

CENTRE
CHORÉGRAPHIQUE
NATIONAL
DU HAVRE NORMANDIE
direction Fouad Boussouf

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND
CHOREOGRAPHER
Fouad BOUSSOUF

NÄSS

(people)



Lenght : 60'

CREATION 2018

ALL AUDIENCE
above 7 years old

CONTACTS

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NÄSS

(PEOPLE)

About NÄSS

The power of an unstoppable breath, both musical and choreographic – carries us to new heights in this piece *Näss (People)*, by Fouad Boussouf. The choreographer remembers the exceptional vibe of the musical group Nass el Ghiwane, in 1970s Morocco. Using a range of traditional sounds, the group was also linked to popular uprisings of the time. Is there not an analogy to be made to hip hop's continuing search for its origins, its roots? Onstage there are seven men, measuring, confronting each other with a stack of diverse techniques, each dancer fiercely committed to his own unique style and strength. The choreographer has figured out how to orchestrate, to shape, to compose this group work, keeping us entirely off balance.

His unending combinations of movement retain the nuances and color of his native country (in fact Boussouf took the entire group there for a time during the rehearsal process), while allowing the dancing to channel multiple urban dance styles as well. There is the feeling of a great rite, perhaps a trance, imprinting with the sacred commotions of *Näss (People)*.

"The story of the famous 70s Maghreb Moroccan group Nass el Ghiwane was an important element in inspiring me to create this work. The lyrics and language they used reminded me of the strange link they had to popular protests of that time, and the rap and hip hop culture of that time in the United States. In their lyrics I found strong hip hop vibes involving ancestral traditions, which are still valid and alive. I created Näss like a breath, physical and mystical, reminding me how essential it is to remain anchored to the earth, feeling its vibrations."

Fouad Boussouf

Choreographer Fouad Boussouf

Dancers Sami Blond, Mathieu Bord, Elie Tremblay, Yanice Djae, Loïc Elice, Justin Gouin, Maëlo Hernandez

Assistant choreographer Bruno Domingues Torres

Lighting Designer Fabrice Sarcy

Costumes and Scenography Camille Vallat

Music: Roman Bestion, Fouad Boussouf, Marion Castor

Tour manager Mathieu Morelle

Master control room (alternately) Romain Perrillat-Collomb, Benoît Cherouvrier et Lucas Baccini



This piece is accessible with an audio description. Valérie Castan performs it live and offers audiences a tactile approach before each performance.

For more information please contact Solène Petitjean, solene.petitjean@lephare-ccn.fr

Courant production Le Phare - Centre chorégraphique national du Havre Normandie / direction Fouad Boussouf

Production Massala Company

Coproduction Théâtre Jean Vilar - Vitry-sur-Seine / Le Prisme – Élancourt / Institut du Monde Arabe – Tourcoing / Fontenay-en-Scènes - Fontenay-sous-bois

Financial Support ADAMI / Conseil départemental du Val-de-Marne / Région Ile-de-France / Ville de Vitry-sur-Seine / SPEDIDAM / Institut Français of Morocco
Support and Residencies La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne / Le POC d'Alfortville / Centre National de la Danse / Le FLOW - Pôle Culture Ville de Lille / Cirque Shems'y - Salé, Maroc / Royal Air Maroc Théâtre des Bergeries - Noisy-le-Sec / La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne / Le FLOW - Pôle Culture Ville de Lille / Institut Français de Marrakech



« On stage, seven men melt into a bath of rhythms and gestures traditional than chiselled and physical power take away from new heights. »

Télérama
Rosita Boisseau

"A pure moment of dance in which the simultaneous, collective breathing of the performers (...) exalts the spectator."

The art Chemist - Fanny Brancourt

"A terrestrial dance in which we find nuances of the specific movements involved in immigrants' work, elements of traditional North African dances as well as the iconic spins of hip hop and the freeing energy of contemporary dance."

Luc Hernandez, Exit Mag, 5 janvier 2022

"A pure jewel of masculine rock."

Luc Hernandez, Exit Mag, 5 janvier 2022

"The seven dancers moving together as a group, in duos and solos, present a forceful work including a number of familiar themes such as fraternity, identity, and an immense passion for living ..."

ladepeche.fr

"Näss is a true journey in which the spectator is caught up in the hypnotic trance, the power of these peerless dancers."

ladepeche.fr

"A mind-blowing piece with an adrenaline, an energy which invigorates its audiences and makes them want to jump to their feet and join in.."

Arkuchi #27 (art, culture, architecture), avril 2022

"Leading the charge, Näss celebrates the joy of togetherness."

Grain de sel, avril 2022

Press

« With its propulsive communal energy, Fouad Boussouf's choreography seems as steeped in ancient traditions as it is driven by contemporary urgency » Avec son énergie collective et propulsive, la pièce de Fouad Boussouf s'avère autant empreinte de traditions anciennes que portée par une urgence contemporaine, **Karen Campbell, The Boston Globes / Living Arts, 17 octobre 2022**

« The tension between the dancers' earthbound gravity and their invisible, spiritually charged vibrations is palpable throughout, especially as the energy of the performers rises and recedes » La tension entre l'ancrage au sol des danseurs et leurs vibrations invisibles et spirituelles est palpable tout au long du spectacle, porté à son climax lorsque l'énergie des interprètes gonfle puis redescend, **Gia Kourlas, The New York Times, 19 octobre 2022**

"The wonder is there for all of them: wrestlers, lovers, ravers, break dancers, priors. In their movement we feel the same presence, a curiosity about the body, its vibrations, its hot sweats."

I/O GAZETTE – Ludmilla Malinovski

"The dancers, all of them incredible, have an amazing energy, crazy and sensual at the same time."

Mouvement – Marie Pons

"Näss is a cross between mysticism and physical impulse."

CCÇ Danse - Véronique Vanier

"In Nass, Fouad Boussouf creates a powerful, inclusive and generous work."

Paris Art

"With Fouad Boussouf, dance is the cure for sadness and despair." **Le courrier de l'Atlas- Anaïs Héluin**

"A piece driven by mystical and physical breath."

Le Parisien – Corinne Nevès

Link on vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/774781355>



BIOGRAPHY

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Fouad Boussof - Choreographer

For Fouad Boussof, dance is pure impulse, momentum, movement. These words also define his artistic journey, driven by **his innate curiosity and his desire to escape**. His early years in Morocco, living in an isolated village in the region of Moulay Idriss, were filled with festive family events and a natural environment of clean, monastic simplicity. When Fouad was seven, his family moved to France, to Romilly-sur-Seine, near Troyes, and he stepped into a new universe, in which he had to learn quickly about culture and societal codes. As a teenager he began doing hip hop to cassettes by Prince and Michael Jackson; the form was initially considered a socially acceptable physical exercise, but for him hip hop became **the building blocks for his personal style of movement**, in which the body's will to exceed, to go farther – brought him recognition from his peers.

He finished his education in Chalons-en-Champagne, where he also took workshops led by the circus students from the CNAC (the National Center for Circus Arts). He moved to Paris in 2000 and began studying social sciences at the University of Paris XII in Créteil, where he also taught classes in street dance, first informally, then as an accredited teacher. He continued studying at the Academy of the Cité Véron, participated in the Suresnes Cités Danse Festival and performed with Farid Berki and Pierre Doussaint. After having presented his DESS degree on hip hop, he took a seven month road trip in Australia, beginning **a long cycle of activities layering pedagogical, creative and travel plans**, which also took him to Egypt and to Russia. When he finally returned to France he decided to focus on dance, and at the age of 27 he founded the Compagnie Massala. In 2008- 2009 he created solos and a trio, and in 2010 he created his first group work, **Déviations (Detours)**.

Since then he has been **creating non-stop, embodying the momentum that has characterized his approach to his art and his life**. His work is hybrid, deliberately without labels, profoundly present and in the moment, always incorporating the hip hop movement vocabulary. Over the years he has built **a dance language channeling movement spontaneity and the idea of nonstop movement**, which has no beginning, no ending. His dancers are inspired by this dynamic which sets them outside their normal movement patterns, generating an extraordinary, cyclical energy onstage, notably in his recent works **Näss (People)** in 2018, and in **Oüm** (2020), an homage to Oum Kalthoum – which affirmed his place in the international dance scene.

For Boussof, the principal artistic instrument is the body, of course, but he also incorporates other forms, including video and the plastic arts, both contemporary or linked to Mediterranean history. Among these works are the documentary film, **Le Ballet Urbain (The Urban Ballet)** (2019), and his collaborations with the sculptor **Ugo Rondinone**, on the video installation **Burn to shine** (2022) at the Petit Palais in Paris and in **Via** (2023), which he created for the Ballet du Grand Théâtre in Geneva, commissioned by the choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**. This "world citizen" follows **a rhythm of creation driven by emotion, the concept of risk, and the constant will to move forward**.

From 2020- 2022, Boussof was an Associated Artist at the prestigious Maison de la danse in Lyon, at Équinoxe - Scène nationale de Châteauroux and at the Maison de la musique in Nanterre. On January 1, 2022, He was unanimously appointed as director of Le Phare - Centre chorégraphique national du Havre Normandie and during that year was also honored by the French government with the distinction of **Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres**.

- Isabelle Calabre

Creations / Le Phare

CCN of Le Havre Normandie since 2022

2023 : *Fêu*, creation for 11 dancers

2022 : *Cordes*, creation for a dancer and a musician

2022 : *Âmes*, creation for 2 performers

Creations / Massala Company

from 2011 to 2021

2021 : *Yès*, creation for 2 dancers

2020 : *Oüm*, creation for 6 dancers and 2 musicians

2018 : *Näss (People)*, creation for 7 dancers

2015 : *Le Moulin du Diable*, creation for 5 contemporary & hip-hop dancers

2014 : *Esperluette*, creation for a circus dancer and a guitarist

2013 : *Transe*, ccreation for 7 danseurs contemporary & hip hop dancers

Concept Lavoir, creation pour 5 hip-hop dancers & an opera singer

2012 : *Afflux*, creation for 5 hip-hop dancers, a saxophonist and an electro-acoustic DJ

2011 : *A Condition*, creation for 4 contempory & hip-hop dancers

Commissions & performances

2023 : Creation of *Via*, commande for the Ballet of the Grand Theater of Geneva

2023 : Creation of *Corps (Im)mobiles* with the dancers of the Grand Theater of Geneva at the Art Museum and History of Geneva

2022 : Exhibition of *Burn to shine* in collaboration with Ugo Rondinone for the Petit Palais in Paris

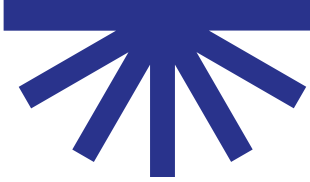
2020 : Dance performance at the Museum of Modren Art of Paris (Salle Raoul Dufy) with the Arte en scène project, Arte.TV

2019 : Creation of *Escape*, France-Hong-Kong collaboration with 2 French dancers and 2 Hong Kong dancers as part of the Honk Kong Arts Festival (Hong Kong)

2018 : Creation of *On n'emprisonne pas les idées*, at the heart of exhibition « Les racines poussent aussi dans le béton ». Piece for 6 performers. MAC/Val Vitry-sur-Seine

2012 : Dance performance around the work of Roy Atsak, l'homme anthropométrique, Vitry-sur seine

2010 : Dance performance for the inauguration of Dan Graham's sculpture in La Rochelle



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2022/2023

15-16/09/22 TRAF0 House of Contemporary Arts, Budapest, **Hongrie**
 29-30/09/22 Maison de la musique de Nanterre
 01/10/22 Maison de la musique de Nanterre
 08/10/22 Festival Masdanza, Teatro Pérez Galdos, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, **Espagne**
 14-15/10/22 ICA, Boston, **USA**
 18-23/10/22 The Joyce Theater, New York, **USA**
 23-24/11/22 Le Volcan, Scène nationale du Havre / Festival Plein Phare
 12-14/12/22 Théâtre de Bourg-en-Bresse
 23/01/23 Théâtre de l'Arsenal, Val-de-Reuil
 09/02/23 Les Tanzmatten, Sélestat
 03/03/23 Théâtre du Chevalet, Noyon
 07/03/23 L'Éclat, Pont-Audemer
 11-12/03/23 Théâtre Sénart, Scène nationale de Lieusaint
 01/04/23 Théâtre en Dracénie, Draguignan
 16-17/05/23 Le Trident, Scène nationale de Cherbourg-en-Cotentin
 01/06/23 CCNT – Centre chorégraphique national de Tours
 Festival Tours d'Horizon

2021/2022

12-16/09/21 Piteå, **Suède**
 28/09/21 Le Vellein, scène de la CAPI, Villefontaine
 29/09/21 Théâtre du Parc, Andrézieux-Bouthéon
 09/10/21 Festival Karavel, Bron
 13/10/21 **Panama**
 Centre culturel Juliette Drouet, La Selle en Luitré, Fougères
 18/11/21 Le Quatrain, Haute Goulaine
 19/11/21 Espace Culturel Capellia, La Chapelle-sur-Erdre
 20/11/21 Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy
 22-24/11/21 Théâtre de Charleville-Mézières
 25/11/21 ACB Bar le Duc, scène nationale
 26/11/21 Moulin du Roc, Niort (option 1)
 30/11/21 Théâtre Edwige Feuillère de Vesoul
 02/12/21 L'Octogone de Pully, Lausanne, **Suisse**
 05/12/21 Centre culturel Jean Houdremont, La Courneuve
 08/01/22 CIRC'a, Auch
 11/01/22 Scène nationale d'Albi
 28/01/22 La Caravelle, Marcheprime
 29/01/22 Espace culturel Treulon, Bruges
 30/01/22 Centre Culturel L'Arcanson, Biscarrosse
 01/02/22 Espace d'Albret, Nérac
 03/02/22 Bonn, **Allemagne**
 Espace Culturel des Corbières, Lézignan-Corbières
 18/02/22 Théâtre Romain Rolland, Villejuif
 01/03/22 Le Quai des arts, Rumilly
 03/03/22 Le Théâtre des Collines, Annecy
 05/03/22 La Mégisserie, Saint-Junien
 12/03/22 Théâtre des Aspres, Thuir
 17/03/22 Théâtre de la Ville d'Aurillac
 18/03/22 Espace Mitterrand, Figeac
 19/03/22 Théâtre de Mende
 22/03/22 Théâtre de la Maison du Peuple, Millau
 30-31/03/22 Théâtre Cournouaille, Quimper
 07/04/22 Salle Guy Obino, Vitrolles
 12-15/04/22 Maison de la Danse de Lyon
 26/04/22 Moulin du Roc, Niort (option 2)
 24/05/22 Maison de la Culture de Nevers (58)
 28/05/22 Oujda, **Maroc**
 31/05/22 Fès, **Maroc**
 02/06/22 Meknès, **Maroc**
 04/06/22 Rabat, **Maroc**
 07/06/22 Casablanca, **Maroc**
 10/06/22 Agadir, **Maroc**

2020/2021

19/09/20 Théâtre Louis Aragon, Tremblay-en-France (93)
 13/10/20 Théâtre de Villefranche-sur-Saône (69)
 27/10/20 Théâtre de l'Olivier, Istres (13)
 13-14/11/20 TEAT, Ile de la Réunion

2019/2020

03/09/2019 Norrlandsoperan, Umeå, **Suède**
 06-07/09/19 Dansens Hus, Oslo, **Norvège**
 16/09/19 – 18/10/19 Tournée en Suède – Dancenet **Sweden**
 22/10/19 Chai du Terral, Saint-Jean-de-Védas
 15/11/19 L'Alpillium, Saint-Rémy-de-Provence
 20-21/11/19 La Filature, scène nationale, Mulhouse
 22/11/19 Espace Culturel Boris Vian, Les Ulis
 29-30/11/19 Théâtre de St-Quentin-en-Yvelines, scène nationale
 06-07/12/19 Les Rencontres trans musicales de Rennes
 12/12/19 December Dance, Bruges, **Belgique**
 04/02/20 Espace Michel-Simon, Noisy-le-Grand
 07/03/20 KVS, Théâtre royal flamand, Festival Lezarts Urbains, Bruxelles, **Belgique**

2018/2019

13/01/18 POC, Alfortville
 23/01/18 Théâtre des Bergeries, Noisy-le-Sec
 20/02/18 Festival Hip Open Dance, Maison Folie Wazemmes, Lille
 16/03/18 Salle Jacques Brel, Fontenay-sous-Bois
 23/03/18 Aerowaves Spring Forward Festival, Sofia, **Bulgarie**
 29/03/18 Festival Moving-Futures, Amsterdam, **Pays-Bas**
 30/03/18 Centre Communal Culturel d'Orly
 08-09/04/18 Théâtre Jean Vilar, Vitry-sur-Seine
 03/05/18 Le Prisme, Elancourt
 31/05/18 Le Manège, scène nationale de Reims
 01/06/18 Théâtre André Malraux Chevilly-Larue
 01/07/18 Carthage Dance Days, Tunis, **Tunisie**
 03/11/18 Tanzfestival Rhein-Main, Darmstadt, **Allemagne**
 24/11/18 International Dance Theater Festival, Lublin, **Pologne**
 29/11/18 Théâtre Jacques Carat, Cachan
 30/11/18 Festival Kalypso, L'Embarcadère, Aubervilliers
 01/12/18 Les Nuits d'Orient, Grand Théâtre – Opéra de Dijon
 29/01/19 Théâtre d'Arles
 01/02/19 Théâtre de Brétigny
 02/02/19 Riley Theatre, NSCD, Leeds, **Royaume-Uni**
 21/03/19 Teatro dell'Aquila, Fermo, **Italie**
 23/03/19 Teatro Rossini, Pesaro, **Italie**
 02/04/19 Le Safran, Amiens
 03-05/04/19 CDCN Pôle Sud, Strasbourg
 18/04/19 Biennale de Danse du Val-de-Marne, Maisons-Alfort
 18-19/05/19 Le French May Festival, **Hong Kong**
 24/05/19 ARC for Dance Festival, Athènes, **Grèce**
 05/06/19 June Events, Festival de l'Atelier de Paris
 13/06/19 Festival Perspectives, Sarrebruck, **Allemagne**
 10-20/07/19 Les Hivernales, CDCN d'Avignon
 21/07/19 San Vincenti Festival, **Croatie**
 28/07/19 Beijing Dance Festival, Pékin, **Chine**
 02-03/08/19 Shanghai International Dance Center, **Chine**



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