



DÉSINTÉGRATION CULTURELLE

NADINE BABOY

PRESENTATION FILE

SYNOPSIS

Désintégration Culturelle is a cross-cultural artistic show created, written and choreographed by **Nadine Baboy**. This itinerant piece reflects on identity. Its lively, dynamic and moving acts will definitely take the spectators off the back of their seat. Nadine Baboy and her performers invite us to a dive in their universe: a journey where poetry, music and dance engage in a dialogue.

Désintégration Culturelle reflects on **heritage, identity and cultural affiliation** in a cosmopolitan society. **Cultural diversity** is the main theme of the performance, which starts with the **power of language** as an identity symbol and a key element in cultural transmission. The aim is to raise awareness, through art, of the importance for individuals to embrace their cultural heritage, a powerful but often undervalued force.

The piece addresses a process with permanent consequences: the **cultural disintegration**. The artist, Nadine Baboy, was born in Congo and has spent most of her life in Belgium. As a result, she has a dual identity. She feels Belgian as much as Congolese. Inspired by her own story, she shares her experience and the difficulties she encountered in her quest for identity. **How to find your place? Where do you feel at home with a plural cultural identity?**





NOTE OF INTENT

"I am Belgian with Congolese roots. I was born in Congo, I grew up and spent most of my life in Belgium. My parents were among the first generations of Congolese to settle in Belgium. They did what they thought was necessary to fit in a new country. They learnt and adopted the codes to be accepted. Learning the language of the host country was part of it. In my case, the integration process came at the expense of my mother tongue which, at the time, was Lingala. Today, I do not remember much of it and when I try to speak it, my Congolese peers mock me because of my European accent. The language carries a whole culture I feel currently alienated from. I have always felt like I stand astride two cultures. The country I was born in considers me as a European and the country I grew up in labelled me as a foreigner. Neither one, nor the other, half one, half the other. How to find your place in those worlds where you feel accepted and rejected at the same time?"

Is cultural disintegration the need to disguise one's identity to be accepted, go unnoticed or simply be acknowledged? I have realized that many people have been through a similar experience. To speak about it, I have chosen to express myself with several artistic languages: poetry, singing, music and dance."

Nadine Baboy

ARTISTIC APPROACH

A JOURNEY AND A ARTISTIC MEETING PLACE

The distinctive characteristic of *Désintégration Culturelle* is its itinerant nature: it travels through several spaces where the artists establish a close link with the audience, integrating it to the performance. Just as the message conveyed by the show, the audience is invited to travel and find its place in different universes. How to get comfortable with being uncomfortable and uncertain? How to fit in a cosmopolite world? The organic management of the space by the performers and the audience addresses these sub-questions. In this way, the audience plays an active role and participates in the development of the piece. Spectators become “**spect-ACTORS**”. Each representation of *Désintégration Culturelle* is unique and offers a human and artistic meeting place.

The scenography is an essential component. The design of each universe is conceived in collaboration with a team of stage designers from *Mangoo Pickle*. The aim is to create a unique and interactive artistic experience by immersing the spectators in different universes imagined, created and arranged in line with the background of the piece.

A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH OF MULTI-ETHNICITY

Just as cultural diversity, the show gathers several artistic disciplines: declaimed and sung poetry, music and various dance styles. With these influences, Nadine Baboy wants to develop her voice and create her language, which becomes a unique and authentic artistic language in its own right. The range of artistic forms reveals a free use of ethnically diverse and popular urban arts. Urban arts are a set of practices, artistic and cultural expressions coming from the urban space. **Slam**, a freely declaimed form of poetry, is the guiding thread through the show. The performance unfolds with the rhythm of a poetic conversation interpreted by Nadine Baboy.



The diversity of culture appears through **the eclectic selection of dance styles**. Hip-hop, krumping, house dance, dancehall and waacking enhance the urban character of the piece. Afro-Latin dances such as tango, flamenco and salsa highlight the richness of cultural diversity. The sub-Saharan African dances explored are a mix of movements inspired by various traditional and modern popular African dances (Congolese rumba, ndombolo, Afro-house, etc.). The message conveyed by dances with African roots echoes like an identity claim. Stepping, a dance linked to the Afro-American history, comes from the slaves who were working in plantations. With its rhythmic expression, it is a symbol of pride and the assertion of black identity.

Music is a central element in urban arts. It moves people with different sociocultural background and makes them connect with each other. The soundtrack is made of original compositions, created specifically for Désintégration Culturelle in collaboration with songwriter Youri Botterman. He also worked on the original soundtrack of Nadine Baboy's first one-woman show, Terre Riche. The music is the result of a creative affinity between the two artists. Youri Botterman skilfully succeeded in transmitting the musical universes of the piece.

The **itinerant acts** bring us back to the core of urban arts. This element refers to the urban and itinerant artists whose occupation of the public space transforms it into a performance place.

THE ARTISTS

**NADINE BABOY - ARTISTIC DIRECTION,
CHOREOGRAPHY, CREATION, POETRY,
COMPOSITION & INTERPRETATION**



Nadine Baboy is a Belgian and Congolese artist passionate about the performing arts. She is a dancer, a choreographer, an actress and a poet who finds her inspiration in combining multi-ethnic art and culture. Her career is not academic, she has grown as an artist thanks to the experience she acquired with practice.

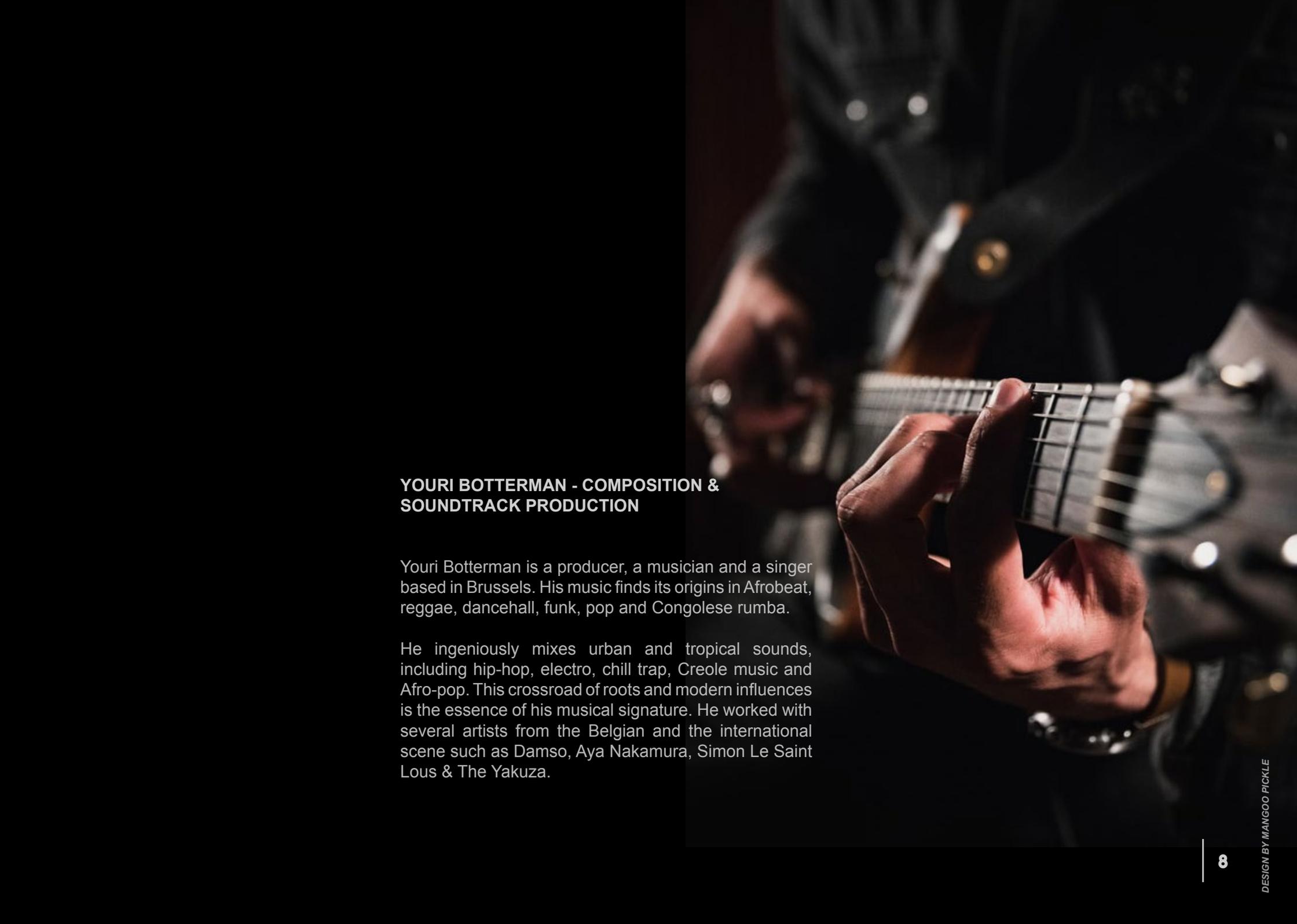
She contributed to the creation of various dance theatre projects where the art of movement meets the art of speaking. She communicates her passion for dancing and mixing genres with hybrid movements enhanced by different influences including, among others, Afro-contemporary, hip-hop, dancehall and other urban dances, such as waacking.

This versatile artist is a member of **Impulsion Dance** and has been working with the collective since 2009. The general public discovered her when she participated in **So You Think You Can Dance** in 2015 (Belgium/the Netherlands). The jury of the TV show was particularly captivated by her singular style. She choreographed and danced sequences for **Just Dance**, a popular video game. She also appeared in the film **Stars 80** and made her debut as a television actress in the second season of **A tort ou à raison**, a series in which she plays the role of Kimia Mokili alongside **Bernard Yerlès** and **Olivier Minne**. She pursued her path in television with the musical film **10 songs for Charity**, directed by Karin Junger in 2019.

In 2018, she joined the main cast of the *Man of La Mancha* musical, produced by KVS in collaboration with La Monnaie, Le Théâtre de Liège and El Teatro de Madrid. Besides acting and singing, her personal style animates the show through her choreography, dancing and slam poetry.

With her first artistic creations, **Terre Riche** and **Désintégration Culturelle**, Nadine Baboy reveals her broad range of artistic skills. Her multidisciplinary performances set poetry in motion and are well acclaimed. Her one-woman show **Terre Riche** was awarded the second prize of Zinnema's *1000 Pieces Puzzle* in 2016 and the following year, Nadine Baboy won the Bozar first prize **Brussels Bijou** with her second art work, **Désintégration Culturelle**. In November 2019, the full version of the piece was premiered at the Royal Flemish Theatre (KVS) in Brussels and was sold out. Both shows address striking themes intertwining Nadine's **African roots** and her **European integration**. She demonstrates her will to speak about cultural diversity with different artistic languages: **poetry, dance and music**.

Drawing on her experience in dance theatre, she wants to share and **transmit** her message beyond dancing. She developed **Body Language**, an artistic coaching workshop where dancing is explored as a tool of expression, setting in motion words, feelings and narratives.



**YOURI BOTTERMAN - COMPOSITION &
SOUNDTRACK PRODUCTION**

Youri Botterman is a producer, a musician and a singer based in Brussels. His music finds its origins in Afrobeat, reggae, dancehall, funk, pop and Congolese rumba.

He ingeniously mixes urban and tropical sounds, including hip-hop, electro, chill trap, Creole music and Afro-pop. This crossroad of roots and modern influences is the essence of his musical signature. He worked with several artists from the Belgian and the international scene such as Damso, Aya Nakamura, Simon Le Saint Lous & The Yakuza.

RAQUEL SUAREZ DUENAS - DANCE, PERFORMANCE & CO-CHOREOGRAPHY

Raquel Suarez is a dancer and a choreographer with Latin and urban influences. She is a young artist passionate about dancing since her childhood. She discovered the hip-hop culture in 2008, in Brussels. She rapidly fell in love with house dance and represents the style with pride in national and international urban dance competitions such as *Juste Debout*. Her dedication and her desire to share her art prompted her to teach it throughout Belgium.

She has been actively involved in *Désintégration Culturelle* from the early steps of its development. Raquel Suarez also took part in various artistic programmes such as *1000 Pieces Puzzle* in 2017 and the 2019–2020 season of *Tremplin Hip Hop*. Besides, she is a member of la Compagnie Corpeaurelles, which presented its first creation, *Au Fil du Temps*, at the end of 2019.



**HERVÉ LOKA SOMBO - SOUNDTRACK
REMIX, DANCE, PERFORMANCE, POETRY
& CO-CHOREOGRAPHY**

Hervé Loka Sombo started his professional career as a dancer and choreographer in 2013. Based in Brussels, he received an eclectic and complementary training in contemporary ballet (Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles), Afro-contemporary (Burkina Faso), hip-hop, dancehall and tango.

He worked as a dancer with multiple companies, such as The Béjart company (*The Ninth Symphony*) and Transe en Danse (*Danse en papier*). He is the choreographer, dancer and artistic director of his own company, Loka. *Staying Human*, *Tango Negro* (2016) and *Being Human* (2017) are a few examples of his work. Hervé was involved in the creative process of *Désintégration Culturelle* from the beginning. He also teaches dance to pass on his passion to the next generations.



MANGO PICKLE - SCENOGRAPHY

Mango Pickle is a non-profit organization which aim is to build a bridge between creation and art. It transports the spectators to another world, offering a dive in a hermetic bubble with a special atmosphere. It is also a young and dynamic community where work and passion are combined. It gave birth to initiatives suggesting new ways of sharing, discovering and enjoying an art and a culture created for all.

Furthermore, Mango Pickle is a creative agency which conceives [sceno-] graphic concepts and universes. The initiatives are their own or are requested by clients and are artistic, cultural or commercial. Mango Pickle imagines atmospheres, colours and a singular personality for each of them. Its objective is to guide the project leader in implementing strategies using a precise, striking, and original visual identity.

CAST

**ARTISTIC DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY, CREATION, POETRY,
COMPOSITION & INTERPRETATION**

Nadine Baboy

COMPOSITION & SOUNDTRACK PRODUCTION

Youri Botterman

SOUNDTRACK REMIX, POETRY

Hervé Loka Sombo

DANCE, PERFORMANCE & CO-CHOREOGRAPHY

Hervé Loka Sombo, Raquel Suarez Duenas

SCENOGRAPHY

Mangoo Pickle

COSTUMES

Vanessa Kiangala

ARTISTIC COACHING

Cindy Claes, Louise De Grave Loyson, Laura Kalenga Mulenda,
Pumi Morell, Federico Ordonez, Yves Ruth, Briana Stuart,
Berthe Tanwo Njole, Mike Van Alfen,
Pitcho Wombakonga

PRODUCTION

Citylab Pianofabriek

COPRODUCTION

KVS

THANKS TO

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IN COLLABORATION WITH

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WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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TECHNICAL SHEET

ON REQUEST

PRIX DE VENTE

ON REQUEST

CONTACT

CAMILLE PHILIPPOT
Booking manager - Management
+32 (0)484 711 699
info@nadinebaboy.com



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BY NADINE BABOY