Dystopian Dream

Nitin Sawhney, Sébastien Ramirez, and Honji Wang

A Sadler’s Wells Production

WHEN:
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5
7:30 PM

VENUE:
MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Production photography by Johann Persson
Program

Dystopian Dream
A Sadler’s Wells Production. Coproduced by Wang Ramirez / Clash 66; Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg; Théâtre de la Ville-Paris; Stanford Live; Théâtre de l’Achipel, scène nationale de Perpignan.

With thanks to:
Hervé Le Bouc, Delphine Lombard, Béatrice Abeille Robin, Melih Yoru, Sandra Goldmann, Alex Frith, Tina Arena, Manon Martin, Jia Xuan Hon, Alex Firth, Tandem Scenery, Paddy Dell, Isabelle Drummond, Lucy White, Alec Kensit

World Premiere: September 29, 2017,
Grand Theatre, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg

This program is generously supported by the Koret Foundation.
Nitin Sawhney’s 2018-19 residency is supported by
the Stanford Presidential Residencies on the Future of the Arts.

Credits

Original Concept, Co-Devised and
Album Composer: Nitin Sawhney
Direction and Choreography:
Wang Ramirez
Performed by Sébastien Ramirez,
Honji Wang and Eva Stone
Creative Consultancy: Farooq Chaudhry
Set Design: Shizuka Hariu
Video Design: Nick Hillel
Sound Design: David McEwan
Lighting Design: Natasha Chivers
Costume Design: Hussein Chalayan
Rehearsal Assistant: Winston Pyke
Aerial consultancy: Jason Oettlé

Production Manager: Adam Carrée
Touring Production Manager / Rigger:
John Maddox
Stage Manager / Rigger: Jef Mitchell
Company Stage Manager:
Maddie Cupples
Video Programmer: MJ Holland
Head of Sound: Mark Webber
Lighting Programmer / Relighter:
Gerald McDermott
Costume Supervisor:
Roxanne Armstrong

Company Wang Ramirez—Clash 66 receives the sponsorship of
Colas “We open the way” for the production Dystopian Dream;
it receives generic structural support by
Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate Occitanie,
by Regional council Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée,
by County council Pyrénées Orientales and by Foundation BNP Paribas.

The program will last approximately one hour and 15 minutes.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
A Word From Nitin Sawhney

Although I make my living as a composer and produce records, I never really started an album with music. Every time I make an album it’s more like a personal diary entry than any kind of exploration of rhythm, harmony or melody. I need the catharsis because it all begins with a feeling.

Dystopian Dream was initially a response to my father passing away and then gradually became something else. It became my response to mortality and our search for our own significance when we are sandwiched between infinite space and time, between life and death and between reality and dreams. I once told a journalist that dystopian dream was like the light at the end of an endless tunnel. We keep running but never move. In many ways the light feels like a projection of meaning rather than a purposeful destination.

I have been fortunate in having parallel careers as a composer for the visual mediums of film, television, video games, theatre and dance so the idea of a visual realisation of dystopian dream really appealed to me. The album focusses on themes of loss, isolation, celebration and surrender so these abstract ideas felt perfect for examination through physical movement.

The grace and energy of Honji and Sébastien’s choreography felt like it had a great synergy with the concepts and emotions of my album and so we begun our journey together in 2016 with a show at London’s Royal Albert Hall.

As we continued our rehearsals produced by Sadler’s wells, we looked to create a narrative onstage that evolves from the metaphor of a runner’s journey through parallel universes and dreams...

This production uses a combination of cutting edge projections, aerial and contemporary choreography, dramatic performance and live and recorded music, inviting the audience into an unprecedented theatrical realisation of a completed and released album.”

DYSTOPIAN DREAM TRACK LIST

1. FIRES
2. DAYS R GONE
3. DARK DAY
4. TIMETRAP
5. SILENCE
6. LOSE US ALL
7. DYSTOPIA
8. SCAPE
9. TERE KHYAL
10. WHEN I’M GONE
11. SPIRALS
12. CAN’T BREATHE
13. KEEP THE LIGHT ON
14. REDSHIFT
15. DIMENSION
We are excited to present the fruits of this collaboration. From an existing album, *Dystopian Dream*, to a dance theatre piece, it has been a long journey of reflections, exchanges and try outs for all the creatives in this project.

At the beginning of the process we immersed ourselves in the world of Nitin Sawhney’s album as much as possible, trying to understand the essence and the emotions that you feel by listening to each of his tracks. Getting to know where his mind was and what his inspirations were while creating his music.

Then it was our turn to digest and reflect on all that heritage on stage and create a piece with all its aspects.

Every creation is a challenge and this one has its own particularity, a piece based on an existing album. What will be shown on stage is the result of our interpretation of what has been discussed, researched, felt and exchanged during our meetings.

In this process we tried to absorb all emotions and feelings, and express them with a vision and a language that are associated with what we do.
How could we not accompany *Dystopian Dream*, when roads are at the very core of the story?

Roads are the threads that bind. By exploring the musical climate of composer Nitin Sawhney, choreographers Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez breathe life into the human geology made up of encounters and exchanges, a vector of singular narratives and collective myths. Leading figures in contemporary dance influenced by hip hop, combining cutting-edge technologies with singing and dancing, the performers venture out into territories to be discovered together, in a decor of roads of light, beacons of their respective itinerancies.

*Dystopian Dream* is a journey. Every seasoned traveler knows that along the way, on the road that transports us geographically from one point to another, an interior space inhabited by images and sensations gradually appears. Roads never cease to explore the intimate, building an in-between time when imagination abolishes borders and makes you want to take other paths. While roaming, roads slowly reveal their dark and luminous stories, infallible witnesses of the link between traces of the past, the present time and our representation of the future. Indissociable from quest, intellectual audacity and innovation, roads unfold a continuous ribbon of dreams and projects.

The road embodies a forward-looking vision. Colas’ new corporate signature, *We Open the Way*, underlines the priority given to innovation. The Solar road and the Porcelaine road have shattered our references: harvesting light to make energy accessible to all, the road paves the way to a new model, and *Dystopian Dream*, in its own way, beckons us.

Hervé Le Bouc
Chairman and CEO of Colas
Honji Wang is a dancer, choreographer and artistic director born and raised in Germany by Korean parents. Her dance language is an abstraction of hip hop dance and has influences of earlier martial arts and ballet training. She is recognised as an artist who brings contemporary and hip hop together in an exceptionally organic fashion.

Together with Sébastien Ramirez, Honji Wang received the Bessie Award 2013 as “Outstanding Performer” following the presentation of API5 at the Apollo Theatre in New York. Their work Monchichi is also one of the 2017 Bessie Award nominees for “Outstanding Production” following its performance at BAM Fisher.

Wang was invited to Madonna’s final auditions in New York, where her outstanding performance earned her an invitation to tour and perform for the Rebel Heart Tour.

She was invited as a guest artist to perform a duo with acclaimed British choreographer Akram Khan titled The Pursuit of Now, which was accompanied by well-known pianist Shahin Novrasli. She also collaborated with the most compelling and avant-garde female flamenco dancer Rocío Molina in the duet Felahikum, as well as with New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns in the duet No.1.
SÉBASTIEN RAMIREZ

**Director, choreographer, performer**

Born in the south of France, Sébastien Ramirez is an internationally renowned dancer, choreographer and artistic director. Ramirez specializes in the use of aerial work as well as choreographic rigging development. Since the foundation of his company, he developed a new vision of space and choreography, bringing hip hop dance to a wider and new audience.

Together with Honji Wang, Ramirez has produced and choreographed several award-winning dance-theatre pieces (*AP15, Monchichi, True Blue Market, Borderline, Felahikum, EVERYNESS, NO.1*).

Following the presentation of *AP15* at the Apollo Theatre in New York, Sébastien Ramirez and Honji Wang received the Bessie Award 2013 as “Outstanding Performers”. Their work *Monchichi* is one of the 2017 Bessie Award nominees for “Outstanding Production” following its performance at BAM Fisher.

Ramirez contributed to the creation phase of Madonna’s Rebel Heart Tour in New York City and choreographed for her live show.

He conducted a personal training on floorwork movement for the creation of Akram Khan’s solo *DESH*.

He was also invited by Sadler’s Wells as one of the five choreographers of *RIOT OffSpring*, a unique dance piece performed to Igor Stravinsky’s iconic *The Rite of Spring* played by Southbank Sinfonia.

**COMPANY WANG RAMIREZ**

Sébastien Ramirez and Honji Wang cultivate a dance rooted in hip hop that incorporates all artistic languages. This French-Hispanic-Korean-German couple, inseparable in life as onstage translates their complicity in difference through artistic blending. Without denying their origins in urban dance, they create works with multiple entries. Their choreographic research results directly from their “blended” identities. In addition, their interrogations are based on human relationships, both intimate and group. Confronted daily to the realities of this new urban mobility, they never seize to deepen their quest of finding new choreographic languages. Their means of expression are built on technical virtuosity, poetry, humour and the questioning of human identities.

Acclaimed by the international audience, the Company is invited in major theatres and festivals, such as Théâtre de la Ville, La Villette and Théâtre National de Chaillot (Paris), Sadler’s Wells (London), Apollo Theater (New York), Mercat de les Flors (Barcelona), and receives the support of important international co-producers.

The company also receives company support by Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate Occitanie, Regional council of Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée and the County council Pyrénées Orientales.

The Foundation BNP Paribas supports the development of the Company’s projects.

Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez are associated artists of Théâtre de la Ville, Paris and supported artists by l’Archipel, scène nationale de Perpignan.

Nitin Sawhney

**Original Concept, Co-Devisor and Album Composer**

Recipient of the 2017 Ivor Novello Lifetime Achievement Award, Nitin Sawhney is a producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist whose diverse repertoire encompasses over 50 film scores. He has released 10 studio albums, the most recent being *Dystopian Dream* in November 2015 which has now been turned into a fully choreographed show.
Among the many films scored by Sawhney, the most recent is Mowgli a Warner Bros film being released in the Spring of 2019 through Netflix and directed by Andy Serkis. Currently, Sawhney is working on a 6 part TV series for Channel 4 in the UK. He has also scored for high profile TV series (including the BBC’s multiple BAFTA winning series Human Planet and the BBC series Wonders of the Monsoon), Cirque du Soleil, as well as extensive work for video games (primarily Ninja Theory). Nitin has also produced for many acclaimed and diverse artists from Sir Paul McCartney and Sting to Joss Stone and Anoushka Shankar, as well as producing his own radio series on BBC Radio 2—Nitin Sawhney Spins the Globe.

Sawhney’s substantial theatre and dance credits include the scores for Complicite’s Olivier Award-winning A Disappearing Number and Akram Khan’s also Olivier Award-winning Zero Degrees for which Nitin received a Bessie for best score. After scoring Bahok for the Royal Ballet of China, Sawhney’s composition for Khan’s Vertical Road received a best new work award in Melbourne. Sawhney also worked with Choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui on a production based on the life of Manga creator, Tezuka. Sawhney co-directed and appeared with Khan in the internationally touring and award-winning production, Confluence created for the Svapnagata season at Sadler’s Wells which Sawhney also co-curated with Khan.

For all the above, Nitin has been the recipient of a Mercury Prize, two previous Ivor Novello nominations, a MOBO award, two BBC Radio3 World Music Awards, The Southbank Show Award, 7 University doctorates from different British universities and most recently was made a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Nitin has also collaborated with and scored for the London Symphony Orchestra as well as many other leading orchestras across the world. As a DJ Nitin has also released a number of successful club compilation albums, including Fabriclive 15.

Sawhney has become a modern-day Renaissance man in the worlds of music, film, videogames, dance, and theater. His endless creative curiosity makes him a formidable polymath across the whole artistic range of media associated with the music industry.

**Eva Stone**

**Singer**

Eva Stone is a singer from Newcastle upon Tyne. After spending two years in London supporting artists such as James Bay, George Ezra, Paolo Nutini, Lianne La Havas and Tom Odell, Eva was noticed by Sadler’s Wells associate Nitin Sawhney and invited to
support him at the Royal Albert Hall. Two years later, after recording and performing with Sawhney on his Dystopian Dream album, not to mention various radio and TV outlets, she was performing back at the prestigious venue as part of his band. Eva is currently focused on her own project and on writing her first album.

Farooq Chaudhry
Creative Consultant

Farooq Chaudhry, co-founder and Producer of Akram Khan Company, plays a key role in forming innovative business models to support Akram Khan's artistic ambitions and offering creative support during the development of Khan's projects. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledged Chaudhry in a list of the world's top hundred cultural actors and entrepreneurs in 2008. Chaudhry also produced for China's national dance icon Yang Liping and English National Ballet and was awarded an honorary doctorate from De Montfort University for his services to dance.

Hussein Chalayan
Costume Designer

In 1970 Hussein Chalayan was born in Cyprus's capital, Nicosia. Chalayan grew up in London and studied at London's Central Saint Martins school of art and design graduating in 1993 with his debut collection being purchased by iconic British retailer Browns. In 1994 Chalayan started his own label and his designs have influenced the face of fashion and art ever since. Throughout his career Chalayan has received global industry recognition. Chalayan was nominated in 1995 for the Lloyds designer of the year award and was the winner of the first absolute creation award. The 2 consecutive years that followed he was nominated for the Lloyds designer of the year award. In 1998 Chalayan was nominated for the Avant Garde designer at the VH1 fashion awards following this in 1999 and 2000 he won the Designer of the Year at the British Fashion Awards. This same year Vogue included Chalayan in a group of 12 designers set to change the face of fashion in the coming decade calling him the "premier intellectual designer of his generation". In 2000 Chalayan was also named in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential innovators of the 21st century and later was named by the magazine as one of 100 all-time Fashion Icons.

In 2002, Chalayan moved his internationally lauded fashion show from London to Paris where the collection is shown seasonally. Since 2003 Chalayan has used film to present some of the collections in narrative form as well as making art films and installations. His ideas often evolve around perception and the realities of modern life, with particular interest in cultural identity, migration, anthropology, technology and genetics.

Chalayan represented Turkey in the 2005 Venice Biennale with his film Absent Presence featuring actress Tilda Swinton who starred as a biologist analysing the neurosis and paranoia around terrorism through the use of genetic testing. As well as taking part in important exhibitions in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, The Kyoto Costume Institute, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and MOMA in New York, Chalayan is one of the few designers who has had critically acclaimed solo Museum shows beginning in 2005 at the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands, London at the Design Museum (2009), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (2010) and the Istanbul Modern (2010). In 2010 Chalayan opened two exhibitions in London at the Lisson Gallery and Spring Projects and had his last solo show at the Musee des Arts Decoratifs in Paris (2011).

In 2006 Hussein Chalayan was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday
Honour’s list and Vogue declared his spring show the following year, in which metal animatronic dresses rapidly morphed through more than a century of silhouettes, a moment of pure magic. Chalayan was then awarded the Design Star Honoree by The Fashion Group International at their annual Night of Stars Gala, New York.

In 2009 the brand was nominated for the Prince Phillip Design Award and Chalayan was presented Outstanding Lifetime achievement award given from the FX International Interior Design awards.

The label was rebranded as Chalayan in 2010. During the following years Chalayan won the lucky strike designer award, the fashion visionary award in occasion of the Audi fashion festival and the royal designer for industry from the RSA.

Finally in 2014 The Business of Fashion also declares Chalayan as one of top 500 influencers in the Fashion Industry.

The Chalayan name is synonymous for cutting edge design and innovation, not only within the fashion industry and fashion authorities but also with some of the most ubiquitous celebrities and tastemakers in the world.

Celebrity followers of the house of Chalayan include Cate Blanchett, Katy Perry, Cameron Diaz, Blake Lively, Rita Ora, Jada Pinkett-Smith, Yao Chen, Olivia Palermo, Delilah, Roisin Murphy, Goldfrapp, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna, Eva Longoria, Bjork, Jeanne Damas, Zawe Ashton and many others.

Chalayan as a brand has always operated with an organic, long-term strategy toward VIP Relations. All celebrities associated and pictured in Chalayan creations, both at events and on stage, have done so out of a genuine relationship and admiration.

In 2011 all eyes were on Lady Gaga when she arrived on the red carpet at the iconic Grammy Awards carried inside a giant Chalayan egg shaped vessel in fibreglass.

The global acclaim and reaction to this architectural creation was just one example of Chalayan setting the bar for fashion linking technology, art and performance.

**Natasha Chivers**  
**Lighting Designer**

Natasha is an award-winning lighting designer for theatre and television. Her theatre credits include *1984* (West End, Broadway), *Hamlet*, *Oresteia* (Almeida/ West End); *The House They Grew Up In* (Chichester), *Strapless* (Royal Ballet); *Sunset at the Villa Thalia*, *Statement of Regret* (National Theatre); *Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Macbeth* (National Theatre Scotland / Broadway); *Happy Days* (Sheffield); *Green Snake* (National Theatre China); *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning* (National Theatre Wales); 27, *The Wolves in the Walls, Home*
Natasha was nominated for an Olivier Award in 2016 for Oresteia (White Light Award for Best Lighting Design). She has won the Theatre Award UK in 2011 for Happy Days (Best Design) and an Olivier Award in 2007 for Sunday in the Park with George (Best Lighting Design).

Jason Oettlé

Aerial Consultant

Board Member of the BVS German stunt association, Chairing the work group for the development of guidelines for Stunt Rigging in Germany.

Member of the representative body from the BVS on the work group which was responsible for health and safety guideline amendments for potentially dangerous performances (German DGUV 810-12). The last few years I have been involved primarily in the coordination, or as a core team member of the stunt and aerial rigging department. Predominantly these have been film and television. I have also run the aerial rigging for events and opening ceremonies around the world. Often also involved in the concept design.

One of my passions is aerial rigging design and support in the contemporary dance scene. In this capacity I have run the aerial rigging in some great theatres around the world.

My background is as a performer. Starting with my first roles as a stuntman in 1996 in Cape Town, South Africa. Early on I had an appreciation for the stunt rigging, with my commercial skippers licenses,

I had a good understanding of basic rigging. 2000 I moved to Germany. Here, I continued to work as a stunt performer, and pursued my interest in wire effects. I qualified in Rope access in 2003, gaining extensive experience in working at height and stage rigging.

In 2005 I started working more internationally as an established specialist in stunt rigging. This included work in countries including England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Wales, Russia, China, Morocco, Jordan, India, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, France, Iceland, Denmark, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Check Republic, Arab Imarets and Luxembourg.

Nick Hillel

Video Designer

Yeast Culture create original and immersive visuals and projection mapping for live events, performances and installations. With over a decade of experience the award winning company works across art forms blending film, live performance, animation, documentary, set design and projection mapping. Their work has featured in classical performances, contemporary dance, theatre and
galleries as well as visuals for live bands for international tours. The London-based company was started by creative director Nick Hillel in 1999 as a place to discover innovative ways of film-making and explore new ideas for unifying the stage and video in live performance. Visit yeastculture.org.

David McEwan
Sound Designer
David McEwan is an MPG award-winning multimedia sound engineer, composer and music producer. A London-based Australian, David has mastered the art of sound in most forms covering cinema, music production, theater and television.

This project marks nearly 20 years of collaboration with Nitin Sawhney and is David’s third production with Sadler’s Wells. Other recent projects include Vivaldi Recomposed—Max Richter—Mari Samuelson Tony Visconti's Unsigned Heroes -Sky Arts Fabric of India @ V&A London. Classical Spectacular, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra—Royal Albert Hall London, Marshalls 50 Years of Loud—Wembley Arena, Human Planet—BBC.

Shizuka Hariu
Set Designer
Shizuka is an interdisciplinary designer and a co-director at SHSH Architecture+ Scenography. Her scenography describes the relationship between concrete and imaginary space. She has designed scenography for Akram Khan and Sylvie Guillem, Charleroi Dances, Les Ballet C de la B, Jubilee Opera, Kunst festival des Arts, Japon Dance Project and many others, throughout Europe and beyond.

She received awards, such as World Stage Design 2017, D&AD Design Award, German Design Award, Tokyo Design Award, Pola Art Foundation Award. She exhibited and designed the exhibition at V&A London, Royal Academy of Arts London and other museums. (visit her works at www.shsh.be)

Winston Pyke
Rehearsal Assistant
Winston trained at the Hereford College of Arts. He has toured widely both in the UK and internationally as an actor, break dancer and aerialist. Theatre includes Colin’s Head, Three for Two, East, Abigail’s Party and Lark Rise to Candleford. TV includes Misfits and Doctor Who. He has appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2008 with 2FaCeD and again in 2016 with his own company Grounswell Theatre.

Upcoming Events

Tickets and information: live.stanford.edu

Humans
Circa
Nov 1 & 2 • 7:30PM
Bing Concert Hall

Attractor
DanceNorth
Jan 24 & 25 • 7:30PM
Bing Concert Hall