



Qudus Onikeku

Re:INCARNATION

Creation September 2020

Biennale de la danse de Lyon 2020,
as part of Africa 2020

THE QDANCE
COMPANY

Re:INCARNATION

A contemporary afro urban dance experience by Qudus Onikeku
Piece for 9 dancers and 1 musician

QUDUS ONIKEKU

Artistic Direction and conception

with

Olowu Busayo
Olukitibi Bukunmi
Joshua Gabriel
Kodak Ike
Faith Okoh
Angela Okolo
Adila Omotosho
Yemi Osokoya
Ambrose Tjark

OLANTUNDE OBAJEUN

Live music

FERNANDO VELÀZQUEZ

Video and scenography

MATHEW YUSUF

Light

AMBROSE TJARK – WACK NG

Costume design

OBIAJULU SUNDAY OZEGBE

Rehearsal coordination

Executive production

THE QDANCE COMPANY

PARTNERS

Biennale de la danse de Lyon

Les Halles de Schaerbeek...

(In progress)

PRODUCTION & TOURING

– Anne-sophie Dupoux

Etat d'Esprit Productions

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En Votre Compagnie

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INTENTION DECEMBER 2018

This piece is the result of five years of continuous movement research around body memory with young dancers in Nigeria, all undertaken since my return from Paris to my hometown Lagos. There, I ventured to train, inform and inspire a new generation of dancers, with whom we have built strong trust relationships, strong enough to create a collective piece that will showcase the depth of the west African youth culture and its pure and uncompromising joy.

re:incarnation is the work of this brand new generation of Lagosian artists and young dancers. Without any classical or occidental training, it will be marked by the urban chaos of the Nigerian economic capital, Lagos the mega city, and take as a point of departure from the current Afrobeats Dance and Music, that is presently in motion, initially from Nigeria and quickly becoming a global phenomenon.

Afrobeat music plays a leading role here. The afrobeat that is best known in Europe is the one that emerged in the 70s from the meeting of jazz, soul-funk and high-life with the traditional West African music, thanks to Fela Kuti - a musician that was cradled by the Black Power and panafricanism movements. Today, afrobeats bares new influences from different inspirations. Dancehall, hip-hop and funky house have started off a musical revolution that flows into the bodies. Imagine an orchestra: the basic tempo inexorably comes back. Inside this undisturbed cycle, the groove plays with a different temporality.



Paying tribute to this richness, choreography will be written with a highly musical structure. I found it interesting that these young people re- appropriate this energy of the 60s and 70s, to reactivate it, renew it, re-incarnate it in the present,

consciously or unconsciously loaded with past and current social struggles.

This piece is a way to continue my quest into body memory and to seek a contemporary choreographic vocabulary that is peculiar to this new generation of dancers. Coming from the Yoruba culture and philosophical approach, I would like to place at the core of the piece the Yoruba central concept of re:incarnation (birth, death, re-birth) which offers a distinct way of thinking about time and space in a cyclical manner. The temporality will thus be based on points of intensity rather than a chronological progression.

With this piece I want to gather nine dancers from different cities in Nigeria, those that I have worked with the past years and identified in the course of the three editions of DanceGATHERING Lagos, so as to let this new generation of Nigerian dancers come together around a shared creation process - while I continue my mentorship with them in practical terms.

Qudus Onikeku



Angela Okolo



Kodak Ike



Olowu Busayo

THE TEAM

The team was built up after several audition days and now consists of 9 dancers and 1 live musician. Those pictures were shot in the streets of Lagos by Bamiphotography in September 2019. Costumes were designed for Wack Ng by Ambrose Tjark, who is also one of the dancers of the show.



Joshua Gabriel



Yemi Osokoya



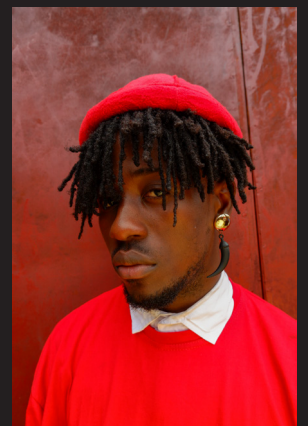
Olukitibi Bukunmi



Adila Omotosho



Ambrose Tjark



Faith Okoh

CREATION AND TOUR DATES (PROVISIONAL)

August 2019

Workshop and auditions
The QDance Center - Lagos

September 2019

4-week creation residency
The QDance Center - Lagos

February 2020

3-week creation residency
The QDance Center - Lagos

April 2020

2-week creation residency
The QDance Center - Lagos
Presentation of a work in progress at the festival Dance
Gathering (between April 6th and 19th, dates to be announced)

June 2020

2-week residency - Lyon, France

August 2020

3-week residency - Lighting creation at the Chapelle d'Anonnay
Presented in preview at the Théâtre d'Anonnay

September 2020

World premiere in Lyon - Biennale de la danse 2020
Qudus Onikeku is also invited to choreograph the final of the
Biennial parade.



Mid-September 2020 to January 2021 : France and Europe tour

A FEW TECHNICAL WORDS

Touring company

- 14 personnes
- > 1 choreographer
- > 10 performers
- > 2 technical managers
- > 1 production manager

Stage will be very simple, with a focus on video and lights.

Qudus Onikeku

Qudus Onikeku is a movement artiste made of diversity. Over the decade, he has established himself as one of the preeminent multitalented artistes, working today with different media : performance, installation, curating and community organizing.

Onikeku's international artistic research intersects between his interest in body memory and finding new vocabularies for performance, embracing an artistic vision that both respects and challenges Yoruba culture and contemporary dance. He has created a substantial body of critically acclaimed work that ranges from solos to group works, as well as artist-to-artist collaborations with visual artists or architects, musicians or writers.



Qudus Onikeku has participated in major exhibitions and festivals across 56 countries including Venice Biennale, Biennale de Lyon, Festival d'Avignon, Roma Europa, TED Global, Torino Danza, Kalamata Dance Festival, Dance Umbrella.

He is a visiting professor of dance at the University of California and Columbia College Chicago.

Qudus is a maker in residence at the Center for arts, migration and entrepreneurship University of Florida - 2019-2022.



Qudus' work is marked by Africa and its populations' culture, while bearing in mind the willingness of making his intention universal.

He is interested in colonial power and migrations of the African continent, as well as in its esthetics and plural identities. Those contemporary issues inspire a brand new generation of African dancers and bring a new depth to dance.

The body takes a considerable role in the Yoruba philosophy as a mean to reunify spiritual and human matters. Qudus Onikeku associates traditional Nigerian dances, hip-hop, capoeira, contemporary esthetics and acrobatics and thus addresses the audience with new sensory languages.

WORK

SPIRIT CHILD (2019)

Solo piece with 3 musicians

YUROPA (2018)

Piece for 3 dancers and 1 musician

Infinite nowness (2017)

Piece for 1 performer (Venice)

Right here Right now (2017)

Performance video installation

Rainmakers (2017)

Piece for 7 dancers

We almost forgot (2016)

Piece for 6 dancers and 1 actress

Africaman original (2015)

Piece for 1 dancer and 1 video maker

Iwa Lewa (2015)

Piece for 10 dancers and 5 musicians

Qaddish (2013)

Piece for 1 dancer and 4 musicians

Still / Life (2011-2012)

Piece for 1 dancer and 2 musicians

My Exile is in my head (2010)

Piece for 1 dancer and 1 musician

Lost face (2004-2006)

Piece for 1 dancer



THE QDANCE CENTER

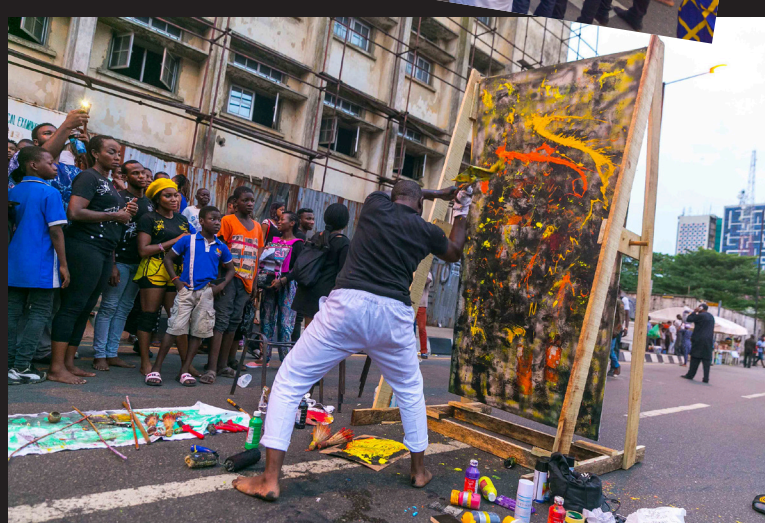
The QDance Center Lagos is a creative agency, a resource center focused on training, community development, creating artistic works and creating new interests for dance theatre in Nigeria, creating activities for amateurs and professionals alike. This venue offers dance and fitness classes to all practice levels, gradually spreading dance culture as a way of life.





FESTIVAL DANCEGATHERING

DanceGATHERING est un festival créé en 2017 par Qudus Onikeku et Onye Ozuzu qui se déroule tous les ans en février. C'est avant tout un laboratoire de performances, de recherches et d'expérimentations pluridisciplinaires au cœur duquel sont réunis différents artistes et penseurs créatifs. Un grand week-end d'événements ouvert au public termine ces rencontres dans une grande rue de Lagos bloquée pour l'occasion (Broad Street).



The 3rd edition of the danceGATHERING festival took place from February 11th to 24th, 2019.

The theme of this last edition was AFROSPACETIME. 83 artists from 30 different cities were gathered around the resident dancers: musicians, DJs, poets, videomakers...

Interdisciplinarity and surpassing the borders of knowledge were hence the core challenges of this edition.

The festival ended with 3 days of open to all events in public space.

Next edition: April 6th to 19th, 2020

