

Les Luminessences D'AVIGNON

Created by
Bruno Seillier

MONUMENTAL VIDEO SHOW IN THE HEART OF PALAIS DES PAPES

With the voices of Francis Huster, Claude Giraud, Céline Duhamel,
Patrick Floersheim, Allan Wenger, Sharon Mann

PRESS KIT

Les Lumiïnessences D'AVIGNON

NEW!
SHOWS IN ENGLISH

GRAND SCALE
PERFORMANCE

12 August – 3 October 2015

LES LUMIïNESSENCES D'AVIGNON – OVER 130,000 SPECTATORS

NEW: SHOWS IN ENGLISH

For the third year in a row, the monumental show *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* fills the Honour Courtyard at the Palace of the Popes. In 2015 *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* innovates with three shows each week in English. From 12 August to 3 October, every evening, the Palace of the Popes tells its story in a 360° screening that lights up the medieval walls of the Honour Courtyard. Over 130,000 viewers have already taken this journey back in time for a magical, intense and moving experience.

A HISTORICAL VENUE TO REDISCOVER

The Palace of the Popes, the most prestigious venue during the Avignon Theatre Festival in July, reveals its treasures and revives past memories from August to October. Home to nine successive popes, heart of the medieval Christian world, scene of several sieges, this unique palace played a vital role in European history and is UNESCO World Heritage. *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* tells its story magnificently.

IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY CREATES AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE

Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon, an event on the leading edge of sound and image technologies, takes the viewer into a seamless visual and narrative at a sustained, exciting pace. Monumental images cloak the four wings of the palace and surround the audience in a poetic fusion of architecture, light and music. Sheer emotion as the monument comes to life.

NEW IN 2015: 3 SHOWS IN ENGLISH EACH WEEK

Provence owes it to its international visitors to bring *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* to them in vibrant English. **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays you can experience *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* in English at 10:15 pm.** Recorded specially for this third year, the rich voices of theatre actors provide all the depth and richness of the original French language show.

A SHOW FOR ALL AGES, TO BE ENJOYED AGAIN AND AGAIN

Dreamed up by Bruno Seillier, creator of *La Nuit aux Invalides* in Paris, *Les Lumiïnessences d'Avignon* has been designed for all ages. Brought to life with the voices of Francis Hustser, Claude Giraud and Céline Duhamel, it is the perfect show among friends and for the entire family. **Each time you see it brings something new.** The accessible ticket prices make it the perfect place to revel in the beauty of the Palace of the Popes at night, and share a magical voyage through the centuries.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Every evening
12 August to 3 October 2015

www.leslumiïnessences-avignon.com

SHOWS

In French:

- 9:15 pm (every day)
- 10:15 pm (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday)

In English:

- 10:15 pm (Monday Wednesday and Friday)

TICKETS

- Tickets: 10€
- Discount (see conditions on www.leslumiïnessences-avignon.com): 8€
- Free: for children under 8
- Group tickets (groups over 10 persons): groupreservation@avignon-tourisme.com

Receptions/Meetings + show: contact
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Les Luminessences D'AVIGNON

SYNOPSIS

A voice rings out in the Palais des Papes. It asks: *Who are you? Yes you, great stone vessel, who are you? Answer me. An abiding witness throughout time, like a mineral giant, you still stand strong in unerring silence. But what surprising tales do you secretly house? What stories do you shelter within your walls and under your vaults? What secrets do you hide within your seemingly enchanted sleep?*

Anyone who thinks they know this place should think again. The Palace's halls and mazes don't give everything away, not even to the regular visitors. Behind its architecture and stone walls, a secular memory is concealed. Before revealing its secrets, it beckons everyone to come along one evening, as the darkness swallows up the earth and starlight shines down from the sky. Only then it is time to raise our heads and feel how small we are. And then, the moment comes when, in the depth of the night, the Palais des Papes finally responds: "Here I am. And here's my story..."

Retracing with brio a millenium of History, the show takes us away in the stride of 9 Avignon Popes, from the Great Schism on, in a swirl of nature, religion and political plots.



AVIGNON TOURISME



THE ARTIST

BRUNO SEILLIER, STONES SORCERER



Right from the start, in April 2012, Bruno SEILLIER artistically directed three shows; the first two, *La Nuit aux Invalides* and *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, are monumental video-projection shows, and the third, *Les Écuyers du Temps*, a combined live and equestrian performance (including 150 actors), and monumental video-projection, staged in Saumur. In April 2016, his multi-technology show telling the story of man's Conquest of the Air will be presented to the public in the prestigious setting of the monumental hall in the Grand Palais in Paris.

Previously, he created impressive monumental shows including *200 Years of Glory* at the Château de Versailles, a monumental light-show at Notre-Dame-de-Paris (for the *Parvis des Gentils* event), *Medina al-Zahra* in Tunisia, the multi-technology show at the Millau Viaduct... not forgetting the animation at the Vendée globe launch in Sables-d'Olonne.

Bruno Seillier has a particular way of creating shows to enhance a site, exalting it while maintaining its true essence through a balance between technology, history and stone.

His creations, *La Nuit aux Invalides*, *Les Luminessences d'Avignon* and *Les Écuyers du Temps* all meet these challenges and serve the buildings' beauty without erasing their soul. His creation style is dynamic and rich in sensations, remaining respectful of characteristic elements: "I don't seek to crush the monument under

artificial fleeting virtualisation. On the contrary, I want to use the power of technology to bring the monument alive, to change its garment and establish a dialogue with it."

Artistic director, screen writer and stage director, Bruno Seillier handles every creative aspect of the show: imagining the visual effects, their implementation, and scenario writing... His job is really that of an artist and he experiences show creation as an expression of his artistic feeling: "*The place? It's the casing, the recipient in which the idea takes shape with constraint and sublimation.*"

For Bruno Seillier, it is more about reconnecting with the roots of European civilisation than creating a momentary emotion or fleeting pleasure; this is why he seeks to instil awe, admiration and wonder in spectators hearts, and create a prelude for inner dialogue.



LES LUMINESSENCES D'AVIGNON : AVIGNON TOURISME & AMACLIO CO-PRODUCTION

AVIGNON TOURISME



Avignon Tourisme is a semi-public company with combined expertise in a range of cultural, business and tourism events (both leisure and business tourism). Various different complementary business hubs are continually striving to develop and enhance this unique region.

Avignon Tourisme manages the Palais des Papes, the famous Pont Saint Bénézet, the Tourist Office, the International Congress Centre, the Exhibition park, Les Halles and two intramural car parks. Every day, not less than 135 employees are devoted to welcoming our visitors plus our occasional and regular tourists from all over the world.

Avignon Tourisme is the proud standard-bearer of two unique world-class sites listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites. Every year, these monuments are showcased in major artistic and cultural events which are based around some of the greatest contemporary artists such as Picasso, Dubuffet, Botero, and Barcelo, etc.

With *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, the Palais des Papes is now experiencing its greatest ever Première. Until now, never has its stones and architecture been witness to such an amazing performance.

www.avignon-tourisme.com



AMACLIO comes from “Ama” meaning “love” (from the Latin verb *amare*), and “Clio” (the Muse of History): the name AMACLIO invites us to a love affair with history.

Founded by François Nicolas and Éric Mestrallet – both cofounders of the Arthur Straight group – and Bruno Seillier, stage director and playwright, Amaclio is a production company specialised in showcasing heritage sites. Early on, the company set its sights on large-scale national and international projects: the Pannonia Park in Hungary, l'année Henri IV in France, la Cité des Métiers du Patrimoine in the Val d'Oise department.

As a company that designs, produces and stages cultural events, Amaclio is dedicated to promoting tangible and intangible French and European heritage by staging both performing and non-performing arts while embracing the widest possible audience.

Amaclio uses state of the art technology (large-scale video projection) to bring to life the walls of the great French monuments for example, making the history of these grandiose stone witnesses of an impressive shared past available to everyone.

In addition to *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, and having already designed and produced *La Nuit aux Invalides* last Spring (more than 160,000 spectators came to see this show), AMACLIO also designed a performing arts, equestrian and video son et lumière that ran 3 years in a row, namely *Les Écuyers du Temps*, produced by the City Council of Saumur...

AVIGNON TOURISME



Les Lumiressences D'AVIGNON

TOTAL SENSORIAL IMMERSION

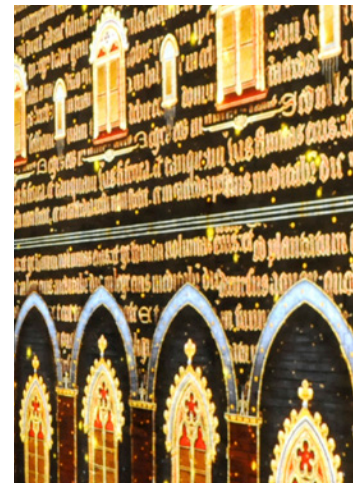
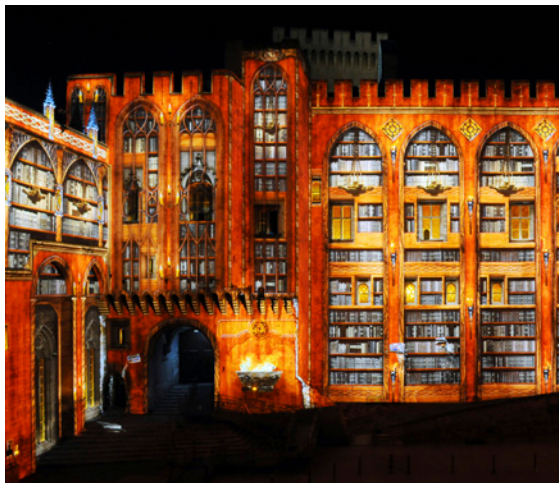
A JOURNEY FOR THE MIND, HEART AND SENSES

Very few people can actually say they truly know the Palais des Papes in Avignon. Now, and for the past three summers, the Palace tells its story and comes to life before your eyes. In an ambitious ballet of light and sound, the monument shakes off the centuries and comes to life to include us in its history.

For Amaclio, this means not just projecting stunning images, but truly reaching the spectator. In a play of monumental imagery, narration and music, *Les Lumiressences d'Avignon* touches every sense and leaves its imprint on the mind and soul of the audience. From the very first seconds the spectator becomes engaged in over 1000 years of history.

All four majestic walls of the Honor Courtyard are dressed with color and movement. Using the most advanced monumental video system, history combines with dreamlike beauty. Projectors bring the stones to life, seeking out and enhancing amazing architectural details. This is no simple projection. The monument itself is the main character, the actor enlivened under magnificent lighting as day gives way to night. A moving fresco dances along the high walls, describing battles, fires, epidemics, political intrigues, glory, influence and beauty.

The *Les Lumiressences d'Avignon* performance speaks to our senses, to our imaginations and to our hearts, combining the sensory dimension, emotion and intelligence that unfold infinitely and leave the visitor totally fulfilled and moved.



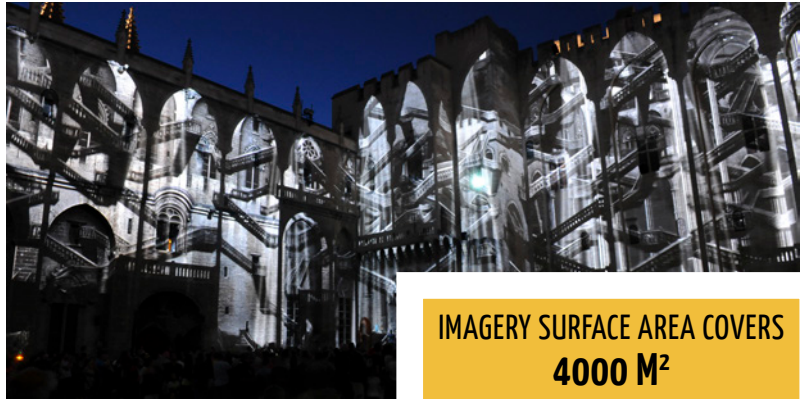
AVIGNON TOURISME



Les Luminessences D'AVIGNON

KEY FIGURES : A REALLY MONUMENTAL PRODUCTION

**13
ULTRA HD
VIDEOPROJECTORS**



**IMAGERY SURFACE AREA COVERS
4000 M²**

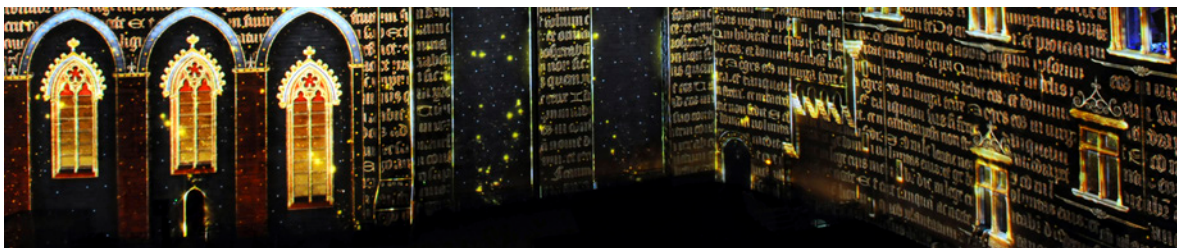
**IMAGE COMPUTER
GRAPHICS
10 To**



**12 SOURCES OF
SOUND DIFFUSION**



**IMAGE CONCEPTION:
4000 HOURS, 9 COMPUTER
GRAPHIC ARTISTS**



AVIGNON TOURISME



THE VOICES

FRANCIS HUSTER

Francis Huster is a French actor, stage director, producer and screen writer.

Starting out aged fifteen at the 17th arrondissement City Conservatoire in Paris, Huster later enrolled in the Cours Florent, and then the Higher National Conservatory of Drama (*Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique*) where he won 3 first prizes, gaining entry in 1971 to the Comédie-Française, which he left in 1981.

While he was playing classical roles in "la maison de Molière", he made several films and founded the Compagnie Francis Huster, through which he has staged over thirty shows and plays for a wide audience.

His latest play (as actor and stage director with La Troupe de France), *La guerre de Troie n'aura pas lieu* by Jean Giraudoux, was staged during the 2013 summer festivals. He has taken over forty roles in cinema under some of the greatest film directors including Claude Lelouche, for whom Huster is one of his star actors; his latest role in 2011 was in *Je m'appelle Bernadette* by Jean Sagols. He has appeared in over thirty different TV roles (including Jean Moulin in 2003 for which he was awarded the Sept d'Or award).

Since his Gérard Philippe Award in 1980 until his nomination as "Commandeur de l'ordre national du Mérite" in 2010, Francis Huster has received a succession of prizes, honorary awards and titles. He triumphed in 2012 in *Bronx* by Chazz Palmenteri and in *Anne Franck* - two plays stage-directed by Steve Suissa with whom he staged another play, namely *L'Affrontement* as from 28 April 2013 at the Théâtre Rive Gauche.

In *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, Huster plays the voice of the Visitor (who, beyond façades and appearances, will finally see the truth and the essence of the Palais des Papes).

CLAUDE GIRAUD

Claude Giraud is a former member of the Comédie-Française which he joined in 1976. He left it at the end of 1982 to help create the Jean-Laurent Cochet's Theatre Company at the Hébertot Theatre where, as per the French tradition, several different performances were staged on alternate nights.

Among his most famous roles, he played Hyppolite in *Phèdre*, and Titus in *Bérénice* with Marie Bell at the Gymnase Theatre, and during a foreign tour.



Claude Giraud played several TV roles including Roger Mortimer in the series *Les Rois maudits*, the father of Sébastien in *Sébastien parmi les hommes*, and the hero in *Les Compagnons de Jésus*. In cinema, he played Slimane in *Les Aventures de Rabbi Jacob* and Philippe de Plessis-Bellièvre in *La Saga des Angélique*.

However, it was as dubbing actor that he made a name in the 1980s, lending his voice to Harrison Ford (*Indiana Jones and the Adventures of the Lost Ark*), Tommy Lee Jones, Robert Redford, Sean Connery (in the *Name of the Rose*), Alan Rickman (in *Harry Potter*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Michael Collins*) and Liam Neeson (*Schindler's List* and *Batman Begins*).

In *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, he plays the voice of the Palace.

CÉLINE DUHAMEL

Céline Duhamel's deep, warm tones will no doubt charm and captivate you. In France, her voice has become familiar in dubbed films and TV series, advert voice-overs, documentaries, video games and charity announcements.

She has appeared in many TV shows, films and plays. She made a name in the musicals *Le Roi Soleil* and *Dangerous Liaisons*. In 2014, she wrote and acted in the play *Le Manuscrit de Rembrandt* in Paris. To respond to her success among public and press alike, she made a stage appearance at the 2014 Festival d'Avignon.

For the third year running, her voice has been heard in *La Nuit aux Invalides* alongside A. Dussolier and J. Piat in a moving performance of "la Gloire de la France".

In *Les Luminessences d'Avignon*, she is the voice of the Muses.

ENGLISH VOICES

PATRICK FLOERSHEIM

is a French actor and artistic director. He has recently directed *Galimatias* by M. Barney and *Les Nouvelles de Paris*, adapted from the short stories by M. Aimé. In 2014, he played the role of Rembrandt, in *Le Manuscrit de Rembrandt*.

Patrick Floersheim is also an active voice actor and has dubbed the voices of Robin Williams and Kurt Russell. Currently, he is regularly the French voice for Michael Douglas, Jeff Bridges, Ed Harris and James Belushi. He also recurrently dubs for Christopher Walken, Chris Cooper, Willem Dafoe and Geoffrey Rush, and recently for Michael Chiklis.

He is the voice behind the off-camera commentary for many documentaries broadcast on France 5, including the series on the most beautiful historical World Heritage sites (*Les Plus Beaux Sites du patrimoine mondial*) which presents UNESCO heritage sites in three-minute modules.

ALLAN WENGER

was born in Brooklyn and was raised and educated in New York City where he received a BA in literature from Brooklyn College and a Masters in theatre from New York University. After a four year stay in Athens, Greece in the late 60s where he taught, acted and directed theatre, he came to Paris and has been here ever since working as an actor, voice actor and dubbing director.

In New York, Allan was a professional folk singer in Greenwich Village during the folk music era of the 1960s. He also appeared in theatre productions including *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In Athens, he continued his folk singing and was sent on tour throughout Greece by the cultural section of the American Embassy. He also founded the Athens Repertory Theatre and directed John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, Keith Waterhouse's *Billy Liar* and William Saroyan's *Hello Out There*. He also directed and starred in Edward Albee's *Zoo Story*.

In Paris, he played Bogart in Woody Allen's *Play It Again Sam* in both English and French, Marley's Ghost in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Yehudi in Sam Shepard's *Mad Dog Blues* and numerous of other roles in both stage plays and staged readings including Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's *Death of A Salesman*. He has also appeared in numerous films and television films including the lead role in Gerard Krawczyk's *Subtle Concept* (film nominated

for a César), Claude Lelouch's *Edith et Marcel*, Robert Manthoulis' *Cités à la Dérive* and *Lily's Story*, Pierre Jolivet's *Je crois que je l'aime*, etc.

He has also adapted and directed the English dubbing of about 100 films including *La Gloire de mon Père*, *Le Château de ma Mère*, *La Boum*, *Place Vendôme*, etc. etc. He has dubbed the roles of among others, Michel Piccoli, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Nils Arestrup and has done the adaptations and English narration for a host of documentary films.

Allan is married, the father of two and the grandfather of seven!

SHARON MANN

is an American voice, theater and television actress from the San Francisco Bay Area. She has been living in Paris, France since the early 1990s. She attended the National Theatre Conservatory and holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting.

Mann appeared at Live Oak Theatre playing Cherry in the original production of Roan Browne and Cherry written and directed by Pulitzer-prize winner Charles Gordone. She also appeared at the Hartford Stage in the Ensemble of Mark Lamos' award-winning production of *Peer Gynt*, starring Richard Thomas.

Mann has dubbed into English for French actresses Marion Cotillard and Diane Kruger as well as comedic actresses Isabelle Nanty, and Michèle Laroche. She also dubbed *Absolutely Fabulous'* Jennifer Saunders into French.

Mann narrated the award-winning documentaries *Himalaya: Land of Women*, *Tracking the White Reindeer* and the blue-chip nature series *Wildwives of Savannah Lane*. Her voice can also be heard in commercials for the brands Hermès and Chanel.

Les Luminessences D'AVIGNON

PARTNERS



AVIGNON TOURISME



INFORMATIONS

From 12 August to 3 October 2015
every evening

SESSIONS

In French:

- **9:15 pm** (at nightfall)
- **10:15 pm** (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday)

In English:

- **10:15 pm** (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)

PRICES

- **Full rate: 10€**
- **Reduced rate: 8€** (see conditions online at www.lesluminessences-avignon.com)
- **Children under the age of 8: FREE**

GROUPS

- **Groups:** groupreservation@avignon-tourisme.com
- **Receptions/congress + show:** f.jullian@avignon-tourisme.com

www.lesluminessences-avignon.com

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