« [...] Guillaume Doin, seemingly alone onstage, is disarmingly touching when he reconnects with happy and excited events as well as times of sadness. A touching tale in which a joyful musical score and fun-filled acrobatics evoke powerfully poetic images [...].

Philippe Mangerel, Jeu revue, July 10, 2019

« [...] Although DynamO Théâtre is a young-audience theatre company, it has proven that with Life-Cycle, its artistic approach can reach all those who have kept in touch with their inner child or are looking to reconnect with it. [...] »

Nina-Rose Cassivi, atuvu.ca, July 11, 2019
Stepping away from flashy effects, DynamO Théâtre company and Guillaume Doin from the À deux roux collective present *Life-Cycle*, a production for young and old that brings clowning, magic and an acrobatic bicycle into play. A man returns to his family home after his father’s death. He has to clean away memories that literally come to life before his very eyes: his father’s desk with its haunted drawers and their numerous devices and contraptions, kites, family pictures as well as the bicycle itself that all seem to be moving on their own thanks to magical wires and Gabrielle Garant’s unobtrusive yet clever handling. Objects pop up, fly off, come to life and disappear with subtlety and precision. Guillaume Doin, seemingly alone onstage, is disarmingly touching when he reconnects with happy and excited events as well as times of sadness. A touching tale in which a joyful musical score and fun-filled acrobatics evoke powerfully poetic images.

*Life-Cycle*

Montréal Complètement Cirque | Life teetering on 2 wheels

As part of the Montréal Complètement Cirque festival, DynamO Théâtre presents *Life-Cycle*, a production that combines acrobatics, magic, puppeteering and theatre.

The house was full when performer Guillaume Doin stepped on the intimate stage of the UQAM university Claude-Gauvreau space for an impressive intermingling of stage arts. At first, the set seemed pretty bare, with only a desk, a chair and a bicycle. But the performer surprised the audience, taking ownership of everyday objects and adding in a good measure of fantasy! In this fanciful world, he had fun playing around using his balancing skills and dizzying story-telling.

In an hour, he exhibits a number of feats -mainly on his bike- using loads of zaniness and creativity. Sometimes he stands up up on the saddle, other times he sits on the handle bars or balances on one arm or one leg. The acrobat proves that possibilities are limitless when you’re moving on 2 wheels. He also digs into a box of souvenirs that literally come to life on stage, making hidden papers and pictures float up in the air.

All such feats would not be possible without the puppeteering and stage-managing talents of Gabrielle Garant. Guillaume may seem alone on stage, but Gabrielle is there well hidden in the set, pulling strings, playing instruments and contributing to the magical moments. To her I dedicate the audience comments (“How is that possible?”).

**A story filled with joy and sorrow**

The production showcases the performer’s acrobatic abilities, but it also features a fine mix of circus arts and illusions that serve the non-verbal story-telling very
well. The production tells of a man rediscovering his family home and confronting traces of his late parents. As a result, the character seems to have lost his bearings. Yet the story-telling remains filled with softness and wonderment like a tale coming to life.

There are happy times of course, such as a brilliantly simulated outing throughout France. Audiences can connect with the character's sensitivity as he touches on family scars. Indeed, the performance opens in an atmosphere that tends to be sombre: the lighting is particularly dark and as the performer steps on the stage, a heavy downpour has begun. Follows a series of events that brings audiences to laughs and then to tears. The audience is drawn into a world of memories tinged with poetry and musing.

Although DynamO Théâtre is a young-audience theatre company, it has proven that with Life-Cycle, its artistic approach can reach all those who have kept in touch with their inner child or are looking to reconnect with it. For more information about the company and its productions, please check out their website here. Meanwhile, Guillaume Doin will be taking the stage tonight for the last performance at the Montréal Complètement Cirque festival.