

National Theatre  
of Opera and  
Ballet Albania

I C

27 September  
- 20 October  
2023

INTERNATIONAL  
CONTEMPORARY DANCE  
FESTIVAL IN TIRANA

D F

second edition



Harabel Contemporary  
D18 Paris



"Winterreise", Ballet Preljocaj  
National Theatre of Opera and Ballet of Albania, 2022  
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Harabel Contemporary in collaboration with D18 is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated second edition of the International Contemporary Dance Festival, taking place from 27th September to 20th October in the vibrant city of Tirana.

The festival aims to position Tirana as a prominent hub for the gathering of international contemporary dance, by creating a platform for renowned dance companies and talented dancers. With a vision to create an immersive and inclusive experience, this year's festival goes beyond mesmerizing performances to encompass a dynamic array of workshops, public engagements and a program of parallel art events.

This dynamic and culturally enriching event will showcase extraordinary performances by renowned dance companies from around the world, at the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet. Under the artistic direction of internationally acclaimed Albanian choreographer Angelin Preljocaj, the festival promises an exceptional lineup of captivating choreographies and artistic expressions. Audiences will be treated to mesmerizing performances by esteemed companies such as Preljocaj, La Veronal & Marcus Morau, Salsa Viva y Tango Vivo, Blenard Azizaj, and Aterballetto.

This festival not only celebrates the diversity and innovation of contemporary dance but also fosters cultural exchange and artistic growth within the Balkans region. With a diverse program of captivating performances, engaging workshops, contemporary art events and special gatherings, this one-month project aims to provide young artists with a unique opportunity to learn from acclaimed professionals.

In addition to the indoor performances, we are excited to bring dance to the streets and public spaces of Tirana. Through interactive performances and workshops we aim to engage and involve the wider community in the magic of contemporary dance.

The festival will offer free dance classes for students and young dancers from Albania and the region of Western Balkans, that will be conducted by choreographers from our international partner companies.

Furthermore, the festival proudly presents a parallel program of art events, including exhibitions and a dedicated workshop for children. A series of exhibitions will be presented across various galleries in Tirana, showcasing the works of talented Albanian visual artists from diverse backgrounds, that include drawings, paintings and installations. The workshop will create a stimulating environment for young minds to explore their artistic expression through painting, crafts, body language exercises and interactive games.

We invite audiences to enjoy an extraordinary journey of movement, creativity, and inspiration. Join us at the International Contemporary Dance Festival in Tirana, where the world of dance and art converge, and let us celebrate the power of movement by creating long lasting memories.

**For further information, including ticketing and program details, please visit [harabel.org](http://harabel.org) or contact us at [info@harabel.com.al](mailto:info@harabel.com.al).**





The festival is an opportunity for producers, show tour organizers, choreographers, and dancers to meet in Tirana to exchange ideas, discover new talents, and create new collaboration opportunities.

**AS AN OCCASION FOR CELEBRATING AN ART FORM AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION, THE FESTIVAL HAS A MAJOR ROLE IN SUSTAINING CULTURAL PRODUCTION.**

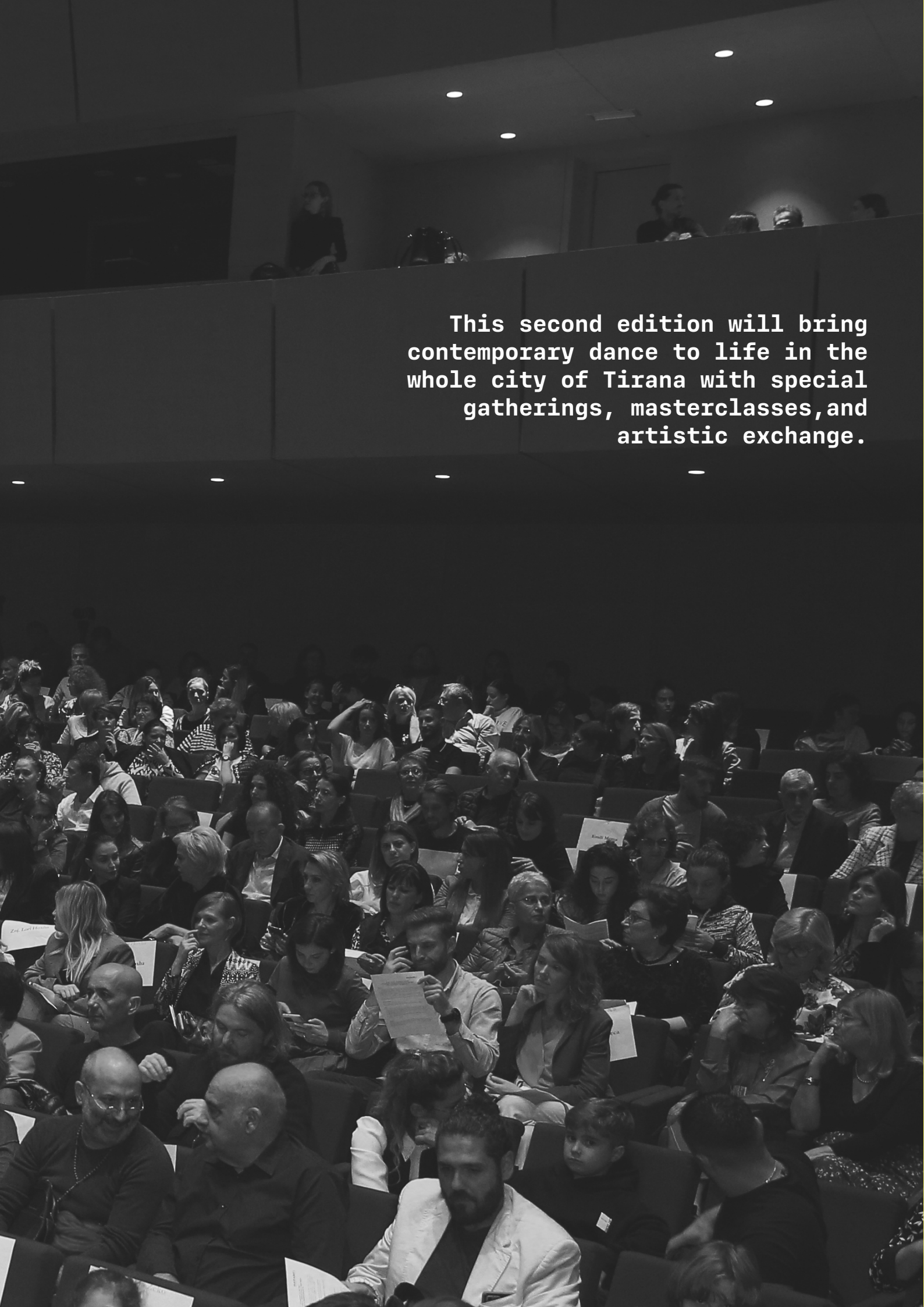




"Winterreise", Ballet Preljocaj  
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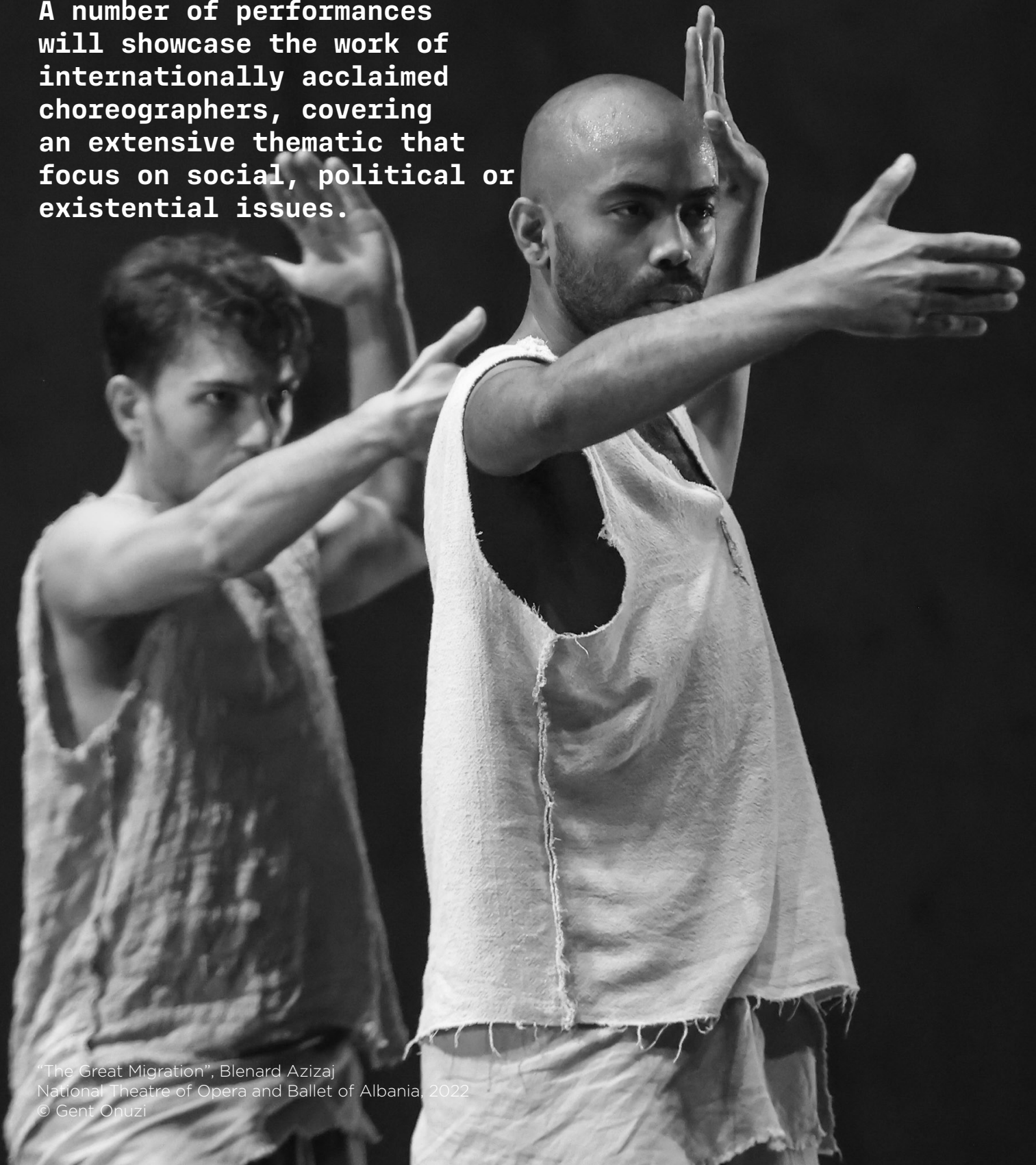
*The Contemporary Dance Festival in Tirana, 2nd edition will take place at the Theatre of Opera and Ballet.*

**The public will have a unique opportunity to enjoy a series of exceptional performances reflecting the latest trends, schools and movements in contemporary dance, thus building bridges between Albania and the international choreographic production.**



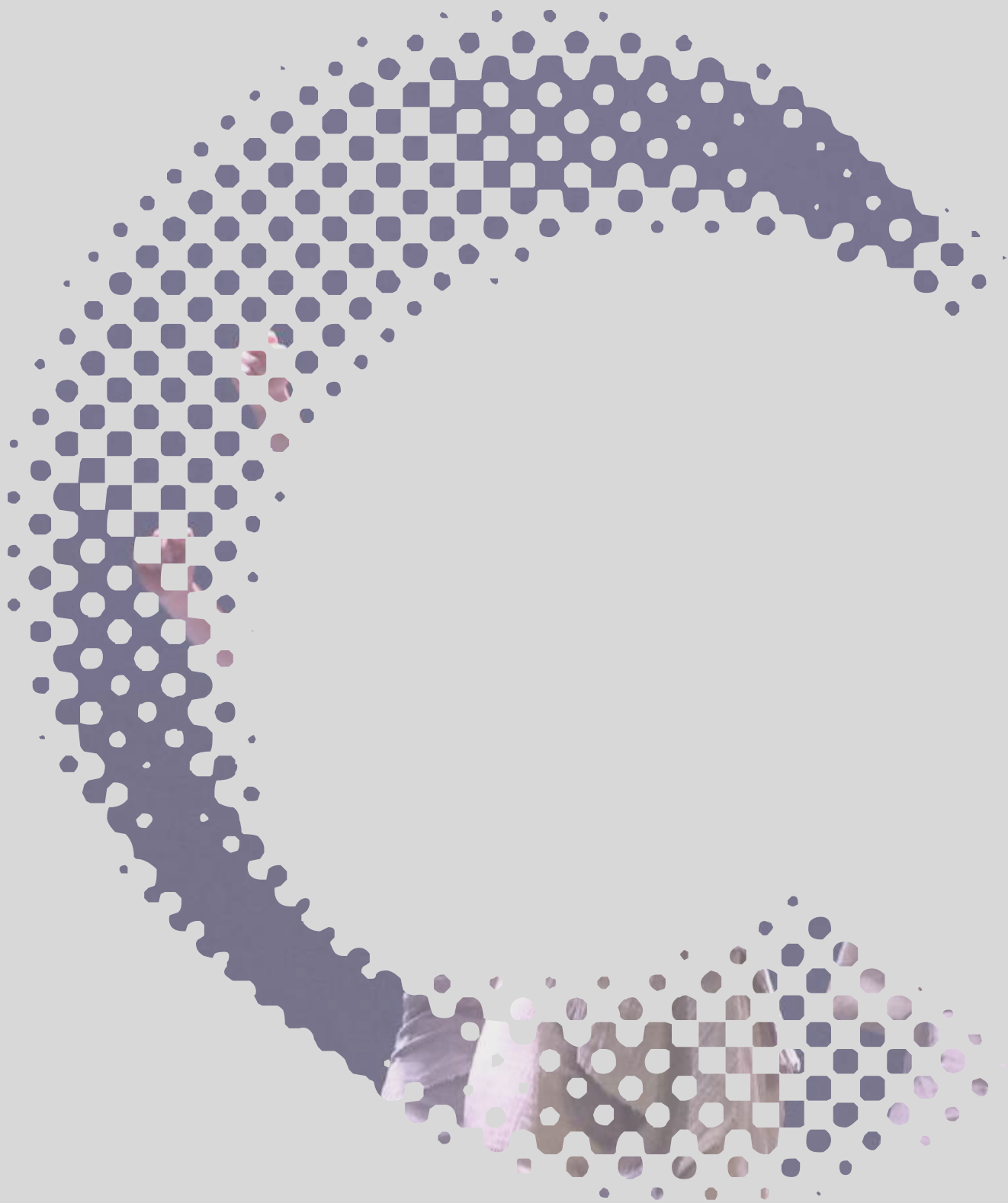
This second edition will bring contemporary dance to life in the whole city of Tirana with special gatherings, masterclasses, and artistic exchange.

A number of performances will showcase the work of internationally acclaimed choreographers, covering an extensive thematic that focus on social, political or existential issues.



"The Great Migration", Blenard Azizaj  
National Theatre of Opera and Ballet of Albania, 2022  
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Choreographers:

ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ  
MARCOS MORAU  
BLENARD AZIZAJ  
FRANCESCA LATTUADA



**Angelin Preljocaj** was born in the Paris region, in France, and began studying classical ballet before turning to contemporary dance, which he studied with Karin Waehner. Preljocaj collaborates regularly with other artists in various fields such as music, visual arts, design, fashion, drawing and literature.

His productions are now part of the repertoire of many companies, many of which also commission original production from him, notably La Scala of Milan, the New York City Ballet and the Paris National Opera Ballet. He has made short films and several full-length films, notably *Un trait d'union* and *Annonciation* (1992 and 2003), for which he was awarded the "Grand Prix du Film d'Art" in 2003, the "Vidéo-Danse" First Prize in 1992 and the Prague Video Festival Prize in 1993.

Throughout the course of his career, Angelin Preljocaj has received numerous awards, including the "Grand Prix National de la Danse" awarded by the French Ministry of Culture in 1992, the "Benois de la danse" for *Le Parc* in 1995, the "Bessie Award" for *Annonciation* in 1997, "Les Victoires de la musique" for *Roméo et Juliette* in 1997 and the "Globe de Cristal" for *Snow White* in 2009. He is an "Officier des Arts et des Lettres" and a "Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur" and he was appointed an "Officier de l'ordre du Mérite" in May 2006. He has received the Samuel H. Scripps/ American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014. In April 2019 he was appointed to the Academy of Fine Arts in the new «choreography» section.

Since October 2006, the Ballet Preljocaj and its 24 permanent dancers have resided at the Pavillon Noir in Aix-en-Provence, a building entirely dedicated to dance, with Angelin Preljocaj as its artistic director.



**Blenard Azizaj** was born in Albania. He studied at the National State School of Dance in Greece, where he was graduated as a Dancer / Dance Pedagogy and Choreography. He has worked and collaborated with various companies around Europe such as Sasha Waltz & Guests in Berlin, the Akram Khan Company in London, and Cie Linga in Lausanne. His career has taken him around the globe, touring and performing in international dance festivals.

In addition, he works as a choreographer and dance instructor, teaching his dance dialect in dance companies, dance & theatre academies, and several studios around the world. He is currently choreographing and producing his original pieces such as *NoBody's Land*, *Fleeting Feathers*, *Walls*, *In the Beginning*, *Sacred Scars* and numerous others.

**Marcos Morau** is trained in Barcelona, Valencia and New York in photography, movement and theatre, (Valencia, 1982). He builds imaginary worlds and landscapes where movement and image meet and engulf each other. Morau obtained the highest grade possible for his undergraduate final year project and the grand award for creation from the Institut del Teatre de Barcelona. His artistic knowledge is not limited to dance, and extends to other disciplines such as photography and dramaturgy; he studied a Master's degree in Dramaturgy at the UAB, the Pompeu Fabra University and the Institut del Teatre.

For more than ten years, Marcos has led La Veronal as a director, choreographer and designer for sets, costumes, and lighting. He has travelled the world presenting his works at festivals, theatres, and various international contexts such as the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris, the Biennale di Venezia, Festival d'Avignon, Tanz Im August in Berlin, the Roma Europa Festival, the SIDance Festival in Seoul and Sadler's Wells in London, among many others.

Marcos Morau was also awarded the FAD Sebastià Gasch prize, awarded by the FAD Foundation for Arts and Design, and the TimeOut prize for the best creator, among other awards. With his creations, he has managed to win prizes in numerous national and international choreographic competitions such as the Hannover International Choreographic Competition, the Copenhagen Choreographic Competition, Madrid and Masdanza.

In addition to his creative side, Marcos Morau also teaches, he combines his creations with training and gives classes and workshops on creative processes and new dramaturgies in conservatories, further education courses and universities, and at the Institut del Teatre, the University of the Arts of Strasbourg and the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris.



**Francesca Lattuada**, has a diploma in Fine Arts, followed by several theatrical seminars with Luca Ronconi, Tadeus Kantor and Jerzy Grotowski. In 1985, she moved to France (which would become her adopted homeland), devoting herself mainly to contemporary dance, improving her skills with Hans Züllig and Jacques Patarozzi and approaching spectacular oriental art forms such as Nô Theatre, Kabuki, Indian dance and singing.

Alongside her training as a dancer, Francesca Lattuada took arts and literature courses at the Beaux-Arts in Milan. After a performance by Carolyn Carlson in Venice, she decided to move towards contemporary dance. She came to France in 1985 to begin her career as a dancer and founded her own company Festina Lente in 1990. At that time she worked at the Center chorégraphique national du Havre, hosted by Joëlle Bouvier and Régis Obadia.

Her creations are not limited to dance alone. She is interested in other popular arts such as puppets, street performances or the circus. As such, in 2001 she staged La Tribu Iota, a graduation show for the Châlons-en-Champagne Circus School, to original music by Jean-Marc Zelwer. In 2017, she revisited opera, directing and choreographing the Royal Night Ballet under the musical direction of Sébastien Daucé with the Ensemble Correspondances.



# PROGRAMME

## workshops

18 September - 18 October

Dance Classes by **BLENARD AZIZAJ**

Theatre of Opera and Ballet

26 September

Dance class by **PRELJOCAJ**

Theatre of Opera and Ballet

30 September

Performance and workshop in the public space by **SALSA**

**VIVA**

Skanderbeg Square

4 October

Dance class by **MARCOS MORAU**

Theatre of Opera and Ballet

performances

27 - 28 September

"Gravity" by **PRELJOCAJ**  
Theatre of Opera and Ballet

29 September

Latin Dance performance by **SALSA VIVA**  
Theatre of Opera and Ballet

5 - 6 October

"Sonoma" by **MARCOS MORAU & LA VERONAL**  
Theatre of Opera and Ballet

12 - 13 October

"Stravaganze in Sol Minor" by **ATERBALLETO**  
Theatre of Opera and Ballet

19 - 20 October

"The Dawn of Time" by **BLENARD AZIZAJ**  
Theatre of Opera and Ballet



27,28 September  
2023

at the National Theatre  
of Opera and Ballet

# GRAVITY

Choreography:

**Angelin Preljocaj**

Music:

Maurice Ravel, Johann Sebastian Bach, Iannis Xenakis,  
Dimitri Chostakovitch, Daft Punk, Philip Glass, 79D

Gravitation is one of the four fundamental forces that govern the universe. It refers to the force which means two masses are attracted to one another. It is invisible, intangible, essential. But it is the force which creates the attraction that we call weight. For years, these issues of weight, space, speed and mass have intuitively run through my choreographic experiments.

My day-to-day work with the dancers leads me to experiment with forms whose basic components revolve around this question, which is both abstract and terribly concrete. Today, according to a principle of alternation between pieces based on pure research and more narrative ballets, I expect this set of problems involving gravity to open up new writing spaces for me.

Angelin Preljocaj









**30 September  
2023**

**at the National Theatre  
of Opera and Ballet**

# **SALSA VIVA Y TANGO VIVO**

Choreography:

Music:

Salsa Viva and Tango Vivo is an artistic company created in 2004 in Cali dedicated to the teaching, presentation and production of dance shows. They have an outstanding cast of professional artists and dancers in Salsa, Latin Dances, Tango, Urban Dances, International Dances, Folk Dances, Ballet and much more.

For more than 20 years our founders Edwin Chica Caro and his wife Lina María Valencia Estrada, as well as tango dancers, have developed their careers in the cultural industries and performing arts sector, with hard work in Cultural Management.







5, 6 October  
2023

at the National Theatre  
of Opera and Ballet

# SONOMA

Choreography:

**Marcos Morau**

Sound Design:

Juan Cristóbal Saavedra

Dancers:

Lorena Nogal, Marina Rodríguez,  
Sau-Ching Wong, Ariadna Montfort,  
Núria Navarra, Àngela Boix,  
Laia Duran, Anna Hierro, Alba Barra

Sonoma is the title of the show by the great Valencian director and choreographer Marcos Morau. He is one of the very few directors able to take us on a trip to a surreal universe full of theatricality, visionary originality, and fantastic frescoes that evoke cinematographic, literary, and pictorial climaxes. The title combines the Greek term soma (body) and the Latin term sonum (sound). The surrealism of Luis Buñuel, the dream world of this subversive and iconoclastic filmmaker, has inspired this new piece, a continuation, in some ways, of his previous piece entitled *Le Surréalisme au service de la Révolution* - also about Buñuel, and created in 2017, for the CNN-Ballet de Lorraine; Sonoma incorporates the presence of drums from Aragón and an enormous cross on stage. A woman is nailed to this cross, raised and later removed. And around the cross, lying on the ground, there are nine performers busy untying the ropes tied to her, while reciting a long litany of Beatitudes that start from the evangelical Beatitudes. Meanwhile, the beating of the drums, instruments of Buñuel's indigenous folklore, whose roar is associated with the scream that comes from deep within the entrails, will close the show with the women furiously busy beating them, each one their own, fastened around their necks like weapons on warriors willing to face life, to fight. There is an underlying violence (and a suffering, perhaps, repressed, caused by Covid and the confinement that has conditioned their lives and ours), which seems to emerge slowly, during the development of the show. The women are the protagonists. Almost always compact, they change their wardrobe based on imaginative shapes that refer to the Spanish culture, religious sects, and rural communities. The floral motifs are replaced by the gloomy black of penitents, of mourners, and the candid whiteness of child-like long dresses completed by crowns of flowers on the head.













**12-13 October  
2023**

**at the National Theatre  
of Opera and Ballet**

# STRAVAGANZE IN SOL MINORE

Choreography:

**Francesca Lattuada**

The magical virtuosity of Toti Scialoja (1914-1998), a master not only of images but also of words, is the basis of a creation for children produced by the National Dance Foundation / Aterballetto of Reggio Emilia and the Brescian Theater Centre. Direction and choreography are by Francesca Lattuada, and on stage there are two young performers: the dancer of Aterballetto Vittoria Franchina and the baritone Piersilvio De Santis. The visionary nature that characterizes Francesca Lattuada's work corresponds to the visual universe of the artist Natali Fortier, capable of evoking strange mixes of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic beings, who will create masks for the occasion.

A peculiarity of this show is the possibility for the child to be in contact with texts of the highest literary quality, but at the same time of immediate fascination. Thus allowing a peculiar reflection on the poem, before or after the vision.

The very sonority of the words and the unpredictable combinations of the imagination lead towards a "pedagogy of the imagination", as Italo Calvino would say, not surprisingly one of the greatest admirers of Toti Scialoja.

"The raw material of the project are the short poems by Toti Scialoja taken from the collection *La mela di Amleto*.

These "haiku" are imbued with an absurd seriousness, and act as mantras with magical virtues. The vibrations that flow from Scialoja's poems are like the infinite rings that are created on the surface of the water when a stone is thrown: evocators of unreal or hyperreal images, bearers of a musicality that mixes poetry and nursery rhyme, making it extraordinary and frightening join hands".

Francesca Lattuada

STRAVAGANZE  
Sol<sup>in</sup> minore







19, 20 October  
2023

at the National Theatre  
of Opera and Ballet

# THE DAWN OF TIME

Choreography:

**Blenard Azizaj**

Dancers of the National Opera and Ballet Theatre

This choreographic project is a work based on emotions and feelings. Using improvisation based on personal emotions and stories.

A Tear and a Smile expresses how sorrows of the heart and tears of sadness makes life flow into laughter. A tear will purify the heart and give us an in-depth understanding of life and a smile draws us into those of our own kind. The source of our life is to know our true weakness and strength and to flow with the thoughts. This piece features thoughts on friendships, sex, nudity and childhood memories.











# About the organizers:

**HARABEL** is a non-profit organization based in Tirana that focuses on the promotion of contemporary art and has established the biggest open archive of artists in Albania. Born out of the necessity to make contemporary art a commonwealth, free and accessible to all, Harabel was founded in 2018 at former Blloku, an area situated in the heart of Tirana, inaccessible to citizens during communism, it is today the most vibrant and young of the capital. Harabel aims to become a catalyser of urban interventions and indoor reflections, by offering an interdisciplinary space for experimentation and research and has a sustainable collaboration with contemporary artists, alongside researchers, curators, architects, sociologists, publishers, scientists and other professionals, with the intention to involve the city in its diverse social and educational aspects. Harabel was founded by cultural promoter Ajola Xoxa and artist Driant Zeneli.

**D18, Paris** is a production and event company based in Paris and mainly focused on television programs based on art, culture and social issues. For over 30 years, the D18 Paris team has introduced pop culture, dance, and contemporary art to British and French television through programs that have remained cult references in both countries. (Rapido, Eurotrash, D'art D'art, Ouh là l'art! ...). The strength of D18 Paris is innovation, an aspect that we find in each of our programs and that we expand with the production of festivals. The D18 Paris team imagined the first urban culture festival in Roubaix held from June 15th until June 26th 2022 with success and which brought together the most emblematic urban disciplines on the same stage.

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