

## Boundless Energy Leads to Theatrical Career

Written by Karen Nimetz

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In addition to performing as one of the Les Cons in Cirque du Soleil's La Nouba, Dr. Phillips resident Justin Osbourne

Growing up in Windsor, Ontario, Justin Osbourne was a budding acrobat.

As he grew older, his tumbling skills excelled. At 17, he was selected to compete in the tumbling division of the Ontario Provincial Championships.

Not long after returning to Canada, Justin heard about an audition for Cirque du Soleil. At the time, he was a member of the Windsor Youth Circus.

One week later, he received a life-changing phone call. Justin was cast as a member of the house troupe for La Nouba.

A few months after his departure, he received a call from Mystère creator Gilles Ste-Croix asking him to return to the show.

Justin, a Dr. Phillips resident, has played the role of one of the four Les Cons since La Nouba debuted in 2001.

"We are the thread throughout the whole show, tying all the performances together," Justin said. "We do a lot of acrobatics and stunts."

Though he has played the same La Nouba character for more than 12 years, Justin has never tired of the role.

"There is a lot of creative freedom for the Les Cons," he said. "We have set costumes and floor placements, but we can improvise."

Justin believes one of the biggest rewards of being part of La Nouba is the opportunity to give back. In 2012, he

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for a child and a guardian. Justin serves as La Nouba's ambassador, greeting the honorary guests prior then escorting them on a backstage tour. The guests watch as Justin applies his show makeup and tran

"I like for the guest to see me evolve into the character, so that the transformation is not so intimidating,"

The special visitors also have an opportunity to meet the rest of the La Nouba performers, who sign their

"The big smiles and hugs that they give me are always the highlight of the night," he said.

As for the future, Justin hopes to continue his acrobatic and character work with Cirque du Soleil for ano

"After that, I would like to pursue other opportunities within the company in areas such as public relations

Whatever the future holds for Justin, his boundless energy and winning personality will surely guarantee

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