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DANCE REFLECTIONS
BY
VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

UAE Debut

Corps extrêmes Rachid Ouramdane



Contemporary dance meets extreme athletics

Aerial acrobatic dance with gravity-defying choreography come to life on a towering climbing wall in an exploration of the existential questions of life's meaning.

7:30pm on Fri & Sat
May 12 & 13, 2023
The Red Theater

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Welcome.

I am proud to welcome you to The Arts Center's eighth season, themed "Stories." At the root of the performing arts are stories. The stories told in the performances themselves. The stories each of us in the audience bring to the experience. The stories we leave with, as we create a shared history, are new every time. The stories we'll share as memories in the future.

We have had a powerful and diverse line-up of contemporary dance all season, in collaboration with Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels, and we're grateful to them for presenting Rachid Ouramdane's *Corps extrêmes* as an extension to our season. As the director of *Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse* in Paris, Ouramdane's production builds both on Abu Dhabi's significant partnership with French cultural organizations as well as The Arts Center's longstanding tradition of hosting some of France's most significant dance companies. This piece, which pushes the boundaries of dance into aerial choreography and acrobatics, also carries a sense of deep reflection about people taking risks and facing extreme challenges that resonates with our times.

We are thrilled to welcome back Mubadala as the lead sponsor of The Arts Center's season, and as the presenting sponsor of our *Off the Stage* series of workshops, talks, and audience engagement. Their commitment to the community of Abu Dhabi, and to the arts, is deeply appreciated.

We are grateful for The Arts Center's partnerships with the US Mission to the UAE, who support our youth educational activities. We invite you to join us on a rich artistic journey. The path may be new and unfamiliar. It may be comforting. It may be unexpected or challenging. No matter what path you travel, we hope you will always find that it is dynamic and diverse. The Arts Center is a place for discovery and for new inspiration.

As we near the end of our season, I want to also extend my deep appreciation the entire team of The Arts Center, both the technical and administrative staff, whose hard work and excellence is also reflected on stage week after week, and especially in this production.

As always, we invite you to approach our season with a sense of openness, curiosity, and adventure. Once the lights go on after the performance...what stories will you take with you?

Come Curious. Leave Inspired.

Bill Bragin

Executive Artistic Director,
The Arts Center



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Rachid Ouramdane

Corps extrêmes

Originally *Corps extrêmes* manifests the desire, expressed by Rachid Ouramdane, to be “really focused on the fascination triggered by the wish to take-off, to drift, a state of weightlessness, a suspension...” Two emblematic accomplices who dedicate themselves to the practice of extreme sports – the French highliner Nathan Paulin and the Swiss climber Nina Caprez – are on stage, far from their habitual playgrounds, with eight acrobats.

Gifted for lightness, often circling, this extraordinary community of freedom lovers – of which the members incarnate in different ways the Icarus dream in today’s world – evolve between the sky and the earth; an impressive climbing wall at the back of the stage as a main press hold. A long rope crosses high above, the stage sometimes transforms into a huge screen, on which images are projected of magnificent natural landscapes – great vertigo – with Nathan Paulin and Nina Caprez in action.

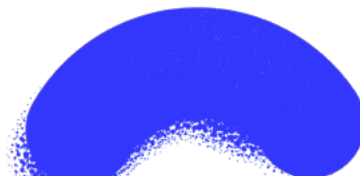
The voice-overs of these exceptional athletes also play a part, just like the voice-over of the flyer Airelle Caen; all of them providing personal accounts of their practice. Sometimes airy, then stirring, the musical score of Jean-Baptiste Julien increases the reliefs of this gathering, with several subtly suggested strata.

Rather than giving in to the facile attraction of virtuosity, the piece endeavors to give rise to an existential – even metaphysical – dimension, flirting with the void. Simultaneously anchored in reality as well as heading for a dream world, both intimate and bigger than life, the performance sheds an artistic lighting on a far from the ordinary human experience.

60 minutes without an intermission

The performance on May 12 will be followed by a Q&A, moderated by Julien Marchenoir, Marketing & Communications Director of Van Cleef & Arpels, and Bill Bragin, Executive Artistic Director of The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi.

The artists will be leading two exclusive workshops open to all on May 11th at Sima Performing Arts, Dubai and on May 13th at The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi.





Photography © Pascale Cholette

Cast and Credits

Conception	Rachid Ouramdane
With	Joël Azou Nina Caprez Tamila De Naeyer Clotaire Fouchereau Clémence Gilbert Xavier Mermod Patricia Minder Nathan Paulin Maxime Seghers Owen Winship
Music	Jean-Baptiste Julien
Video	Jean-Camille Goimard
Lighting design	Stéphane Graillet
Costumes	Camille Panin
Technical manager	Sylvain Giraudeau
Sound and monitor Engineer	Laurent Lechenault
Lighting Operator	Gilles Durand
Stage manager	Germain Le Goff
Choreography Assistant	Mayalen Otondo
Tour manager	Juliette Bones
Translation	Camille Assaf
Production	Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse
DANCE REFLECTIONS BY VAN CLEEF & ARPELS	Presented by Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels
Coproduction	CCN2 - Centre chorégraphique national de Grenoble Bonlieu Scène nationale Annecy Théâtre de la Ville - Paris Festival Montpellier Danse 2021 L'Estive - Scène nationale de Foix et de l'Ariège Le Bateau Feu - Scène nationale de Dunkerque Le Carreau - Scène nationale de Forbach MC2: Grenoble Théâtre Molière - Sète, Scène nationale Archipel de Thau Le Théâtre Scène nationale de Saint-Nazaire

Thanks to Patricia Minder, Xavier Mermod, Guillaume Broust, Romain Cocheril
With the technical support of Espace Vertical and Music Plus Grenoble
With the support of MC93 - Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Denis



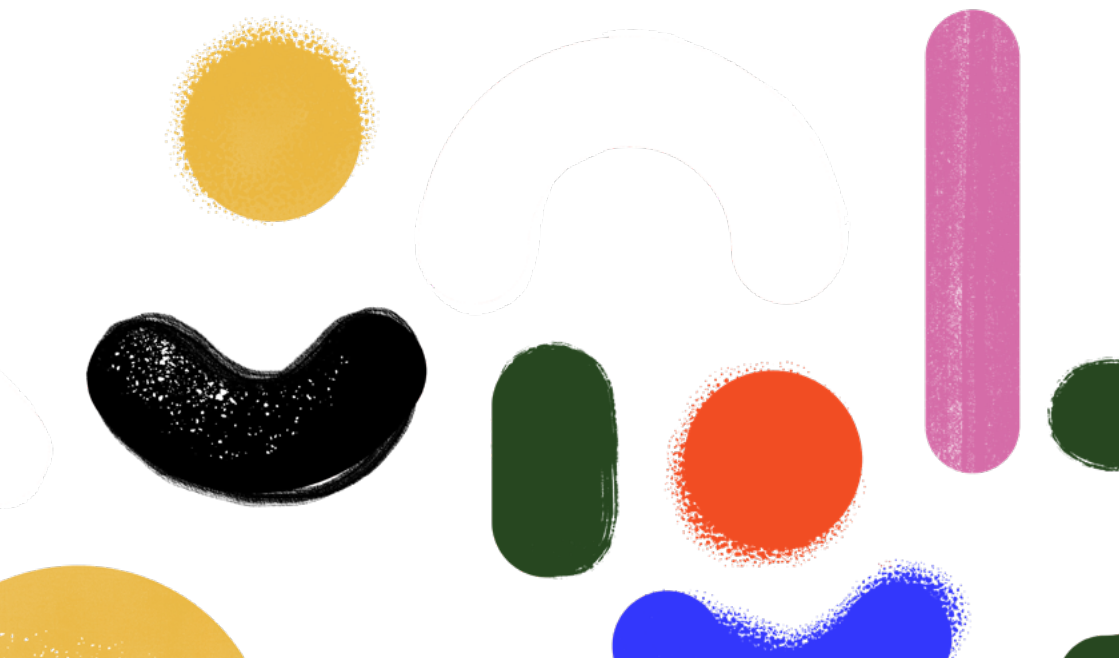
Photography © Pascale Cholette

Rachid Ouramdane's Biography

Rachid Ouramdane was born in Nîmes in 1971. At the age of twelve, he discovered dance through hip-hop. He became involved in this movement, which was in full swing in the 1980s and 1990s, rooted in the culture of the suburban housing estates and a driver for physical and political emancipation. He also took intensive courses in classical and modern dance. In the early 1990s, he dropped out of his studies in biology to devote himself fulltime to dance and joined the Centre national de danse contemporaine in Angers. As a performer and choreographer, he has worked with Meg Stuart, Odile Duboc, Hervé Robbe, Alain Buffard, Christian Rizzo, Julie Nioche and Emmanuelle Huynh.

Rachid Ouramdane's creations are often marked by the seal of testimony and intimate experience (refugee children, victims of torture or natural disasters, amateur athletes, etc.) from which he weaves a structured choreography. Rachid Ouramdane collaborates with circus artists (Compagnie XY), authors (Pascal Rambert, Sonia Chiambretto), visual artists (Nicolas Floch' and Mehdi Meddaci), and musicians (Jean-Baptiste Julien and Alexandre Meyer) for his own creations as well as for commissioned works and workshops.

With an ambitious project based on diversity and hospitality, he has been director of Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse since April 2021. Continuing in this spirit of openness to the world and at the crossroads of disciplines, he has chosen as associate artists personalities as varied as Gisèle Vienne, Nacera Belaza, Aurélie Charon, Fanny de Chaillé, Dorothée Munyaneza, the Compagnie XY, François Chaignaud, Faustin Linyekula and Kery James. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters in May 2022.



The Arts Center Team.

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Meera Al Sayegh

Artistic Associate

Bill Bragin

Executive Artistic Director

Philip Burger

Technical Theater Specialist

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Video And Broadcast Manager

Leila Debbazi

Manager Of Administration
And Artist Management

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Lighting Manager

Estelle Galloway

Assistant Audio Manager

Lana Goliath

Senior Associate Producer

Sabr Hemming

Assistant Lighting Manager

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Timothy Theunissen

Technical Theater Specialist

Subin Thompson

Technical Theater Specialist

THE ARTS CENTER CREDITS

With very special thanks to our Front of House Team!

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Marketing:

Creative and design work by Quite Franckly South Africa.
Public Relations by Hanover Middle East.

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With a very special thanks to the US Mission to the UAE for their Youth Engagement program support.

SPECIAL THANKS

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