

BRUNO PELLETIER

A real passion for performing and a constant desire to explore new artistic horizons have made Bruno Pelletier the versatile entertainer he is today. His prolific career boasts more than twenty-five years of remarkable performances as a solo artist and as a featured performer in several successful musicals.

His Journey

Bruno Pelletier is born August 7th, 1962, in Charlesbourg, a suburb of Quebec City. As a young man in the 1980's, his interests are evenly divided between sports and music. With a black belt in karate, Bruno decides to open his own martial arts school while continuing to pursue his other great passion: music. Although skilled as a drummer, his powerful voice lands him a gig as lead singer of *Amanite* and *Sneak Preview*, two rock bands with which he tours the bar circuit for several years, learning the basics of show business.

As music gradually becomes his main focus, Bruno decides to start his own francophone rock band *Pëll*, in 1989. With his fellow musicians and some original compositions, he enters a few contests, hoping to be recognized by the music industry. Following a year of hard work and good timing, he lands his first recording contract with *Les Disques Artiste*, with Paul Lévesque at the helm. And Bruno Pelletier's career is launched!

In 1992, as his first self-titled album is being released, Bruno is offered a role in the musical ***Les fous du rock'n'roll*** as well as a role in the Quebec version of the Plamondon-Berger rock musical, ***La légende de Jimmy***. While the latter only achieves modest success, Bruno's strong stage-presence and impressive vocal talent make a lasting impression.

In 1993, impressed by the singer's undeniable talents, Luc Plamondon offers Bruno the part of Johnny Rockfort in the new Parisian version of ***Starmania***. Bruno will perform this role more than four hundred times over the course of two years, while using all his free time to work on his second album.

The album ***Défaire l'amour*** is launched in 1995 but Bruno has to wait two years, until 1997, for the record to finally get the recognition it deserves. In that same year, he makes his acting debut playing a villain in the very popular television series ***Omerta II*** and launches a third album titled ***Miserere***. This record quickly hits the top of the charts and sells over 250,000 copies, creating a real buzz. The following year, at le Gala de L'ADISQ, Bruno is named ***Best Male Artist*** for a second consecutive year and ***Miserere*** wins ***Best Pop-Rock Album of the Year***, ***Best Selling Record*** and ***Best Live Performance***.

In 1998 and 1999, Bruno dedicates his time to another great Plamondon musical, ***Notre-Dame de Paris***, in which he plays a poet named Gringoire. The show is a triumph. The song ***Le temps des cathédrales*** puts him back on top of the charts and makes Bruno Pelletier a household name throughout the entire French-speaking world.

In 1999, he releases his fourth album ***D'autres rives*** simultaneously in Europe and in Quebec. He consequently launches a major European tour that will take him to such prestigious venues as ***l'Olympia de Paris***, ***La Cigale*** and ***Le Bataclan***. While concentrating on a solo career at its

peak, Bruno still finds time to perform Gringoire in the Quebec and London stagings of **Notre-Dame de Paris**.

In 2001, after years of relentless rocking and rolling, Bruno feels the need to “take five”. Just before his well-deserved break, he releases a live album recorded during his **D'autres rives** tour entitled **Sur scène**. Bruno then takes the time he needs out of the public eye to recharge his batteries, work on a new album and get even more involved in the Children’s Wish Foundation, of which he’s been a long-time sponsor.

In August 2002, he releases **Un monde à l'envers** and launches a two-year tour. In December of the same year, Bruno lends his voice to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in a series of Christmas concerts at Basilique Notre-Dame. From these sessions comes the album of seasonal classics, **Concert de Noël** that goes on to become a huge success.

In 2004, Bruno is offered the role of Dracula in the musical **Dracula - Entre l'amour et la mort** (lyrics by Roger Tabra, music by Simon Leclerc). Always hungry for new challenges, Bruno also gets involved as the musical director and co-producer of the show, bringing a whole new dimension to his career.

From its début in Montreal January 31st, 2006, the show is a tremendous success (seen by over 115,000 people), making Bruno Pelletier a key player on several musical fronts. In January of the following year, Bruno presents the show at the prestigious **Maison de la Danse de Lyon** (1,200 seats) and **Dracula** goes on to win both critical and popular acclaim throughout Europe.

In 2007, after spending three years playing the enigmatic Prince of Darkness, Bruno yearns to come back to a more intimate setting and launches **Bruno Pelletier et le GrosZorchestre** (winner of the Félix for Album of the Year / Jazz). Presenting a sophisticated mixture of pop and jazz influences, the record is daring and reveals yet more new dimensions to Bruno’s talent.

The singer-songwriter is back in 2009 with **Microphonium**, his first recording of original material in six years. The timely arrival of this long-awaited album suitably marks 25 years of an already prolific and accomplished singing career. In that same year, he was invited to play his first concerts ever in Russia at the mythical Théâtre de l’Estrade. The crowd was so pleased with his performances that 4 new dates in Eastern Europe were added to his touring schedule. He will soon be playing in Ukraine in May 2010 and will then return to Russia in the fall. He will again be putting his solo career on hold for 2011 as he will take part in Les filles de Caleb, a new musical based on a trilogy written by Arlette Cousture.

As three-time Felix award winner for **Male Singer of the Year**, and with over 2 million albums sold in French-speaking communities worldwide, Bruno Pelletier is without a doubt one of the most influential artists of his generation.