PROGRAM: COMPAGNIE KÄFIG
APRIL 21 / 7:30 PM
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM
Käfig Brasil

Choreography by Collectif Käfig Brasil, Denis Plassard, Céline Lefèvre, Octavio Nassur, Anthony Égéa, and Mourad Merzouki

Musical arrangements by ASN
Yoann Tivoli and Cécile Robin, lighting design
Emilie Carpentier, costume design
Mourad Merzouki and Yoann Tivoli, stage design
Samuel Chenier, props construction
Cécile Robin, light control
Guillaume Blanc, sound control and stage management

Producer:
Centre Chorégraphique National de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne/Compagnie Käfig

Coproducers:
Montpellier Danse 2012, Théâtre du Beauvaisis Scène Nationale de l’Oise en Préfiguration, Espace Jean Legendre/Théâtre de Compiègne, Espace Albert Camus, Les Gémeaux/Scène Nationale, and La Rampe et La Ponatière, with the support of the Centro Coreográfico da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro

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PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms, and unwrap all lozenges prior to the performance. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM
After the huge success of Correria and Agwa in France and abroad with almost 200 performances, we wanted to continue this wonderful collaboration with these 11 Cariocan dancers. Their desire to discover and encounter other worlds of dance led me to create a piece in which these 11 characters could meet with unique choreography styles. I invited several artists to contribute: choreographers Anthony Égéa, Céline Lefèvre, and Denis Plassard for the French part; choreographer Octavio Nassur for the Brazilian part; and of course the dancers themselves.

As Anthony Égéa uses the dancers’ natural strength and works with the body to create hybrid shapes, Céline Lefèvre brings poetry to the pieces, and Denis Plassard blends genres and the language of hip-hop with the Brazilian color brought by Octavio Nassur, the show will reveal other worlds.

—Notes by Mourad Merzouki

This piece premiered at the 2012 Montpellier Danse festival, for which Mourad Merzouki has been appointed associate artist.

MOURAD MERZOUIKI
Born in Lyon, France, in 1973, Mourad Merzouki began practicing martial arts and circus arts as early as seven years old. At the age of fifteen, he encountered hip-hop culture for the first time, and through it, he discovered dance.

He quickly decided to develop this form of street art while also experimenting with other choreographic styles, mainly with Maryse Delente, Jean-François Duroure, and Josef Nadj. The wealth of his experiences fed his desire to direct artistic projects that blended hip-hop with other disciplines. In 1989, he and Kader Attou, Eric Mezino, and Chaouki Saida created his first company, Accorrap. In 1994, the company performed Athina during the Lyon Dance Biennial; it was a triumph that brought street dance to the stage. Mr. Merzouki’s travels have led him into unchartered territory, where dance can be a powerful means of communication. In order to develop his own artistic style and sensitivity, Mr. Merzouki established his own company, Käfig, in 1996.

In January 2006, Compagnie Käfig began a period of residence at Espace Albert Camus in Bron, France. The theater became the venue of the Karavel Festival, created in 2007 under the leadership of Mr. Merzouki. The festival invites about 10 different hip-hop companies and other artists to the city. In parallel, Mr. Merzouki spearheaded the inception of a new center for choreographic creation and development: Pôle Pik opened its doors in Bron in 2009. In June 2009, Mr. Merzouki was appointed director of the Centre Chorégraphique National de Créteil et du Val-de-Marne. He continues to develop his projects there with an accent on openness to the world. In 18 years, the choreographer has created 23 shows, and his company gives an average of 150 performances per year around the world.

Guest Choreographers

Denis Plassard, Compagnie Propos
Compagnie Propos was created in 1991 by Denis Plassard, one year after the creation of his first solo piece, Propos, which inspired the company’s name. The creation of new pieces (30 in 20 years) and their performance lie at the heart of his activities. Mr. Plassard’s performances vary greatly in their form, bringing together contemporary dancers and artists from various backgrounds (actors, dancers, hip-hop artists, circus performers, musicians, and singers) to participate in research and choreography in which many elements converge: hip-hop, vaudeville, circus, classical and electronic music, dance, and texts.

Whether on tour or in its Lyon studio, the company develops many unique choreographic adventures: choreographed balls, workshops, and amateur creations. Mr. Plassard works a great deal to raise awareness about dance, which, for him, is a friendly practice that is accessible to all.

Céline Lefèvre, Compagnie C’Mouvoir
In February 2004—after having worked for several dance and theater companies (Des Equilibres, Choréam, Trafic de Styles, Franck II Louise, and more) as a choreographer, dancer, and actress—Céline Lefèvre decided to create her own company, C’Mouvoir. Her career as a performer developed through various styles from classic to hip-hop via jazz and contemporary dance. She has just completed a residency in Les Lilas, France, as part of a dance project combining pedagogical aspects, artistic awareness, and creative choreography. In 2011, Ms. Lefèvre was awarded a SACD Beaumarchais Prize for her choreography of Des branchés.

Octavio Nassur, Dance Heart Company
Brazilian director and choreographer of Dance Heart Company, Octavio Nassur is also a professional musician and producer. He is founder and coordinator of the International Festival of Hip-Hop and the Brasil Tap

“Those men perform with a full freedom of expression, practicing their art with bursts of joy and a huge generosity”
—Le Dauphiné Libéré
Jazz festival in Curitiba, Brazil, and he is regularly invited to offer his expertise in Los Angeles and Barcelona. He is coordinator of the Dance MBA at Da Gestão aos Aplausos at Faculdade Inspiper, and he sits on many dance competition juries for major dance festivals in Brazil and abroad (“Street Dance” on the television program TV Xuxa and “Dancing with the Stars” on Domingão do Faustão—both broadcast by the Rede Globo channel). He is the creator of the “funk slide system.” He also acts as a hip-hop consultant in choreography and composition in Brazilian universities: Universidade Federal do Paraná, Faculté des Arts du Paraná, Universidade Regional Integrada, Universidade de Caxias do Sul, and Universidade de Cruz Alta. As such, he is regularly invited as a professor by Curitiba Sports and Leisure Activities Secretariat and Paraná Secretariat for Education to train dance teachers. Mr. Nassur was the choreographer of the Brazilian hip-hop delegation that took part in the world championships in Miami and Prague.

Anthony Égéa, Compagnie Révolution
In 1984, Anthony Égéa discovered hip-hop dance. Already familiar with a number of techniques, he perfected his training at Rosella Hightower Academy (Ecole Supérieur) in Cannes, France, thanks to a choreography scholarship from the Ministry of Culture and Communication. After obtaining another scholarship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he trained at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York. He founded Compagnie Révolution in 1991, for which he created Amazones (2003), Soli (2005), Urban Ballet (2008), Clash (2009), and Rage (2012). In 2010, he wrote Tétris for the Bordeaux National Opera Ballet, and in 2011, he wrote Middle for the Beijing Dance Theater.

He looks closely at transformation, so that throughout his pieces and projects, the movement is revised and hybrid forms are developed in order to move away from convention and expectation. He also juxtaposes virtuosity and inferiority, the demonstrative and the expressive. Since 2002, he has been director of Compagnie Révolution’s professional hip-hop dance training center in Bordeaux, France.

DANCERS

Diego Alves Dos Santos
Diego trained in urban dance at the school of Marcia Lacombe and received a diploma from the University of Rio de Janeiro. In 2003, he studied with Buddha Stretch, Xavier, Nobru de Souza, and Filipi Moura. Since 2000, he has worked with Aline Bittencourt, Fly, and Bruno Williams. Diego teaches break dancing, locking, and hip-hop. Since 2008, he has worked with Compagnie Käfig on Agwa (2008) and Correria (2010).

Leonardo Alves Moreira

Eduardo Augusto Pires Hermanson
Eduardo is a dancer and choreographer from Rio de Janeiro and was codirector of the Group of Street of Niteroi for more than 10 years. In 2007, Eduardo was invited to do a film with the German-French TV network Arte called Digressions in a Hotel Room, a documentary based on one of his solo dances, which he created in partnership with São Paulo’s H2 Productions and the choreographer Bruno Beltrão.

He also coordinates The Working Improv Series project, which explores the contact improvisation technique and reviews it through experimentation linked with street-dance styles. He has taken part in Compagnie Käfig’s productions Correria, Agwa, and Käfig Brasil since 2014.

Cleiton Luiz Caetano De Oliveira
Specializing in urban dance since 2006, Cleiton choreographed the works of Cie Espaço Arte em Movimento (Rio de Janeiro) and led hip-hop classes at the dance school Jaime Arôxa (Rio de Janeiro). Cleiton has danced with Thiaguinho, D’Black, and Dupla Dolls. He also leads hip-hop workshops in Brazil and France. He joined the Compagnie Käfig in 2008 for Agwa and took part in Correria (2010) and Käfig Brasil (2012). He toured with the company in 2014.

Helio Robson Dos Anjos Cavalcanti
Helio mixes hip-hop culture (graffiti, DJ, MC, and B-boy) with the Brazilian popular cultures mainly from Rio de Janeiro like samba, funk, and capoeira. He teaches classes in different districts of Rio de Janeiro, in many communities and for a number of nongovernmental organizations. He takes part in several companies such as Xstyle Dances Company and Cia D’Fora and has presented in international festivals like Rio H2K, FIH2 of Curitiba, Intervenção Cacilda Becker, and X-Everything.

He creates and coordinates the project Hip Hop That Comes from Within for people who already dance or who want to learn to dance through the experience of the street. In 2014, he joined Compagnie Käfig’s productions Correria Agwa and Käfig Brasil.

Geovane Fidelis Da Conceição
Geovane began street dancing in 2004 and joined the dance collective Soul Brooklyn Crew (Russia). He leads dance classes in Brazil, France, and Russia. He has also participated in events such as Urban Groove Steady (Lyon, France), Street Dance Kemp 2010 (Brazil), Cercle Underground 3 (Paris), 3 Degrees House 2011 (Russia), Break Out Battle-Jury (Russia), Kaat Festival (Japan), and Cercle Underground 4 (Belgium and Russia). Since 2008, he has been working with Mourad Merzouki, choreographer of the Compagnie Käfig, with the shows Agwa (2008) and Correria (2010) and is part of Käfig Brasil.
Diego Gonçalves Do Nascimento Leitão
Diego has researched urban dance since 1995. He worked with Regis Yakagi (France) and Regina Sauer, Caio Nunes, Bernardo Stumpf, and Renato Vieira (Brazil). Since 2003, Diego has led street-dancing classes at several Rio de Janeiro studios and in a number of French cities. Since 2008, he has worked with Compagnie Käfig on Agwa (2008). Correria (2010), and Käfig Brasil (2012).

Aldair Junior Machado Nogueira
Aldair trained with Henry Link, Mr. Wiggles, Buddha Stretch, Archie Burnett, Lando Wilkins, Shaun Evaristo, Federica Naclerio, Kite, Hiro, Yoshie and Tatsu骄, Edson Guiu, and Storm. He has participated in dance competitions in several countries, including the United States, countries throughout Europe, Japan, and Brazil. He has also worked with choreographer Renato Vieira. Since 2008, he has worked with Compagnie Käfig on Agwa (2008). Correria (2010), and Käfig Brasil (2012).

Wanderlino Martins Neves
Wanderlino began dancing in 2000 and joined the dance group Mabe. He then founded a break dance group, Elemento Surpresa, which participated in dance competitions, concerts, and festivals. He joined the Compagnie Käfig in 2008 with the creation Agwa and took part in Correria (2010) and Käfig Brasil (2012).

José Amilton Rodrigues Jr.
José began studying urban dance in 2003 at the Movimento Art e Cia. Since then, he has developed his technical skills by studying dance in Brazil and around the world. He teaches hip-hop and dances many styles including house, popping, locking, and break dance, in addition to classical and jazz dance. In 2008, he joined Compagnie Käfig for Agwa (2008) and took part in Correria (2010) and Käfig Brasil (2012).

Alexsandro Soares Campanha Da Silva
Alexsandro has worked in urban dance since 2001. In Brazil, he participated in several break dance competitions and commercials. He performed in the feature film Maré, nossa história de amor. He has led break dancing workshops in France and recently shared the stage with Roll Ballet. Since 2008, he has worked with Compagnie Käfig on Agwa (2008). Correria (2010), and Käfig Brasil (2012).