



**Alexis Michalik**  
 Actor, Director, Writer

**Alexis Michalik** began working as an actor under the direction of Irina Brook in the play *Romeo and Juliet* and continued his acting career mainly on television in TV films and series such as *Petits meurtres en famille*, *Terre delumière*, *Kboul Kitchen* and *Versailles*. In cinema, he has acted in films with Billy Zane, Diane Kurys, Safy Nebou, Yann Samuel, Fernando Clomo, Danièle Thompson and Alexandre Arcady. In theatre, he is famous

for his roles in plays like the French comedy *Le dindon*, directed by Thomas Le Douarec and *Les Fleurs Gelées*, by Ibsen and Strindberg. Alexis Michalik adapted and staged two plays loosely inspired by the works of Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet* and *La mégère à peu près apprivoisée* (based on *Taming of the Shrew*). 2014 was a great year for Alexis Michalik who won three prizes: **two Molière Awards**; one for *Le porteur d'histoire*, his first work as a playwright and the other for his second play, *Le cercle des illusionnistes*, as well as the **Prix du jeune théâtre Béatrix Dussane-André Roussin** awarded by the Académie française.

«Un plaisir et un émerveillement assez rares au théâtre»  
**Le Parisien**

«Une virtuosité et une simplicité époustouflante»  
**Le Figaro**

«Un tour de magie théâtrale»  
**Marianne**

**60**  
 représentations exceptionnelles

Avec Jeanne Arènes,  
 Clotilde Baniuit,  
 Maud Baecker,  
 Michel Derville,  
 Arnaud Dupont,  
 Vincent Jonquaz,  
 et Mathieu Niotraï

**le cercle des illusionnistes**  
 une création d'Alexis Michalik

théâtres parisiens associés  
 DIRECTION STÉPHANE FARGEAU  
**COMEDIE DES CHAMPS-ELYSEES**

LOC. 01 53 23 99 19

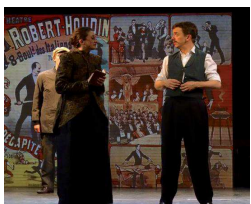


## LE CERCLE DES ILLUSIONNISTES

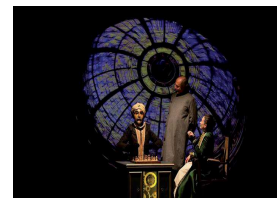
By Alexis Michalik

During the 1984 European championship, December steals a bag in the metro. In the bag he finds April's photo and thinks she's pretty. He calls her and they meet in a café. He tells her the story of Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, clock-maker, inventor and 19th century magician. The story unfolds and takes them to the vaults of the bank BNP's headquarters, boulevard des Italiens in Paris in the no longer existing theatre once owned by Robert-Houdin. There they discover a conjuror's caravan, the mechanical Turc, the very beginnings of kinetography through the circle of illusionnists.

What could possibly be the link between a pickpocket, the film maker Georges Méliès, a delicate young woman called April Pretty and numerous others characters whose destinies intertwine? *Le Cercle des Illusionnistes* works in the same magical way as watch-maker Robert-Houdin's famous machines. Slowly but surely the pieces fit together linking theatre and cinema in the most fantastic way.



## Musicals in Europe « Le Cercle des Illusionnistes » : awesome !



Once again, as if it were necessary, « Le Cercle des Illusionnistes » proves the **amazing imagination** of Alexis Michalik. His talent for mixing different epochs and characters is enormous (...) Time flies during the performance and the rhythm never loses its tempo (...) Alexis Michalik's style is pure which is one of the reasons why it is so pleasant to get caught up in the story and not wanting it to end nor leave the string of characters whom we've become attached to. **Captivating !**  
*Régis Gayraud*

### LE FIGARO



Alexis Michalik plunges us in the heart of a world we love ... the world of magic and the beginnings of cinema (...) His knowledge of Jean-Eugène-Houdin and Georges Méliès, two great historical figures, is huge. Alexis Michalik is an expert **at showing how destiny influences our lives.** We won't go any further to avoid giving away too much. **Suffice to say, Michalik is a magician.**  
*Armelle Héliot*

### L'EXPRESS



The way in which the set and the director take us from one century to another is fantastic ... the play is inventive, the rhythm impeccable and the acting fabulous. **In a word : captivating.**

### Les Echos.fr « Life is not a straight line but a circle »



It is as entertaining as a popular novel (...) and in spite of the many twists and turns in the play, it is pure entertainment. It shows how much theatre and cinema owe to poetry. Two hours later one leaves the theatre delighted like a child waking up from a beautiful dream. Alexis Michalik brings out the child in all of us and « **Le Cercle illusionnistes** » keeps going round and round in our heads like a merry-go-round.  
*Philippe Chevilly*

### LE FIGARO SCOPE

A fabulous show based on the magic of theatre ! Bravo !



Alexis Michalik has written a fun and vivacious play, **profoundly intelligent and filled with simple innocence** (...) One goes from one century to another as if by magic. Michalik believes in destiny and how invisible threads can bring people together. **His stories are credible** (...) they're lively, stimulating and exciting.