



faustin linyekula / the studios kabako

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T h e s t u d i o s k a b a k o

The Studios Kabako organization is dedicated to the development of dance and visual theatre in Kinshasa.

It aims both at addressing artistic and aesthetic issues and at fostering professional and structural skills through research, creation and circulation. It also provides training opportunities for artists as well as for management and technical staff. We don't want to focus on a personal creative approach, but very well to encourage, through on-going training programmes, independent thought and personal initiative among dancers, allowing them to exchange with other artists and to circulate abroad (North-South, South-South). An approach deeply anchored in DRC political, social and economic context, but also very open to the world. This is essential for a country that suffered years of isolation and confinement, leading a whole population to a monolithic thinking system.

With support from local and international partners, the Studios Kabako has presented over the past 18 months four dance works, "Spectacularly Empty" (2001), "Triptyque Sans Titre" (2002) and "Spectacularly Empty II" (2003), three works by Faustin Linyekula and "Le Sentier" (2003) by Madrice Imbujo Itoko.

It has also conducted various projects in collaboration with the following artists:

- ▲▼ Dancer Cécile BACQUÉ, from France, in September-October 2001 and in February 2004;
- ▲▼ Choreographer Toufik OUDHRIRI IDRISI (Morocco-France) and dancer Hanna HEDMAN (Ethiopia-Sweden) in August 2002;
- ▲▼ Hip-hop dancer Anne Nguyen (France) in January 2004...
- ▲▼ French choreographer Sylvain Prunenec and the Adugna Company from Ethiopia as part of the Kin-Addis programme to take place in Kinshasa and Addis Ababa in August and November 2004...

Partnership has also been established with different institutions including the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (Strasbourg, France) where Faustin Linyekula is regularly conducting workshops and the Collectif 12 (Mantes-La-Jolie, France).

Contacts are also being made with the KAAV FECC dance festival (Senegal), the Kenyan-based GAARA Dance Company and the Egyptian theatre company El Warsha.

faustin linyekula

Dancer and choreographer, Faustin lives and works in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo, former Zaire, former Belgian Congo, former independent state of Congo...).

Following literature and theatre studies in Kisangani, he settles in Nairobi in 1993 and collaborates with mime artist Opiyo Okach and dancer Afrah Tenambergen, co-founding in 1997 the first contemporary dance company in Kenya, the Gàara company.

Their first piece, *Cleansing* receives an award at the Rencontres chorégraphiques africaines de Luanda in 1998, and is then performed at the Montpellier Dance Festival (France) and at the Filature in Mulhouse (France) among others.

Since, Faustin has been working as a choreographer, performer and dance teacher between South Africa, Reunion Island and Europe. He was offered residencies by Régine Chopinot in La Rochelle (France), Mathilde Monnier in Montpellier (France) and the Tanzwochen Festival in Wien (Austria) where he created with South-African dancer Gregory Maqoma "Tales off the Mud Wall" (2000).

Back in Kinshasa since June 2001, he has developed a centre dedicated to dance and visual theatre, providing training programmes, as well as supporting research and creation: the Studios Kabako. With the Studio, Faustin has presented three pieces: "Spectacularly empty" (2001) premiered in Kinshasa and in Yaounde, "Triptyque sans titre" (2002) premiered in Kinshasa and recently presented in France, Belgium, Germany and Central Africa and "Spectacularly empty II", a revival for the black box of the 2001 piece, performed in Kinshasa and in Paris last October.

Faustin Linyekula was also recently commissioned by the Suresnes Jean-Vilar Theatre to create a piece for hip-hop dancers, "Telle une ombre gravée dans la poussière", performed in January as part of the Festival Suresnes Cités Danse.

In January 2004, he presented in Paris a solo piece for French dancer Sylvain Prunenec as part of the 2003 Avignon Festival, "Si c'est un nègre / autoportrait".

triptyque sans titre ^{2002 creation}

I mean recycling fragments and other muds
that is making the old out of the new...

Choreography, space and lights: Faustin LINYEKULA

Performance: Papy EBOTANI, Madrice IMBUJO, Djodjo KAZADI, Faustin LINYEKULA

Music: Joachim MONTESSUIS, The Studios Kabako

Space and lights assistant: Daddy KAMONO

Premiered at the Halle de la Gombé, Kinshasa and at the Aboki Ngoma Festival, Yaounde in May 2002.

Duration: 55 minutes

Coproduction: The Studios Kabako, La Halle de la Gombé - Kinshasa, Centre national de la danse - Paris.

The Studios Kabako are supported by La Halle de la Gombé, Kinshasa, the Forum Culturel de Blanc-Mesnil (France), the Collectif 12 - Mantes-la-Jolie (France) and the Centre national de la danse - Paris, the Conseil général of Seine-Saint-Denis and the AFAA / Afrique en Créations Programme.

Still wandering through the ruins of native land...

Hey, somebody lend me the accurate words to tell of paraffin lamps burning through the night,
the smell of beer and urine in the bars of Matongé, the whores' strass and rumba singers' stupor,
a tattered cab and herds of walkers in the morning mist...

There's noise growing in my head... And rust in my blood... Enough!

So, good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen! My name is Kabako, I am Kabako. Once more Kabako,
always Kabako. That's me. I had a story to tell... But I forgot... I'm sorry.

Faustin Linyekula

triptyque sans titre technical details

Space

- . 12m x 12m
- . black dance mat
- . black backdrop
- . "pendrillonage à l'allemande", stage right, no "pendrillon", stage left

Light

- . 4 PAR 64 W / 4 PC 1000 W / 1 PC 2000 W
- . 1 dimmer board, 8 circuits minimum
- . 7 paraffin lamps
- . 1 mini DV player (PAL)
- . 1 video projector, 2000 lumen minimum

Sound

- . 1 CD player
- . 1 sound board: input, 4 circuits minimum
- . 1 microphone
- . sound output: 1500 W minimum ("quadriphonie")
- . SUBS, speakers for lower frequencies (70 Hz)
- . dolby surround effect

On tour

- . 6 people (1 choreographer, 3 dancers, 1 musician, 1 administrator)

Technical support

- . on the location : 3 technicians (light, sound and 1 stage manager)

