

Quidam, which means a nameless, solitary passerby – one of the silent majority with-in us all who cries out, sings, and dreams – is stronger and more thematically-inspired than previous Cirque productions. The show begins as the title character, portrayed as a headless phantom, enters the home of a sedentary couple whose little girl hungers for attention, affection, and adventure. With her child's imagination, she opens the door to a journey for her family as her father and mother float away, transported on an excursion seen through the wonder of her eyes. With nothing more than lights, bits of fabric, and amazing physical abilities, the performers, robed in a marvel of costumes, embrace the mysticism in our hearts, taking us on an odyssey through the wonder of it all. Acrobat Chris Lashua arrives in a man-size silver sphere. Clad in a skintight sparkling web of fabric, he rolls, spins, somersaults, and balances the wheel as well as most of us wish we could balance our checkbooks.

Above the stage are five convex aluminum girders spanning 120 feet, the sole structural element of the stage, constructed by set designer Michel Crête to convey performers and props heavenward. In *Aerial Contortion in Silk*, Isabelle Vaudelle floats from back to center stage via this tracking system amid scads of crimson habiliment. In her exquisite performance, she seemingly becomes one with the flowing columns of fabric which support and cradle her as she hovers dozens of feet above the floor serenaded by a haunting space-age symphony. Dominique Lemieux's costumes made from various internationally woven and knitted textiles – jute, linen, crepe, velvet, 30 varieties of cotton, and 42 varieties of silk – create a bewitching textural spell.

The show continues at a captivating pace as ...

- Twenty performers transform the simple joy of *Skipping Ropes* into an astounding feat of logistics and timing.
- Émilie Grenon-Emiroglou, Geneviève Bessette, and Jessica Barrera explode abovehead, pivoting, and twirling through the heights of the big top in *Aerial Hoops*, a dazzling airborne ballet.
- In *Spanish Webs*, seven twisting and spinning performers, clinging to suspended cables, defy gravity at a dizzying pace.
- The art of *Manipulation* finds new meaning as jugglers Patrick McGuire and Steven Ragatz, clad in Magritte blue suits and bowler hats, toss and trade red balls amid wave-shaped metal forms in a deft display of dexterity.
- With titanic strength, Yves DeCoste and Marie-Laure Mesnage mesmerize the audience in *Statue-Vis Versa* as they balance in dance-like grace, melding into the sensual shapes of a sculptor's dream.
- Enter *Banquine*, a spectacular whirling dervish of catapulting human acrobats who soar to impossible heights and configurations with superhuman speed and agility.
- Sci-fi Venus Petra Sprecher hurtles through the atmosphere in her *Cloud Swing* like a living Barbarella, infusing frenetic energy into a mere arc of cord.
- Exotic *Diablos*, a delicate quartet of porcelain China dolls, float and spin strings of enchantment with the most elementary props of wood and twine.

