

# SOLITUDE BLUES



A COPRODUCTION:



*Multicorps/Marcel Gbeffa  
Company*



T.D.A.S.  
CULTURE

# SOLITUDE BLUES

It is the search of oneself within its own eyes, it is the memories left by others that invade everyone downtime.

It is to know that you are two but very lonely, it is to need to talk with the other but not being able to do so. And everything happens at home, in the intimacy of a house, from boredom, abandonment of rest, urgency to fill the time, the need to feel at home and live in this place which is ours.

Finally, it is also the need to believe that the other is there with us. We are like this child who plays alone, with an imaginary friend, the one with whom we would continue to invent our story, the only friend who would want to take us to unknown paths, to his places of dreams.



# STATEMENT OF INTENT

After those years of working to promote digital creation in Senegal, the objective of Trias Culture is to share the experience acquired with dance professionals from neighboring countries. For that purpose, Trias Culture and the Beninese association Multicorps initiated in 2011 a collaborative effort which resulted in «Solitude Blues».

To this end, Marcel Gbeffa, choreographer of the company of contemporary dance Multicorps/ Marcel Gbeffa and co-founder of the association, was involved in the two «d-CLIC Dance» workshops realised by Trias Culture in Dakar in June and December 2011, in partnership with the International Organisation of the Francophonie and the French Institute of Dakar. At this occasion and with Maria-Luisa Angulo, founder of Trias culture, he realises as co-choreographer and dancer the creation «Solitude Blues»: a play of 30 minutes for two dancers, created between Dakar and Cotonou, and focused on the exploration of the video camera surveillance.

«Solitude Blues» is first of all an exploratory approach around the video camera, which began during the choreographic workshops of «d-CLIC dance».

This is basically a work that questions the possibilities of video images to take advantage on stage to merge with the dancers and space.

# CHOREOGRAPHIC APPROACH

On the technical side, it is to get video footage beyond traditional uses as static set on the stage. The aim is to explore how the video camera can also provide scenographical solutions and become a personal key of the relationship dancer-scene. Images and videos are therefore more than just a simple set, the video camera becomes «the eye» and the main subject in the dialogue between the two dancers.

On the conceptual level, the idea was to use video camera surveillance at its basic function: this item very much present in our daily lives (banks, offices, streets) also established itself on the scene as an eye that accompanies, but also looks at ourselves differently, very invasive and disturbing, like a voyeur.



# MULTICORPS/MARCEL GBEFFA COMPANY

Since 2008, the Multicorps/Marcel Gbeffa Company gathers two french-beninese choreographers and professional dancers, Valérie d'Almeida and Marcel Gbeffa. It aims for training, creation and promotion of contemporary dance in Benin through various show and events as well as the passing on to amateurs (both children and grown ups) and professional dancers, its purpose being the transmission of passion and the rise of a new energy in beninese and african contemporary dance.

Most of the company's pieces are based on improvisation and bodily expression as influenced by traditional dance from Benin and other african countries. The choreographic approach originates in simple daily life activities to end up in outstanding pieces. Experimenting with human and animal behaviour is a major source used by The Multicorps/Marcel Gbeffa Company in order to find another way of moving.

Whereas both choreographers are in charge of dance teaching and choreographic creation, Marcel Gbeffa, being the appointed company choreographer, is the artistic director and Valérie d'Almeida the executive director.

In september 2011, the Multicorps/Marcel Gbeffa Company launched the first choreographic centre in Benin, in central Cotonou. Gathering amateurs and professionals from Africa and elsewhere, this centre is designed as a place where to train, meet and share around contemporary dance.

# TRIAS CULTURE

Trias Culture is a Senegalese cultural company, dedicated to the promotion of digital creation in Africa.

Trias initiated in late 2008 in Senegal a work of awareness raising, training and artistic experimentation focused on digital creation through the «d-CLIC Dance & Digital Creation» program.

The program «d-CLIC Dance» is first of all the result of several years of work on contemporary dance, initiated by its founder, Maria Luisa Angulo. It is also the continuation of a first initiative created in El Salvador (2001) and developed in Central America with the Foundation CLIC ([www.clic.org.sv](http://www.clic.org.sv)) to promote the exploration of digital tools in the cultural and artistic community of this region of Latin America.

These experiences have also been fuelled by collaborations with various dancers, choreographers and digital artists who participated in the project, such as the Association Incident and the collective RYBN (France), Yann Leguay (France-Belgium), Victor Vina (Spain), Kyd Campbell (Canada). The project has been then refined through meetings and exchanges at various professional meetings around the digital creation, such as «Crea Numerica», in October 2009, «MIAN» (the International Marketplace for Digital Art) in Brussels in November 2009, «Crea Numerica» in Montreal in 2009 and Casablanca in 2010.

# COMPANY CREATIONS

**'And if...'** (2008). Solo

Selected in solo category at the Africa and Indian Ocean Choreographic Encounters in 2010.

**'Primal shadow'** (2009). Duo

Coproduction Fondation Zinsou.

**'The corridor of love'** (2011). Duo

Coproduction Fondation Zinsou.

**'Eyeless'** (2011). Collective piece

**'Loneliness blues'** (2011). Duo

Choreographed with Maria-Luisa Angulo (Trias Culture).

**'Black Mirage'** (2012). Collective piece

Coproduction Fondation Zinsou.

**'Behind the curtain'** (2012-2013). Solo

Laureate Visa Création 2013, Institut Français

**'Voodoo'** (2012-2013). Duo



# COMPANY COLLABORATIONS

**Maria-Luisa ANGULO** (Senegal/Salvador): Marcel Gbeffa, guest choreographer for d-CLIC Dance and Digital Arts in Africa training programs (2011-2012). Partnership around 'Loneliness blues' (2011 duo).

**Andréya OUAMBA** (Congo/Senegal): Training courses and creations. 'Endless discussions' (2008), 'Good Dance' (2009), choreographed with Reggie Wilson and 'Shadows sweat' (2011). Marcel Gbeffa in residence in 1e Temps/Andréya Ouamba Company's AEx-Corps program for 'Behind the curtain' (2012).

**Marceline LARTIGUE** (France): Training course and creation of 'Marcel, here and now' (May 2011, Solo).



**Francesca PEDULLÀ** (Italy): Training courses and creations. 'First steps' (2007), 'Choreographic tricks to pass by the dirt highway' (2010) and 'Unavoidable dialogues' (2009-2010).

**La Compagnie FABRE/SENOU** (France/Benin): Training courses, restitution performances and creations. 'The body's word' (2008), 'Hali Mè' (2009).

**Sara CARLSON** (USA): Training courses, restitution performances and creation. 'The holy journey' (2007).

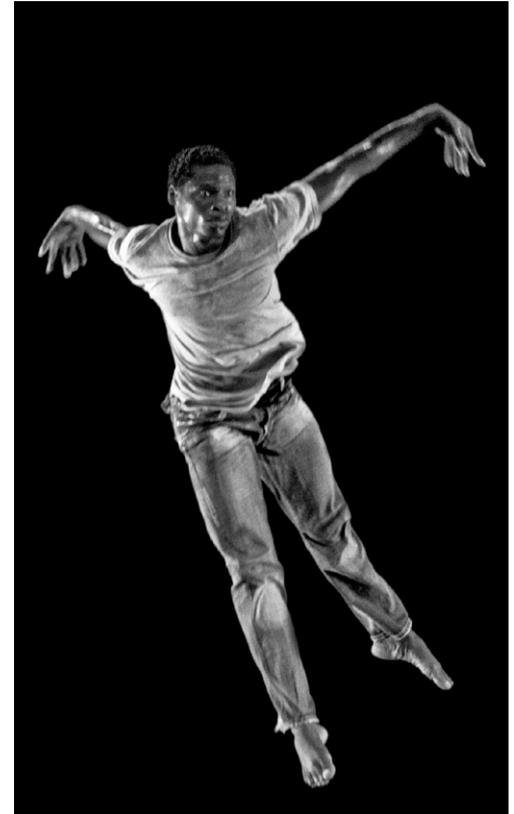
# MARCEL GBEFFA

**Marcel Gbeffa** discovers contemporary dance in 2001 in the beninese association ORiculture. He takes part in several workshops and training courses, including the 8th edition of Africa's traditional and contemporary dance professional training at Germaine Acogny's 'Ecole des Sables', in Senegal.

As a performer, he is involved in various creations by international choreographers such as Marcelline Lartigue, Andréya Ouamba or Reggie Wilson whom he tours and teaches with in the United States.

His choreographic abilities are detected with his solo performance 'And if...!' (2008) selected for the solo competition at the Africa and Indian Ocean Choreographic Encounters in 2010.

Marcel Gbeffa has worked with well known pedagogues and choreographers such as Norbert Senou and Caroline Fabre (France/Benin), Germaine and Patrick Acogny (Senegal/France), Longafo Eyeoto (Congo), Nora Chipaumire (Zimbabwe/New York), Vincent Mantsoe (South Africa), Michèle Broda (France), Sara Carlson (USA) and many others.



# FACILITIES REPORT

## STAGING

- Choreographers: Maria-Luisa Angulo et Marcel Gbeffa
- Performers: Maria-Luisa Angulo et Marcel Gbeffa
- Number of dancers onstage: 2
- Duration: 45 min
- Date of creation: 2011
- Audience: General public

## PLANNING

Two services requested:

- First service: Mounting and setting of lighting, sound, black box, gray or white dance mat and white cloth (H: 5m / L: 12m)
- Second service: Line-up, match, warming up

## SOUND

The sound control will necessarily stand next to the lights control but a separate sound dedicated power supply will be requested.

Source: Mini jack/CD player equipped lap-top (supplied by the host venue).

Analog or digital audio console with at least 4 output buses.

Standard venue stereo diffusion.

The company has no sound manager and therefore requests that one may be assigned to us for mounting and setting.

## VIDEO

- 2 video projectors

## LIGHTING

- Light set: One programmable direct access masters console
- Dimmers: 16 3kW cells
- Venue lighting not included in lighting plot
- Wings lighting requested

# FACILITIES REPORT

## SETTING

### Scene:

Light coloured dance mat.

Minimum height: 6 m

Minimum depth: 8 m

Minimum Aperture: 10 m. Italian masking with black backdrops.

### Items to be supplied by the host venue:

- Backdrops and legs requested for black box assembly.
- Curtains or white sheets
- 2 video projectors
- A table, a chair and a box to put on the two video projectors

**Notes:** The host venue commits itself to hiring qualified staff with proper mastery of the equipment.

The equipment will be complete, in good condition and will meet security requirements.

The host venue will supply all common material and consumable items.

Refreshments and fruits are requested to be made available to the team in the wings during the show.

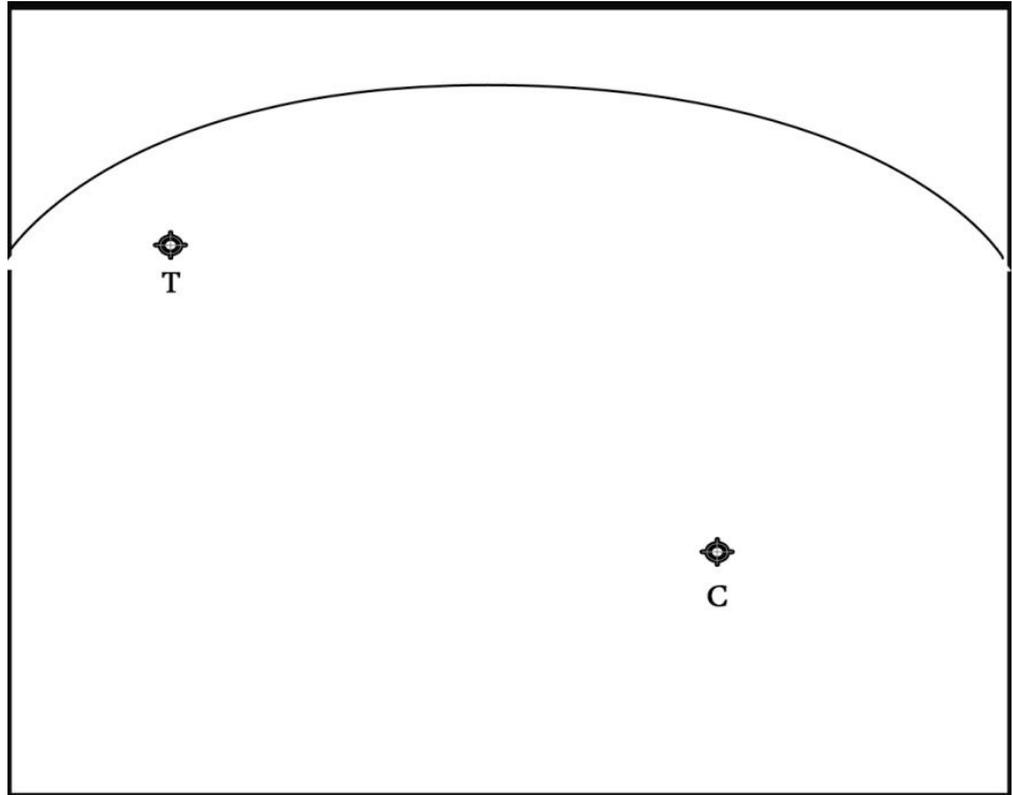
# STAGE PLAN

## LEGEND

T: Table

C: Chair

White cloth to set



# THE TEAM

## Multicorps Choreographic Centre

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