

2021-2022

July 28 & 29, 2022 | Tohu | Montréal (Québec)

2019-2020 (creation)

January 16, 2020 | Maison de la Culture Mont-Royal | Montréal, arr. Plateau-Mont-Royal (Québec)

November 29 & 30, 2019 | Cabaret El Bokaos | Montréal (Québec)

September 19-30, 2019 | Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes | Charleville-Mézières, (France)

2018-2019 (creation)

May 17, 2019 | Garage-Théâtre | Montréal (Québec)

May 9, 2019 | Humour Fest | Québec (Québec)

March 6, 2019 | OUF- Festival Off Casteliers | Montréal (Québec)

October 4, 6 & 7, 2018 | Festival Encore du MainLine Theatre | Montréal (Québec)

2017-2018 (creation)

June 8-17, 2018 | Festival St-Ambroise Fringe de Montréal | Montréal (Québec)

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"The fast pace of the show, its largely non-verbal approach, and your portrayal of Mme Brûlé kept us laughing and smiling from beginning to end."

– Karine Lacoursière, Cultural Officer, City of Dorval

"The pacing, the visual imagery, the direction, and the overall artistic vision were all incredibly polished, organic, and, of course, very funny. Bravo!"

– Marie-Ève Charbonneau, Executive Director and Coordinator, Espace LaRisée

"A wonderful performance. A beautiful tribute to such an important profession."

– Audience member, Centre des Loisirs, Saint-Laurent Borough

"An outstanding show! Painfully true!"

– Audience member, TOHU

"What a fun show. Loved it!"

– Hilary Chaplain, Montreal Clown Festival

"We had the pleasure of seeing Mme Brûlé and thoroughly enjoyed it. Your concept of an unconventional teacher is brilliant, and the way you weave the story of humanity into the performance showcases your exceptional acting skills. Thank you for such an enjoyable experience."

– Gilbert Albismil, audience member, Charleville-Mézières, France



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june 15, 2018

Even more Fringe Festival reviews

by **CULTURE TEAM**

Reviews of 10 shows playing in the Fringe's final

Mme Brûlé

Nominated for three Montreal Fringe (Frankie) awards, including Best French Production, *Mme Brûlé* is a comedic tour de force from Évelyne Laniel, who plays a substitute teacher living on the frayed edges of a nervous breakdown. Fresh out of teaching college, Mme Brûlé's first day goes from bad to worse as she learns she's just the latest in a series of replacements and that the school principal expects her to have piles of ungraded papers marked in time for parental visits at the end of the day. Don't worry about your French skills, much of Laniel's comedy is Mr Beanishly physical, from her OCD desk arrangements to her mocking portrayal of school children as velociraptors. School was never this much fun. (PW) *Montreal Improv Espace B* (3713 St-Laurent #202), June 15, 17, \$10

Les délires de Marie– blogue (Marie-Andrée Parent) June 7, 2018



Mme Brûlé

Texte et interprétation: Évelyne Laniel

Mise en scène: Jed Tomlinson

*Changer le monde un enfant à la fois! Voilà l'objectif de madame Brûlé, jeune enseignante fraîchement sortie de l'université et nouvelle remplaçante pour la journée. Ce spectacle **clownesque** est un hommage à nos enseignants qui ont parfois la vie dure dans notre système d'éducation québécois.*

Cette sympathique et pathétique enseignante sait capter l'attention de sa classe avec beaucoup d'humour malgré tous ses déboires! Excellente note!

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La pièce de théâtre «Mme Brûlé» a été présentée au centre culturel de Midland le 10 mai dernier dans le cadre de la programmation culturelle de La Clé. Cette comédie raconte l'histoire d'une jeune enseignante tout feu tout flamme à ses débuts en enseignement qui se rend compte rapidement que ses rêves d'enseignante sont très loin de la réalité. Elle occupe un poste de suppléante dans une salle de classe et constate qu'elle est la quatrième à combler ce poste. Elle arrive au même moment que la rencontre avec les parents qui se déroulera le soir même. Cette pièce est très drôle et démontre tous les défis auxquels le personnel enseignant doit faire face. Plus de soixante-dix personnes étaient présentes afin d'assister à cette pièce de théâtre.



EMPIRE PAGAILLE

Founded in Montreal in 2022, Empire Pagaille is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to the creation and production of physical comedy theatre for adult audiences in Canada and internationally. Through its original productions, community-building events, and professional training programs, Empire Pagaille fosters the vitality, visibility, and development of contemporary clowning in Quebec. The organization also offers specialized training for both professional and emerging artists.

With a retro-inspired aesthetic, our productions celebrate the extraordinary within our beautifully imperfect ordinary lives. Placing laughter at the heart of our artistic practice, we offer a perspective on contemporary society that is both playful and thought-provoking.

As tightrope walkers of emotion, we value the actor's performance over physical virtuosity. Embracing the art of risk, we weave improvised moments with our audiences into each performance, creating a direct connection that makes every show a unique and unrepeatable experience.

THE TEAM

Written by
Évelyne Laniel

Directed by
Jed Tomlinson

Outside Eye (Object Theatre)
Mylène Alberto

Lighting Design
Élise Neil

Sound Design
Jez

Set and Props Design
Philip De Andrade

Costumes Design
Ghyslaine Grenon

Cast

Évelyne Laniel, Ms. Brulé
Philippe Gobeille, Principal's Voice

Residency Partners

Festival St-Ambroise Fringe de Montréal
Maison de la Culture Mont-Royal