

D'Eux Sens

compagnie
LA BARAKA

Abou Lagrâa





D'Eux Sens

Creation 2008

CHOREOGRAPHY ABOU LAGRAA

Rehearsal period

spring-summer 2008

World Premiere

September 24-27, 2008

Biennale de la Danse, Lyon

Residency

Compagnie La Baraka is in production residency at
Les Gémeaux / Sceaux / Scène Nationale, from 2009 to 2011

Coproducers

Biennale de la Danse, LYON

Les Gémeaux / SCEAUX / Scène
Nationale

L'Onde, Espace Culturel,
VELIZY-VILLACOUBLAY

Supported by

DRAC Rhône-Alpes
Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes
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Conseil Général de l'Ardèche

In collaboration with

Centre Méditerranéen de Danse
Contemporaine (Tunisie)
Studio, Maison de la Danse de Lyon
Théâtre Municipal d'Annonay

Funded by

Fondation BNP Paribas

With the support of

SPEDIDAM

D'EUX SENS

Photo : Eric Boudet



Cast

D'EUX SENS

Duo

Choreographer

Abou Lagraa

Dancers

Nawal Lagraa Aït Benalla
Abou Lagraa

Music

Eric Aldéa & Ivan Chiossone
Singer : Massoud Raonaq

Additional music

Robert Ashley
Madjid Kiani

Artistic consulting & Repetition coach

Patricia Porasse
Sandrine Maisonneuve

Costumes

Michelle Amet

Light creation and manager

Gérard Garchey

Technical direction

Antoine de Gantho

Stage manager

Patrick Magny

Sound manager

Béranger Mank

Running time : 50 min

Synopsis

Piece dedicated to my father-in-law, Salim Ait Benalla (April 1949 - March 2008)

" While immersing myself in the poetry of Omar Khayyâm - a great Persian poet, philosopher and mathematician of the 11th century, I've been immediately seduced and inspired by the deepness and the humility of his discourse about the meaning of life and by his way of lauding the "joyousness of God".

Khayyâm, with his Rubaiyat (quatrain in Persian), described himself as an infidel but a worshipper , and was critical towards the Muslim religious people. This is what interrogated me with questions, being myself a Muslim.



In this duo, I'm inspired by some of his quatrains, which raises questions on the passage of time, the fleeting pleasures of life and the immensity of death. Through spiral movements, between sky and earth, in a fluid dance thwarted by breathing, it seemed evident to me to talk about love in couple, burning desire, love of the one another until self-loss and loss of the other.

The dancers transcend this duo, exhilarated by the musical fusion of Sufi tradition and occidental electronic music. An original soundtrack by Eric Aldea and Ivan Chiossone mingles with Iranian santûr and with the a cappella version of Omar Khayyâm's quatrains by the Afghan singer Massoud Raonaq.

Finally, the dancer Nawal Lagraa Ait Benalla and myself are conversing and exploring "from the inside", to let our own truth reverberate in each of us."

About LAGRAA

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Born in Annonay on December 22, 1970, of 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 program composed of training, creation and cultural exchanges between both countries is created. The first year succeed in *Nya*, dyptich 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'Èux Sens** (2008) : duet with Abou Lagraa and Nawal Lagraa Ait 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 / Algéria** (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 ô, France24...) and cable channels Paris Dernière...

D'EUX SENS

Photo : Eric Boudet

Artistic Team

Nawal LAGRAA AIT BENALLA Dancer

Born in 1978 in Safi, Morocco, of a Berber father and a French mother, Nawal Lagraa came and lived in France with her family at the age of 8 years old.

From 1989 to 1999, she received a complete training in ballet with Silva Ricard in Millau (France), where she practiced classical repertory (Swan Lake, La Bayadère, The Corsair, Paquita...).

In 1999, she discovered jazz dance with the "Amstrong Jazz Ballet" in choreographies by Wayne Barbaste, Géraldine Armstrong, Georges Momboye, Matt Matox...

Interested in several expressions of arts, Nawal Lagraa performed in Cyrano de Bergerac with Jacques Weber at the Théâtre du Châtelet, in Les Troyens with Yannis Kokhos, or at the Opéra Bastille with Blanca Li... Later, she performed in different audiovisual events.

Passionate about exchanges and transmission, she passed her diploma in 2005, at the Centre National de la Danse in Pantin, to be a dancing master.

She joined the Company La Baraka in 2006 for the creation Matri(k)is and assisted Abou Lagraa for a commission with Memphis Ballet in 2007. In 2008, she performed with Abou Lagraa the duet D'Éux Sens created at Lyon's Biennale de la Danse.

In 2009, she was artistic assistant of Abou Lagraa for the closing ceremony of the 2nd Alger Panafrican Festival. This experience aroused in her the exigent desire to transmit and to train these young Algerian talents to contemporary dance. She then became director of instruction on the Algerian-French project "Mediterranean Cultural Bridge", for which she writes: "These young people get their strength from their eagerness to learn, their rich cultural heritage and their virtuosity in hip-hop dance."

Between her talent as a dancer, her passion for teaching dance and her activities as an artistic assistant, Nawal Lagraa has found her balance in the evolution of her carrier.



Eric ALDEA Composer

Singer and guitarist of the bands Deity Guns and Bästard until 1997, Eric toured Europe and USA and recorded albums in France, Holland, in New-York, Hamburg, Chicago...

Then, he devoted himself to the creation of music for contemporary dance pieces until 2004, when he came back on stage with the band Narcophony.

Collaborating with Abou Lagraa since the beginning of the company in 1998, he currently performs with the band Zerö, unclassifiable rock quatuor whose energy on stage oddly contrasts with the calm atmosphere created in his compositions for dance.

Ivan CHIOSSONE Composer

Self-taught, visual artist, he was involved in several bands in the 90's. He created Les Membres in 1998 with the flutist and painter Pierre Citron, unclassifiable band with an astonishing varied repertoire, from jazz to more classical compositions or unstructured electronic sounds.

With the computing, he increased his composition field and was awarded the adami prize of online music in 2003, in contemporary music category.

Interested by ethnic musics, he met Eric Aldea and formed the band Narcophony in 2002 and Zerö in 2006. Most of the projects of the duo are produced in his home-studio.

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Photo : Eric Boudet



Calendar

Performances

Festival Oriente Occidente, Rovereto September 10, 2008
Biennale de la Danse, Lyon September 24-27, 2008
Théâtre Municipal, Annonay October 4, 2008
Tanztendenzen, Greifswald October 25, 2008
Les Gémeaux, Scène Nationale de Sceaux November 6-9, 2008
L'Onde, Vélizy-Villacoublay November 14-15, 2008
Théâtre de Sartrouville November 18, 2008
Bonlieu, Annecy November 20-22, 2008
Théâtre de l'Olivier, Istres December 6, 2008
Théâtre Jean Vilar, Bourgoin-jallieu January 27, 2009
Kunstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt, Allemagne February 6-7, 2009
La Condition Publique, Roubaix February 17, 2009
Théâtres en Dracénie, Draguignan April 9, 2009
Movimentos International Dance Prize, Wolfsburg, Allemagne May 12, 2009
Festival Danse en Place, Montauban July 28, 2009
International Dance Festival, Poznan August 20-21, 2009
Centre d'Intervention Culturelle, St André La Réunion November 12-13, 2009
Théâtre La Méridienne, Lunéville January 29, 2010
Espace Germinal, Fosses March 26, 2010
L'Apostrophe, Cergy Pontoise March 27, 2010
Espace Culturel, Taverny March 30, 2010
La Passerelle, Saint Briec May 11, 2010
Les Synodales, Sens June 30, 2010
Nowy Theatre, Lodz November 15, 2010
Scène Nationale Sénart, Combs-la-Ville December 7-8, 2010
Théâtre de l'Octogone, Pully March 24, 2011
Salle du Champ de Foire, St André de Cubzac April 7, 2011
Auditorium Michel Petrucciani, Montélimar April 19, 2011
Saint Romain en Gal May 19-20, 2011
Théâtre Quartier Libre, Ancenis May 22, 2011
Le Quatrain, Haute-Goulaine May 24, 2011
Simandres May 27-28, 2011
Vaugneray June 7, 2011

Hosting Conditions

Can be performed open-air

Artistic and technical team :

6 people :

- Abou Lagraa
- Nawal Lagraa
- 3 technicians (stage manager, sound manager, light manager)
- 1 tour manager

Tour's conditions :

Transfer fee

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

Costs at the expense of the host organization :

Travel expenses

6 people

Set transportation

Perdiem allowances

Based on the current French artists' union Syndeac rate for 6 people

Lodging

For 6 people (minimum two star hotel)

Author's right

Contact Information

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Compagnie La Baraka is in production residency at Les Gémeaux / Sceaux / Scène Nationale. Funded by the Ministère de la Culture-DRAC Rhône Alpes, the Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes and the Conseil Général du Rhône (under convention). Funded by the Conseil Général de l'Ardèche. Funded by the BNP Paribas Foundation, the French performers' right societies SPEDIDAM (la Société de perception et de distribution des droits des artistes interprètes de la musique et de la danse est une société qui gère les droits de l'artiste interprète en matière d'enregistrement, de diffusion et de réutilisation des prestations enregistrées).

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