

Faso Danse Theatre
Serge Aimé Coulibaly

CLAVIE



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A choreographic creation of 75min for 7 dancers, a singer and a percussionist.

WORLD PREMIERE 17-18th of August 2023 @ Tanz im August Berlin (DE)

Faso Danse Théâtre
Gabrielle Petitstraat 4/9
1080 Brussel – België
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Faso Danse Théâtre

Faso Danse Théâtre was founded in 2002 by Serge Aimé Coulibaly.

Throughout his different creations, the Belgian-Burkinabe choreographer explores complex themes with the aim of creating a real positive dynamic.

His inspiration is rooted in African cultures and his art is committed to the need for contemporary, powerful dance, anchored in emotion, but always bearer of reflection and hope. His strong expression makes him universal and finds a hearing in different continents. His works are always created partially in Africa and partially in Europe.

For Serge Aimé Coulibaly, dance is a social commitment. He questions day to day reality and social evolutions and shares this research with his audiences. In his work he examines the interface between personality and involvement, the tension between the individual experiences or wants to say on the one hand and what the commitment to a better world imposes on that individual on the other. On the basis of engagement, he developed a creative process that starts from the duality principle. Every movement that moves through the body triggers an opposite movement. Every form of energy is accompanied by a second form. This brings body and mind into a state in which intuition and urgency take control.

C LA VIE

A contemporary initiatory journey



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With *C la vie* Serge Aimé Coulibaly takes his place in a rich tradition and creates a new contemporary initiatory story to explore life and our way of being in the world in 2023.

The 9 performers join on stage - a public square where anything can happen, and nothing is lost. As they embark on this initiatory journey, they invite us to witness the disappearance of the old world. No initiation is possible without experiencing - however temporary - the instability of the world.

In this story, there is no long series of various obstacles and no hero who must overcome them, but one single great challenge: how to be together? At the heart of the initiatory journey that is *C la vie* is the Encounter - with music, with the other, with reality, with time, with the planet, with the loved one, and so on. The only thing that matters is the event of the encounter and the quest to connect oneself to the world.

C la vie is not about filling a gap, but about radiating the fullness of the possibilities of being together as an antidote to this contemporary world that is spiralling into its own destruction.

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MUSIC

As with every creation by Serge Aimé Coulibaly, the choice of music is a key element. For *C la vie*, Coulibaly starts from his own multidisciplinary education and his personal past as a percussionist – a discipline he has not actively practiced for more than 20 years but which is at the heart of his specific dance language.

CAST

For this creation, Coulibaly opts once again for an artistic team that is close to him and his oeuvre. Sigué Sayouba is in charge of the choreographic assistance. Sara Vanderieck signs the dramaturgy. Eve Martin will create the entire visual universe, from scenography, costumes to video. Hanna El Fakir provides artistic assistance.

The cast of *C la vie* is composed, on the one hand, of dancers familiar with Faso Danse Theatre (Ida Faho Bibata Maiga and Jean Robert Koudogbo-Kiki) and new talents (Angela Rabaglio, Guilhem Chatir, Djibril Ouattara, Arsène Etaba).



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CREDITS

Production

Faso Danse Théâtre

Concept & choreography

Serge Aimé Coulibaly

Assistant choreographer

Sigué Sayouba

Creation and performance

Jean Robert Koudogbo-Kiki, Ida Faho, Angela Rabaglio, Guilhem Chatir, Djibril Ouattara, Arsène Etaba, Bibata Maiga, Dobet Gnahoré et Yvan Talbot

Singer

Dobet Gnahoré

Music

Yvan Talbot aka Doogoo D

Dramaturgy

Sara Vanderieck

Artistic Assistant

Hanna El Fakir

Lighting design

Emily Brassier

Artistic direction costumes, scenography & video

Eve Martin

Videographer

John Pirard

Costume design

Mira Van den Neste

Mask

Stephan Goldrajch

Technical coordination

Thomas Verachtert

Light technician

Hermann Coulibaly

Sound technician

Andreas Le Roy

Stage manager

Dag Jennes

Production manager

Arnout André de la Porte

Distribution

Frans Brood Productions

Coproduction

Charleroidanse (BE), Kampnagel Hamburg (DE), Tanz im August / HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin (DE), La Rampe-La Ponatière Echirrolles (FR), Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg (LU), Festival RomaEuropa (IT), Festival Culturescapes Basel (CH), Münchner Kammerspiele (DE), KVS- Koninklijke Vlaamse Schouwburg Brussels (BE), Festspielhaus Sankt-Pölten (AT)

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the Flemish authorities and La Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Service Général de la Création Artistique – Service de la Danse

C la vie is created with the support of the Tax Shelter of the Belgian Federal Government



BIOGRAPHY SERGE AIMÉ COULIBALY



© Lydia Nesvadba

Kalakuta Republik (2016), Nuit Blanche à Ouagadougou (2014), Fadjiri (2013), Khokuma 7° Sud (2011), Babemba (2008), Soli- tude d'un Homme Intègre (2007), A Benguer (2006), Minimini (2002).

His open view of the world and of differences, which he always questions, plus his constructive energy and will to persevere, has led to collaboration with several other artists since the beginning of his career. He regularly works on international productions, both as a performer and choreographer. He worked with Moïse Touré (*La Maladie de la Mort*, 2015), with Marrukegu Company in Australia (*Cut the Sky*, 2014 and *Burning Daylight*, 2009), with Farid Berki (*Double Jeu*, 2013), with Julie Dossavi (*Cross and Share*, 2012), with Alain Platel (*C(H)OEURS*, 2012 and *Wolf*, 2003), with Kalpana Raghuraman (*I lost my English*, 2008) and with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (*Tempus Fugit*, 2004).

Serge Aimé Coulibaly's work, always in motion and fueled by curiosity and generosity, has aroused the interest and confidence of a great many organisations. In addition, his desire and will to share his knowledge has led him to make dance pieces for amateur dancers. During his artistic training with the FEEREN company in Burkina Faso, headed by Amadou Bourou, and afterwards in his time at Le Centre National Chorégraphique de Nantes, under Claude Brumachon, Serge Aimé Coulibaly was able to develop his talent and personal tastes and then transfer them into art. He aims to develop an original creativity and involves the dancers and choreographers who attend his masterclasses in questioning their responsibility as performing artists and the power of the vocabulary that has a significance in their role as citizens.

To provide a place for experimentation and concrete reflection for his creations and his concept of artistic commitment, Serge Aimé Coulibaly set up Ankata in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso: an international laboratory for research and production in the performing arts. It's open to everyone and is a cross- roads for exchanges between different continents, disciplines and communities with the common aim of inventing the future.

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BIOGRAPHIES OF THE CAST

Guilhem Chatir

Born in France in 1993, Guilhem Chatir joined the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and continued his training at P.A.R.T.S.

As a dancer he works with: Ultima Vez, Akram Khan, Yoann Bourgeois, Boris Charmatz etc.

Guilhem is invited to create in situ projects such as *l'art dans les chapelles* in Brittany, at the Musée des Augustins in Toulouse etc. In 2021 he created *Vertiges*, a dance solo accompanied by two musicians on stage. In 2023 he created the company *TRACT* in Brussels and initiated a new creation *Ni Ni Ya Mo Mo*.

He joins Faso Danse Théâtre for the first time for the creation of *C la vie*.

Jérôme Arsène Etaba Ambassa

Born in Cameroon, Arsène - a PhD student from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences - began his training as a dancer at the University of Douala. He then continued at the Mugnal Africa Company without forgetting the many training workshops led by professional dancers and choreographers such as Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Agathe Djokam, Ludovic Parfait Goma, Carine Bahanag, Mario Pounce, Zora Snake etc.

Arsène is also founder and leader of the diverse dance group The Performers and the Arsène ETABA Company since 2017 and he creates his own choreographic works including *EVINDI*, *Mbiè Suktèh*, *EN(S)EMBLÉES - EN(S)AMBLES*.

He joins Faso Danse Théâtre for the first time for the creation of *C la vie*.

Ida Faho

Born in Burkina Faso in 1990, Ida began training in the performing arts at the age of 13. She first studied theater and then dance and joined the international dance school EDITE in 2009. She then continued her training at the École des Sables, but also in Europe, at Angelin Preljocaj's Pavillon Noir.

Ida dances in the companies of Irène Tassembédo, Salia Sanou and Helge Letonja. She also participated in the creation of *Les Statues parlent aussi* by Serge Aimé Coulibaly, Jan-Christoph Gockel & Ensemble and she has also developed her own projects.

Ida joined Faso Danse Théâtre in 2016. She has participated in the creations of *Kalakuta Republik*, *Kirina* and *C la vie*.

Jean Robert Koudogbo-Kiki known as Robbi

Born in Burkina Faso in 1986, Robbi trained with dancer and choreographer Lebeau Boumpouto and then with Éloi Bama, known as Gahé, Cie Teguerer and Michel Neya, founder of the group Génération 2000.

Robbi dances in *Nassongo* and *Entre chiens et loups* by Prosper Kompaoré. He joined the project *Je Danse donc je Suis* and the *opening and closing shows of FESPACO* in 2009, 2011 and 2013 by choreographers Irène Tassembédo, Salia Sanou and Seydou Boro. That same year, 2017, he co-choreographed the duo *acceptez-le* with Bachir Tassembédo. In 2019, he collaborated with choreographer Olivier Tarpaga in the piece *When the birds refuse to fly* on an American-European tour.

He returned to FESPACO in 2017 as assistant choreographer to Seydou Boro for the *opening and closing shows* and in 2022 and 2023 as assistant choreographer to Serge Aimé Coulibaly.

Robbi joined Faso Danse Théâtre in 2017 for replacements in *NUIT BLANCHE à Ouagadougou and Kalakuta Republik* before participating in the creations of *Kirina, Fitry, Wakatt* and *C la vie*.

Bibata Ibrahim Maiga

Born in Mali in 1993, Bibata obtained a Master II in Dance at the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers Multimédia Balla Fasséké Kouyaté in 2013. She also graduated from the Ecole des sables du Sénégal in 2017, after three years of discontinuous professional training in Afro-contemporary dance and choreography. She continues to train regularly with national and international choreographers.

She presents her own creations in many festivals: Danse Bamako Danse in 2016 with the performance *Tout à Coup* Bam Festival and Body Dialogue with *Crossing* which she interprets with Kadidja Tiemanta; and with her solo *Esprit Bavard* she won first prize in the Africa Simply The Best competition in 2021. She is also a musician and film actress.

Bibata joined Faso Danse Théâtre in 2019 for a replacement in *Kalakuta Republik* before participating in the creations of *Wakatt* and *C la vie*.

Djibril Ouattara

Born in Burkina Faso, Djibril, like many young Africans, learned to dance in the streets. In 2002. Aware of the importance of training and to integrate the professional world of dance, he participates in several courses and training in contemporary and traditional dance, organized at the French Institute of Bobo-Dioulasso, at the CDC la Termitière, at the Ecole des sables in Senegal.

He participated as a performer in the creation *Rue Princesse* by Salia Sanou; the opening and closing show of Fespaco with Irène Tassebedo; *Not because you're African* by Burkinabe American-French choreographer Olivier Tarpaga; *K-TWO* by Nicole Seiler, *Let's sing and Dance instead of dying like idiots before the 3rd World War* by Aguibou Bougobali Sanou; at *Ganou-Gala la traversée* by Héléne Ducharme; and at *the crossing of African literature* by Moïse Touré. He is assistant choreographer to Serge Aimé Coulibaly for FESPACO's opening and closing shows in 2021 and 2023.

Djibril is the artistic director of the company Ardji Ambiance, the multidisciplinary training project "Ankata Next Generation" and the festival Masque fête in Bobo. In 2017, he created his first solo, *The Delinquent Gods*. He is a laureate of the Gnini program with the solo *Au Nom du Refus du Courage et de la Révolte*. In 2022 he choreographed *Taafé Fanga* of the Awn jigi Art Company of Mali, *Art'Mature of the Afrikanda Label* of Burkina and the Naada clip of Miss Tanya and *Kouanwa Awa Boussim*.

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Angela Rabaglio

Born in Switzerland in 1990, Angela studied dance at the Amsterdamse Hoogeschool voor de Kunsten (de Theaterschool; MTD) and obtained her Bachelor's degree in 2013. Angela then composed her first solo piece *wind-up birds and polaroids* with which she performed in several festivals in Europe.

In 2013, Angela met the French musician, choreographer and dancer Micaël Florentz, with whom she embarked on the creation of two. They founded together in 2017 the company Tumbleweed and created their first piece *The Gyre*, then the piece *A Very Eye* (6 performers with a moving audience) and the suspended trio *Dehors est blanc* in 2023.

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In parallel with her choreographic career, Angela has always continued to work with other choreographers, notably with the Alias Company (CH) for four years, and more recently with Jasmine Morand (Prototype Status, CH). She also regularly intervenes as an external eye, notably on the creations of Cie Ici'Bas (CH), Cie 39-39, Nina Richard and Halaqat.

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Dobet Gnahoré

Born in Côte d'Ivoire in 1982, Dobet is the eldest daughter of Boni Gnahoré, master percussionist of the Ki Yi M'Bock Company of Abidjan directed by Werewere Liking. She left school at the age of 12 to join her father's company of artists where she learned acting, dance, music and singing. After three years of training in the performing arts, she left Kiyi M'bock to join Béatrice Combe's great Afro-contemporary dance company Tchétché, where she stayed for a year and gained more experience.

In 1999, when she was 17 years old, Dobet left Côte d'Ivoire to settle in France. She signed with the Belgian label Contre Jour in 2003, with whom she produced four albums and toured around the world. Dobet's fifth album, *Miziki*, was released in 2017 on the French label Le Café. In 2010, Dobet gained further fame when his collaboration with American singer India Arie on the song "*Pearls*" earned them a GRAMMY win for Best Urban/Alternative Performance. That same year, the British newspaper The Guardian crowned her with the distinction of 'best performance' at the prestigious WOMAD festival. Her most recent album, *Couleur* which consolidates Dobet Gnahoré's position as one of Africa's brightest stars and most outstanding talents.

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Yvan Talbot

Born in France and percussionist musician by training, Yvan aka "Doogoo D" goes to discover Africa at the age of 19. Self-taught, he met the greatest percussionists of Africa and France and became a master of the Djembe and Bolon.

In 2003, he was introduced to electronic music: it was a revelation, an obvious one. He finds strength and energy in this music that becomes an extension of what he has learned in African music. In 2009, he created the group EL FASSA and released his first album "No Black no white just Voodoo": mix between African, Latin and electronic sounds.

In addition to being a musician performer, he has several strings to his bow: composer for many renowned choreographers in hip hop and contemporary dance (Cie Chute Libre, Cie Révolution, Cie Malka, Cie Accrorap, Cie Julie Dossavi, Cie Faso Danse Théâtre...), electro/hip-hop producer among others for KillASon, INVIE BOY and director of the independent label SUPANOVA.

In 2017, he decided to release a solo EP "Caryotype". Entirely electro project in which he invites several featuring. Men, women from different universes and styles who will bring a singular hue and story to each title.

In 2021, he released a new EP (Afro electro) "BP 226" which pays tribute to the African artists with whom he has collaborated on the continent. A real mix between traditional music and electronic music of which 4 singles are already available.

In 2023, he announced the release of a purely electro album planned for the summer. A universe of groove and textures dear to the artist. His music is plural, powerful, wild, rhythmic, danceable, rich in all his experiences, all his encounters.

Yvan joined Faso Danse Théâtre in 2014. He is the musical creator of *Fadjiri*, *Kalakuta Republik* and *C la vie*.



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CONTACT & TOURING



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