



# WONDERFUL ONE

Creation 2017/2018

Choreography Abou Lagraa

Duo of men / Trio of women



**World Premiere 2017 August 30th**

**Festival Oriente/Occidente - Rovereto - Italie**



**ORIENTEOCCIDENTE**  
DANCE FESTIVAL

CASTING

**Choreography** Abou Lagraa

**Dancers Duo** Ludovic Collura and Pascal Beugré-Tellier

**Dancers Trio** Nawal Lagraa-Ait Benalla, Sandra Savin, Antonia Vitti

**Light** Marco Giusti

**Music Duo**

*“Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda” (The Battle of Tancredi and Clorinda)* de Claudio Monteverdi

**Music Trio**

Uum Kalthum

Sœur Marie Keyrouz

Percussions de Fez

**Additional music and arrangements** : Olivier Innocenti

**Scenography** Quentin Lugnier

**Costumes** Maité Chantrel

**Duration** : 1h03

**Suitable for all audiences 12 starting 12 years old**

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**Production**

Cie La Baraka

**Coproduction**

Festival Oriente/Occidente, Rovereto, Italie/Théâtre National de la Danse de Chaillot / Théâtre du Gymnase – Bernardines Marseille / Bonlieu Scène Nationale Annecy / Théâtres de la ville de Luxembourg

**Residency of creation** Annonay Rhône Agglo - En scenes



**BONLIEU**  
SCÈNE NATIONALE  
ANNECY



### What if we were wonderful?

I believe that being wonderful is an ability to resist defining ourselves as men or women, asserting ourselves instead and letting ourselves be filled by both simultaneously. It is the ability to reach beyond the question of gender and fearlessly assume what we are, our desires and our contradictions.

**By taking this path we become wonderful beings: truer than true, more real than real.**

From the outset, my dance has been greatly inspired by the dancers who interpret it. I have ceaselessly questioned the individual's place within our society and want the individual to be free above all else. That freedom is continually reaffirmed and exalted in my work.

### Being two ...

For this men's duo, I have chosen to work using the music by Claudio Monteverdi "*Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*" (*The Battle of Tancredi and Clorinda*) created in 1624 and published in his *Madrigals of Love and War* in 1638. The duo will be constructed like a poem, a relentless duel between gestures and movements that are virile and feminine at the same time. A demanding and self-sufficient dance. An assertive dance. The two dancers will scrutinise and sniff each other like two wild animals, they will mark out their territories, struggle and intertwine.

I would like the investigation to resemble the work I began in my solo "*Où transe*" (where trance) in which **the body transforms into an energy drawn from surpassing**

**corporeal limitations, rising up from the ground towards spiritual questioning, towards trance.**

### ... Being three

Now, let us meet three women, three performers who represent great wealth to me and possess a maturity as intellectual as it is physical. No labels, no female solidarity and no clichés: body and music are the only common ground.

To accompany and envelop the women's trio, I have chosen **two women's voices that are emblematic, full of demands and infused with great spirituality: Uum Kalthum** the Egyptian with the "incomparable voice" and the Lebanese Christian nun **Sister Marie Keyrouz**, along with the percussions of Fez.

I will give structure to the dance by inventing a shared choreographic language. I will use this script to create **several choreographic modules in which the bodies of the three dancers will chant and vary the intensity of energy like a series of verbal algorithms**. The three performers will develop absolute freedom of movement within this choreographic framework.

### Duo and trio

Two ways of viewing human beings, two ways of making reality enchanting.

The piece will naturally also incorporate the fragmentation of the world, the fragility of our spaces and the ephemeral quality of our lives while retaining the faith and hope running through the lifeblood of every human being.

**I would like to give each performer the time and space to be WONDERFULLY alive.**

AGENDA

**2017/2018**

- Festival Oriente/Occidente, Rovereto, Italie, 30 August 2017
- Théâtre des Cordeliers, Annonay Rhône Agglo en scènes, 6 October 2017
- Bonlieu, scène nationale d'Annecy, 28 and 29 November 2017
- Le Liberté, Scène nationale de Toulon, 3 February 2018
- Les Bernardines, Marseille, 6 to 10 February 2018
- Comédie de Valence, 3 and 4 April 2018

**2018/2019**

- Théâtre National de Chaillot, 10 performance-run, February 2019
- Théâtres de la ville de Luxembourg, March 2019

PHOTO GALLERY



## ABOU LAGRAA

Choreographer, dancer and artistic director of the Company La Baraka



Born in France to Algerian parents, Abou Lagraa began dancing at the age of 16 before entering the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse, Lyon. He began his career as a dancer at the S.O.A.P. Dance Theatre, Frankfurt with Rui Horta and became his assistant on a project at the Calouste Gulbenkian Centre, Lisbon. He was soon noticed and went on to work with Robert Poole, Denis Plassard and Lionel Hoche

**His qualities as a performer have been rewarded twice: in 1998 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize for performance at the Paris International Dance Competition, then in 2009 the prize for Best Male Dancer, awarded by the International Movimentos Dance Prize.**

**In 1997 he founded his own company, La Baraka.** Once again, recognition came quickly; numerous French venues programmed the young choreographer and he received proposals for collaboration. As a result, after 4 years as an associated artist at Bonlieu Scène Nationale in Annecy, since 2009 to 2014, Abou Lagraa and his company have been hosted in production residency at Gémeaux, Scène Nationale, Sceaux. In 2015-2016, he was an associated artist at La Maison de la Danse in Lyon.

The fame of the company spread rapidly beyond France's borders and tours followed one after the other, throughout Europe and also in the United States of America, Algeria, Russia, China, Tunisia and Indonesia...

**Alongside his work with the company, Abou Lagraa is regularly in demand by large organisations.**

In 2001 he devised "Fly, Fly" for the CCN Ballet de Lorraine. This piece later was subsequently added to the repertoire of the ABC Dance Company of St Pölten in Austria. In 2003 he devised a work for the second-year students of the "Centre National de Danse Contemporaine" in Angers, then in 2007 for the pupils of the Frankfurt Hochschule and the pupils of the "Centre Méditerranéen de Danse Contemporaine", Tunis.

**In 2006 his work entered the repertoire of the "Paris Opéra Ballet" with "Le Souffle du Temps", a piece for 21 dancers, including 3 étoiles (Marie-Agnès Gillot, Manuel Legris, Wilfried Romoli).**

**Then, in 2008, he composed "Everyone's One" at the invitation of Ballet Memphis (USA).**

**Since 2008, in association with the french Cultural Ministry, the algerian Cultural Ministry and the Algerian Agency for the Cultural Brilliance,** he works, with Nawal Lagraa-Aït Benalla, in the elaboration of a "Mediterranean Cultural Bridge", the project of French-Algerian cooperation for the development of the dance and the artistic exchanges which will contain a program of Training and creation. In this frame, he sees confiding for July 2009, the choreography of closing ceremony of the 2nd Pan-African Festival of Algiers.

In 2010, he creates **the Contemporary Ballet of Algiers**, under the Nawal Lagraa-Aït Benalla's educational responsibility, with a first piece **NYA**. The success of which ends in several national and international tours.

**This piece was to be distinguished in 2011 when it was awarded the Grand Prix de la Critique as "Best Choreography of the Year".**

**In 2016, he becomes the « Dream up » ambassador, an international arts-based education programme set up by the BNP Paribas foundation.** This programme will help some 30,000 underprivileged or disabled children and teenagers to develop and find fulfilment by practising an artistic or creative activity.

In 2016, he becomes "Chevalier des arts et des lettres" nominated by the French ministry of culture.

## Creations

2017 **Dakhla**, Premiere in Suresnes Cité Danse 2017  
2015 **The Song of the songs** – Première at la Maison de la Danse de Lyon  
2013 **El Djoudour (les racines) opening of** Marseille – Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture  
2012 **Univers...l’Afrique**, for Les Gémeaux Scène Nationale de Sceaux  
2010 **Nya**, for Ballet Contemporain d’Alger  
2010 **Un Monde en Soi** with Quatuor Debussy  
2009 Closing Ceremony of **Festival Panafricain** – Algeria  
2008 **Everyone’s one** for Memphis Ballet (USA)  
2008 **D’Eux Sens**  
2007 **Nawal (ou l’offrande)** for Centre Méditerranéen de Danse Contemporaine of Tunis  
2007 **My Skin** for the Hochschule de Francfort  
2007 **Matri(K)is**  
2006 **Le Souffle du Temps** for Marie-Agnès Gillot, Manuel Legris et Wilfried Romoli, and the Ballet de l’Opéra de Paris  
2006 **Le Pas Suspendu** with Orchestre des Pays de Savoie “La Jeune Fille et La Mort” (Schubert) and “Trois Tempéraments” (Hindemith)  
2006 **R.B.V.B.**  
2005 **Où Transe**  
2004 **Cutting Flat**  
2003 **Leïla** for Ecole supérieure du Centre de Danse Contemporaine d’Angers  
2002 **Allegoria Stanza**  
2001 **4 point 5** for the Young Ballet of CNSMD of Lyon  
2001 **Fly, Fly** in CCN Ballet de Lorraine (repertory of ABC Dance Company - Sankt Pölten Austria)  
2000 **Nuit Blanche**  
2000 **Passage**  
1999 **Kraft**  
1998 **Violatus**  
1998 **Les 2**

## Medias audiovisuels

**La Baraka d’Abou Lagraa** – by France3 TV Channel  
**Hip Hop Fusion** - Musiques au Cœur, by Eve Ruggieri - France2 TV Channel  
**Nuit Blanche** – ARTE, franco-german channel  
**La Danse d’Abou Lagraa** - Musiques au Cœur on France2, Mezzo and TV5 Monde  
**Reportages et interviews** News of TF1, France2, France3, Les Mots de Minuit, Paris Dernière, France Ô, France24...



## THE DANCERS

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### LUDOVIC COLLURA



Ludovic Collura was born in 1991 in Marseille. He started practicing Modern Jazz dance at the Conservatoire de Marignane. A few years later, he decided to complete his training with contemporary dance and joined Fanny Chrétien's company "Ainsi va la danse" in 2006. In 2010, he became a student at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse de Lyon (CNSMD).

He has worked with people like Juliette Beauviche, Marie Françoise Garcia, Anne Martin, Marie Françoise Gerry and Gaele Communal Van Sleen, amongst others. He has also worked with famous choreographers such as Abou Lagraa, Sandrine Maisonneuve, Davy Brun (Ando Danse Compagnie) Guillaume Siard (GUID – or "Urban Group of Danced Intervention" – of the Ballet Preljocaj) and Joseph Nadj in 2012 for « L'Anatomie du fauve ».

In 2014, he joined the Young Ballet in Lyon and took part in « Kammerkonzert », a creation by Shlomi Tuizer and Edmond Russo.

He was also a solo dancer in Merce Cunningham's piece « Suite for five », staged again by Cédric Andrieux and Andréa Weber. The following year, he decided to become a dance professor and took a State Degree (Diplôme d'État), and worked at the same time with Josette Baiz's Compagnie Grenade on « Up Rising », by Hofesh Shechter and « Entity » by Wayne McGregor. He joined la Compagnie La Baraka in 2015 for the creation of « Le Cantique des cantiques ».

### PASCAL BEUGRE-TELLIER



Born in 1986 in Koumassi, Ivory Coast, Pascal was trained by a former dancer of Claude Brumachon, he started to dance with Garth Fagon on The Lion king from Broadway to Paris.

He worked with Georges Momboy, Vincent Mantsoe, Béa Buffin, Rhéda, James Carles, or Thierry Smits

He joined la Compagnie La Baraka in 2015 for the creation of « Le Cantique des cantiques ».



## NAWAL LAGRAA



Nawal Lagraa is a choreographer, a dancer/performer, and a dance professor (with a State Degree). She became Abou Lagraa's collaborator in 2006.

First trained as a classical dancer before she did jazz and contemporary dance, Nawal is a multi-talented artist. With a passion for exchanges and transmission, she leads workshops for different kinds of audiences (non-professionals, academics, actors, professionals) in Europe, China, the United States, Russia or Algeria.

From 2010 to 2015, together with Abou Lagraa, she created the Pont Culturel méditerranéen entre la France et l'Algérie ("the Mediterranean Cultural bridge between France and Algeria").

Since 2015, she has been leading a training program in contemporary dance for young women in social difficulty. This program targets young women in the Lyon region who don't have access to more institutional training. This "Femmes sur le devant de la scène" ("Women at the Center Stage") project is supported by the Région Rhône-Alpes, the city of Lyon and the Ministère des droits des Femmes. It led to the creation of "Do you be", in

October 2015, at the Maison de la danse, in Lyon, during the "Quinzaine de l'égalité Femmes-Hommes" ("the women-men equality fortnight").

## SANDRA SAVIN



Trained at "Centre de Danse International Rosella Hightower", Sandra Savin participates to the first cast of the musical of *Notre Dame de Paris*. She has worked with people like Gigi Caciuleanu, Joseph Rusillo, Corrine Lanselle, Laura Scozzi, Robert Lepage, Isira Makuloluwe, Dominique Boivin, David Drouard, Kader Belarbi, Nasser Martin Gousset.

She collaborated with Olivier Dubois since *Révolution* and *Tragédie*, she performed as a dancer in *Auguri* presented at la Biennale de Danse de Lyon 2016.

She performed for Rachid Ouramdane in *Tenir le Temps*.

She assisted choreographers like Abou Lagraa for the Opéra national de Paris and Isira Makuloluwe for the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, CNDC d'angers and le festival Suresnes Cité Danse, and Olivier Dubois for *Ana Masri*, *Shake Shake Shake* and *les Corps aimants*.

Lately, Sandra is in charge of the staging of the show *Storm* for l'Ecole Nationale des Arts du Cirque of Rosny-sous-Bois.

Sandra joined Abou Lagraa again for *Wonderful One* after a cooperation as a dancer in his previous productions *Cutting Flat* and *Où transe*.

## ANTONIA VITTI



Antonia Vitti was born in Bari, Italy. She started studying dance assiduously at the age of 15 and continued her training at the Rome Opera School. She performs both classical and contemporary dance, purposefully blurring the lines between the different styles she adopts.

She was a performer for the Karlsruhe State Theatre from 2003 to 2006 and joined the Munich National Theatre as a solo dancer from 2007 to 2009. She has danced for many choreographers such as William Forsythe, Philip Taylor, Richard Wherlock, Rui Horta or Stephan Thoss.

Living in France since 2010, she joined the Dance Windows project of the Centre Chorégraphique National de Roubaix

both as a dancer and as an artistic assistant to Carolyn Carlson and Yuval Pick.

In 2011, she performed as a dancer in Carolyn Carlson and Bartabas's creation "We were horses". Lately, she created choreographic pieces for non-professionals, actors and young ballet, collaborated with Brigitte Mounier for her creation "Fukushima" and choreographed pieces for the "Fête des Lumières" in Canton, China.

A professor of contemporary dance (with a State Degree), she teaches professional dancers at the CCNR Yuval Pick. She joined the Compagnie La Baraka in 2015 for the creation of "Le Cantique des cantiques."

## Artistic Collaborators

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### QUENTIN LUGNIER - Stage designer

Trained at the School of Architecture in Lyon and at the School of Fine Arts in Valence, plastic artist and stage designer Quentin Lugnier started his career as a painter and set designer at the National Opera in Paris before he started stage designing and set building for shows and exhibitions.

He regularly works with la Compagnie L'Ateuchus (puppets), La Batysse (a place dedicated to puppets in Pélussin).

In 2015/2016, he collaborated as a set designer and a prop master with the Théâtre Exalté for "Cœur d'Acier", by Magali Mougel (directed by Baptiste Guiton), as a stage-designer-builder with Colonie Bakakāi for "Le sentiment d'une montagne" (texts by Christophe Tarkos, directed by Chloé Bégou) and with la Seconde Tigre for "Fleisch", by Pauline Laidet.

He was also in charge of scenography for Alain Recoing's exhibition "la Marionnette émancipée", produced by the Théâtre aux mains nues / Mairie de Saint-Affrique / IIM de Charleville-Mézières.

### MARCO GIUSTI - Lighting designer

Born in Udine, Italy in 1977, he moved to Milano where he took a degree in theatre direction after the studies in contemporary history in Trieste. He had his visual formation under the painter and Lighting Designer Gabriele Amadori in Milan.

During this last years he created lighting in theatres in Italy and Europe such as Theatre du Chatelet in Paris, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Opera de Lausanne, Opera di Roma, Theater St. Gallen, Festival De Avignon, Opera Bastille, Teatro Real Madrid, TNS Strasbourg

He Collaborates with Festivals like La Biennale DMT, Rossini Opera Festival and Live music festivals.

He collaborates with Romeo Castellucci, Giorgio Barberio Corsetti, Juliette Dechamps, Charles Berling, Nicola Berloff, Benedetto Sicca, Adriano Sinivia.



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