

Dance Encounters

Encoding Identities
Choreographic Encounters Nairobi
29 July to 10 August 2005

performance . workshop . exchange
organised by GàaraProjects

Tickets: Ksh 300

The GoDown: Call 555227/555770



The GoDown
arts centre



Initiated and produced by Gaara Projects, in collaboration with the Godown Arts Centre and Alliance Française de Nairobi
With the support of: Ford Foundation, Africalia, Afrique en Création - AFAA, Association Française d'Action Artistique - Ministère des Affaires Étrangères
UNESCO Ashberg, The Italian Institute of Culture - Nairobi, The British Council - Nairobi



DATE	PERFORMANCES
Saturday, 30 July 7.00pm:	Compagnie Gaara, Kenya
Tuesday, 2 August 7.00pm:	Raffaella Giordano, Italy James & Co, Kenya Neema Bagamuhunda, Kenya
Thursday 4, August 7.00pm:	Mionzi Dance Theatre, Tanzania Footsteps, Uganda JokaJok, Kenya Moturi Kebaya, Kenya
Saturday, 6 August 7.00pm:	Melanie Demers, Canada Floating Outfit, South Africa
Tuesday, 9 August 7.00pm:	Salia ni Seydou, Burkina Faso
Wednesday, 10 August 7.00pm:	Ketly Noel, Mali Lailah Masiga Project, Kenya
WORKSHOPS	
DANCE Raffaella Giordano Melanie Demers Boyzie Cekwana Salia Sanou Opiyo Okach	29th July - 31st July 2005 29th July - 2nd August 2005 3rd August - 4th August 2005 3rd August - 7th August 2005 9th August - 10th August 2005
TECHNICAL Antoine Canella and Chris Duplech	13th July - 10th August 2005
DANCE JOURNALISM Daniel Hutera and Kimani wa Wanjiru	30th July - 10th August 2005

Photos: James Muriuki for JokaJok, Neema Bagamuhunda, James & Co, Footsteps and Mionzi Dance Theatre

CHOREOGRAPHIC ENCOUNTERS NAIROBI

Following the success of 'Retracing Connections' the first edition of the Choreographic Encounters in Nairobi that brought together dancers and choreographers from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Congo DRC, Madagascar, South Africa and Italy, Nairobians will experience two weeks of contemporary dance creation in the second encounters 'Encoding Identities'. This year the encounters hosts leading dance makers from further a field including the renowned Salia ni Seydou from Burkina Faso, Ketly Noel the Malian of Haitian origin as well as the South African Boyzie Cekwana. Emerging choreography from East Africa is represented by a new generation of artists: Juliette Omolo, James Mweu, Lailah Masiga, Moturi Kebaya and Neema Bagamuhunda from Kenya, Roger Masaba from Uganda, and Aloyce Makonde with Mionzi Dance Theatre from Tanzania. The passionate Raffaella Giordano represents European contemporary dance from Italy while the Quebecoise Melanie Demers represents Canada. The Encounters are initiated by Gaara Projects, in collaboration with the Godown Arts Centre and Alliance Française de Nairobi. Choreographic Encounters Nairobi are a season of performances, workshops and exchange, a time for choreographers, dancers, administrators and technicians to question performance, confront and exchange ideas and share new work with a growing audience.



KENYA
La Cie Gaara
'SHIFT...CENTRE'
Friday 30th July, 2005 Premiere
Sat 30th July, 2005

"Why stick to one when there are 360° possible" - Zaha Hadid, architect
After the 1997 African Choreographic Encounters award winning piece 'Cleansing', Abila in 2002 - resulting from a two year choreographic development project in Kenya, the solos 'Dilo' and 'No Man's gone Now' all touring internationally, Compagnie Gàara opens the Encounters with its new creation, 'Shift...Centre'.
Kenyan live a multifaceted reality: from multiple traditions and languages to Islam and Christianity through MTV, the internet... Shift Centre confronts the notion of multiplicity, of reality in constant shift, where the truth isn't just in one place but dependent on where you stand... It proposes an instant composition performance where the audience is invited to explore the performance space, offered the liberty to choose how to engage with and perceive the performance.
Gaara will premiere 'Shift...Centre' on the Gala Night on Friday 29th July 2005 and Saturday 30th July 2005, at 7.30 p.m.

Coproduction: CCN d'Orléans in the framework of 'l'accueil-studio', Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication France, Ville de Limoges - Centres Culturels - Scène Conventioennée pour la Danse, Les Francophonies en Limousin, Gaara Projects
With the support of: Ford Foundation, Afrique en Création - AFAA, Association Française d'Action Artistique - Ministère des Affaires Étrangères France
Thanks to the Godown Arts Centre & Alliance Française de Nairobi.



KENYA
JokaJok
'MUSIMU WA TANO'
Thu 4th August, 2005

Created in 2002 JokaJok is made up of three women dancers Juliette Omolo, Neema Bagamuhunda and Rebecca Wangui. The company's two creations 'Koroboi' and 'Limits' have been presented at the GoDown Arts Centre in Nairobi. They work with both contemporary and traditional dance.

Neema dances with JokaJok. She trained for 9 months at the Visions Theatre Academy (1995) in Indian dance (kathak), ballet and jazz. In high school, Neema danced with various part time cabaret groups and in 1998 she joined Gaara in their production 'Cleansing' when their female dancer left.
Neema danced with Ondiege Matthew (Dance Into Space) and took part in various productions including 'Wakati' (1998) 'Freedom of my soul' (1998) and Pisha (2000).
Neema is also a part time dance teacher and chair of We-Pet, a trust of young women artists that uses performing and visual arts to highlight women's issues.

KENYA
Neema Bagamuhunda
'BROKEN LINKS'
Tue 2nd August, 2005



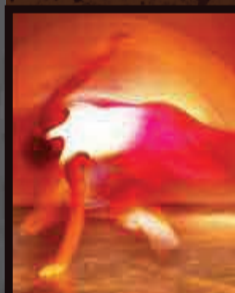
KENYA
Moturi Kebaya
'HISIA'
Thu 4th August, 2005

Moturi has been performing in the art scene for the past 8 years, working in different artforms including singing with a traditional band. In 2004 Moturi won a Unesco Ashberg scholarship to Tanz Impuls in Vienna. He has visited Venezuela, Holland and Belgium for object theatre and puppetry projects. Moturi performed with the famous writer and opinion maker Dacia Maraini, in 'Travelling in the gait of a fox' at the Fench Cultural Center in Nairobi.



KENYA
Lailah Masiga
'LOUD SILENCE'
Wed 10th August 2005

Lailah has experience in different dance domains; Cabaret, Modern dance, Traditional African, and Contemporary dance. She teaches dance within the Danceworks framework, which is geared to encourage, increase and nurture a new breed of contemporary dancers in Kenya. She also teaches African dance and Salsa in Australia, majorly for cultural awareness. Lailah has created the solos 'Life' (2002) and 'Neeseesitoes' (2003).
'Loud Silence' her latest choreography with Kefa Oiro, premiered in the 1st Nairobi Dance Encounters 2004 at the Godown Arts Centre.
She also works with La Compagnie Gaara.



KENYA
James & Co
'HIYO STORY'
Tue 2nd August, 2005

James Mweu began his artistic career in 1998 as a sculptor. He began to dance with Katarina Comaro in the evenings but soon his interest in dance grew to such an extent that sculpting became an evening activity as he pursued dance full-time.
In 2003, James began to dance with Compagnie Gaara and performed in the company's piece 'Abila' which toured Indian Ocean Africa.
Since, James has started to choreograph work including 'An Evening of Your Life', 'Danceworks 2004' and 'Contemporary Dance & Phrases 2005'. His choreography 'Hiyo Story' was first performed at the Godown Arts Centre during Dance Traffic Week in February 2005.



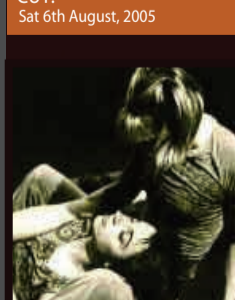
MALI
Ketly Noel
'ERRANCE'
Wed 10th August 2005

Ketly Noel was born in Port au Prince in Haiti. Trained as a dancer and actress she was first interested in Haitian traditional dances, the secular/profane as well as the sacred, and later in African dances in Benin and Mali.
Her experiences in Benin in 1996 had a profound influence on her creations. She then moved to Mali and created 'L'Espace', the first dance company with a workshop and choreographic spaces equipped with a dance floor in Bamako. Ketly's work is based on movement, its roots and their common source. Ketly Noel premiered at the first international Festival of Bamako 'Danse Bamako Danse' whose third edition will be held this year.
Production: Donko Seko. With the support of Radio France International - RFI, Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie - AIF, Afrique en Création - AFAA, Association Française d'Action Artistique, RFC - UNESCO



SOUTH AFRICA
The Floating Outfit Project
'CUT!
Sat 6th August, 2005

Soweto born, Ntsikelelo 'Boyzie' Cekwana started his dance training with Carly Dlbakoane in Meadowlands and has since worked with all the major dance companies in South Africa. He was the first ever African resident choreographer in the history of the Performing Arts Councils in South Africa. His work is now in the repertoire of international companies such as the Scottish Dance Theatre and the Washington Ballet. A true citizen of the world, Boyzie has performed and presented his work across Africa, Europe and America. He has presented papers at International Conferences such as the 'Inroads Africa', 'Confluences 2', 'Afrique en Créations' and 'Dancas na Cidade'. He formed The Floating Outfit Project with Desire Davids. Boyzie has been invited to direct a new work for Pilkentafel in Germany and create a work for 'Les Fables a la Fontaine' in 2005. He is currently touring 'Cut' his new project.
Coproduction: Les Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis; Centre Chorégraphique National Ballets de Lorraine; The Floating Outfit Project (Durban); SNB Vita Dance Umbrella (Lütharneckburg); Institut Français d'Afrique du Sud; AFAA (Association Française d'Action Artistique)



CANADA
Melanie Demers
'THE LITTLE POCKET SOLO'
Sat 6th August, 2005

Based in Montreal, Canada, Melanie Demers started her dance career in 1996 working with different Canadian choreographers. In 1998, she joined the internationally renowned dance company O Vertigo with whom she still works to this day. She toured as a dancer with the company in the North and South America as well as Europe. Her own work as choreographer was presented in Montreal, Toronto, New York, Port-au-Prince, Niamey and Ouagadougou. She also teaches in schools in Montreal and offers workshops while touring. She is now working on a creation as she got the UNESCO-Ashberg residency with Gaara dance Company in Nairobi.
Melanie will be presenting The Little Pocket Solo' on the 6th August 2005



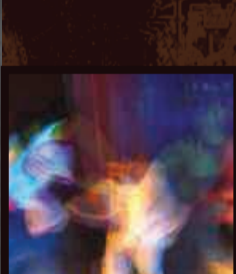
UGANDA
Footsteps
Thu 4th August, 2005

Footsteps Dance Company founded in 1996 is dedicated to the creation of dance work that is wholly contemporary yet has roots in the dance traditions of East Africa.
Footsteps seeks to reach out to other traditions and to work with other theatre and dance groups in Uganda and elsewhere, to exchange ideas about technique, method, and training. The company also wants to explore with others the sharing of ideas for audience development - particularly ideas for audience development into the creative processes. Footsteps has been involved in numerous workshops organized by CTD and Gaara through the support of the Ford Foundation.



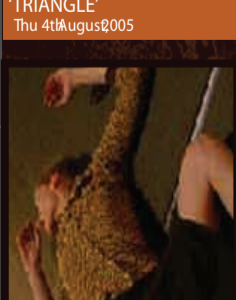
BURKINA FASO
Salia ni Seydou
'FIGNINO'
Tue 9th August, 2005

Salia Sanou and Seydou Boro, from Burkina Faso are both trained theatre. Seydou has authored and directed documentary films on African dance. Salia is the artistic director of the Rencontres Chorégraphiques Africaines organised by Association Française d'Action Artistique - AFAA. Salia and Seydou have put together several creations including 'Century of Fools', 'Figninto' (the torn eye), 'Taagala' (the traveler) and 'Weeleni' (the call). They have also won several choreography prizes including the coveted 'Découverte' prize for Radio France International. Salia ni Seydou organise the choreographic encounters of Ouagadougou are in the process of opening a Choreographic Centre in Burkina Faso.
Coproduction: Atelier Théâtre Burkinabé - ATB, CCN Montpellier, Centre Culturel Français Ouagadougou, Compagnie Salia ni Seydou, Ministère de la culture et des arts - Burkina Faso, Ods Africa, Seg-T, abao Sali with the help of: Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie - AIF



TANZANIA
Mionzi Dance
'TRIANGLE'
Thu 4th August 2005

Mionzi Dance Theatre consists of dancers and musicians from Tanzania. The company was formed in May 2000 after 5 key members worked with Swedish choreographer Lena Josselson of Skanes Dans Theatre from 1998 to 2000.
The group has participated in various dance workshops, performances and training inside and outside Tanzania. Mionzi has been working with CTD (Centre for International Theatre Development), Kenyan and Ugandan as well as Swedish dancers.



ITALY
Raffaella Giordano
'YOU WILL NEVER LOSE ME'
Tue 2nd August, 2005

Raffaella Giordano is an elegant and intense artist; her work has always quivered with fragility and passion. This imposing choreographer with an unmistakable mark never hesitates to show her own way of being, her inner life and emotions in every performance.
After having plunged into Schoenberg's musical universe Raffaella created what turned out to be the Italian dance theatre event in years - Quore. Un lavoro in divenire (a work in progress) - a visionary and profoundly the performance in which every-day mysteries and rites, made of pop songs and amusement, grievance and feeling of loss, become disruptive poetry and bitter nakedness.
Thanks to Mira Andrioli and Beatrice Giannini
Production Sista Palmizi Network '05
Coproduction L'Officina Atelier Marsailias de Production in collaboration with Teatro comunale di Castiglioni Fiorentino