

## Transcript - La Dump

### **1. Please introduce yourself and give us a brief description of La Dump.**

I am the creator of The Dump series. I write, act, direct and produce the whole project. I also do the drawings and artistic creation of all the puppets and sets. In short, let's say I wear several hats!

The series tells the story of a family of ugly puppets: Belle & Barbe (illegitimate son of Donald Trump) and their multi-ethnic adopted children, Spoon & Spatula. They have been living in the sewers since their deportation from the United States for public disorder. These unique unloved ones live with lots of colorful friends in a curious underground village called La Dump. This politically engaged comedy, for 18-35 year olds, is described as a social critique of Quebec's popular culture. Each episode humorously deals with a topical issue. A first in Canada: the bilingual series is completely designed with special effects and on green screen.

### **2. Tell us about how the project came to be.**

I had the idea in the middle of the night in 2014! I got up, found a piece of paper in the kitchen and I sketched my idea. The next morning I said to my boyfriend, "I think I've got an idea for a project, and I think it can go a long way! ». I've always wanted to do something unique, something different and something that could be exported around the world. From the beginning, I wanted to be a politically committed artist, to make people laugh and think. I then developed something while telling myself that I wanted to make Canada shine around the world. Yup, I'm not a dreamer and not ambitious at all! ahah Anyway, I started my crazy idea and I haven't stopped pushing it since. Six years later, after one pilot, a ton of pitfalls, refusals and challenges... Now I'm onto season 2 and I'm announcing 20 new episodes of this great series. My journey has been far from easy, but I am proof that everything is possible when you believe in your dreams!

### **3. What is it like to be helming a project as an emerging female creator in the role of director/producer?**

Ah what a beautiful question! I like the word "creator" and "emerging project". To tell the truth, I feel nothing but pride in working and representing this project. When I think about the series, and its continuation, I still have butterflies in my stomach. Every time someone notices the huge amount of work behind the project and the immeasurable talent involved in the production, it warms my heart. This project has been the center of my life for the past 6 years. I wake up every morning thinking about my team and how I can get this project where it needs to be. Everyone says that the show is my "baby". But no, it's already been bigger than me for a long time. My role on the production is more than just being the creator, it's being the captain and making sure the boat arrives safely at destination. That's my job now, to get the project where it needs to be. I'm doing it for the series, not for me. I want to see the show around the world, it deserves it.

**4. Your team consists largely of women in key roles. Was this an important decision in assembling your team?**

Yes! Because girls are the best anyway! ahah We've been in the shadows for too long, had our mouth shut for too long and defined by roles invented by men. A woman is extraordinary, she has extraordinary abilities. All I do is put forward forces of nature. I still don't understand why for hundreds of years women have been inferior to men. You can't change history, but you can change the future. And as a woman, I am proud to give important roles and be a part in helping extraordinary women shine. Guys have had enough time to shine, it's the girls' turn now!

**5. Among your team are members of the LGBTQ+ and First Nations communities. Why is it so important to uphold diversity and inclusion on a production like this?**

It just goes without saying! Everyone is welcomed with open arms on my projects. Hurrah for diversity, difference, multicoloured, women and all those who have not always been seen at their true value. Life and difference is beautiful, we must celebrate it!

**6. What are some of the issues you wanted to address on your series, and why is comedy (and more specifically, an adult puppet show) the perfect venue for you to explore those issues?**

Thank you for this nice question! For the next episodes, I want to talk about current topics that affect society. I want to talk about things we don't necessarily dare talking about. Well, I don't want to be cheesy and talk about "taboos", but rather about the unspoken or discomfort. Sometimes I am shocked by humans, by what we do to each other, but also by what we do to our planet. I love the world, but I find it very difficult to understand our conceited, proud and self-destructive side. This series allows me to express myself, to put into words observations from my daily life and to propose a more zany and welcoming vision of life. I want to highlight "real" subjects: depression, loneliness, social media pressure, the ups and downs of family life, diversity, the environment, over-consumption, etc.

And humor is one of the best socially accepted tools to test and push the limits. And I'm an pesky person, I like to test the limits. I've never been very good at doing what I'm told to do. ahah I don't like pre-constructed phrases that stagnate us like "you have to do it the same way, because it's always been done this way. "And it's perfect with the puppets! People would throw tomatoes at me if I said out loud what my puppets are not hiding themselves to say. But when it is said by ugly puppets, then it goes across more easily. Hurrah for the rags!

**7. Is there any particular demographic you had in mind that you wanted to reach with a show like this and its unique brand of humour?**

Yes, the series mainly reaches 18-35 year olds. Probably because that's my age group. But I'm quite surprised to see how much people above 50 like my rather crazy universe. Still, I'm just teasing baby boomers... I can hardly believe that there are cool people in that group ! ahah I commend them all by the way, thank you for listening to the series !

Anyway, the series welcomes everyone who wants to laugh with us. We don't judge anyone. The goal of the project is to make a place for all those who don't find their place in our society: "everybody is welcome". We wrote it on the wall of the set, it's not for nothing!

Besides, the series is not as shocking as we say. Elsewhere, the humor of the series does not surprise anyone. Seriously, in Canada, in Quebec, we're just a little bit skittish in general. Maybe we spend too much time in the cold? ahah

- 8. What are the advantages of your show being on Facebook and YouTube?  
More creative freedom? Are you able to address more sensitive subjects?  
Are you able to reach new and wider audiences than you would  
otherwise?**

Yes, yes and yes! That's exactly it. The creative freedom and the chance to be able to talk without being told that you don't have the right. It's rare these days and it's priceless.

It's also great to be able to reach a wider audience and generally not having any barriers. I am happy to use the money I am given through the Bell Funds to offer something accessible and free for everyone. I feel that with the series, I can give back to people and start the conversation. The web and social media is not always a beautiful place. However, we also have the opportunity and the chance to use this public medium to educate, make people think and hopefully change things little by little.