

Auroville Art Service, Surya Performance Lab, Ritam Auroville, SAIER, Porteurs d'eau in collaboration with Svaram
Present

VAST

Dance-theatre performance



Editorial



After the success of their show BHU/EARTH in India, Philippe Pelen Baldini and Thierry Moucazambo are happy to introduce their new production, VAST. For this new show they have collaborated with Gopal Dalami, a young Indian contemporary dancer with Nepalese origins.

Surya Performance Lab



Theme

How the human body carries in itself the memory of the Vast.

How the human body – beyond ruptures, oppressions, and confinements – has nostalgia of Nature and Vastness.

Story

This is the story of a young boy from Nepal who has been snatched from his family and home in the Himalaya Mountains. Kidnapped and abused, he now lives in a slum in a big city in India.

He is all alone in the world, stifling in his small room. Beyond confinement and misery, he tries, day after day, to find in his body a door that opens to the Vast, a path to his Himalaya, Nature, and his own unlimited nature.

An encounter with a strange character will help him on his journey. This is the god Hanuman, with monkey and human features, who is heroic, wise, and full of humour.

Staging notes

Two performers: both actors and contemporary dancers.

In a confined space, denoting a small room in a slum, these two characters feel in their bodies the vital need of the Vast.

For the young boy whose childhood and dreams were broken, the journey from confinement to freedom is a process of reconnection with nature and with himself without any limitation. In this journey he is helped by Hanuman. Together they reconnect with the Vastness where they both come from.

Hanuman is introduced here as a special character: he is the symbol of primordial memory. This important character in India is also universal and exists with different names in China, Africa, Indonesia, and elsewhere.

VAST proposes a work on the memory of the body. To reactivate this memory, we use new technologies for sound and work with different sound frequencies. We are also exploring the relationship between the body and mother tongue and between the body and ancient mantric poetry.

“In the Himalayas, everything becomes frequencies, everything becomes sounds and dance.” -- Indian poet

We draw upon contemporary dance, theatre, vocal work, and even aerial dance to explore this inner territory between confinement and Vastness. From gravity to weightlessness, it is also an exploration of the body being free, of free movements in three dimensions, and of an expansion into Vastness.

Beyond all ruptures and exiles, it is a process of reconnection with the Himalaya in a metaphorical sense.

VAST is an organic dance theatre performance: hypnotic, physical, universal.

It can be performed in English and French.

Duration of the show: 1 hour

“Visceral, moving, intense, funny. The story takes you through different relationships and emotions of life. Great work”. Nischay, film and theatre actor

“Vast, a performance of vastness of nature and primordial memory”. Manish Kumar Ph.D. Scholar Department of Performing Arts, Pondicherry University

“It is wonderful to witness this magical moment”. Trilok Singh Mehra, head of drama dept. Baroda University



Team

Direction and choreography: Philippe Pelen Baldini

Performers: Gopal Dalami (born in India of Nepalese origin)

Thierry Moucazambo (born in Reunion, France of African and Indian origin)

Light: Ashwin Ezhumalai

Sound: Philippe, Thierry, and Gopal in collaboration with Svaram

Musical composition: Varun and Nadia (Svaram)

Co-production: Barbara Paschinger, Ritam Auroville, SAIER, Auroville Arts Service, Surya Performance Lab, Porteurs d'eau, Svaram.



Next Steps

SHOWS

By January 2019: Final version of the VAST performance

To be shown at Alliance française de Pondichéry, Puducherry

Preview, Kolkata, ICCR, Journey of Auroville festival

By February 2019: Premiere, Bharat Nivas Auditorium, Tantrotsav Festival Kalarigram

2019 to 2020: National and international tours

Bios

Philippe Pelen Baldini

Born in France.

Artistic director, director, choreographer, and theatre maker for VAST

Founder of Water Carriers Company and International Talipot Theatre.

Created and directed 30 shows with dancers, actors, musicians, and video creators from Africa, India, Europe, and territories in the Indian Ocean. These shows have been performed in 82 countries, the opera of Paris, theatre de La Ville of Paris, and major venues and festivals in the world. His shows have received awards in Poland, Scotland, France, Italy, South Africa, and many other countries.

Thierry Moucazambo

Born in Reunion Island, France. Has many different origins: Indian, Chinese, and African.

Assistant director & performer for VAST

Actor-storyteller; dancer; singer; multi-talented performer. As a student of Philippe Pelen Baldini, he founded with him International Talipot Theatre and then the Water Carriers Company. Since 1986, he has been a performer recognized in all the creations of Philippe Pelen Baldini.

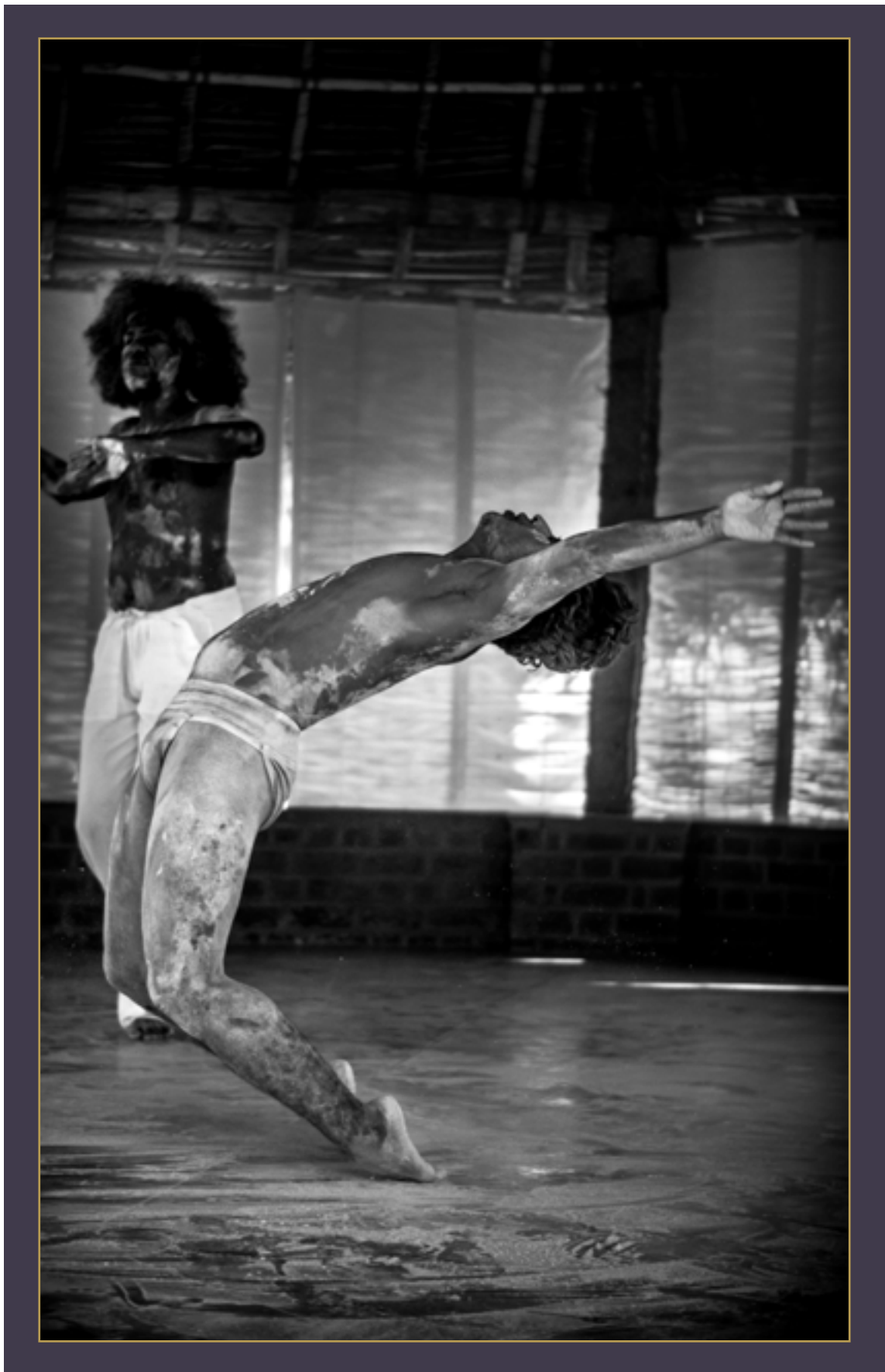
Gopal Dalami

Born in Delhi, India. Of Nepalese origin.

Started his dance education at Voxpop Dancers India in 2010

Trained in classical ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop and aerial acrobatic

Since 2015, he has been a performer in various dance productions with Vikram Mohan, Mandeep Raikhy, Anish Popli, Nikolina Nikoleski, Diniz Sancheza, and many other national and international choreographers. He has toured in India and abroad.





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Photo credit Ashwin Ezhumalai.