



NEVER TWENTY ONE

Creation 2020

Compagnie **Vivons !**

PRODUCTION FILE

28.10.2020

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Beginings of the project...

In September 2018, Smail Kanouté went to New York for the first time to present his performance **Les Actes du Désert**. At the same time, with his accomplices from the Collectif Racine, he filmed a video-dance in tribute to the victims of firearms. Drawing on testimonies from Bronx residents and NYC's energy, he choreographed the stories of these young people who die before the age of 21. His body then embodies the scar of these sacrificed lives, their memories, their words engraved forever in this curse of the number 21.

In a country where the very palpable violence of everyday life is fantasized or even aestheticized by the Hollywood industry, these tragedies are part of a modern mythology. The desire to get out of it, to succeed, leads these young people to take incredible risks. This urge for life marked by urgency and necessity is reminiscent of that of the choreographer in his act of creation. An ambitious quest pushes everyone to put their body at stake, if not in danger.

What about a choreography where the choreographer would play with his life?

This video-dance, awarded at the Urban Films Festival 2019, Paris, the Dance On Screen Festival 2019, Austria and the Pool Tanzfilm International Festival 2020, Berlin, signs the beginnings of a reflection that Smail wishes to extend by writing a choreographic piece: **NEVER TWENTY ONE**.

Here, the border between reality and fiction will become blurred until it creates a timeless space, that of the show... alive, redemptive, bearer of hope and love.

Vidéo-dance NEVER TWENTY ONE

<https://vimeo.com/440331096> / Mot de passe : nevertwentyone2019



NEVER TWENTY ONE

An ode to life in tribute to young victims of firearms

Echoing the hashtag **#Never 21** designed by the BLACK LIVES MATTERS movement to denounce the early deaths that gnaw at discriminated youth in poor neighborhoods, with this choreographic piece Smail Kanouté wishes to pay tribute to the young victims of firearms in New York, Rio or Johannesburg... who die before the age of 21.

In the mystical symbolism, the number 21 is a sign of divine protection and luck. It's a number that promotes creative inspiration, success, fulfillment. In this, the 21 generally pushes to want to rise higher and to seek a certain fullness. In its positive aspects, this number is then the expression of balance and harmony. But in its negative aspects, a sometimes disproportionate ambition and the risks of dispersion can take over.

NEVER TWENTY ONE... when the number 21 becomes a cursed number, symbol of shortened lives.

Is living without reaching the age of majority a life? Dying in childhood, what does it mean? Dancing a missing child, what does that induce? An innocence in the movement? And for loved ones, what traces leaves a mourning on a body? What dialogue is created between the visible and the invisible? Scientists say the body loses 21 grams upon death. Is it the weight of the soul? That of emotions, bodily energy, memories of a lifetime?

In an urban atmosphere tinged with shamanism, three dancers will resuscitate the words / ills of the victims and their families. Through their bodies that have become graphic sculptures, surfaces of expression and claim, objects of resilience, memorials ... like wandering spirits, they will tell us about their lives stolen, torn away, sacrificed.

Through them, we will relive the moment of the murder, but also the encounters and the roles that each takes in this arms business which eats away at this discriminated youth from poor neighborhoods. An inevitable chess game where some, imprisoned in mafia circles, are pushed to play with their lives, and where others, innocent, find themselves unexpectedly on the trajectory of stray bullets.

Here, life hangs by a thread and every day destinies are broken prematurely.

NEVER TWENTY ONE will be based on the testimonies of the families of the victims who will be partially transcribed on the bodies of the dancers who will become their interpreters and messengers. A body-words-public trilogue will thus be created to pay homage to the missing and keep their memories alive. The work of light will come to suggest the absence, but also the sometimes angry souls of the victims in search of forgiveness and peace. Moving from urban dance to contemporary dance, from hybrid to tribal, different energies will cross and animate the bodies to make the invisible appear and name the inexpressible.

These tales alive in the past, mortified in the present and garish in the future will echo those of the favelas of Rio or the townships of Soweto...

NEVER TWENTY ONE... because their lives still matter.



Production

NEVER TWENTY ONE

Choreographic piece for 3 dancers

Creation 2020

Artistic Team

Choreographer	Smail Kanouté
Dancers	Aston Bonaparte, Jérôme Fidelin aka Goku et Smail Kanouté
Outside look	Moustapha Ziane
Scenograph	Olivier Brichet
Light & sound designer	Paul Lajus
Body painter	Lorella Disez
Costumes designers	Rachel Boa et Ornella Maris

Production

La Compagnie Vivons!

Coproduction

Les Ateliers Médicis – Clichy sous Bois // Espace 1789 – Saint Ouen // CentQuatre – Paris
Théâtre de la Ville / Danse Élargie 2020 // Caisse des Dépôts
DRAC Ile de France // Région Ile de France // Ville de Paris // Adami // Spedidam

Corealisation

Les Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine Saint Denis

2020 Tour

05 november 2020	Premières at Théâtre Berthelot - Montreuil In partnership with Les Rencontres Chorégraphiques Internationales de Seine Saint Denis and les Ateliers Médicis
17-18 November 2020	MPAA Saint Germain - Paris
20 November 2020	Espace Renaudie – Aubervilliers
24 November 2020	Espace 1789 – Saint Ouen





Smail Kanouté – choreographer

Smail Kanouté - choreographer and graphic artist - is a multifaceted artist.

A graduate of the ENSAD (National School of Decorative Arts), he is a graphic designer, screen printer, plastic artist and professional dancer. An artist with bubbling creativity, he is enthusiastic about any new formal challenge. Dance and graphics are thus inseparable from his creative process which feeds on artistic and cultural interbreeding. The motif is the basis of his research and all new production. Also his pictorial and scenic works are recognizable by expressive patterns, a kind of modern and abstract alphabet. He is part of this young generation which renews the visual and aesthetic codes, all disciplines combined.

In the world of fashion and design, Smail Kanouté has various achievements to his credit. He collaborates with the great Malian stylist XULY BËT for the collection presented at New York Fashion Week 2016. For the AFROPUNK festival, he works on clothes and on the customization of shoes for the brand DOC MARTENS during the 2017 edition in Paris . The same year he was the dancing model of artist designer EVANS MBUGUA whose works were presented in Germany, London and at the Art Paris Art Fair 2018. In 2019 he exhibited at the HCS Boutique-Galerie in Paris a series of AFRONINPO posters, in which African, Japanese and Aboriginal motifs interact; and more recently he has created a series of patterns at the crossroads between tradition and modernity in a spirit faithful to street art for the brand PANAFRICA SHOES.

On the stage, Smail Kanouté indulges in urban dance. He is part of this pool of dancers who day after day trains and rehearsals under the nave of the Centquatre - Paris. Through hard work, determination and passion, he is spotted by great choreographers. From 2011 to 2013, he went on tour in France with the show BITTER SUGAR by Raphaëlle Delaunay. In 2014, Radhouane El Meddeb included it in his HEROES show presented at the Panthéon, the Centquatre and the Palais de la Porte Dorée in Paris, La Courneuve, Marseille, Strasbourg but also in Barcelona and Düsseldorf for a series of performances. between 2015 and 2017.

At the same time, he is a dancer for the documentary LA FRANCE CACHEE by Christin Bela, on the music video MUTATE by Jeanne Added, TU ES PARTIE by Simon Pele, THE CALL by Epic Empire or on the European tour by DOPE SAINT JUDE at the Festival Norient Musikfilm in Swiss.

Likewise, he is regularly invited to perform alongside other artists as part of major cultural events: Carte Blanche to Oxmo Puccino at the Institut du Monde Arabe in 2017, DAÏRA performance at the heart of the AI exhibition. Musiq'a at the Philharmonie de Paris, Night of Poetry at the Institut du Monde Arabe - Paris in 2018...

In 2016, he founded Cie Vivons, where he experimented with his own performance projects: PROJECTION (S) (2016) / REQUIEM (2016) / CALLIDANSE (2017) / DANCINK (2017) / JIDUST (2018). 2019 sees the creation of his first choreographic piece: LES ACTES DU DESERT.

Finally with the RACINE Collective, co-founded with Kevin Gay (director) and Henri Coutant (photographer), he writes and choreographs dance videos in which he chooses to approach dance differently. It is then an intuitive, free and spontaneous dance that he gives in sharing, bewitched by the energy of the places crossed. Several of these video-dances were awarded at the Urban Films Festival.

NEVER TWENTY ONE, the latest opus of the Collectif Racine (s) filmed in New York, marks the beginnings of the new choreographic piece 2020/2021 by Compagnie Vivons!

<http://www.smailkanoute.com/>



Aston Bonaparte – performer

Originally from French Guiana, from a very young age Aston Bonaparte was interested in dance. When he was a teenager, he was introduced to urban dances. The documentary film RIZE, a true revelation, led him to move towards Krump dance.

In 2009, he left for France to deepen his practice in the different styles of hip-hop dance. His choice fell on the Kim Kan school under the artistic direction of Thony Maskot. He trained there in Old School and New School hip-hop style, in particular to popping which he made his favorite style. After two years of training he obtained his diploma and decided to broaden his knowledge and horizons by integrating the academic training of Studio Harmonic, under the artistic direction of Corinne Lanselle. There, he discovers other ways of moving and interpreting music through jazz, classical and contemporary aesthetics.

Aston is an interpreter on the pieces LES INDES GALANTES at the Opéra Bastille with the company Rualité / Bintou Dembélé, HEROES with the Compagnie de Soi / Radouanne El Meddeb. He will also dance for artists such as Dope Saint Jude or Dj Snake. With this eclectic and constantly evolving journey, Aston tweaks his style thanks to the meetings and artistic projects with which he is associated. Each time, he uses all his skills to create a dance that is unique to him and resembles him, namely a mixed race, like his native land, Guyana ... and that Aston did not forget it.



Jérôme Fidelin – performer

Jérôme Fidelin aka Goku has always been passionate about music and dance, which he only practiced at home until the arrival of Tecktonik fashion. When he took part in the very first Vertifight championship in 2010, he was crowned Champion of France. He will be again in several editions in 5 against 5, then will be three times electro world champion in team and solo. It was then that a video of a great Battle made the buzz on the networks and made it known to the general public. Following this, Goku is invited around the world to give lessons and be a member of the jury (Russia, Ukraine, Italy, Switzerland, Mexico, Las Vegas ...)

Founder of the hypersensitive and ultraconscious artist collective "Kepler 452-b", for Goku dance is not just about one genre. So after having been an electro dancer, he broadened his influences by devoting himself to hip-hop, house dance, krump or even contemporary. From 2011, he joined the Compagnie Blanca Li, and collaborated in parallel with many artists, in particular Skorpion or Oxmo Puccino.

A generous soloist, Goku mixes and creates in a constant quest for evolution.

Compagnie Vivons !

The Compagnie Vivons was born in 2016 under the impulse of the dancer-choreographer-plastic artist Smail Kanouté. From the start, artist associated with the Centquatre - Paris, artist in residence at Mains d'Œuvres - Saint Ouen, then artist chosen to join the 2018 promotion of the choreographer incubator of the Fabrique de la Danse, his work is regularly scheduled in Ile de France.

A talented and generous artist, a graduate of ENSAD, Smail Kanouté blurs the boundaries between dance and graphic art without complex. Because to choose is to renounce, he decided to live his passions without concession ... for through his art, to offer the world his conception of beauty, kindness and humanity. In his creative process, everything starts from a motif: a shape, a line, a curve, a color, an emotion, an energy... to which he gives life through his body. Choreography is like creating a painting of moving patterns in space. Dance and graphics are for him a way of telling himself, of sharing a part of himself. The question of origins and the quest for identity, knowing where we come from to better define who we want to become, runs through his approach, which is fueled by artistic and cultural mixtures.

Compagnie Vivons' projects revolve around three axes:

The performative projects often resulting from the meeting with an artist, an esthetics, a thematic, and aiming to create a new form mixing design, dance and visual arts.

2016 / **Projection (s)** - dance video drawing performance, in collaboration with the plastic artist Philippe Baudelocque presented at the Fragments and Séquence Danse festivals at the Centquatre - Paris

2016 / **Requiem** - dance performance at the heart of the exhibition of the "Great Royal Dresses" by stylist Lamyme M at the Basilica of Saint Denis

2017 / **Callidance** - performance dance calligraphy, in collaboration with the street artist Sifat presented at the Institute of Cultures of Islam as part of Nuit Blanche - Paris

2017 / **Dancink** - silkscreen dance performance, presented at the Festival Onze Bouge - Paris and at the Festival DauphineArtDays in Paris

2018 / **Jidust** - performance dance plastic and digital arts, in collaboration with visual artist Antonin Fourneau creator of Waterlight Graffiti, presented as part of June Event / CDC Carolyn Carlson, Nuit Blanche, at Centquatre-Paris, at MPAA, at Ateliers Médicis – Clichy sous Bois and for private events.

The choreographic pieces, a space where Smail Kanouté can push her formal research further and develop a more personal subject.

2019 / **Les Actes du Désert** - dance and digital art - First piece by Compagnie Vivons!

Initiation journey of a young dancer in search of his origins in the Mali desert.

Creation stages were presented at Centquatre – Paris, Mains d'oeuvre – Saint Ouen, the Institut du Monde Arabe - Paris, the Generator - Gentilly and the Première at Faces du Monde - Cergy.

Artistic mediation around his protean writing. Favoring the expressiveness of the movement and the feeling, the world of Smail Kanouté is easily declined in artistic expression workshops where everyone is encouraged to unleash their creativity. As of 2017, mediation actions are thus carried out for middle and high school students in partnership with CentQuatre-Paris, the Institute de Cultures d'Islam, the House of Amateur Art Practices (MPAA) and the Fabrique de la Danse.

At the same time, he is working on a triptych of dance videos: New York - NEVER TWENTY ONE / Japan - YASUKE KURUSAN / Benin - DANCES OF LAC NOKOUE, with the support of the Maison Européenne de la Photographie and the DGCA. The diffusion will be accompanied by dance performances.



Videography

Choreographic pieces

2019 / **Les Actes du Désert** - dance and digital art - First piece of Compagnie Vivons!

<https://vimeo.com/235897143>

<https://vimeo.com/245168036>

Performances

2016 / **Projection(s)** – dance performance video drawing with the artist Philippe Baudelocque

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQYa1fHa2gs>

2016 / **Requiem** - performance dance at the heart of the exhibition of the Great Royal Dresses by stylist Lamyne M at the Basilica of Saint Denis

<https://vimeo.com/182434500>

2017 / **Callidanse** – performance dance and calligraphy in collaboration with street artist Sifat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZLuCZnkMzw&feature=youtu.be>

2017 / **Dancink** – performance dance and silk screen printing

<https://vimeo.com/167144611>

2018 / **Jidust** – performance dance and plastic / digital arts with visual artist Antonin Fourneau

<https://vimeo.com/247848035>

Dance videos with the Racine Collective

2013 / **Street Dancer #1**

<https://vimeo.com/166283981>

2015 / **Univers**

Winner of the Best Hip Hop Performance Award at the Urban Film Festival 2016

<https://vimeo.com/164106726>

2016 / **XXX**

<https://vimeo.com/194340067>

2017 / **Without You**

<https://vimeo.com/217494732>

2018 / **Jidust**

Grand Prize winner at the Urban Film Festival 2018

<https://vimeo.com/247848035>

2019 / **Never Twenty One**

Best Documentary Award at the Urban Films Festival 2019 - Paris.

Best Film Award at Dance on Screen 2019 - Austria.

<https://vimeo.com/344279914>

Newspaper – Selection

INTERVIEW on ARCARE blog - 27/09/2019

https://www.arcareconcept.com/blog/smail-kanoute-l-artiste-proteiforme?fbclid=IwAR20EXsc07CHx8_wfSbEDEzqn6W0AKww274ll4M1ng1IACDvJB4spIfVgLY

JIDUST on the front page of TELERAMA Magazine - 11/04/2019

<https://www.telerama.fr/sortir/entre-graffiti-et-freestyle-poetique,-la-performance-dansee-de-smail-kanoute,n6207680.php>

INTERVIEW on HERE&THERE MAGAZINE - 04/04/2019

https://www.hereandtheremag.com/portraits/smail-kanoute?fbclid=IwAR2E0fHx93hZ_BZ3Q11U-fltkmOJeOtI4yTL-DeFtpXsRzRQjzM_yxmLyY

Press article of JIDUST on PARIS ART.COM

<https://www.paris-art.com/smail-kanoute-aurelien-fourneau-june-events-jidust-poussiere-d-eau/>

INTERVIEW on NOTHING BUT THE WAX - 15/12/2017

<http://nothingbutthewax.com/culture/smail-kanoute-vivre-la-danse-jusquau-bout/7092/>

INTERVIEW on L'INSTITUT DU MONDE ARABE blog - 12/09/2017

<https://www.imarabe.org/fr/blog/2017/09/je-suis-ne-le-20-septembre-1986-par-smail-kanoute>

INTERVIEW on SUPERBE magazine - 09/09/2017

<https://www.cestsuperbe.fr/2017/09/08/rencontre-avec-smail-kanoute-lexpression-dun-etre-humain-sensoriel/>

PORTRAIT on COCY Magazine - 13/04/2017

<http://cocy.fr/2017/04/13/portrait-smail-kanoute/>

PORTRAIT on BONDY BLOG / LIBÉRATION - 07/12/2016

<https://www.bondyblog.fr/culture/le-moteur-cest-toi-il-faut-etre-en-mouvement-pour-faire-ce-que-tu-as-envie-de-faire/#.WEsJESPhC2y>

INTERVIEW "FULL ENERGY" on MOUVEMENT Magazine on "Heroes" of Radhouane El Meddeb - 24/03/2015

http://www.mouvement.net/teteatete/portraits/-full-energy-sous-la-coupole_1

Compagnie **Vivons !**

Smail Kanouté - Artistic Director

+33 7 60 09 24 69 - smail.kanouté@gmail.com

Cécile Pouységur - Administration & Production

+33 6 30 12 72 02 - cecilyatma@gmail.com

Dirk Korell - Diffusion

06.85.43.55.67 - contact@caminaktion.eu

60 rue de la Folie Méricourt – 75 011 Paris

Siret 822 195 210 00023 - APE 9001 Z - Licence 2-1115235