

Création Studio Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles 2022-2023
Hendrickx Ntela is an associate artist

Blind Hendrickx Ntela





**In a world where we are
supposedly free,
where everything seems normal
and where any gesture
becomes ephemeral, are we free
to think for ourselves?**

Following their meeting and a dialogue about their respective cultures, Hendrickx Ntela, a second-generation immigrant in Europe, and Pierre 'Dexter' Belleka, in exile from dictatorial regimes, created *Blind*.

Born respectively in Belgium and Liberia, the two dancer-choreographers have been able to rediscover themselves in the Krump* culture

Like a spiritual practice, Krump culture acts as an escape that allows them to give expression to the feelings they have experienced.

Lives impacted by political conflicts in their countries of origin have opened their eyes to the cyclical nature of history and the importance of political discourse in our contemporary society; Especially since this plays a key role in the face of the public's loss of critical awareness.

Blind thus places five krumpers from Belgium, Spain, France and Senegal in a situation where they are confronted with the same story in different parts of the world. What are the reactions of each character, each with their own personal baggage, to unfamiliar types of discourse?

Blind refers to the conscious or unconscious unawareness of populations fed by a system of unattainable desires, as projected through social networks and other media.

Here, the key point is the expression of blindness. The moves created for this work are the result of improvisations by the

dancers with this constraint. It is a matter of displaying the lack of choice that we suffer as an individual. Society is seen as a system from which it is impossible to escape. Freedom is an illusion. Each in our own way, we are all part of a controlled matrix from which struggle to extricate ourselves without holding the keys. By trying to create an alternate reality, we unwittingly only move from one system to another.

The dancers worked blindfolded in order to develop their other senses including touch, the key element of the piece.

The heightening of sensations is also typical of Krump, a dance style rooted in intense energies, developed from the drives of its interpreters who thus create a singular language from their common bases in Krump.

The choreographers seek to highlight the many forms of civil disobedience in reaction to these systems, via their respective cultures and via their common culture, Krump.

The performance by Hendrickx Ntela and her co-performers, feels almost like a found freedom, ultimately annihilated by the weight of an inhibiting society, of which Europe, often perceived as a beacon of freedom, is a reflection. As an immigrant or a racialized other, the barriers are numerous and the decision-makers, all-powerful. Who issues visas, passports? Based on what criteria? Will they grant me my right to freedom?

*Born in the 2000s in the ghettos of Los Angeles, Krump is one of the latest forms of urban dance. Composed of movements in tension, this style stands out for its controlled intensity, and for the expression of strong feelings such as joy, anger or frustration. It is based on a principle: to raise one's voice, to articulate what cannot be screamed

Konzi Company

The Konzi Company is a company whose members are exclusively Krumpers from France, Germany, Spain, Senegal and Belgium. With headquarters in Belgium, the company aims to bring Krump to all types of stages, to disseminate creations and promote Krump as an artistic practice. The company wants to show the world this riveting, expressive dance form, born from the will.

Their objective is to rid the public of the prejudices surrounding this style of dance and above all to have Krump recognized as a dance form that is in the process of developing in Belgium.

The company was started in 2017 for a first creation entitled *To be a slave*, performed in Belgium and Germany. The chosen theme of this first venture presented various forms of slavery ranging from the slave trade to modern slavery. By working on issues that in different forms can affect the world's population, the company aims to reach an international audience. The identification of the public is essential in this work. The issues dealt with reflect a sensitivity to current events that raises existential questions.

The company also spotlights musical work by integrating a composer, a beatmaker and two musicians to create authentic soundtracks, mixing Krump with other sounds or by integrating noises.



Biographies



Hendrickx Ntela Choreographer and performer

Hendrickx Ntela is a dancer and choreographer of Congolese origin from Liège. She practices several styles of urban dance: Hip-Hop, Krump, Dance-Hall, Kuduro, Afro-House etc. She works as a freestyle dancer, choreographer and teacher as part of the One Nation collective. She has worked with artists such as Brahim Rachiki and Grichka, true pioneers of Krump in France, and was a finalist at the Krump World Championship in Germany in 2014.

Hendrickx has been involved in many Belgian and foreign cultural projects in the field of urban dance. Through these exchanges and connections, she was able to gain professional experience, including organizing battles in Liege and the Krump Date event in Brussels. Hendrickx Ntela presented her first creation *To be a slave* with eight international Krump artists including Pierre Anganda and three live musicians in 2017 at Zinnema and the KVS, during the Lezarts Danses Urbaines Festival.

She is the founder of the Drickx Konzi collective, a member of One Nation, a versatile 100% female group and Gully Fusion, an international women's Krump group.

In 2018, with her associate Pierre Anganda, she created the *Beyond* project produced by Lezarts Urban which deals with the limit between reality and imagination by installing a character in two distinct bodies.

In 2019, she joined the Tremplin Danses Hip-Hop group and in this framework became co-choreographer and performer of the work *Au Fil du temps* by the company Corpeaurelles. That same year, she was an instructor for the festival Les Nuits de la Danse, in Dakar, where a first phase of her creation *Blind* was performed.



Pierre Dexter Belleka Choreographer and performer

Pierre Belleka, alias 'Dexter', is a member of the company La Mer Noire in Senegal. Originally from Liberia, Pierre-Claver Belleka exiled himself at a very young age in many African countries due to political conflicts affecting the continent. In 2006, his discovery of the Krump movement allowed him to develop a particular dance language, inspired by the concept of animality, spirituality and various experimental dances.

He won many competitions and quickly became an established name on the hip-hop scene in Senegal. His first participations in international competitions were quickly noticed (M.V.P. Hip Hop Games Concept 2015, International Semi-finalist Illest Battle 2016 and 2017).

After following the professional training in hip-hop dances "Sunu Street" in Senegal, his growing involvement in performance and choreography opened up new horizons and artistic disciplines. He made a name for himself in various international projects (France, Denmark, South Africa), including for well-known brands (Guinness, H&M) and gave notable performances at the semi-final of the artistic competition «L'Afrique a un incroyable talent» in 2016 and then in the Lille selection of the Battle Opera, judged by Marie-Claude Pietragalla.

Today, he represents the African continent in several international competitions (Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, Côte d'Ivoire) and is co-choreographer of the creation *Gaou* by La Mer Noire.



Arias Fernandez (Alias Joker) Performer

Arias is an independent dancer and choreographer born in Madrid (Spain). During his childhood and adolescence, he trained in acrobatic gymnastics and parkour. He has always liked having multiple approaches to movement and the arts, but is particularly attracted by dance. This led him to work internationally as a teacher and choreographer in various urban styles. Over the years, he has also started to combine new disciplines such as contemporary dance and martial arts, while emphasizing improvisation and the creation of choreographic compositions.

In 2015, he performed the *Heart* project, a collaboration of the Cirque du Soleil and the Adria brothers produced by Nadine Gerspacher. He is co-creator of the companies Aina & Arias, Bioshock, Efil, The Jokerz Company and director of the OM Rasa project, a training method based on several disciplines. Arias collaborates as a dancer with the Nadine Gerspacher company in the works *A sweet Hello* and *Ever after* (both led by Nicolas Ricchini). He is a member of two of the most important Krump teams: Madrootz (International) and Titans (Leaders of the Krump scene in Spain). He is also part of the very first Krump creation led by Grichka Caruge, Naissance. Arias is a respected name in the Krump community at the international level, and acts as a judge in battles and workshops.



Luka Austin (Alias Kid NY) Performer

Luka Austin Seydou alias Sniper started out with the Madrootz Crew in Paris (France). He currently works under the direction of the great Krump choreographer Tight Eyez. At only 24 years old, he has been doing Krump for 16 years already and has won more than 70 prestigious dance tournaments. He is known for his contribution to the foundation of the European Krump movement, but also for specializing in Beat-Making, which he has been practicing since the age of 11. His Krump style is based on musicality, a lot of technique and feeling. He is inspired by legendary artists like Tight Eyez, Muhammad Ali, Floyd Mayweather and Busta Rhymes, who push him to create his Krump persona. He regularly leads workshops in Tokyo, India, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Amsterdam, Russia, Brazil, the Czech Republic, and in many other countries. Apart from the Krump world, Luka also has experience as a dancer in stage shows and on television in Europe where he has had to work in many different styles.



Israël Ngashi (Alias Wild) Performer

Israel Ngashi has been practicing Krump for four years. Krump is a highly expressive style in which he feels comfortable, and which allows him to adapt into movements all the sources of inspiration he finds around him. He is also a member of the collective of Krumpers BBF2.0. In 2019, he was a performer in the creation *Heyoka* by Britt Ryckebosch.

Joshua Twambi Musician

A young, 23-year-old musician and producer, working mainly in Belgium who comes from a family of singers. A pianist by training but also a bass player, guitarist and arranger. His inspirations are varied, ranging from R&B, blues and gospel, to jazz but also Congolese rumba and other sounds. He has the capacity to work alone but also to manage a team of artists or musicians. He has collaborated with various local and international artists, in gospel but especially in secular music.

Jeanel Ambrosio Musician

Known in real life as Jeane Quinta, he is a guitarist who was born and raised in Belgium. Steeped since his earliest childhood in a strong musical tradition, he often attended concerts by different artists, and very early discovered a talent for music.

His influences are varied. He is notably inspired by rumba, a style from the country of his roots, the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, he also touches on other styles such as reggae and R&B. He has collaborated with artists from the Congolese diaspora and also has several singles on the streaming platforms with the group Famille Royale.

Thierry Massenba Musician

A young artist born in Belgium, in 1995, into a family of musicians, he plays several instruments such as guitar and piano, but his favorite instrument is the drums. He plays all kinds of music including soukous, R&B and reggae. He has collaborated with many well-known artists from the Congolese diaspora including Benjamin Schoos.

Morf Muzik Musician

Mozarf aka Morf, got his start in Krump in 2007 with the Outsiderz in Ermont (France). In 2009, he began creating Krump musical productions. In 2012, one of his productions was used in a Krump event which marked his entry into the movement. He joined a Krump «fam» and is today the official musical composer for several international Krump competitions.

Blind Hendrickx Ntela

Hendrickx Ntela as an associate artist of the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles
Création Studio Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles

Choreography Hendrickx Hendrickx Ntela, Pierre Dexter Belleka – Compagnie Konzi
With Hendrickx Ntela, Pierre Dexter Belleka, Israël Ngashi, Arias Fernandez,
Luka Austin (alternating with Tony Ndumb and Pierre Anganda)
Music creation Joshua Twambi, Jeanel Ambrosio, Thierry Massemba, Morf Musik
Light creation Olivier Arnoldy
Outside view Alesandra Seutin, Grichka Caruge, Ayelen Parolín
Stage manager Pier Gallen
Sound operator Pawel Wnuczynski

Production Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles
Coproduction Lezarts Urbains, Théâtre de Liège, Charleroi Danse
Inquiries and distribution Get Down – Dancers Management
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