

aurōrae

In March 2015, a team from the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium travelled to Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, to spend many frigid nights filming no fewer than 179,000 images of the northern lights, in 360°. The crew had the perfect conditions to observe these shimmering waves of light, beneath a clear sky far from sources of light pollution. In these northern regions, the aurora borealis are visible 240 nights a year, on average.

For this all-new production by the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium, directors Philippe Baylaucq and Sébastien Gauthier have put together an original immersive show. Gauthier, in co-operation with Loïc Quesnel, set the images to music by DJ Champion to create an exceptional experience for audiences. The show is accompanied by live commentary by the Planetarium's science interpreters, explaining the origin of these fascinating luminous phenomena.

Production: Montréal Space for Life

Directors: Philippe Baylaucq and Sébastien Gauthier

Executive Producer and Project Manager:
Sébastien Gauthier

Script: Sébastien Gauthier and Loïc Quesnel

Music: DJ Champion

Sound Designer: Benoît Dame

Artistic Director – special effects:
François Guinaudeau

Artistic Director – aurora borealis: Rémi Boucher

Immersive filming:
Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium
Society for Arts and Technology
Kwon O Chull
Göran Strand

Type of show:
Multimedia show with live commentary

Location: Milky Way Theatre

Target audience: Ages 7 and up

Length: 40 minutes

The creators of aurōrae

PHILIPPE BAYLAUCQ, FILMMAKER

In the early days of his career, Philippe Baylaucq, with a background in both filmmaking and sculptural studies, showed a pronounced taste for daring and experimentation. An active promoter of the seventh art, he won the *Prix Lumière* in 2001 for his contribution to the advancement of directors' status in Quebec. Although his children's film, the musical tale *Hugo and the Dragon*, toured the world, he chose to focus mainly on art and creators. He devoted a documentary to the imposing body of work of painter Marcel Baril, for which he won an award at the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA), and created a portrait of his grandfather André Biéler, who was also a painter. *Lodola and Ora*, experimental documentary shorts celebrating the beauty and fragility of the human body, in an allegory of the origins of the world, received many international distinctions. For the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium, he directed and scripted *Tempo* and assisted in directing *Pluto: Diary of an Ex-planet*.

DJ CHAMPION, MUSICIAN AND CONDUCTOR

Maxime Morin, alias DJ Champion, has been making people dance for over 15 years. His first album, *Chill 'Em All*, won Electro-Techno Album of the Year at the 2005 ADISQ awards. Building on this promising start, the musician and conductor performed at many festivals and international events, racking up memorable performances and honours, including another Félix award for *Concert of the Year* at the 2006 ADISQ gala. *Resistance*, his second album, was released in 2009, revealing a DJ Champion closer to the energy of his live performances and consciously adopting a more "rock" style. The album is built around dense sonorities amplified by uplifting musical compositions, and saw him pen his own lyrics for the first time. *Resistance* is the artist's inner struggle to avoid venturing down the same creative path. The album led to two cross-Canada tours and a performance at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. In 2011, DJ Champion won the *Miroir award for Urban and Contemporary Music* at the Québec City summer festival, and has now dived into the world of symphonic orchestras, without abandoning electro music.

SÉBASTIEN GAUTHIER, RIO TINTO ALCAN PLANETARIUM PROGRAM OFFICER

Talented science communicator Sébastien Gauthier draws on a solid background in physics combined with extensive experience in multimedia. After beginning his career at ASTROLab in the Mont-Mégantic park and producing numerous science communication projects, he joined the team at the Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium, where he is in charge of visitor programs. He has created a number of shows: *The Secret Phases of the Moon*, now shown to school groups; *Tempo* (November 2014), for which he did the scripting and graphic design; *Pluto: Diary of an Ex-planet* (July 2015), for which he was the Executive Producer and Project Manager. He also produced the French adaptation of *Dark Universe: Voyage to the Heart of Dark Matter*. An ingenious inventor, he designed a very wide-angle high-resolution camera that has earned him a place among the pioneers of 360° immersive filmmaking. Sébastien is also an inveterate traveller, roaming the globe in search of the finest sites for observing the sky and the Earth. His passion for astronomy knows no bounds.