

Street Dance Theater



KIFESH 2.0

PHOTO CREDITS : B. Buchmann-Cotterot

Oumar Diallo
Israël Ngashi

COMPAGNIE
KIFESH



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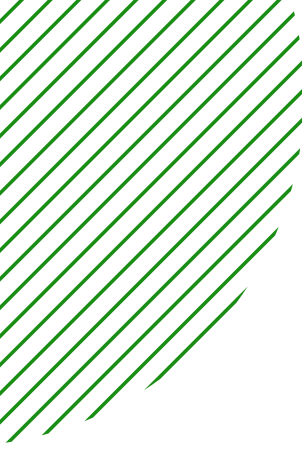
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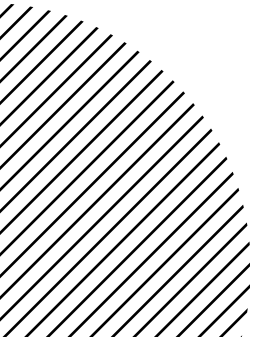


NOTE OF INTENT

In the dance piece KIFESH 2.0, we wanted to address this dream of finding inner peace. We wanted to use our life story as the main thread of the play, telling the story of Israel and Oumar, two young people from the working-class neighborhoods of Brussels, but also from the African diaspora. We felt the urge and the need to show our perception of the world and daily life, but above all all the accumulated frustrations that influence our emotions and actions on a daily basis.

Where does this frustration come from? From the fact that we often feel reduced to stereotypes and clichés that don't reflect who we really are. A preconception applied to us even before we're born, because the world can't or won't see us any differently. People everywhere talk about us, without even needing our presence. What we understand is that we are first and foremost black men, a minority in a Western context, and our image is reduced to our skin color.

We've realized that these frustrations need to be understood rather than countered. They are external data that we can't control or change, but which we now use as a dynamic in our lives. We've finally understood our frustrations from the inside, and now know how to deal with them. It's this long process that we've staged in KIFESH 2.0.



THE PIECE

Through the show KIFESH 2.0, inspired by their life experiences, Oumar and Israël aim to highlight those young people who, like them, come from the same background, experience the same daily struggle, and have no platform to express themselves freely. Willing to position themselves as representatives of these young people, Oumar and Israël dance their experiences and feelings to get their message across: don't let the frustration of being perceived as "different" get you down, but learn to live with it, accept it and, above all, use it. They feel and know the need to tell these kinds of stories, from their perspective, before someone else speaks for them again.



PHOTO CREDITS : B. Buchmann-Cotterot

What to expect on stage

KIFESH 2.0 is a twenty minute piece based entirely on movement. Inspired by freestyle hip hop dance, it's energetic and physical, and includes an important corporality. Hip Hop, Krump, Popping or Locking are dances practiced daily by the artists, and used on stage to show their vulnerability for all to see. They improvise by following the sounds emitted by their breathing and their bodies. Bodies adapt, brush up against and away from each other, creating movement in the moment, taking advantage of the emotions and energies of the present moment.

Like its two performers, the piece is authentic and close to its audience, who are included as actors during the performance. The close proximity of the audience, the almost total absence of music and the focus on body movement create a feeling of closeness and authenticity between the performers and the audience.

The atmosphere is what it is in the room on the day of the performance. The artists had no desire to create a universe different from their own. They simply share their story, enjoying the moment and including all aspects of the present (audience, stage, atmosphere). The audience accompanies them on their journey and hears the different sounds created by the dancers, so that they can feel and understand the emotions they are going through.



PHOTO CREDITS : B. Buchmann-Cotterot

THE ARTISTS

Oumar Diallo

Brussels-born artist Oumar Diallo stands out for his specialization in popping and freestyle hip-hop. Passionate about dance, he invests his time in a variety of courses and training, while traveling the world to enrich his practice. Alongside his dance career, his fascination with hip-hop culture led him to become a DJ and organize his own events such as the "Supreme Cypher" and "CreativBoil". In 2017, Oumar decided to take to the stage and entered the "1000 Pieces Puzzle" training, where he distinguished himself by coming second. It was then that the Kifesh project was born, his first creation as a choreographer, which would eventually give its name to his company.



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Israël Ngashi

Israël Ngashi aka Wild aka Illicite is a rising figure on the Belgian krump scene, and has shown us his dance in a variety of ways, both on stage with the Konzi company he's part of, and in competition, recently winning the International Dance League, Cheza Street and many others. He has represented Belgium at the international krump championship the Illest Battle in Paris.



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THE COMPANY

The Kifesh company is a street dance company, created in 2020 by Oumar Diallo with the desire and mission to convey a strong, personal message. The main source of inspiration lies in the artistic skills of the company's dancers, who create pieces that are lively and real, full of emotion, and carrying the strong messages they want to address. The company's recurring themes are self-acceptance, resilience and introspection. Kifesh 2.0 is the company's second theatrical production. This project aims to reach a wide audience not necessarily accustomed to going to the theater, but also to attract young audiences, to whom the main mission and messages are turned. For the years 2024 and 2025-2026, Oumar is preparing a new creation exploring the themes of altered reality and freedom. In addition, an original one-man-show, combining humor and dance, will be developed, highlighting elements of his life.



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Past performance dates

- IX Jeux de la Francophonie in Kinshasa (DRC), category danse de création, July 2023
- Festival Off d'Avignon 2024 at Théâtre des Doms as part of the Garden Party

DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCTION

OudiArts ASBL & Citylab Pianofabriek

INTERPRÉTATION

Oumar Diallo & Israël Ngashi

MISE EN SCÈNE & CHORÉGRAPHIE

Oumar Diallo

DIFFUSION

Get Down – Dancers Management

PARTENAIRES

Ravie ASBL

SOUTIEN

De Spoormakers, Cie Ruda, Théâtre des Doms

TEASER

[Lien Vidéo](#)





TOURING CONDITIONS

Number of people

2 performers on stage, 1 lighting engineer and production/touring manager. A total of 4 people on tour.

Show duration

25 minutes

Minimum stage space required

7m x 6m x 5m height

Audience position

Quadrifontal. The audience sits in a circle on stage.

Set-up

Light pre-assembly and check-in on arrival, the day before.

Material requirements

A large mirror on wheels. Size: minimum 90cm x 190cm.

Music

2 sound recordings to play. The rest of the piece is in silence.

Technical sheet available by email, for more details

company@kifesh.be



CONTACT

Touring

Get Down – Dancers

Management

company@kifesh.be



[Cie KIFESH - Oumar Diallo](#)



[@ciekifesh](#)



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