



Nacera Belaza

- L'Onde (The Wave)

Dance

OCT 19 - 20, 2023
8:30 PM

PRESENTED BY
REDCAT
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We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Venturefío; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Nacera Belaza

• L'Onde (The Wave)

Choreography, Sound and Lighting Design by NACERA BELAZA

Performed by PAULIN BANC, NACERA BELAZA, MOHAMMED ECH CHARQUAOUY,
OCÉANE VALENCE

Technical Management by CHRISTOPHE RENAUD

Production: Compagnie Nacera Belaza.

Partners: Kunstenfestivaldesarts / Charleroi danse, centre chorégraphique de Wallonie-Bruxelles; Festival de Marseille; deSingel, Campus International des Arts; MC93 Bobigny; LUMA Foundation; ICI — Centre chorégraphique national Montpellier - Occitanie / Direction Christian Rizzo, as part of the creative and research residency programme; L'Arsenal- Cité musicale-Metz; Atelier de Paris / CDCN.

The company is supported by the LUMA - Arles foundation residency programme, as well as by the Ile-de-France Region in the framework of the Aide à la création programme.

Also supported by the SACD in the framework of the duo programme; Institut français - Ville de Paris, SPEDIDAM.

The performances of L'Onde by Compagnie Nacera Belaza are part of Albertine Dance Season and received support from Villa Albertine.

Nacera Belaza extends her deep respect and appreciation to Northern Cree for allowing their singing and drumming to be shared in the production of L'Onde.

CMT composed by Shane Dion, Marlon Deschamps, and Conan Yellowbird and performed by Northern Cree. Courtesy Canyon Records. Published by DMG Arizona (ASCAP).



Please note: L'Onde (The Wave) contains loud sounds.

The program includes a post-performance talk on October 20 with Nacera Belaza.

Runtime: Approx. 50 minutes, no intermission

ABOUT THE WORK

Internationally revered for her powerfully abstract work, Nacera Belaza draws a path between shadow and light, seeking to glimpse the infinite. In *L'Onde (The Wave)*, the French Algerian choreographer immerses herself in the spellbinding notions of Algerian ritualistic dances. With a hypnotic sound narrative and mesmerizing movement that blends tradition and modernity, the piece features four dancers who explore the body's capacity for transformation through rigorous and elegantly minimalist choreography.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nacera Belaza was born in Médéa, Algeria. She moved to France at the age of 5. In 1989, she founded her own dance company. Self-taught, she entered dance driven by the necessity to express herself and unravel the complexity of a dual cultural background. Her language emerged from her confined body — somehow imprisoned by cultural constraints during childhood and adolescence — drawing first from inner material, and later on from literature.

To free yourself, you have to be right, accurate, and precise. You have to defy complacency and seduction. What Nacera Belaza is indeed choreographing is an inner journey. It's about space, the inner emptiness, it's about light and shadow, repetition and vertigo. Dance becomes an introspective vertical dive. Her movements are animated by a deep, serene, and continuous breath, relying on patience, rigor, and simplicity to face “the deafening din of our existences.” In her work, Belaza tries to give gesture back its existential role.

Her work, recognized and praised by the French Ministry of Culture, earned her the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2015. In France, Nacera Belaza was awarded the Syndicat de la Critique Prize for her piece *Le Cri* and the SACD Choreographic Prize in 2017. In 2021, she was named one of the 100 Women of Culture by the French association Femmes de Culture.

She is associate artist to the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris and the MC93 in Bobigny. She regularly tours in Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America, performing in prestigious festivals and venues, such as the Avignon Festival and the Lyon Dance Biennale in France, the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels and DeSingel in Antwerp, the Vidy Theatre in Lausanne, Crossing the Line festival in New York, the Push festival in Vancouver. Nacera Belaza has also been regularly working in Algeria, developing training, residency, and touring programs.

Instagram @compagnienacerabelaza / Facebook @cienacera.belaza / cie-nacerabelaza.com

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UPCOMING AT REDCAT



Dorothee Munyaneza: *Mailles*

November 2 - 4

Renowned choreographer, singer, and author Dorothee Munyaneza brings *Mailles* to REDCAT. In this symphony for six African and Afro-descendant female voices, Munyaneza seeks to weave the fabric of their stories in collaboration with the designer and visual artist Stéphanie Coudert. The costumes and the material itself become the through line for what happens onstage, raising questions about the feminine and bodily freedom. *Mailles* is a women's show united onstage in order for their different paths to be heard, as well as the violence of their life stories and history itself. Munyaneza enables audiences to share in the combat that these women have been waging in spaces where they often face rejection. *Mailles* is a celebration of female might, a driving force in art as much as in life.



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