

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre presents
The English-language Premiere of
THE SALON AUTOMATON

A Momentum production
Created and performed by **Nathalie Claude**

**A PERFORMANCE FOR ONE ACTRESS
AND THREE LIFE-LIKE ROBOTS**

Dec 1 – 12, 2009 | BUDDIES IN BAD TIMES THEATRE
TORONTO, ON | BOX OFFICE 416-975-8555 | artsexy.ca



“fearlessness, adroit timing and quiet authority”
“solo performances of inspired abandon” – The New York Times

After a sold-out run at Montreal’s Usine C, Buddies is proud to present the English-language premiere of this exceptional work from one of Quebec’s foremost solo artists Nathalie Claude. Modern robotics meets existential drama in this stunning display of art and technology.

Nathalie Claude explores her fascination with turn-of-the-century automatons in this virtuosic solo performance. The Salon Automaton is a literary salon, a burlesque confrontation, an infernal «huis-clos» between a sublime hostess (Nathalie Claude) and her three distinguished guests: The Dandy Poet, The Cabaret Artist and The Drinking Patroness. Three authentic human-size automatons, fill an ultra-modern solitude with their conversation, talent and wit.

The Salon Automaton began to take shape in 2006 with a visit to several European museums dedicated to eccentric, mechanically-animated human and animal figures: automatons. Claude was invited to present the first workshop of *Salon* as part of Buddies’ Spotlight on the Creator/Performer series in 2008. Claude’s Montreal-based company, Momentum, developed the original French-language version of *Salon* in association with Usine C and commissioned the creation of the automatons. The mechanical programming of these eerily life-like creatures is the genius of set designer Raymond Marius Boucher and robotics designer/performer/teacher Simon Laroche. During the 2008/09 season Claude completed a year-long residency at Buddies to translate the script from French to English and *Le Salon Automate* premiered in French at Montreal’s Usine C to sold-out houses and rave reviews.

Award-winning creator/performer Nathalie Claude is well-known to Buddies audiences for her spectacularly precise and hilarious solo performances as part of the Hysteria Festival. She has also performed with internationally renowned companies such as Carbone 14, Pigeons International, Omnibus, Théâtre PAP, Théâtre Il Va Sans Dire, Imago Theatre and Montreal Danse among others, and has toured in over 20 countries,

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appeared in film, TV, and for 6 years, played a regular character on Québec's most popular sitcom, *KM/H*. She is also an active member of Momentum, one of Montreal's most renowned experimental theatre companies. She recently won Best Actress of the year at the Mecca Awards in Montreal for her role in *The Baroness and the Pig* produced by Imago Theatre.

"Ambitious artistic project, Le Salon Automate is this season's curiosity"

- Le Devoir

"you really have to see her to believe her; brilliant, inventive, powerful."

- Elle Québec

"A one-woman performance dynamo"

-Hour Mtl (2002)

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The **English-language Premiere** of

THE SALON AUTOMATON

A **Momentum** production

Written, directed and performed by **Nathalie Claude**

Assistant director **Colette Drouin**

Automaton conception **Raymond Marius Boucher** and **Simon Laroche**

Automaton Programming **Simon Laroche**

Recorded Automaton Voices by **Moynan King, Leni Parker, Clinton Walker**

Set design and props **Raymond Marius Boucher**

Costumes **Judy Jonker** Make-up and hair styling **Angelo Barsetti**

Music conception **Isabelle Lussier** Lighting design **Claude Cournoyer**

Technical direction **Geoff Levine**

Opens Dec 1, Runs Tues – Sat, 8pm. 10 shows only!

Tickets and Passes on sale now. Box Office 416-975-8555

Nathalie Claude will be available for interviews in French or in English. Please contact Shawn Hitchins, Media and Audience Outreach Coordinator, at industry@artsexy.ca to book interviews, for media accreditation and reviews. High resolution digital photography is available on our website at www.artsexy.ca.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre

Canada's Home for Queer Culture

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