

CHOREOGRAPHY ABOU LAGRAA

Diptych: Man Duo and Woman Sextet

Première: January 2007

# Co-producers

Bonlieu Scène Nationale, ANNECY Théâtre National de Chaillot, PARIS Les Gémeaux Scène Nationale, SCEAUX Scène Nationale des Salins, MARTIGUES La Coursive Scène Nationale, LA ROCHELLE Maison de la Danse, LYON

# Studios reception

Centre Chorégraphique
National de Rillieux-la-Pape
Compagnie Maguy Marin
(travail de l'OCTET)
Centre Chorégraphique
National Jean-Claude Gallotta
(travail du DUO)

# Supported by

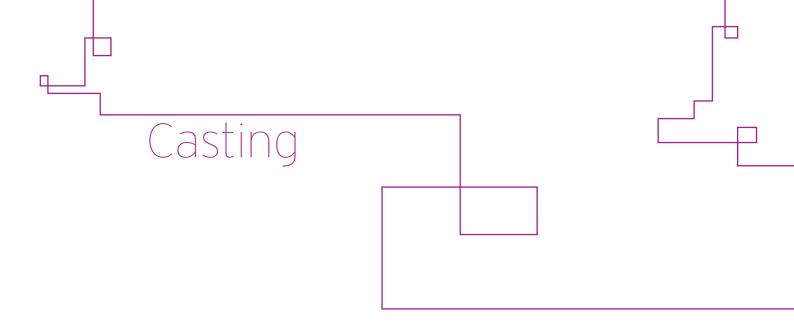
DRAC Rhône Alpes Conseil Régional Rhône Alpes Réseau des villes

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MC2, GRENOBLE
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# Funded by

Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, PARIS La Fondation BNP Paribas NEFA (New England Foundation for the Arts)



# MATRI(K)IS

2 pieces 8 dancers

# DUO

Charles Joël ESSOMBE Oliver TIDA TIDA

# **SEXTET**

Nawal LAGRAA AIT BENALLA Severine ALLAROUSSE Sarah CERNEAUX Rindra RASOAVELOSON Sonia RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ 1er cast: Sandrine MAISONNEUVE 2eme cast: Claire VUILLEMIN

Eric ALDEA & Ivan CHIOSSONE

SINGER

Hafida FAVRET

Saül DOVIN

CHOREOGRAPHY & SCENOGRAPHY Abou LAGRAA

VIDEO AND LIGHTING

**REPETITION COACH** 

Dietmar JANECK

COSTUMES

Design Gilles ROSIER Making Caroline AUDRAIN

Running time: 1 h15'

# Synopsis

..., MATRI(K)IS is a diptych...

Matri(K) is is a diptych in homage to woman, as mother, saint and prostitute. The first piece brings together two male dancers and a woman who observes them. There is an aquatic, womb-like atmosphere for the two men, twin brothers, organically linked through blood ties. Dietmar Janeck's video universe creates a liquid environment for the duo.

The second piece brings together an ensemble of six women, also linked by a strong, secret bond. These feminine figures evoke flowers of different colors, such as a red and blue bouquet. My work is based on the symbolism of colors (red, purple, fuchsia, mauve, black), and the symbolism of flowers. St. John of the Cross-said,

"the Flower is the image of the virtues of the Soul". For me, a flower is just like man, at once similar and different. These six women form the bouquet that brings together as one the symbols of love and harmony. In Japanese culture, the upper bough is that of the sky, the middle bough is that of man and the lower bough is that of the earth.

This choreography is a continuation of my reflection upon sexual identity, the figure of the double, dispossession, feminine solidarity.

Abou Lagraa

# Abou LAGRAA

Born in Annonay on December 22, 1970, he began to dance at the age of 16 in his home town, then attented the Conservatoire in Lyon. He later attended Lyon's Conservatoire National Supérieur Musique et Danse for 3 years, where he worked with a number guest choreographers.

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

He founded Company La Baraka in February 1997 with Aurélia Picot, a dancer in the company. He created 2 parade performances for Lyon's Biennale de la Danse:

- " Mediterranea" for the city of Givors in 1998
- "The Silk Routes" for the city of Vienne in 2000

In February 2001, he created for the CCN Ballet de Lorraine a piece for 15 dancers "Fly, Fly", which he recreated in 2003 for the ABC Dance Company in St. Pölten (Austria). He created "Leïla" in 2003 for the second-year students of Angers' CNDC.

In 2006, the Paris Opéra Ballet commissionned Abou Lagraa a piece "Le Souffle du Temps" for 21 dancers including three principal dancers (Marie - Agnès Gillot, Wilfried Romoli, Manuel Legris).

In 2007, he created "My Skin" for the students of the Hochschule in Frankfurt.



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

From 2004 to 2007, Abou Lagraa and his company were awarded a four-year residency at Bonlieu Scène Nationale d'Annecy where he is an associated artist. From 2009 to 2011, Company La Baraka - Abou Lagraa is in production residency in Sceaux at Les Gémeaux, Scène Nationale.

He has been the subject of several tv reports and captations:

- "La Baraka d'Abou Lagraa", on French national tv (France3)
- "Hip Hop Fusion", aired during the show Musiques au Coeur on French national tv (France 2).
- "Nuit Blanche", on the Franco-German cultural channel Arte.
- "La Danse d'Abou Lagraa", aired during Musiques au Coeur on French national tv (France2), on the cable arts channel Mezzo and on the French international channel TV5 Monde.
- Jury for the tv show "Dancing Show", on French tv France 2.

#### 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 (2002): 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/Duo/Quatuor
- R.B.V.B. (2006): piece for 4 dancers, solo the "Three Temperaments" / hip hop trio "Passage"
- Matri(K)is (2007): piece for 10 dancers men duo/ women octet
- D'Eux Sens (2008) : duo with Abou Lagraa and Nawal Lagraa Ait Benalla

#### Commissions:

#### • "Fly, FLy":

Commissioned to Abou Lagraa by the CCN Ballet de Lorraine for 15 dancers. Première: February 2001.

#### • "Le Pas suspendu":

Commissioned to Abou Lagraa by the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie: Soli on Schubert "Death and the Maiden" and Hindemith's "Three Temperaments". Première: March 2006.

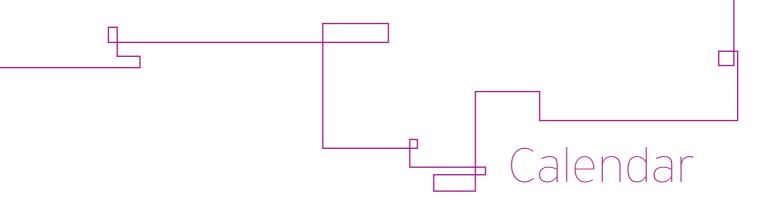
#### • "Le Souffle du Temps":

Commissioned to Abou Lagraa by the Opéra National de Paris for 21 dancers, including 3 principal dancers (Marie-Agnès Gillot, Manuel Legris, Wilfried Romoli). Première: March 2006.

#### • "Everyone's one"

Commissioned to Abou Lagraa by the Memphis Ballet (USA). Première: February 2008.

Photo: Eric Boudet
MATRI(K)|S



# **Performances**

Bonlieu Scène Nationale, Annecu

January 16-20 2007

Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris

February 3, 4, 6, 7 & 8 2007

Théâtre des Salins Scène Nationale, Martigues

February 13-14 2007

La Coursive Scène Nationale, la Rochelle

February 17, 2007

Auditorium Parco Della Musica, Rome

February 27-28 2007

Maison de la Danse, Luon

March 14-17 2007

Château Rouge, Annemasse

April 25, 2007

Rencontres Chorégraphiques de Carthage, Tunisia

April 29, 2007

MC2, Grenoble

May 2-4 2007

Théâtre des Gémeaux Scène Nationale, Sceaux

May 11-12 2007

Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt

May 18-19 2007

Espace Malraux Scène Nationale, Chambéry

May 22, 2007

Maison de la Culture de Loire-Atlantique, Nantes

June 5, 2007

Théâtre Municipal, Annonay

October 9, 2007

Le Phénix, Valenciennes

February 29, 2008

Le Cratère, Alès

March 28, 2008

Festival Perspectives, Sarrebruck

June 16, 2008

Théâtre, Privas

February 26, 2009



# Artistic and technical team

13 people

# Transfer fee:

Contact us

# Costs at the expense of the host organization:

# Travel expenses:

Personnel: 13 people

# Set transportation

# Per diem allowances:

Based on the current French artists' union Syndéac rate for 13 people.

# Lodging

For 13 people (minimum two-star hotel)

# Contact information

# Abou LAGRAA

choreographe and artistic director Email: abou@cie-labaraka.com

# René MULLER

general manager

Émail : admin@cie-labaraka.com

#### Laure CHAVEYRIAT

production manager

Email: prod@cie-labaraka.com

# Communication and audience relations

Email: com@cie-labaraka.com

# Antoine DE GANTHO

technical director

Email: antoine.de-gantho@wanadoo.fr

Phone: +33(0)6 81 77 83 58

# Booking:

# Mélanie ROGER

Email : melroger@gmail.com Phone : +33(0)6 28 34 67 53

# Bernard SCHMIDT Productions, Inc.

Agent Etats-Unis / Canada

New York, N.Y Usa - Tel / fax:1-212-564-4443 - Email: bschmidtpd@aol.com

# Compagnie La Baraka

115 boulevard de la Croix-Rousse - 69004 Lyon, FRANCE

Tél : +33(0)4 78 29 59 80, Fax : +33(0)4 78 29 57 93

Site Internet: www.cie-labaraka.com, Email: rp@cie-labaraka.com

Siret: 412720 528 00042, APE: 9001Z,

Licences entrepreneur du spectacle : n°2-144 193 / n°3-144 194









