

A world in Itself

compagnie
LA BARAKA

Abou Lagrâa





A world in Itself

CHOREOGRAPHY ABOU LAGRAA

PIECE FOR 7 DANCERS AND THE DEBUSSY QUARTET

Creation 2010

Rehearsal period

September 2009 - January 2010

Première

January 23-24, 2010

Les Gémeaux / Sceaux / Scène Nationale

Artist-in-residence

Compagnie La Baraka is in production residency at Les Gémeaux / Sceaux / Scène Nationale from 2009 to 2013

Creation residency

Studio-Maison de la Danse, LYON

Le Dôme-Théâtre, ALBERTVILLE

Théâtre Municipal, ANNONAY

Coproducers

The Debussy Quartet

Les Gémeaux / SCEAUX / Scène Nationale

Le Dôme-Théâtre, ALBERTVILLE

Bonlieu Scène Nationale, ANNÉCY

Communauté de Communes du Bassin d'ANNONAY

La Rampe, ECHIROLLES

Maison de la Danse, LYON

Festival Oriente Occidente, ROVERETO

With the support of

DRAC Rhône-Alpes

Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes

Conseil Général de l'Ardèche

Conseil Général du Rhône

SPÉDIDAM

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Musique Nouvelle en Liberté

Funded by

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A WORLD IN ITSELF

Photo : Éric Boudet

Cast

A WORLD IN ITSELF

Choreography

Abou Lagraa

Dancers

Nawal Lagraa Aït Benalla

Aurélia Picot

Marion Renoux

Anthony Couroyer

Amala Dianor

(remplaçant : Alexandre Gbeblewoo)

Rolando Rocha

Oliver Tida Tida

Musicians

The Debussy Quartet :

Christophe Collette, 1er violon

Dorian Lamotte, 2nd violon

Vincent Deprecq, alto

Fabrice Bihan, violoncelle

Dramaturg

Gérald Garutti

Dramaturgy intern

Sophie Walon

Light creation and light manager

Gérard Garchey

Technical director

Antoine de Gantho

Stage manager

Patrick Magny

Sound manager

Christophe Germanique

Running time : 1h15

Musics

John Cage, Four (1989)

Anton Webern, Cinq mouvements pour quatuor à cordes, Op.5

V- In Zarter Bewegung (1909)

Jean-Sébastien Bach, Sarabande de la Suite n°5 (1724)

Anton Webern, Langsamer Satz (1905)

John Cage, String Quartet in Four Parts, 2e mouvement (1950)

John Cage, String Quartet in Four Parts, 1er mouvement (1950)

Anton Webern, Cinq mouvement pour quatuor à cordes, Op.5

III- Sehr bewegt (1909)

Anton Webern, Quatuor 1905

Synopsis

"In the beginning was emptiness. An abyssal emptiness, which Nature never abhorred, always adored. An absolute desert, which Nature shelters and cherishes since the beginning of times. A pure nothingness, from which Nature sprung out at the dawn of the world, and that it harboured in its bosom forever.

From 'nothing' comes everything. And in everything 'nothing' feels at home. From the tiniest atoms to the biggest star, the emptiness inhabits us. Haunts us. Founds us. Fool us. Enchants us. In the deepest part of ourselves lies a core of nothingness. At the heart of our intimacy widen some infinite abysses. At the center of the universe burns an insatiable black hole. We are built on an absence.



What are we made of? Stardust, past lives, engulfed spaces... the fabric of our dreams. Each of us is an indefinitely spreading universe, a secret melting pot in which, in a way, the history of the whole cosmos keeps occurring. Thus, through our dance, we stage the creation of a world, from the nakedness of the origins to the explosion of generations, from primitive chaos to the latest complexity.

Within a space delimited by the vibrations of sixteen strings, seven deeply and beautifully moving bodies, which are like seven heavenly spheres and all filled with history, embrace a wide journey from the gift of birth to the awakeness of conscience, from self-taming to understanding of the others, from the building of identity to the creation of a community. The metamorphosis of a being in constant evolution echoes proliferating kinds of relation: the miracle of meeting, the surprise of alterity, the shine of desire, the violence of conflicts, the dream of melting, the search for difference, the furor for overcoming, the bliss of recognition, the experience of loneliness... Diving into A World of Itself is like throwing oneself's heart, mind and soul into a journey to the heart of evolution and its different dimensions - cosmos, species, individual, society. With musics by John Cage and Anton Webern, this show gathers various forms of arts, the choreographer Abou Lagraa's impulsions and the Quatuor Debussy's vibrations, the seven dancers' bursting and the dramaturg Gérald Garutti's horizons.

Gérald Garutti

A WORLD IN ITSELF

Photo : Eric Boudet

About LAGRAA

Born in Annonay on December 22, 1970, from Algerian parents, Abou Lagraa began to dance at the age of 16 in his hometown, then attended Lyon's Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse, where he worked with a number of guest choreographers.

From 1993 to 1996, he danced with Ruy Horta - S.O.A.P. Dance Theater Frankfurt - and became his assistant for a project at the Gulbenkian in Lisbon. In 1997, he worked with Denis Plassard, Lionel Hoche and Robert Poole and was awarded the 2nd prize in contemporary dance at the City of Paris International Competition 1998.

In 2009, the International Movimentos Dance Prize awarded Abou Lagraa the Best Male Dancer Prize.

He founded his company La Baraka in 1997. His first piece was performed at Lyon's Biennale de la Danse, for which he also created 2 parade performances (1998, 2000). Since 1997, he created 12 pieces, touring in France and in Europe, but also in USA, Algeria, Tunisia and Indonesia.

In 2001, the CCN - Ballet de Lorraine commissioned to Abou Lagraa a piece for 15 dancers *Fly, Fly*, recreated for the ABC Dance Company in St Pölten (Austria). In 2003, he created a piece for the 2nd year students of Angers National Center for Contemporary Dance, then in 2007 for the students of Frankfurt Hochschule and of the Mediterranean Center for Contemporary Dance in Tunis.

In 2006, the Paris Opera Ballet commissioned to Abou Lagraa a



piece *Le Souffle du Temps*, for 21 dancers including 3 principal dancers (Marie-Agnès Gillot, Wilfried Romoli, Manuel Legris).

From 2004 to 2007, Abou Lagraa and his company were awarded a 4 year residency at Bonlieu Scène Nationale in Annecy, where he was an associated artist.

From 2009 to 2011, La Baraka is in production residency in Sceaux, at Les Gêmeaux Scène Nationale.

Since 2008, Abou Lagraa and his company have been working, in collaboration with the Algerian Cultural Department, on a « Mediterranean Cultural Bridge »: a French - Algerian cooperation for the development of artistic exchanges for dance. As part of it, he was commissioned the choreography of the closing ceremony of the 2nd Alger Panafrican Festival 2009.

In 2010, a programme composed of training, creation and cultural exchanges between both countries is created. The first year succeed in *Nya*, a piece for 10 dancers of The Contemporary Unit of the Ballet National Algérien.

The company's repertoire :

Les 2 (1998) : solo

Violatus (1998) : piece for 6 dancers

Kraft (1999) : piece for 6 dancers

Passage (2000) : hip-hop trio

Nuit Blanche (2000) : 3 pieces for 9 dancers

Allegoria Stanza (2001) : piece for 7 contemporary dancers and 3 hip-hop dancers

Cutting Flat (2004) : piece for 10 dancers

Où Transe (2005) : piece for 7 dancers solo / duet / quartet

R.B.V.B (2006) : piece for 4 dancers, solo « Three Temperaments » / hip-hop trio « Passage »

Matri(k)is (2007) : piece for 10 dancers, men duet / women octet

D'Eux Sens (2008) : duet with Abou Lagraa and Nawal Lagraa Aït Benalla

Un Monde en Soi (2010) : piece for 7 dancers and the Debussy Quartet

Nya (2010) : piece for 10 dancers of The Contemporary Unit of the Ballet National Algérien

Commissions :

Fly, Fly (2001) : commissioned by the CCN Ballet de Lorraine for 15 dancers

Le Pas Suspendu (2006) : commissioned by the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie ; soli on Schubert « Death and the Maiden » and Hindemith « Three Temperaments »

Le Souffle du Temps (2006) : commissioned by the Paris Opera Ballet for 21 dancers, including 3 principal dancers (Marie-Agnès Gillot, Manuel Legris, Wilfried Romoli)

Everyone's one (2008) : commissioned by the Memphis Ballet (USA)

Panafrican Festival / Algérie (2009) : choreography of the Closing Ceremony of the Festival

TV reports and captations :

La Baraka d'Abou Lagraa : on French national TV (France3)

Hip Hop Fusion : aired during the show *Musiques au Cœur* on French national TV (France2)

Nuit Blanche : captation on French German cultural channel (Arte)

La Danse d'Abou Lagraa : aired during the show *Musiques au Cœur* on French national TV (France2), cable arts channel (Mezzo) and French international channel (TV5 Monde)

Jury for the TV show Dancing Show : on French national TV (France3)

TV reports and interviews in TV News on French national TV (TF1, France2, France3), in shows on French national TV (France 6, France24...) and cable channels Paris Dernière...

A WORLD IN ITSELF

Photo : Eric Boudet

Artistic collaboration

The Debussy Quartet



Christophe Collette,
violin
Dorian Lamotte,
violin
Vincent Deprecq,
viola
Fabrice Bihan,
violoncello

Formed in Lyon in 1990, the Debussy Quartet has established its reputation by winning the prestigious Evian International String Quartet Competition in 1993, and chosen as the "Best Chamber Music Ensemble" by the 1996 French Classical Music Awards (Victoire de la Musique), the Quartet has received international critical acclaim for their stylish, technically exciting and musically thoughtful performances.

Each year, the Quartet performs some eighty concerts across the globe and is regularly heard at the world's most distinguished concert halls: the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Philharmonia in Madrid, the Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Grand Théâtre in Geneva, the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris... They are also featured in many of Europe's finest festivals: the Luberon Quartet Festival in France, the Prague Spring International Music Festival, the European Quartet Week in Cork...

In addition to their busy concert and recording schedule, the group coaches young musicians at the Chamber Music Academy Teaching Festival created in 1999, and each summer the Quartet welcomes fellow musicians to the Strolling String Festival in the south of France, an itinerant chamber music festival which brings together the worlds of classical, music, contemporary music and jazz music in innovative and exciting ways.

Gérald Garutti, dramaturg



Dramaturg,
theatre director,
writer,
and academic

Born in Paris in 1974, he read literature and philosophy at the École Normale Supérieure, political thought at Sciences Po Paris and at the University of Cambridge, and drama in French drama schools. His PhD focuses on Theatre and Revolution in the twentieth Century (Artaud, Brecht...).

He is literary and artistic adviser of the French National Theatre TNP. At the TNP, he has been the dramaturg of 5 shows including 'Coriolanus' (Shakespeare, Best Play Critic Award 2006) and 'Par-dessus bord' (Michel Vinaver, Best Play Critic Award 2008). He also worked as a dramaturg at the Comédie Française and at the Théâtre National de la Colline.

He is the artistic director of the theatre company C(h)aracteres. He directed thirteen shows, including in English 'Roberto Zucco' (Koltès), 'Richard III' (Shakespeare) and 'The Fall of the House of Usher' (Poe/Berkoff). In French, his last credits as a director and a writer are 'Brief Essay on Manipulation for Good People', 'The Hunters of the Absolute' and 'Lehaïm'. His next show in English will be 'Cyrano de Bergerac' in London.

Gérald Garutti taught at the Universities of Paris X, Cambridge and Chicago. He is now at the head of the department Arts and Humanities at the French National Drama-school ENSATT (École Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre). He is also Assistant Professor at Science Po Paris. He wrote a book on Franz Kafka and Orson Welles. He has translated in French texts from Bertolt Brecht ('Songs') and a play from Tom Stoppard ('The Coast of Utopia').

Dancers

Nawal Lagraa Aït Benalla

Born in Safi (Marocco) in 1978, Nawal studied ballet in France practicing repertory with Silva Ricard. She began her career with the Armstrong Jazz Ballet in American jazz choreographies. Interested in all art expressions, she also worked for theatre and opera with Blanca Li, Yannis Kokkos, Jacques Weber. She passed her teaching diploma, then joined Cie La Baraka in 2006 with Matri(k)is. She performs with Abou Lagraa the duet D'Eux Sens, created in 2008 at Lyon's Biennale de la Danse. She worked as an artistic and teaching assistant of the choreographer on the commission for Ballet Memphis (2008) and on the Closing Ceremony of Alger Panafrican Festival (2009). From 2010, she is responsible of the educational programme of Cie La Baraka Franco - Algerian project for artistic cooperation.

Aurélia Picot

Born in Annonay in 1972, Aurélia started her training at the Lyon Conservatoire Régional, then with Michel Hallet Eghayan, while studying Art History in Lyon's University. She worked with choreographers such as I. Blanco, P. Deloche, F. Girardon and Y. Alexandre. Educationalist, she passed in 2005 her diploma to be a dancing master. She teaches at Lyon's Centre National de la Danse and at the training department of Ballet de Lorraine. She joined company La Baraka since 1998 as a dancer and participated in many artistic and educational workshops.

Marion Renoux

Marion began her professional training at the C.E.S.M.D. in Poitiers at the age of 25 years old, to jazz dance performer. In only one year, she passed her course, graduated, then decided to pass her diploma in Bordeaux to be a dancing master in jazz dance. Last year, she worked for Georges Momboye and joined, in 2009, Compagnie Corinne Lanselle and Compagnie La Baraka-Abou Lagraa.

Anthony Couroyer

Anthony started practicing dance at the age of 6 years old and entered the Paris Opera Ballet School. After two more training years at the Rick Odums Dance Center, he worked for many choreographers like G. Armstrong, Redha, P. Mc Coy, Cie Linga and B. Li, in Cyrano de Bergerac (directed by J. Weber). He joined the Chicos Mambos Company in 2006, with the show Méli Mélo II Le Retour, created at the Festival Off d'Avignon. He also danced in the French movie Agathe Cléry by Etienne Chatiliez. He joined Company La Baraka in 2009.

Amala Dianor

Born in Dakar in 1976, Amala came in France at the age of 7 years old. He first began practicing martial arts, then Hip-Hop dance and taught Street Dance in Angers. Passionate about dance, he took an interest in different styles, in particular in contemporary dance. Thus, he entered the CNDC in Angers for 2 years, where he discovered many artistic universes. He has been working for Hip-Hop and contemporary choreographers such as Dominique Dupuy, Roland Petit, Georges Momboye, Farid Berkyl and Abou Lagraa.

Rolando Rocha

Peruvian, Rolando studied dance in Lima with Liliana Galvan and began his career with local choreographers like S. Chion, R. Penaloza, J. Lema, M. Carbone, P. Valle-Riestra. He trained two more years at the CNDC in Angers, and performed with the Unterwegs Theater, E. Grivet, K. Adibi. Lately, he danced in companies P. Le Doaré, Pal Frenak, H. Kouibi, Chatah. He was artistic consultant of Cie Les Escargots Ailés for their dance-circus creation Abikū. He performed his solo -Arbol Noche y el Bicho Errante- at the International Meeting for Contemporary Dance 2007 in Lima. In 2009, he joined Cie Ex-Nihilo and La Baraka.

Oliver Tida Tida

Born in Yaoundé (Cameroon), Oliver received the award for best Cameroonian afro-contemporary dance group with Cie Nyanga Danse in 1998. In 2000, as part of the Montpellier Dance Festival, he worked with Robyn Orlin and installed in Europe. He received his diploma at the Académie Internationale de Danse in Paris, where he was equally involved with numerous choreographers among S. Loras, B. Vandeli and B. Aghati. At the same time, he was produced in the musical comedies Gladiateur, Kirikou, Les Contes d'Hoffmann... In 2005, he worked with Georges Momboye and Stephie Blant, and joined Cie La Baraka in 2006.



Calendar

Performances

Les Gémeaux/Sceaux/Scène Nationale January 23, 24, 2010

Bonlieu Scène Nationale, Annecy February 2, 3, 2010

Le Dôme-Théâtre, Albertville February 5, 2010

Maison de la Danse, Lyon March 10-13, 2010

Théâtre Municipal, Annonay March 18, 2010

Festival Oriente Occidente, Rovereto September 8, 2 10

La Rampe, Échirolles November 9, 2010

La Comédie, Valence November 12, 2010

Nowy Theatre, Lodz November 15, 2010

Théâtre, Privas November 30, 2010

Teo Otto Theater, Remscheid December 17, 2010

Cullen Theatre, Houston February 26, 2011

Mandeville Auditorium, San Diego March 1, 2011

Meany Hall, Seattle March 3-5, 2011

Centre Culturel, Sablé-sur-Sarthe April 1, 2011

La Coursive, La Rochelle April 13, 2011

Théâtre Olympia, Arcachon April 15, 2 11

Scène Nationale, Bayonne April 17, 2011

Scène Nationale de Sénart, Combs-la-Ville May 7, 2011

Théâtre, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines May 10, 2011

Opéra/Dijon March 31, 2012

Grand Théâtre de Provence / Aix en Provence April 3-4, 2012



Hosting Conditions

Artistic and technical team
16 people

Transfer fee :

contact Mélanie Roger / booking and developpement, +33(0)6 28 34 67 53

Coast at the expense of the host organization :

Travel expenses
16 people

Set transportation

Per diem allowances
Based on the current French artists' union Syndéac rate for 16 people

Lodging
For 16 people (minimum two-star hotel)

Author's right

Contact Information

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