

L'AMOUR DE LOIN

Ex Machina

This project is yet another collaboration with Ex Machina, this time world renowned scenographer Michael Curry teams up with Robert Lepage and Scène Éthique for the production of the opera l'Amour de loin composed by Kaija Saariaho and a libretto by Amin Maalouf. This production, directed by Robert Lepage opposes two scenographic poles and Scène Éthique needed to use all of its creative resources to bring this vision to life.

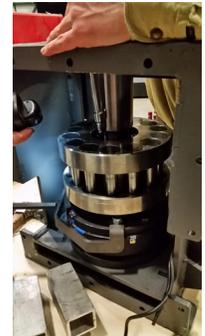
In this new production, Lepage and Curry have set the story and music in an imaginary maritime space. The ocean is represented by an array of ribbons of LED lights strung between two mechanical arms that move independently from one another. The movement of the mechanical arms reproduces the movement at the surface of the ocean in a stylized yet very realistic way. On this horizontal watery world floats a huge structure that transforms itself continuously, sometimes a boat or a bridge other times a tower with a staircase. This giant scenic element, designed in close collaboration with Ex Machina, started as a fairly simple mock-up but ended up being one of the most complex mechanical assembly ever built by Scène Éthique. The structure rotates 360 degrees, becomes a staircase when it is tilted one way or the other and rides on rails the length of the stage. All this movement by the structure is done with a minimum of noise that is actually inaudible for the audience. Aside from their complexity, the design of these scenic elements had two more challenges for our team. The first additional challenge was safety. As with all the

projects we design, the safety of the artists is always in the forefront especially with mechanical elements of this magnitude. Many safety elements were integrated in the design of these pieces. The second additional challenge was transport. Although the opera was not going on tour per se, the first representations were made in Quebec City during the Festival de l'opéra de Québec in the summer of 2015. The set was then disassembled and shipped to New York where the production was included in the Metropolitan Opera's 2016-2017 schedule. The design needed to take into account the transports between the different venues, the efficient assembly and dismantling as we do with the vast majority of our projects.

Production: Ex Machina
 Director: Robert Lepage
 Scenographer: Michael Curry



Mock-up



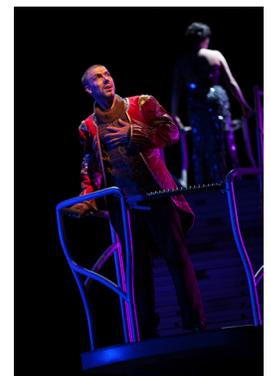
Mechanical element



Mechanical element



Assembly in the SE Studio



Performance on stage

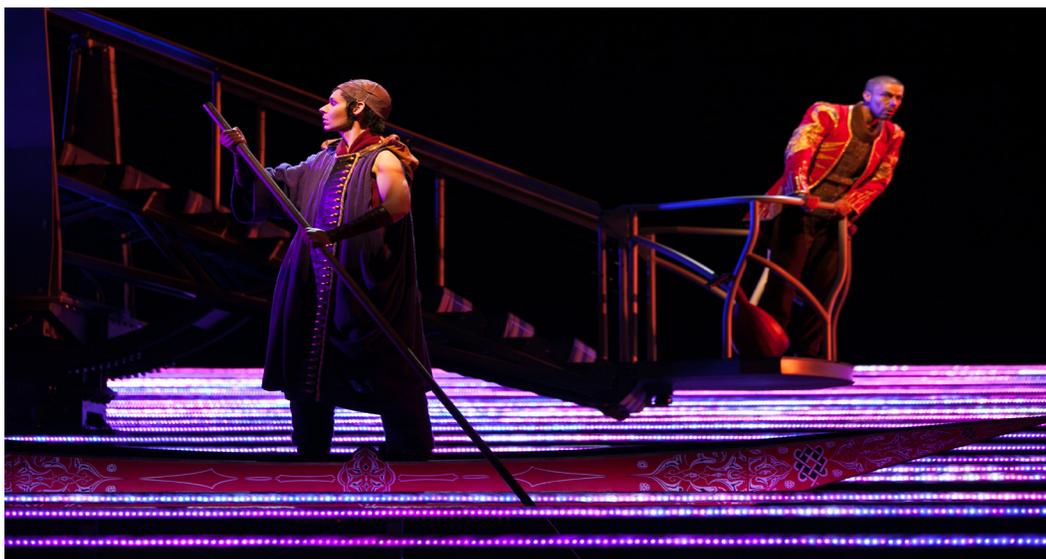


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