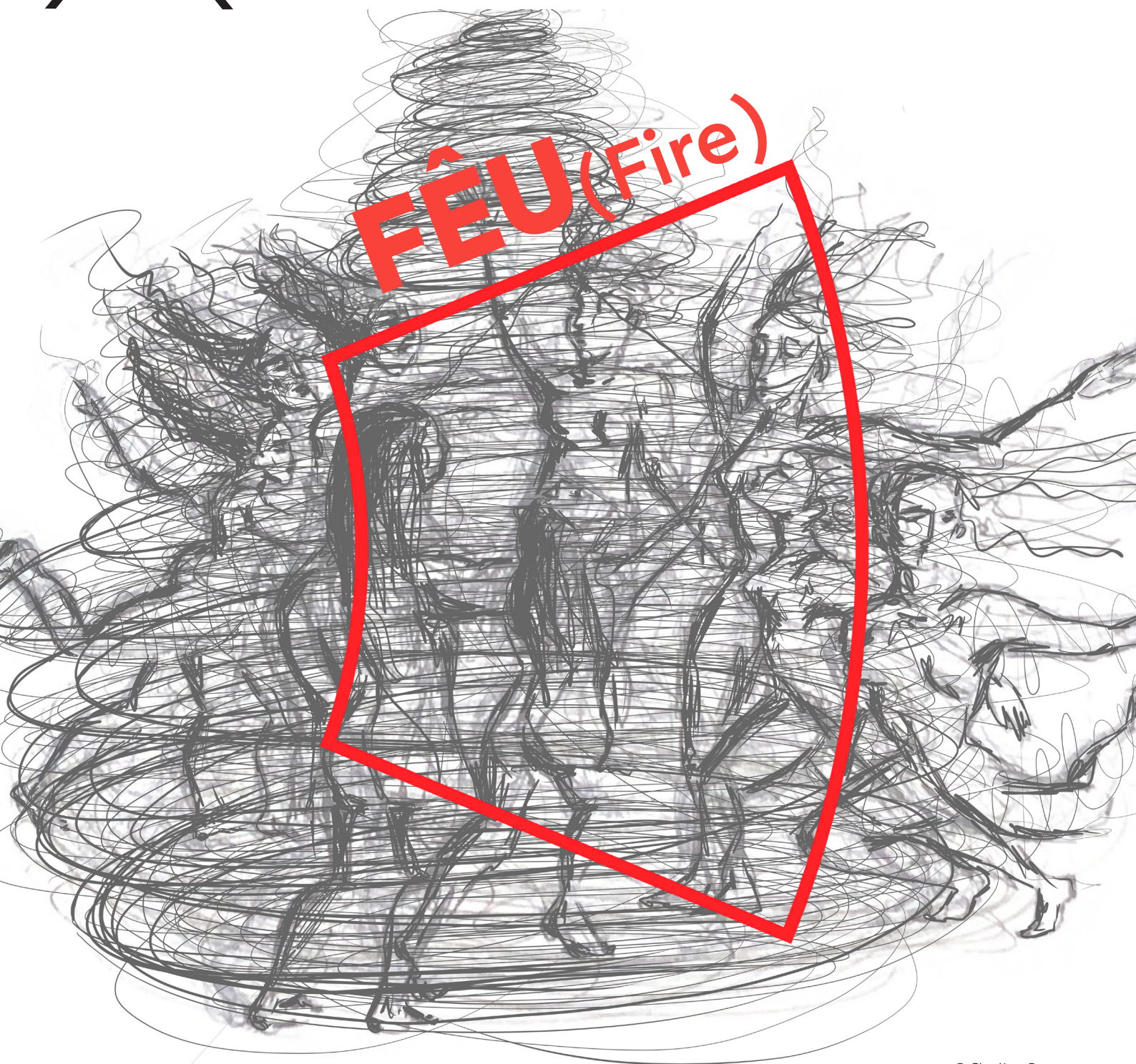




CENTRE  
CHORÉGRAPHIQUE  
NATIONAL  
DU HAVRE NORMANDIE  
direction Fouad Boussouf

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND  
CHOREOGRAPHER  
**Fouad BOUSSOUF**



© Charlène Pons

**CREATION 2023**

performance  
for 10 dancers

**CONTACTS**

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## About Fêu

The title is like a manifesto, short, evocative, channelling at once the primitive energy of this uncontrollable natural element, and the primal warmth around which we assemble, seeking to reaffirm our own humanity. In 2018, in *Näss (People)*, Boussouf featured and focused on an ensemble of seven male dancers, linked through rhythms to some ancestral land. Five years later, he sought inspiration in his Moroccan childhood – and beyond that, in the ancient beginnings of time itself – choosing this time an ensemble of ten female dancers, an homage to the exclusively female-centric environment of his early years. Then, prolonging the power of the cyclical movements introduced in 2022 in the video installation *Burn to shine*, created with the plastician Ugo Rondinone at the Petit Palais in Paris, the choreographer explored the spatial and rhythmic elements of the circle, the embodiment of the regenerating impulse, the loop. Here he focused on the strong physicality of the dancers' bodies, which is driven by a telluric instinct, a haunting, unending movement. We see onstage this intense collective experience, the power of these women embracing the 360° range of movements, of traveling through the space. The women use their hybrid vocabulary of hip hop and contemporary dance, creating and re-creating a constantly evolving stage landscape, flowing, never stopping or starting. They were chosen by Boussouf for their personalities as well as their technical strengths, supported by powerful drumming, and together they create a spirited group, proud of its differences, borne on a wave of fire as breath and as a purifying force. In this perpetual present we discover a joyful space-time, where a performance deliberately free of aesthetic affection presents the true essence of organic group communion with the earth. It is perhaps not a coincidence that this promise of life is presented to us by a group of women ...

- Isabelle Calabre

**Artistic director and choreographer** Fouad Boussouf

**Assistant of the choreographer** Natacha Balet

**Dancers** Serena Bottet, Filipa Correia Lescuyer, Léa Deschaintres, Rose Edjaga, Lola Lefevre, Fiona Pitz, Charlène Pons, Manon Prapotnich, Valentina Rigo, Justine Tourillon

**Music** François Caffenne

**Costumes** Gwladys Duthil

**Set design** Aurélie Thomas

**Lights** Lucas Baccini

**Production** Le Phare, centre chorégraphique national du Havre Normandie

**Coproductions** La Biennale de la danse de Lyon / Le Quartz scène nationale de Brest / Le Volcan, scène nationale du Havre / Maison de la musique de Nanterre – Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national – art et création – pour la musique / Théâtre de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines - scène nationale / Equinoxe, Scène nationale de Châteauroux

**Residencies** Le Volcan, scène nationale du Havre



# CALENDAR

## CREATION

January 19 - 27 2023 - artist residency at le Phare

May 15 - 25 2023 - artist residency at le Phare

June 5 - 16 2023 - artist residency at le Phare

July 3 - 7 2023 - artist residency at le Phare

August 28 - September 2 2023 - artist residency at le Phare

September 11 - 22 2023 - artist residency at le Volcan, scène nationale du Havre

September 25 - 29 2023 - rehearsal at Toboggan, Décines

## TOUR *in progress*

### 2023

**Friday 09.29 + Saturday 09.30 [creation]**

Toboggan - Décines [France]

*in la Biennale de Danse de Lyon*

**Friday 10.13 + Saturday 10.14**

Maison de la musique de Nanterre [France]

**Wenesday 10.18 > Saturday 10.21**

Théâtre du Rond-Point - Paris [France]

**Friday 11.10**

Le Figuier Blanc - Argenteuil [France]

**Tuesday 11.21 + Wenesday 11.22**

Le Volcan - scène nationale du Havre [France]

**Friday 12.15**

Scène de Bayssan, Béziers [France]

**Wenesday 12.20 > Friday 12.22**

Le Quartz - scène nationale de Brest [France]

### 2024

**Friday 02.02 + Saturday 02.03**

Théâtre de St-Quentin-En-Yveline [France]

**Wenesday 02.07**

Le Cratère, scène nationale d'Alès [France]

**Friday 02.09**

Théâtre de Nîmes [France]

**Friday 03.08**

Théâtre Jean-Vilar - Vitry-sur-Seine [France]

**Saturday 03.16**

Bregenzer Frühling, Festspielhaus, Bregenz [Austria]

**Friday 04.12**

Festspielhaus - St-Pölten [Austria]

**Saturday 04.20**

La Passerelle, scène nationale de St-Brieuc [France]

**Friday 04.26**

Concertgebouw - Brugge [Belgium]

**Wenesday 05.29**

Théâtre d'Orléans - scène nationale [France]

**Friday 05.31**

Equinoxe, scène nationale de Chateauroux [France]

# 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 10 dancers

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

**2022** : *Âmes*, creation for 2 performers

### Creations / Massala Company from 2011 to 2021

**2021** : *Yës*, 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** : *Esperlurette*, 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 Modern 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





### Natacha Balet - Assistant choreographer

Natacha Balet discovered dance at the age of 4, at the Sion Conservatory in Switzerland. Having graduated, she then went to the Folkwang University of Essen to work with Pina Bausch. She spent some time working with the Compagnie du Marchepied in Lausanne, then began the pedagogical training program at the CEFEDM in Rouen. She danced in various pieces for the Compagnie Les Chaises in 2007, *Un train en cache un autre* (One train hides another) in the theatre and also worked with Sylvain Groud in 2009. At the same time, she created and presented *C'est trop compliqué* (It's too complicated) with her own company, TOURNICOTTI, in Rouen. In 2009, she joined the Compagnie Montalvo-Hervieu, where she danced in, among others *Orphée*, *Don Quichotte*, *Asa Nisi Masa* and *Yolé*, in a company which prioritized the blending of cultures and styles. She continues to collaborate with José Montalvo and joined the Compagnie La Calebasse with Merlin Nyakam in 2019. Her own company TOURNICOTTI has toured in France and Switzerland since 2018 with *Les Autres* (The others) and *A-cran* (On the edge). Natacha continues to create works for her company and joined the CCN du Havre as an Assistant to Fouad Boussouf.



### François Caffenne - Compositeur

A self-taught artist, François Caffenne began working in 1999 as a stage manager for theatre companies in Lyon (Turak Théâtre and Le Grabuge) while maintaining his interest in both music and dance. In 2004, he composed his first soundtrack for the presentational procession for the Lyon Dance Biennial in the city of Riorges, which he repeated in 2006. In 2005 he met Dominique Boivin, for whom he wrote music for *À quoi tu penses?* (What are you thinking about?) and for whom he created soundtracks for *Don Quichotte* (Don Quixote) in 2009 and *Travelling* in 2011. In 2006, he worked with Olivier Dubois, for whom he created the soundtrack for his solo *Pour tout l'or du monde* (For all the gold in the world), then in 2007 for Dubois' *Révolution* with his take on the famous *Boléro* by Maurice Ravel. Beginning in 2010, he began creating most of the original music for the choreographer's works : *Spectre* for the Ballets de Monte Carlo (2010), *Rouge* (Red), Dubois' 2nd solo (2011), *Tragédie* (Tragedy) which was presented at the Avignon Festival (2012), *Souls* (2013), *Elégie* (Elegy) for the National Ballet of Marseille (2013), *Les mémoires d'un seigneur* (Memoirs of a Lord) (2015), *Auguri* (Wishes) presented at the Lyon Dance Biennial (2016), *De l'origine* (Of the origin) for the Royal Swedish Ballet (2017) and *Tropisme* (Tropism), presented in 2019 at the Séquence Danse du 104 Festival in Paris. He continues to work with Olivier Dubois, and since 2020 has also collaborated with Kaori Ito and since 2022 with Filipe Lourenço.



### Glawdys Duthil - Costumière

Having earned a degree in the fields of costuming/ directing, Glawdys Duthil went to train at Ensatt in costume design. She designed costumes for many theatre directors, among them Jérémy Ridet, Audrey Bonnefoy, Carole Thibaut, Pauline and Angèle Peyrade, the Collectif Nightshot, Gabriel Dufay, Denis Guénoun and Stanislas Roquette. Recently she designed costumes for *En attendant les barbares* (Waiting for the barbarians) after J. M. Coetzee, by Camille Bernon and Simon Bourgade for the Comédie-Française, in 2021 at the Théâtre du Vieux-Colombier, then the costumes of *LWA*, which premiered in 2022 at the Théâtre Paris Villette. Also in 2022 she designed the costumes for *Précieuses Ridicules* (Precious ridiculous) directed by Sébastien Poudroux and Stéphane Varupenne of the Comédie Française, performed at the Théâtre du Vieux Colombier to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Molière's birth. At the opera, she assisted the costumer Julia Hansen on works directed by Mariame Clément. She also works for the circus, notably with Maroussia Diaz Verbeke, Justine Bertillot and Juan Ignacio Tula. She designed costumes for the choreographer Fouad Boussouf for *Happy*, the opening event for the Paris Summer Festival 2021 presented at the Louvre Museum, then for his pieces *Âmes* (Souls) and *Cordes* (Ropes) in 2022.



## Lucas Baccini - Lighting designer

After studying music, Lucas Baccini became interested in theatre sound, then in theatrical lighting, working at the Theatre 13 vents (CDN de Montpellier). His career as a lighting director includes, among others, the Montpellier Dance Festival, La Vignette, the Compagnie Yann Lheureux, the Compagnie Groupe Noces (Florence Bernard), and the Compagnie Massala (Fouad Boussouf). In 2016 he created the Compagnie Noir Titane with Christel Claude. Then, Maxime Cozic, from the Compagnie Felinae, asked him to create the lighting for his pieces, with a similar request from the Compagnie Ino. He explores ways to create rhythmic lighting in symbiosis with the artists in the works he is lighting. His designs are characterized by detailed communication between the choreographer, director, artists, bodies and – of course – the light.





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Le Phare - CCN du Havre Normandie receives support from the French Ministry of Culture / the DRAC Normandie, the Normandy région, the city of Le Havre and the Seine-Maritime department.