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*Created et choreographed
by Radhouane El Meddeb
for 9 performers*

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HEROES

Radhouane El Meddeb designed this creation watching the young performers, in the main hall of the CENTQUATRE in Paris. Breakers, voguers, hip- hopeurs, his eye is drawn to the life driven by their fast movements, their keen desires. He tried to understand what was at stake on this asphalt, in this improvised circle where they throw their fragil, sometimes lost bodies, looking for one another. This world is so different from his poetic imagination. Based on the details of this vitality that moved his vision of dance, he created a show with nine of these relentless heroes of urban dance.

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CREATION FESTIVAL DE MARSEILLE DANSE ET ARTS MULTIPLES

12TH AND 13TH JULY 2016

Creation, choreography : **Radhouane El Meddeb**

Artistic Collaborator : **Moustapha Ziane**

Performers : **Aston Bonaparte, William Delahaye, Annabelle Kabemba, Smail Kanoute, Brice Rouchet, Kim Evin, Arnaud Duprat, Youness Aboulakoul et Dimitri Vandal**

Scenography : **Annie Tolleter**

Light designer : **Xavier Lazarini**

Sound designer : **Olivier Renouf et Frédéric Deslias**

Costumes designer : **Cidalia Da Costa**

Stage Manager : **Bruno Moinard**

Sound Manager : **Jonathan Reig**

Production : **La Compagnie de SOI & le CENTQUATRE-PARIS**

Coproduction : **Le Festival de Marseille_danse et arts multiples, Le Ballet National de Marseille - Centre Chorégraphique National, Houdremont, Scène Conventionnée - La Courneuve, La Villette et le CCN de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne / Compagnie Käfig.**

From january 2011 to july 2017, Radhouane el Meddeb is associate artist at CENTQUATRE Paris.

La Compagnie de SOI is subsidized by Drac Île-de-france / Ministry of culture and communication.

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

Whole afternoons spent in the Nef Curial (*big hall*) of the CENTQUATRE.

They are still more numerous, they gather in small groups or they concentrate only on their play. Each of them brings his own sound, rhythm, they sweat, they move, they dance for a long time, for a very long time. The breaths are strong, means the count, the chat, and the share of their techniques, showing, observing, trying, trying again.

Dancers caught in the discipline of their interpretation that they have the key, all of them, or each of them in the bubble they build, trace a circle on the ground by repeating their movements. They find there a noisy shelter, a particular resonance for the gestures and the music that intertwine.

I observe them for a long time, sometimes, I approach them and look closer, in order to meet them too and to understand their eagerness. I understand that I seek their dreams, I try to enter by windows of these showcases that they build, like cubes, squares that surround them and offer them from view of everyone.

Hurry, packed, their bodies sometimes touch themselves, often brush themselves, they do not seek contact, they ignore it most of the time.

What I see, in this fever, is the trace of a devouring hunger, they devour the dance incessantly. This is a relentless dance, stubborn which appears to involve their very existence. And if you look long, it is devastating, it becomes messy, a rebellious creation. I know they have dreams, those dreams fully inhabit them and I began to dream.

Dreaming of exceeding the feat, the respect of the dogma and the beat imposed by the music, always the same at the sound peak, even beyond the continuous movement, incessant. Dreaming to access together, in another way than in a show, the performative approach of the urban dances, in order to go further ... or rather, to get closer to these dancing creatures, interpreters of their own dreams.

However, when they dance, it arises in them, fragility and sensitivity, an hidden interiority, which is also touching and confusing. Beyond technique and training hours, a pattern emerges from these heaps of frantic bodies, faces and some masks collapse, some solitudes are expressed, some promises are sealed.

Radhouane El Meddeb – July 2014

CREATION PROCESS

With the support of the Centre des Monuments Nationaux (Centre of National Monuments) whose the short form *Heroes, prelude* (20 minutes) was presented within the first edition of the event called Monuments en Mouvements (Monuments in movement) to the Pantheon, which hosts, contemporary dance for the first time, on the 14th and 15th April 2015. Then, *Heroes prelude* including 10 performers, was renewed at CENTQUATRE Paris, within the frame of the Festival Les Singuliers on the 8th, 9th and 10th of October 2015, then at Le Palais de la Porte Dorée - National Museum of the History of Immigration on 27th March 2016, within the frame of the National Week for Action and Education against Racism and Antisemitism.

Heroes is a new creation for nine dancers lasting 65 minutes, which still uses the pool of dancers of the Nef Hall of CENTQUATRE-Paris. Four performers were part of the first adventure and five others joined the new team.

Heroes tells the story of their bodies, their relationship to the art of dance.

I ask them to renew themselves, to assume to be artists who invent a sensible dialogue with this dance and life.

Radhouane El Meddeb

Interview by Patrick Sourd, in Le Supplément Les Inrockuptibles, June 2016

Heroes' première is presented on 12th and 13th July 2016 Festival of Marseille - Dance and Arts Multiples.

ARTISTIC TEAM

RADHOUANE EL MEDDEB

Creation, choreography

Trained at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Art of Tunis, he is recognized as “The young hopeful of the Tunisian theatre” in 1996 by the Tunisian Section of the International Theatre Institute. He is, then, recruited as an actor within the training and research workshop of the National Theatre of Toulouse under the direction of Jacques Rosner. In Tunisia, he works with Fadhel Jaibi, Taoufik Jebali and Mohamed Driss, highly influential artists in the Arab world. In France, he works with the directors Jacques Rosner, Lotfi Achour and Catherine Boskowitz, and he collaborates artistically with contemporary authors such as Natacha de Pontcharra, Adel Hakim and Camille de Toledo. As a movie actor, he appeared in two films by Férid Boughdir, *Un Été à la Goulette / A Summer at La Goulette* and *Halfaouine, l’Enfant des Terrasses / Halfaouine, The child of Terrace Roofs*.

Throughout those years devoted to the theatre, he worked in the same time with Tunisian choreographers, as an interpreter and an artistic collaborator. Being quite fond of dancing, he is equally nurtured by classes directed by Lisa Nelson and Jean Laurent Sasportès in Europe.

Because he felt the need for an artistic experience other than the theatre, he signed for his first creation in 2005, a solo dance entitled *Pour en finir avec MOI / To finish with MY SELF*, as an intimate introspection and a vital experience. A real revelation that will make him go into dancing and become a choreographer-interpreter. Once performed at the Rencontres Chorégraphiques de Carthage / The Choreography festival of Carthage, this show has identified by professionals, a turning point in his career. Then, he signed several creations in France, beginning in the following year, with his solo dance *Huwa, ce lui / Huwa, that one* for Montpellier Danse 2006.

In 2007, he joined the casting of *1000 Départs de Muscles / 1000 Starting Muscles*, a creation of Héra Fattoumi and Eric Lamoureux.

In 2008, he presented his creation *Quelqu’un va danser... / Someone’s going to dance...* at the International Choreography Festival of Seine-Saint-Denis. In the same year, he created *Je danse et je vous en donne à bouffer / I dance and give you food* at the Centre National de la Danse in Pantin (CND / The National Dance Center).

In 2008 and 2009, Radhouane El Meddeb participated to *Corps produit, corps productif / Produced body, producing body*, held by the International Choreography Festival of Seine-Saint-Denis and to *Mon corps, mon lieu / My body, my place*, supported by the Fondation Culture et Diversité. These workshops attempt to raise awareness of contemporary dancing and to transmit choreographic composition to a large audience, bringing together young people coming from Zones d’Education Prioritaire (Areas of Priority Education), women members of neighborhood associations and elderly people.

ÉQUIPE ARTISTIQUE

In 2010, he created his first group show, at the CND, *Ce que nous sommes / What we are*, with five dancers, which has been on tour in France for two years. In December 2010, he collaborated with Stéphane Gombert in *Chant d'amour / Love Song*, a creation about a novel and a film by Jean Genet, which they performed at the Collectif 12, Mantes la Jolie. The creation process begun as early as 2009, at the Babel Theatre in Beirut, with the support of the French Cultural Center.

Starting from January 2011, Radhouane El Meddeb became an associate artist at the CENTQUATRE-PARIS. *A l'Étroit / In a narrow situation* is created there in March 2011, a creation initiated by the festival concordan(s)e and in collaboration with Philip Adam.

In the same year, he directed the performance *Tunis*, January 14 2001 at the Beirut Art Center in Lebanon on the occasion of the Meeting Point 6.

In July 2012, at the Montpellier Danse Festival, he created and danced the solo dance *Sous leurs pieds, le paradis / Under their feets, the heaven*, whose choreographic composition is shared with Thomas Lebrun. In 2012, he is invited by Matias Pilet and Alexandre Fournier to choreograph the nouveau cirque duo *Nos limites / Our limits*, created in 2013 at the CENTQUATRE-PARIS. In parallel with his creations, Radhouane El Meddeb is designated as a reporter for scenography, direction and choreography for the jury in charge of the selection of pensioners of the French Academy in Rome for the years 2012 and 2013.

In 2014, he created a new group show *Au temps où les Arabes dansaient... / In days when the Arabs were dancing...* a performance for 4 dancers, within the International Festival CDC Toulouse and région Midi-Pyrénées and at the CENTQUATRE- PARIS.

In 2015, with the support of the National Monuments Centre and in the frame of the first edition of the event *Monuments en Mouvements / Monuments in Movements*, Radhouane El Meddeb presented the premiere of *Heroes, prelude*, performance for 10 urban dancers, at Pantheon in Paris, which hosted contemporary dance for the first time. In June 2015, he's invited by the College of Dance Biennale in Venice, he choreographed *Nous sommes tous étrangers / We are all Foreigners* at Campo San Trovaso, with Italian interpreters.

In 2016, Radhouane El Meddeb continues the work with interpreters of *Heroes prelude*. The premiere of this new creation called *Heroes* is presented at the Festival of Marseille – Dance and Arts Multiples 2016. He also creates the solo *A mon père, une dernière danse et un premier baiser / To my father, one last dance and a first kiss* that is presented at Montpellier Danse 2016.

In November-December 2016 he creates a group piece in Los Angeles, USA, with local performers, *O Solitude, My Sweetest Choice*, for LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions), commissioned by curator Shoghig Halajian. In 2017, out of his wish to transmit and share his experience, he give a series of master classes in Havana, Cuba, as part of the project *Investigación y escritura coreográficas Danze en Construcción*. In July 2017 he creates at the Cloître des Carmes, for the 71st edition of the Festival d'Avignon, a group piece for 7 dancers, 1 actor and 2 musicians, *Face à la mer, pour que les larmes deviennent des éclats de rire / Facing the Sea, for Tears to Turn into Laughter*.

For the 2018/2019 season, the choreographer will create one *Lac des Cygnes / Swan Lake* with the ballet of the National Opera of Rhin (32 dancers), the first of which will take place on January 10, 2019 at the Strasbourg Opera; and *AMOUR-S / LOVE-S*, a trio inspired by the poem « When love beckons you, follow it » by the Lebanese artist Gibran Khalil Gibran.

MOUSTAPHA ZIANE*Artistic collaborator*

Moustapha Ziane multiplies artistic experiences between creation, adaptation, reconstruction, transmission and collaboration with other authors, always eager to open new artistic perspectives and engage innovative adventures in the field of choreography.

Together with Mohamed Ahamada (functional analysis of body in the dance movement) and Christine Roquet (work study through analysis movement, University Paris 8), and in partnership with the CND Pantin and CCN of Caen, he developed a pedagogy of the warming up and the construction of the body in the dance movement, around the idea of vigilant body.

After studying five years of classical dance at the conservatory in Grenoble where he has obtained a gold medal, he joined the formation of National Contemporary Dance Center of Angers, directed by Joel Bouvier Regis Obadia and choreographers from 1996 to 1998. At the end of this training, he met the choreographers Hela Fattoumi and Eric Lamoureux, currently directors of Belfort CCN, with whom he collaborated on many projects (creations, performances). He also works with other choreographers in France and abroad, such as Bouvier / Obadia (Compagnie Sketch), Carolyn Carlson, Claudio Bernardo, Silenda ...

In 2013, he met the choreographer Radhouane el Meddeb with whom he collaborated to the creation of many artistic projects.

ÉQUIPE ARTISTIQUE

ASTON BONAPARTE
WILLIAM DELAHAYE
 ANNABELLE KABEMBA
SMAIL KANOUTE
BRICE ROUCHET
 KIM EVIN
ARNAUD DUPRAT
YOUNESS ABOLAKOUL
DIMITRI VANDAL

Interpreters

The performers are all from different worlds of hip-hop freestyle via popping, theater, breakdance, they play in companies, they develop their own projects and they practice with passion and they have a common point, they come at any time in open spaces of CENTQUATRE for the sake of practice, play and games.

ANNIE TOLLETER

Scenography

Set designer, artist, teacher, Annie Tolleter builds performance spaces for dance and theater, since 1985. She designed most of the performances of Mathilde Monnier, choreographer and director of the National Choreographic Center of Montpellier.

Since 1997, Annie Tolleter leads a contemporary research workshop dealing with the stage space, at the School of Fine Arts in Montpellier and she is involved in the National School of Architecture of Montpellier.

Also, she is a founding member of the collective of artists called Dehorsérie centered on experimenting with active image in the public space

ARTISTIC TEAM

XAVIER LAZARINI

Light designer

Xavier has been trained as lighting designer by different classes (ISTS FPTSC, Ecole Nationale Louis Lumière), and has been the wizard of Marie-Christine Soma, Rémi Nicolas and Dominique Bruguère. Between 1991 and 1995, he managed the light department of the Grande Halle de la Villette.

Then he assumed the function of light manager and general manager for the Compagnie of Josef Nadj (National Choreographic Center of Orleans) from 1998 to 2004. He works in different artistic fields: theatre, circus, opera, and more preferentially in the field of contemporary dance, alongside Hela Fattoumi and Eric Lamoureux for ten years, and more Recently with Franck Il Louise, Radhouane El Meddeb, Xavier Lot, Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou.

Since two years, he developed architectural and museum lighting, and he works as lighting designer at the Futuroscope in Poitiers, and at the General Electric Pavilion of the Beijing Olympics. He also participated to the Music Festival in Essaouira Gnawa, the Festival of Casablanca, fashion shows for Givenchy ...

OLIVIER RENOUF

Sound designer

Born 1953 in Brest, France. Graduate from Université Paris 7 with a diploma in psychology (DESS de psychologie clinique). Olivier Renouf has studied electroacoustic music at CNSM Paris and started to work as a sound designer for theater and contemporary dance.

He has worked with choreographers such as Georges Appaix, Boris Charmatz, Paco Decina, Herman Diephuis, Odile Duboc, le groupe Dunes, Olivia Grandville, Emmanuelle Huyn, Latifa Laâbissi, Alain Michard, Mathilde Monnier, Yuval Pick... as well with stage directors Hubert Colas, Serge Hureau, Daniel Janneteau, François-Michel Pesenti...

He has been collaborating on multi-media installations with the bands Dunes, Nan Goldin... and on sound environments for museums (Le Hall de la Chanson, le MAOAA de Marseille, le MUCEM-ATP de Marseille ...)

ARTISTIC TEAM

CIDALIA DA COSTA

Costumes designer

After training in the Visual Arts in Paris 8, she worked for 2 years with Mary Gromtseff. Then she chose to become stylist and to distribute her own creations in Paris. In parallel, she started to design costumes for theatre and cinema : Francis Leroy, Liliane Quermadec, Costa Kekemenis, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Jan Kounen and Nicolas Wadimoff.

In 1982, the live show became the center of her work. She collaborated with directors and choreographers: Didier Bezace, JL Benoit Gilles Bouillon, Chantal Morel, Guy Delamotte, Philippe Adrien Yves Beaunesne, Brigitte Jacques, Vincent Colin, Daniel Mesguich, Gilbert Rouvière Pierre Ascaris, Christine Dormoy, Charles Tordjman, Didym Michel Jean Louis Jacopin, Jacques Nichet, Magali Leris, Hubert Colas, James Thierré David Gery, Gilberte Tsai, Etienne Pommeret, Stefanne Valensi, Gerold Schumann, Cristophe Gayral, Laurence Renn.

Meanwhile, she meets the great creative movement of the contemporary dance and she started to design costumes for Cristian Trouillas, Caroline Marcadé, Bernardo Montet, Jean Gaudin, Catherine Diverrès and Radhouane El Meddeb.

Her costumes have been presented at many major exhibitions at the Centre Georges Pompidou, at the Grande Halle de la Villette, at La Comédie Française and at Costume Museum of Moulins.

CREATION SCHEDULE

01 **14 - 18 December 2015**
Residence at Houdremont, Scène Conventionnée - La Courneuve (93)

02 **1 - 6 February 2016**
Residence at CENTQUATRE, à Paris (75)

8 - 13 February 2016
Residence at CENTQUATRE, à Paris (75)

03 **14 - 18 March 2016**
Residence at Houdremont, Scène Conventionnée - La Courneuve (93)

04 **8 - 13 April 2016**
Residence at CENTQUATRE, à Paris (75)

05 **26 May - 5 June 2016**
Residence at CENTQUATRE, à Paris (75)

6 - 9 June 2016
Residence at Centre Chorégraphique National de Créteil (94)

06 **4 - 8 July 2016**
Residence at CENTQUATRE, à Paris (75)

07

12 July 2016 - 8:30 pm
13 July 2016 - 7:30pm
Premières at Festival de Marseille - Danse et Arts Multiples, Ballet National de Marseille (13)

TOUR 2016-2017

12 November 2017 - *Houdremont, Scène Conventionnée - La Courneuve (93)*

17, 18 and 19 March 2017 - *Festival Séquence Danse, at CENTQUATRE with La Villette, Paris (75)*

29, 30 and 31 Mars 2017 - *Théâtre du Maillon, with le Pôle Sud, Strasbourg (67)*

