

COMPAGNIE HERVÉ KOUBI
SOL INVICTUS

CHOREOGRAPHER Hervé Koubi
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER Fayçal Hamlat

DANCERS Francesca Bazzucchi, Badr Benr Guibi, Joy Isabella Brown, Denis Chernykh, Samuel Da Silveira Lima, El Houssaini Zahid, Abdelghani Ferradji, Elder Matheus Freitas Fernandes Oliveira, Oualid Guennoun, Hsuan-Hung Hsu, Pavel Krupa, Bendehiba Maamar, Ediomar Pinheiro De Queiroz, Ayoub Roufi, Matteo Ruiz, Allan Sobral Dos Santos, Karn Steiner

MUSIC Mikael Karlsson, Maxime Bodson, Steve Reich, Ludwig Van Beethoven
LIGHTING DESIGN Lionel Buzonie
COSTUME DESIGN Guillaume Gabriel
ARRANGEMENTS Guillaume Gabriel
ARTISTIC ADVISOR Bérengère Alfort
EXTERNAL ADVISORS Odile Cougoule, Mohamed Zerouali
REPRESENTATION Margaret Selby, Selby Artists Management

Zellerbach Theatre

Friday, November 20 @ 7:30 PM
Saturday, November 21 @ 2 PM

There will be no intermission.

INSIGHTS Join us after Friday's performance for a conversation with the performers and members of the artistic team.

The 26/27 season dance series is co-sponsored by Arthur Kaplan, C'67 and Duane Perry alongside Lynn Jerath, W'95 and Kunal Jerath.

PROGRAM NOTES

By Hervé Koubi

A manifesto for life.

Sol Invictus is luminous, generous and universal. Always halfway between hip-hop physicality and classic elevation, *Sol Invictus* is a declaration of love, my declaration of love to dance—to its past, to its present and to its future.

It celebrates the links that unite us, those of a life entangled in the cycle of the seasons. It celebrates what it means it be reborn and then to rediscover childhood, to become again a child amazed by the discovery of the world and the mystery of life.

Oh yes, dancing like a child—dizzied by the immensity of the universe and our place living in it. Maybe this work is just about dancing, but dance allows us, beyond words, to celebrate life and bring us together.

But what is "dancing together?"

That question remains a mystery to me. What I do know, however, is that I want to talk about love, mutual help, solidarity, light and bonds, the ones that unite us to life.

I call upon the stage a whole world and its smiles, a liberated form of spelling in service of a writing that goes beyond borders, aesthetics, languages and styles. There will also be rounds and spirals. Those who raise each one of us thanks to others, thanks to the Other. So, here we are maybe.

I want to make the stage a playground of all possibilities, to welcome a dance that laughs and a dance that comes from the heart, from the mouth, from the hips and from the feet on a burning floor.

There is an urgency from this gathering, yes, but also an arousing hope. So, I choose that it will be a rite, a rite which we will invent at each performance to celebrate that we are alive.

Stanley Kubrick said, "The most terrifying fact about the universe is not that it is hostile but that it is indifferent; but if we can come to terms with this indifference and accept the challenges of life within the boundaries of death… our existence as a species can have genuine meaning and fulfilment. However vast the darkness, we must supply our own light."

And since for me, loving and dancing are indeed part of the same indivisible whole that is life, I would like *Sol Invictus* to be a spark.

A spark as brilliant as a life filled with the joy of dancing… together.

COPRODUCTION FOR *SOL INVICTUS* Ballets de Monte-Carlo (Jean-Christophe Maillot, Director), Le GRRRANIT - Scène Nationale de Belfort, La Barcarolle - Scène conventionnée de Saint-Omer, L'Empreinte - Scène Nationale Brive-Tulle, Centre Chorégraphique National de Biarritz (Thierry Malandain, Artistic Director), BCMO Pole chorégraphique de Calais, Théâtre de Grasse - Scène conventionnée d'intérêt National, Ville de Cannes, OARA – résidences de création Avec le soutien de L'Esplanade du Lac de Divonne-les bains, Conservatoire de Calais, Le Channel Scène Nationale de Calais, SPEDIDAM

Compagnie Hervé Koubi
Absolutely unique and utterly original, the fearless, powerful Compagnie Hervé Koubi, created in 1999, reigns from France, Algeria and beyond. Combining contemporary and urban dance movements, capoeira and martial arts with powerful imagery and inspired choreography, its dancers defy gravity. The company traces Koubi's own personal lineage as a French-Algerian choreographer. In 2009, after learning about his family's Algerian roots, Koubi returned to the country of his ancestors and initiated a collaboration with street dance performers from Algeria, then across the Mediterranean basin and today worldwide. What emerge are "creation(s) of poetic beauty" (*The New York Times*), meditative yet strikingly athletic works about the ties that bind us.

Hervé Koubi (Choreographer)
Koubi began his journey as a contemporary dancer for acclaimed choreographers such as Karine Saporta, Claude Brumachon and Thierry Smits. In 2000, he launched his own choreographic project, initially driven by an interest in tradition and the way movement is passed down through generations. His work seeks to bridge the gap between the social dances and the cultures of today with dance that gathers, unites and builds links between people.

A search for his roots led Koubi to Algeria, where he underwent a creative transformation through a pivotal encounter with urban dance. Since then, he has explored the "porosity" of movement, blending technical and esthetic styles to create a language that defies traditional categories. Since 2017, Koubi has collaborated closely with dancer and choreographer Fayçal Hamlat, who he met while serving as the choreographer for the National Ballet of Algiers. Their partnership is built on a unique exchange: while Koubi moved from contemporary dance toward hip-hop, Hamlat took the opposite path. Together, they redefine 21st-century ballet as a field choreography—an inclusive practice that honors history while remaining vibrantly modern. In 2015, Koubi was appointed Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres for his contributions to the arts.

26/27 SEASON

DANCE

A Very Sw!ng Out Holiday
DEC 11–12

Black Grace
FEB 19–20

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
MAR 12–13

Gibney Company
APR 16–17

John Scott Dance
APR 30–MAY 1

Dance Theatre of Harlem
MAY 7–9



Dance Theatre of Harlem, Nir Arieli

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