



FRAGMENTED SHADOWS

Wanjiru Kamuyu



Our bodies are like a tapestry, a quilt woven together by stories and memories, which are constantly being shredded over and over again by a million scissors.

In collaboration with 2 dancers we shall question the body's capacity to free itself from the entanglement of certain stories, certain memories. How can we use the body as a site of liberation?

Choreography Wanjiru Kamuyu with Sherwood Chen and Elodie Paul

Lighting design Cyril Mulon

Original music LACRYMOBOY

Costume and set design Birgit Neppl

Creation November 2023

Duration 55 minutes



caminaktion.eu/en/fragmented-shadows



Note of intention

My dance making remains grounded in storytelling with a particular focus on ignored, rarely told and untold stories of marginalized communities.

My 2020 solo *An Immigrant's Story*, a reservoir of 20 stories, inspired me to continue deepening my knowledge, curiosity and exploration around the idea of the body as a container of stories/memories. Each story lived and memory held leaves its own unique emotional and energetic imprint within the body. They potentially and eventually manifest ease and/or dis-ease in our bodies and minds. What stories lie within? How do we, through movement, through dance, celebrate the joyful and liberate self from the painful and traumatic? These are the points of inquiry around this new work.

Through epigenetic and psychosomatic based research, I will explore the idea of the body as a site of liberation. How can we through physical pathways, approaches and practices shift, break and stop detrimental cycles of cellular, familial, ancestral, societal, personal memories for ourselves and that of future generations within our family lineage and/or our communities at large? How do these memories influence our existence, our living, our experiences, our philosophies, our perspectives, our interactions, our reactions, our health and wellbeing? How do we free ourselves of their chokehold? How can we control, rewrite, reshape our narratives? Can we, through the body, find liberation?

Wanjiru Kamuyu





Synopsis

The body as a museum, a library, a mausoleum, a guardian of memories imprinted in hidden crevices safeguards our collective and individual memories – ancestral, familial, personal, societal, cellular and genetic. Our cells, muscles, tissue, fascia, organs, blood all hold spaces of refuge for our memories, our stories contributing to our well and (un)well being. These memories unknown or known, conscious, or unconscious dispense and manifest beneficial and non-beneficial energies into our bodies. In collaboration with two more dancers, I wish to explore through dance and imagery, the idea of the body as a site of liberation.

Consciously and unconsciously, I use my dance as a practice of healing justice and liberation within which I celebrate, release and self heal. With this dance work, we shall deepen our collective and individual practices of healing and liberation through our physical expression and exploration. We shall create visceral, sensorial and emotional landscapes within which we shall dance and the audience experiences.

The scenography will play an integral role in the work. It will contribute to the visual landscapes in which the body will be in relationship to and exist within. The landscapes will be abstractions that lend to a stimulating, evocative, mysterious and beautiful visual journey for the audience.



Creative team and partners

Choreography Wanjiru Kamuyu with Sherwood Chen and Elodie Paul

Performers Sherwood Chen, Wanjiru Kamuyu, Elodie Paul

Lighting design Cyril Mulon

Original music LACRYMOBOY

Costume and set design Birgit Neppl

Artistic associate David Gaulein-Stef

Producer Dirk Korell

Executive production camin aktion, Montpellier

Co-production

Le Tangram, scène nationale Evreux Louviers | Le Quartz - Scène nationale de Brest | L'Onde Théâtre Centre d'Art, Scène Conventionnée d'Intérêt National – Art et Création pour la Danse | Centre Chorégraphique National de Nantes – Direction Ambra Senatore | VIADANSE - Direction Fatoumi/Lamoureux, Centre chorégraphique national de Bourgogne Franche-Comté à Belfort in the frame of the studio program – a device of Ministry of Culture and Communication and DRAC Bourgogne Franche-Comté | Compagnie DCA / La Chaufferie



Support

Direction régionale des affaires culturelles d'Île-de-France

Région Ile-de-France

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Sponsorship

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Residencies

Compagnie DCA / La Chaufferie

L'Onde Théâtre Centre d'Art

CCN Belfort - Viadanse

CCN Nantes in the frame of the studio program, with the support of Ministry of Culture/DRAC Pays-de-la-Loire

Le Tangram, scène nationale Evreux Louviers

Villa Albertine (New York City, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Boston)

PS21, Chatham (New York)

New York Live Arts (New York City)

Rehearsal space

CN D Centre national de la danse, Pantin

La Briqueterie, CDCN Val-de-Marne



Biography Wanjiru Kamuyu

Based in Paris, France, born in Nairobi (Kenya) with the genesis of her career in New York City, Kamuyu's work with various renowned choreographers has granted her rich and diverse experiences. They have influenced her choreographic voice, provided her a platform to showcase her work and to learn about the production and administrative aspects of running a dance company.

Today, the development, production and touring of her company, WKcollective, is associate company with **camin aktion** (Montpellier). Season 2020/21 began Kamuyu's tenure as associate artist with **L'Onde Théâtre Centre d'Art, Scène Conventionnée d'Intérêt National – Art et Création pour la Danse** (Vélizy, France). Kamuyu is supported as a Live Feed Artist with **New York Live Art's** for seasons 23/24 and 24/25.

Kamuyu holds a Masters of Fine Arts (performance, choreography and pedagogy) from Temple University (Philadelphia, USA) and has worked with renowned international choreographers and directors such as **Urban Bush Women/ Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Molissa Fenley, Okwui Okpokwasili, Peter Born, Jérôme Savary, Robyn Orlin, Emmanuel Eggermont, Bintou Dembele, Stefanie Batten Bland, Nathalie Pubellier, Irene Tassebedo, Nathan Trice, Dean Moss, Tania Isaac** amongst others. Kamuyu has also performed in Broadway musicals **The Lion King** (Paris production) and **FELA!** (London original cast, US & UK Equity tours). Alongside Kamuyu has worked on projects with famed French artists such as visual artist **Jean-Paul Goude**, equestrian choreographer **Bartabas** and film director **Christian Faure**.

As a choreographer, Kamuyu has collaborated with directors **Jean-Francois Auguste, Love is in the Hair; Hassane Kassi Kouyate, Maître Harold; Jérôme Savary, À la recherche de Joséphine (Baker)**. She has also collaborated in community engagement projects with **New WORLD Theater** (USA) and **Euroculture** (project for 65 young artists from Eastern Europe, 11 refugees from Sudan, Syria, Libya and Afghanistan).

Her company WKcollective has toured her work internationally in the US, France, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Rwanda, Nigeria, Mali and Mozambique. Her works are created through residencies in France, Ireland and the USA.

As a teacher, Kamuyu leads master classes and workshops in Europe, the US and Africa. She serves as core faculty for the



Mécénat

Production | Bookings

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