



CENTRE
CHORÉGRAPHIQUE
NATIONAL
DU HAVRE NORMANDIE
direction Fouad Boussouf

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND
CHOREOGRAPHER
Fouad BOUSSOUF

FÊU (Fire)

Duration 60 min

CREATION 2023

ALL AUDIENCES
from 11 years old

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 nine 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

Dancers Serena Bottet, Yumio Chanoki, Rose Edjaga, Lola Lefèvre, Fiona Pitz, Charlene Pons, Manon Prapotnich, Valentina Rigo, Justine Tourillon

Rehearsal director Mathilde Méritet

Music François Caffenne

Costumes Gwladys Duthil

Costumes - recreation 2025 Salina Dumay

Set design Aurélie Thomas

Lights Lucas Baccini

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

Sound master (alternately) Gianluca Rossiello or Gabin Bachelet

Stage master Sarah-Lise Merghi

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

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



CALENDAR



2025/2026

06.18 > 07.01.25

Tour with the French Institute of Morocco

[Tétouan, Meknes, Kenitra, Rabat, Casablanca, El Jadida]

[Morocco]

10.10 > 10.12.25

Théâtre des Quartiers d'Ivry - Ivry [France]

02.03.26

Théâtre Scènes de Territoire - Bressuire [France]

02.05.26

Théâtre Edwige Feuillère - Vesoul [France]

03.21.26

Le Channel - Calais [France]



FÊU [SMALL VERSION]



© Fabrice Gaboriau - Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris

Fêu can also be performed in 360°, with a reduced number of performers, outdoors or in venues not dedicated to live performance. Performed for the first time in this configuration at the Nuit des musées on May 18, 2024, *Fêu* [small version] is designed to adapt to any space, allowing the audience to move around the stage. An immersive experience, up close and personal with the dancers and their energy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
Marie Chénard (contact details on the last page)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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. *Fêu* 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 *Fêu* 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.



This piece is accessible with an audio description with collaboration of AccèsCulture.

For more information please contact Solène Petitjean (contact details on the last page)

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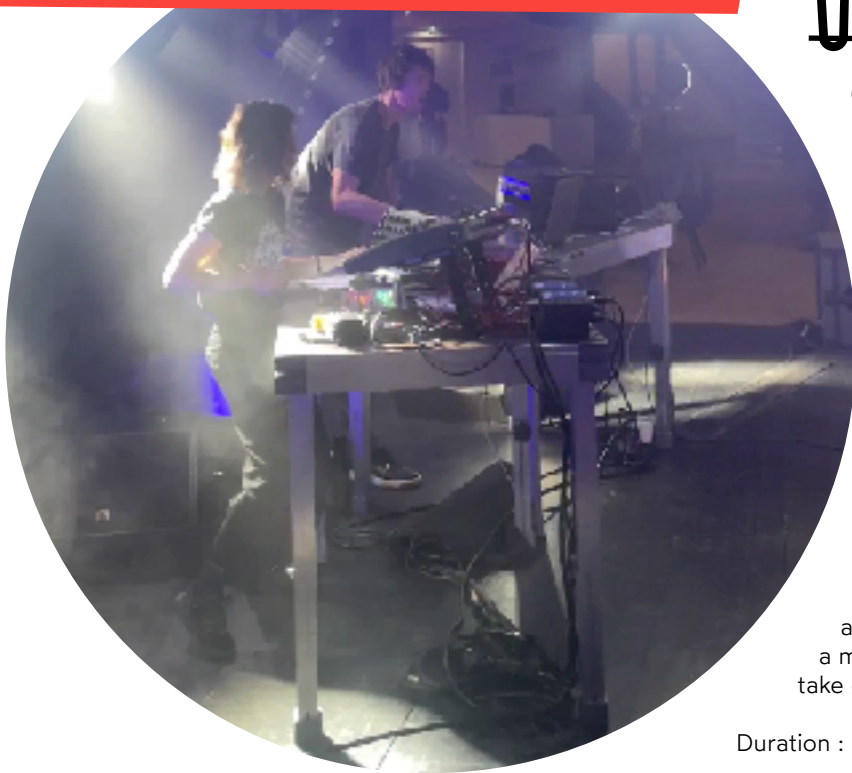


FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Inès Belaïdi (contact details on the last page)

AND MORE...

LIVE MACHINE



UNFALL

*Charlotte Rousseau
and François Caffenne*

Charlotte Rousseau and François Caffenne are composers for contemporary dance, and desire to set bodies in motion, they create in November 2023, for the opening of the PLEIN PHARE IN 2nd edition festival, the duo UNFALL. Programmed at the end of the show, the audience kept the Fire energy and deployed it in turn.

Influenced by rock, electro and cinematic music, the duo distills a physical and powerful techno.

UNFALL's live performance mixes deep bass, analog synthesizers and percussive rhythms, a music that is dense to feel, and invites you to take over the dancefloor.

Duration : 60 minutes

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Marie Chénard (contact details on the last page)



PRESS

"The rising tension, the force driving them toward a trance-like state, the nine of them like witches driven to madness."

Philippe Verrière,
Dansercanahistorique

"[...] the fire is also the flames which valiantly affirm their independence on the very edges of the ensemble. The choreography of Fouad Boussouf takes this dialectic into account, playing the single and the multiple against each other, offering the dancers solos, thanks to which they may slide into the group as much as they may fly away from it.

The same thing happens with the music of François Caffenne, veering from one aesthetic to another; Fouad Boussouf's choreographic vocabulary is drawn from a variety of sources, allowing each dancer to show herself as an individual and as a member of a conjoined group. *Fêu* brilliantly relays the hypnotic nature of these flames we see flickering in the hearth, we cannot turn our eyes away."

Julia Wahl, Cult.news

"This is a revitalizing piece, focusing as it does on the brute force, the vital impulses driving us from our roots. A work which speaks to our bodies, tells us about our history, our past, but also our present, the joy of living, of moving. Feeling alive in our own bodies, moving to confirm our existence, dancing to live. We reconnect with the terrestrial forces of nature in a primal blossoming of our senses. Music, movement, joy. This is a piece which is profoundly joyful, open to life and the dynamic of life itself – something not currently found in other works right now."

theatredublog.com

"As in his previous creations, Fouad Boussouf pushes his dancers beyond their physical limits. And the dancers he chose roar right back. The nine of them, all incredible, throw themselves into this battle with spirit. Even when exhausted and breathless they throw themselves back into the fray for a final push, pulled between the desire to fly and the temptation to melt back into the protective group cocoon. With their hair swinging in all directions, sweeping the floor or whipping the air like victorious banners, they fill this piece with an exhilarating power."

Claudie Colozzi, L'œil d'Olivier

"The fierce energy of these women, seemingly warriors or temple guardians [...] wipes out everything in its way, persuading us with its commitment and authenticity."

Delphine Goater, Resmusica

VIDEO LINKS

▶ **Teaser**

▶ **Capture - wide angle shot (2024)**

▶ **Edited capture (2023)**

BIOGRAPHY

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**. After *Fêu* (2023), a piece for 9 female dancers, he started a laboratory, in complicity with Equinoxe, scène nationale of Châteauroux, with Paul Molina and Gabriel Majou for a duo of live music and foot freestyle, *Up* (2025). 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 of 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**.



Creations / Le Phare CCN of Le Havre Normandie since 2022

- 2025 : *Up*, creation for a violonist and a footfreestyler
- 2023 : *Fêu*, creation for 9 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 : *Esperluette*, creation for a circus dancer and a guitarist
- 2013 : *Transe*, creation 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 Hong 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

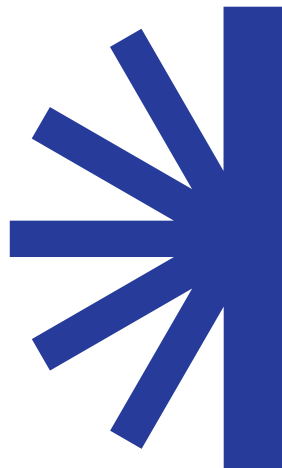


Girls of Fêu

Fouad Boussouf brought together 9 young females dancers, between 22 and 31 years old, from all places and formations. Some come from hip-hop, such as **Fiona Pitz**, **Rose Edjaga** or **Valentina Rigo**, who regularly compete in battles. Some of them went through Les Ballets to train, such as **Charlène Pons**, **Justine Tourillon** and **Yumio Chanoki** with the Ballet Junior de Genève. Others have practiced and studied in conservatories, such as **Serena Bottet** who graduated from the Conservatoire Supérieur National de Lyon or **Manon Prapotnich** who comes to us from the Conservatoire du Grand Avignon. **Lola Lefèvre** trained in Austria at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance after a career between dance and circus. Each of them, thanks to their many experiences and different life paths, gives a singular character to the piece, creating a lively and unique chorus.



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PREVIOUS TOURS

2023/2024

09. 29+30 .23 Toboggan, Décines [Biennale de danse de Lyon]
10. 13+14 .23 Maison de la musique de Nanterre
10. 18+21. 23 Théâtre du Rond-Point, Paris
11.10.23 Le Figuier Blanc, Argenteuil
11. 21+22. 23 Le Volcan - scène nationale du Havre
12.15.23 Scène de Bayssan, Béziers
12. 20+22. 23 Le Quartz - scène nationale de Brest
02. 02+03. 24 Théâtre de St-Quentin-En-Yvelines
02.07.24 Le Cratère, scène nationale d'Alès
02.09.24 Théâtre de Nîmes
03.08.24 Théâtre Jean-Vilar, Vitry-sur-Seine
03.16.24 Brengzer Frühling, Brengz [Austria]
04.12.24 Festspielhaus - St-Pölten [Austria]
04.20.24 La Passerelle, scène nationale de St-Brieuc
04.26.24 Concertgebouw - Brugge [Belgium]
05.29.24 Théâtre d'Orléans - scène nationale
05.31.24 Equinoxe, scène nationale de Châteauroux
06. 13+14. 24 Sommerszene, Performing Art Festival, Salzburg [Austria]
06. 5+6. 24 Festival de Marseille

2024/2025

09.25.24 Theater, Rotterdam [Netherlands]
10. 03-04. 24 Scène Nationale d'Albi
10.15.24 Opéra de Limoges
12.05.24 Théâtre de l'Arsenal, Val de Reuil
12.17.24 Maison de la Culture de Bourges, Scène Nationale
01.28.25 Trident Scène Nationale, Cherbourg-Octeville
03. 26-27. 25 Le Manège Scène Nationale, Reims
04.15.25 Agora Pôle National du Cirque, Boulazac
05.13.25 Le Tangram scène Nationale, Évreux
05.16.25 Théâtre Le Reflet, Vevey [Switzerland]
06.18+07.01.25 Tour with the French Institute of Morocco
(Tétouan, Meknes, Kenitra, Rabat, Casablanca, El Jadida) [Morocco]



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SOCIAL MEDIAS

Facebook

Le Phare
7 600 followers

Fouad Boussouf
4 900 followers

Instagram

Le Phare
3 340 followers

Fouad Boussouf
4 870 followers

LinkedIn

Le Phare
790 followers

Fouad Boussouf
5 160 followers

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