

# Bobo-Dioulasso Pan-African Solo Choreography Contest



**ANKATA™**  
Laboratoire international de recherche, de création et de production des arts de la scène.

**5**  
**Africa**  
**Simply the**  
**Best**

Concours  
chorégraphique  
**Panafricain**  
**solo**  
de Bobo-Dioulasso

**16 ▶ 19**  
Décembre  
2023

ANKATA

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## **I. ORIGINS**

« AFRICA SIMPLY THE BEST », is the Bobo-Dioulasso solo choreographic platform, an initiative of choreographer Serge Aimé COULIBALY, artistic director and founder of Faso Danse Théâtre and ANKATA, an international laboratory for research, creation and production in the performing arts.

After 5 editions, "AFRICA SIMPLY THE BEST" is now considered to be one of the major cultural events in Africa, bringing together young African creators to confront them on the same stage.

Under the banner of creativity, innovation and originality, this major pan-African cultural event rewards the best African solo dance choreographers every two years.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

The Bobo-Dioulasso solo choreographic platform has a number of objectives:

- To facilitate the international identification of talented young artists;
- To develop cross-disciplinary creativity and generate emulation that will lead to innovative and powerful proposals;
- Exposure to other artistic realities and approaches through international performances, particularly in Europe;
- Support creativity that is deeply rooted in African soil and reality, knowing how to touch and unite audiences around themes that truly concern them;
- To give the public the opportunity and the desire to become creators of their own lives through the emotions and reflections generated by artistic creation.

### III. AFRICA SIMPLY THE BEST 5th EDITION

The fifth edition of the "Africa Simply The Best" solo choreography competition took place from 16 to 19 December 2023 in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Bringing together talented participants from eleven (11) African countries, the event offered an exceptional platform to highlight the diversity and excellence of artistic and cultural expression through dance.

Open to all creators on the African continent, the 2023 edition registered 117 entries from 19 African countries, demonstrating the growing scope and impact of the competition over the years. After examination by the pre-selection jury, 14 projects from 11 countries were selected for the final phase in Bobo-Dioulasso:

N°	FULL NAME	COUNTRY	PERFORMANCE
1	KABORE KEVIN CHARLEMAGNE	BURKINA FASO	EFFET MIRROIR
2	KABORE WENDINMI JÉRÔME	BURKINA FASO	LES OMBRES QUI CHANTENT
3	ZOUNDI B. ABDOUL AZIZ	BURKINA FASO	CHUTE PERPÉTUELLE
4	FALL KADHER RASHAD BÉCHIR	CAMEROUN	WOLWOU'GOH
5	MOUSSI SIMON BRICE	CAMEROUN	MESSAGE DES ANGES
6	N'DA ELOI HORTENCE	COTE D'IVOIRE	LE PALMIER
7	AMANY ATEF TAHA IBRAHIM	ÉGYPTE	Bluebottle FLIES
8	TIEMANTA KADIDJA	MALI	BANBALI 100fin
9	NHAPULO MAI-JÚLI MACHADO	MOZAMBIQ UE	SINAIS PARTICULARES
10	OLUKITIBI OLUWABUKUNMI	Nigeria	ÌRÌRÌ
11	LOU DJEHINON VÉRONIQUE	NIGER	VOIX D'ELLE
12	TEBANDEKE JOSEPH	OUGANDA	TIME MACHINE
13	SARR ROGER	SENEGAL	AU-DELA D'UNE APPARENCE
14	AFIADEGNIGBAN KOFFI KEGOU	TOGO	LA QUATRIÈME

With these different projects, the whole of Africa is coming together in one place to celebrate contemporary creation under the supervision of a multidisciplinary international jury.

The best projects have been selected for coaching before an international tour with the support of technical and financial partners.

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#### IV. THE JURY

A jury made up of renowned dance, theatre, film and audiovisual experts and cultural professionals assessed the performances using criteria such as creativity, technique, emotional expression and originality.

These are:

- MARGUERITE DOUANIO/SOU: Journalist ;
- ARISTIDE TARNAGDA : Writer and Playwright ;
- SALIA SANOU : Choreographer ;
- CLAUDE GUINGANE : Director the Gambidi Cultural Center ;
- OLIVIER TARPAGA : Choreographer , Music Composer ;
- ASSIATA ROSINE BANDE : Provincial Director of Arts, Culture and tourism of the Houet Region,
- AGATHE DJOKAM TAMO: Choreographer



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## V. Les lauréats

**Koffi-Kégou Afiadegnignan** from Togo, winner of the fifth edition of Africa SIMPLY THE BEST 2023 with his project « **La Quatrième** ».



un Koffi-Kégou is a dancer-performer and young choreographer from Togo. Koffi-kégou AFIADENIGNBAN, a Togolese dancer, was introduced to traditional dance as a child. After joining the AMENOUVEVE company in 2009, he

broadened his skills by taking part in dance courses in Togo and other countries in the region. In 2018, he intensified his training by joining the "YELEN DON #3" programme in Ouagadougou, where he trained in contemporary dance for three years. Throughout his journey, he has had the opportunity to collaborate with renowned choreographers, enriching his artistic experience.

### «**La Quatrième**»

explores the issue of polygamy, a profound reality in many African societies. Inspired by his own personal story, Koffi Kégou Afiadegnignan, who comes from a polygamous family of five wives and twenty-three children, shares his intimate experience in this poignant solo. He revisits his childhood marked by jealousy, rivalry and hatred within his family, seeking to exorcise his demons and give a voice to all the children affected by this practice. This intimate, introspective performance offers a revealing look at the lasting consequences of polygamy on individuals.

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**Aziz Zoundi**, from Burkina Faso, is the second winner with his project  
« **Chute Perpétuelle** »



"Chute Perpétuelle" delves into the personal story of Abdoul Aziz Zoundi, a show born of his darkest trials, notably the heartbreaking loss of his aunt Aminata to cancer. In this introspective piece, Aziz explores the pains and challenges of his journey, from his struggle to make dance his profession to the daily confrontation with his deepest emotions. In the face of obstacles and criticism, he must draw from within himself the strength to be authentic and to persevere, despite the prejudices of Burkinabè society towards artists. Inspired by the unique support of his aunt, this show becomes a way for him to heal his wounds and find hope in the darkness, by revealing the inner struggles he faces to stay on his feet.

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**Kadidja TIEMANTA** from Mali is the third winner with her project

« **BANBALI 100 fin** »



This artistic project, entitled "Banbali (100 fin)", is a 25-minute performance that explores the themes of resilience and powerlessness in the face of illness, particularly that of the artist's mother, who suffers from Parkinson's disease. Through physical dialogue and emotional choreography, the artist expresses her anguish, determination and self-transcendence. The performance takes us on a journey through the different stages of this struggle, from the search for hope to the torment, from confusion to resilience. Using movements inspired by the gestures of people with Parkinson's, the artist explores existential questions and seeks to heal the soul. The set and choreography create a world in search of therapy, offering a glimmer of hope in the midst of pain.

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# CONCLUSION

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The close of the event was marked by captivating performances, highlighting the most outstanding performances of the competition. The awards ceremony celebrated the winners, recognising their dedication, creativity and outstanding contribution to the art of dance.

The fifth edition of the "Africa Simply the Best" solo choreography competition succeeded brilliantly in its aim of promoting the art of dance in Africa by showcasing the exceptional talent of the continent's dancers. The event reinforced the competition's position as a major catalyst for the development and promotion of dance in Africa.

In addition to the three winners, a number of special prizes were awarded:

- **Special mention** from the jury went to **MAI-JULI MACHADO NHAPULO** from Mozambique, with the project "SINAIS PARTICULARES "
- **The Yongonlon Prize** went to **JEROME KABORE** from Burkina Faso for his project "**LES OMBRES QUI CHANTENT**".
- **The Art Beyond Disability prize** went to **JOSEPH TEBANDEKE** from Mozambique with his piece "**The TIME MACHINE**".

This year's winners will each benefit from personalised coaching and a tour of Africa and Europe in 2024 and 2025.





## TOUR CONTACT

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# MERCI À NOS PARTENAIRES DE 2023

