



___ Luzia

Cirque du Soleil

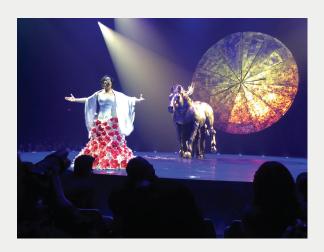
For Luzia, Cirque du Soleil called upon set designer Eugenio Caballero to design its «waking dream» on the culture and mythology of Mexico. Luzia is « a wondrous world that inspires you to explore your senses, enveloped in light and nurtured by rain » getting its inspiration from the nature, modernity, surrealism and mythology of Mexico. For Scène Éthique the Luzia project represented a major design and fabrication challenge since the scenography combined water elements with mechanical and hydraulic ones. The water elements in the show meant that we needed to design a system to recuperate and reuse the water which brought on challenges of keeping the water bacteria-free and the equipment watertight and corrosion-free.

The stage structure integrates two separate turntables revolving around a pool in the middle. The pool itself is a reference to the « cenote » a naturally occurring sinkhole the Mayan believed was a gateway to the afterlife. Because of its weight and size and in order to be able to transport it easily during the tour, the pool was designed in several sections and represented a challenge in keeping it watertight after assembly. The pool serves a double purpose, it is used by an acrobat during one of the numbers but its main purpose is to recuperate the water when the rain curtain is in operation for different numbers. To recuperate the water, the stage floor was covered with a special material and tiny holes were punched throughout each of the panels to allow the water to be evacuated. The water once recuperated is reused for the rain curtain and is heated to 40 degrees Celsius for the comfort of the artists performing on stage. The water temperature and the use of chlorine both pose big challenges when selecting the proper covering for both the stage deck and the lining of the pool.

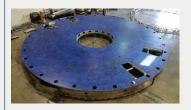
The dominant element over the Luzia stage is the towering disk representing the sun that is also very present in Mexico. Throughout the show, the 6,000 pounds structure appears to float over the stage. To get that floating effect, we designed a structure that acts as a crane with its hydraulic cylinders to lift and maintain the disk in place. This element (named the "cobra" because of its resemblance to the snake when he lifts himself up to strike its enemies or its preys) had to be able to lift and support the 6,000 pounds charge and also be modular and fit in standard 53 feet trucks for transport during the tour.



Setting up in the big top



Live performance



First setup of the stage in our studio



The pool



Setting up the ring and the curtain



The disk supported by the "cobra"



Testing the rain curtain

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