



CENTRE
CHORÉGRAPHIQUE
NATIONAL
DU HAVRE NORMANDIE
direction Fouad Boussof

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND
CHOREOGRAPHER
Fouad BOUSSOUF

NÄSS

(people)



Duration : 60'

RECREATION 2024

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? On stage 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

Assistant of the choreographer Filipa Correia Lescuyer
Dancers Adam Chado, Matthieu Convert, Morgan Gruvel, José Meireles, Akciel Regent Gonzalez, Derhen Têtu, Elie Tremblay

Lighting Designer Fabrice Sarcy

Costumes and Scenography Camille Vallat

Music Roman Bestion, Fouad Boussouf, Marion Castor

Tour manager Mathieu Morelle

Light manager (alternately) Benoît Duboc or Romain Perrillat-Collomb



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 / Théâtre des Bergeries - Noisy-le-Sec / La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne / Le FLOW - Pôle Culture Ville de Lille / Institut Français de Marrakech

Financial Support ADAMI / Conseil départemental du Val-de-Marne / Région Ile-de-France / Ville de Vitry-sur-Seine / SPEDIDAM / Institut Français de 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



CALENDAR 2024/2025

2025

Thursday 01.16

Théâtre du Fil de l'eau - Pantin (France)

Friday 01.17

Théâtre de l'Hermine - Saint-Malo (France)

Friday 03.14

Le Carré, scène nationale - Château-Gontier (France)

Friday 03.21

Centre culturel Juliobona - Lillebonne (France)

Mardi 03.25

Maison de la Culture, scène nationale - Bourges (France)

Friday 03.28

Dieppe Scène Nationale (France)

Friday 04.04

Theater - Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Tuesday 05.06

Théâtre de Grasse (France)

Thursday 05.08 + Friday 05.09

Théâtre Durance, scène nationale - Château-Arnoux-Saint-Auban (France)

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

© Charlotte Audureau

The creations of Fouad Boussouf are a vibrant blending of hip hop, contemporary and traditional dance. **A teacher as much as he is a choreographer, he prioritizes communication and transmission in both areas of his work.** Each piece is conceived with an obligatory accompanying set of practical workshops offered to all audiences. These workshops allow us to better understand the works, to continue the experience of the spectator beyond the performance, and to enrich that experience. *Näss* is not the exception to this policy, and can be experienced in a number of ways.

Objectives for our audiences:

- ▶ Facilitate the **discovery of the choreographic and aesthetic universes** of Fouad Boussouf,
- ▶ **Initiate the audiences into the lexicon and practices of live performance**, specifically those used in dance,
- ▶ **Offer perspectives on the creative process** and experimentation with audiences already familiar with dance, including beginning dancers,
- ▶ Propose **feedback time at the end of long form workshops** or **an audiovisual validation** relevant to a creation.

These ideas will apply to all audiences but may be adapted depending on levels of understanding, notably for amateur dancers and for changing objectives in teaching.

The modules :

Workshops will be led by one of the dancers from *Näss* or by other dancers from Le Phare - CCN du Havre Normandie. Various modules are possible, ranging from two hours of discovery to more structured projects lasting through an entire season. The two hour format is largely sufficient to discover a choreographic universe, begin moving and creating a pleasing group dynamic, but longer lasting sessions are proposed to anticipate more detailed study and experiences, with additional feedback.

We are willing to customize our formats depending on audiences, theatres, any expressed wishes, and our availability.



CONTACTS

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PRESS

« 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

Video Links

▶ Teaser

▶ Edited capture (2021)

« 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

"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

BIOGRAPHY

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Fouad Boussouf - Choreographer

For Fouad Boussouf, 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 Boussouf, 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, Boussouf 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

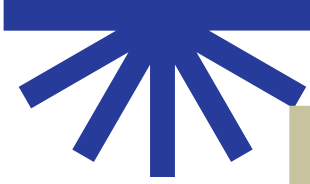
- 2025: *°Up*, creation for a violonist and a footfreestyler
- 2023: *Fêu*, creation for 10 dancers
- 2022: *Cordes*, creation for a dancer and a musician
- 2022: *Âmes*, creation for 2 performers

Creations / Massala Company from 2011 to 2021

- 2021: *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 contemporary & 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
- 2021: Creation of *Happy* (for 15 dancers) for the Opening night of Paris L'Été festival 2021
- 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



PREVIOUS TOURS

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, Élancourt
 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**

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
 18/11/21 Centre culturel Juliette Drouet, La Sella en Luitré, Fougères
 19/11/21 Le Quatrain, Haute Goulaine
 20/11/21 Espace Culturel Capellia, La Chapelle-sur-Erdre
 22-24/11/21 Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy
 25/11/21 Théâtre de Charleville-Mézières
 26/11/21 ACB Bar le Duc, scène nationale
 30/11/21 Moulin du Roc, Niort (option 1)
 02/12/21 Théâtre Edwige Feuillère de Vesoul
 05/12/21 L'Octogone de Pully, Lausanne, **Suisse**
 17/12/21 Centre culturel Jean Houdremont, La Courneuve
 08/01/22 CIRCa, Auch
 11/01/22 Scène nationale d'Albi
 28/01/22 La Caravelle, Marcheprime
 29/01/22 Espace culturel Teulon, Bruges
 30/01/22 Centre Culturel L'Arcanson, Biscarrosse
 01/02/22 Espace d'Albret, Nérac
 03/02/22 Bonn, **Allemagne**
 16/02/22 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**

2019/2020

03/09/2019 Norrlandsoperan, Umeå, **Suède**
 06-07/09/19 Dansens Hus, Oslo, **Norvège**
 16/09 >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**

2020/2021

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

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

2023/2024

06/10/2023 Centre Culturel des Carmes - Langon
 08/10/2023 Théâtre de la ville - Paris
 10/10/2023 Espace 1789 - Saint-Ouen
 26-28/10/2023 Harbourfront centre - Toronto [Canada]
 08-09/12/2023 Pavillon Noir - CCN d'Aix-en-Provence
 18/01/24 Espace Montgolfier - Davézieux
 25/01/24 Théâtre des Salins - Martigues
 12/03/24 Le Tangram - Évreux
 28/03/24 Louvre-Lens
 23-28/04/2024 La Scala - Paris



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**Le Phare - Centre chorégraphique national
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