

NÄSS (PEOPLE)

COMPAGNIE MASSALA
FOUAD BOUSSOUF

Type : Dance

Title : Näss (People)

Artist : Fouad Boussouf

Company : Massala Company

Duration : 55mn

Min. age requirement : 7yo

Creation : 2018

Choreographer: Fouad Boussouf

Dancers: Elias Ardoin, Sami Blond, Mathieu Bord,
Maxime Cozic, Yanice Djae, Loïc Elice, Justin Gouin

Assistant choreographer: Bruno Domingues Torres

Lighting Designer: Fabrice Sarcy

Costumes and Scenography: Camille Vallat

Music: Roman Bestion, Fouad Boussouf, Marion Castor

Tour Manager: Mathieu Morelle

Production : Compagnie Massala

Coproduction : Théâtre Jean Vilar - Vitry-sur-Seine / Le Prisme
– Élan-court / Institut du Monde Arabe – Tourcoing / Fontenay-en-
Scènes - Fontenay-sous-bois / Théâtre des Bergeries - Noisy-le-
Sec / La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne / Le FLOW - Pôle
Culture Ville de Lille / Institut Français of Marrakech

Financial support : ADAMI / Conseil départemental du Val-
de-Marne / Région Ile-de-France / Ville de Vitry-sur-Seine /
SPEDIDAM / Institut Français of Morocco

Residencies / Support : La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne /
Le POC d'Alfortville / Centre National de la Danse / Le FLOW - Pôle
Culture Ville de Lille / Cirque Shems'y - Salé, Maroc / Royal Air Maroc

Website : www.massala.fr

Facebook : [facebook.com/ciemaassala](https://www.facebook.com/ciemaassala)

Instagram : @massala_company

About

First there is rhythm, the sounds of immemorial time, unceasing and obsessive. From this rhythm is born the communion of seven dancers, a fusion of energies and bodies, the power of the community with its inherent violence and weaknesses.

On the border between the sacred and the profane, between frenetic modernity and ancestral rituals, Näss challenges contradictory physical states and affirms the fusion between the popular and urban aspects of hip-hop. It questions its proper roots tracing their evolution until today. Sources of inspiration are the regional dances of Morocco taskiwine and regadda, as well as the mysticism of the Gnawa tradition.

"The history of the famous band Nass el Ghiwane* from the 1970s in North Africa has been of key inspiration to me. Their lyrics reminded me of the strange connection with the anti-establishment current of rap and hip-hop from the same period in the United States. I discovered a type of hip-hop that is more spiritual, impregnated with ancestral traditions." – Fouad Boussouf

Näss reveals a universal dimension, the eternal quest of men and women for someplace else, spiritual or physical, using as language the rhythm, that which unites and moves the bodies. Fouad Boussouf stands behind a kind of hip-hop that is strongly anchored in its tribal African roots.

Press Quotes

"...NÄSS is a celebration. This is men in unity, exploring their weaknesses and strengths and supporting one another; a world apart from stereotypical machismo.

From simmering aggression to despair, the rhythms and movements of NÄSS connect us all at an instinctive human level. It is a remarkable and universal piece in which everyone can find his or her place." **VANESSA MUDD, THE CULTURE VULTURE – theculturevulture.co.uk**

"With Näss, choreographer Fouad Boussouf skilfully blends urban and contemporary dance styles: it's a meeting between different times, different cultures – between the earthly and the spiritual." **SOPHIE AMMANN, SPRINGBACK MAGAZINE**

"Fouad Boussouf gives us 45 minutes of energising dance that urges us to find stories in the swarm. As we journey with them from isolation to friendship, from troubled existence to joy, the dancers of Company Massala hold us mesmerised in the palm of their hands." **KELLY APTER, SPRINGBACK MAGAZINE**

Massala Company

Established by dancer and choreographer Fouad Boussouf in 2010, Massala Company blends styles and artistic practices as diverse as hip-hop, contemporary dance and new circus, as well as traditional dance forms and music from Boussouf's native Morocco and the Arab World.

Mixing different rhythms and influences, Massala's creations are oriented towards transmitting and sharing emotions, thanks to the technical mastery and the inexhaustible expressiveness of the dance. At the heart of the artistic development of the company lays the sensual and physical relationship to our roots and our mixed cultures.

Fouad Boussouf

A choreographer, dancer and teacher, Fouad Boussouf trained as a hip-hop dancer - his favourite style - but takes inspiration from different dance forms, including contemporary dance. His multidisciplinary career and experience as a performer make for a resolutely modern approach to choreography and dancing, where hip-hop meets and merges with contemporary expression, traditional North-African dances and new circus. Difficult to classify, his work fuses these influences and addresses pressing contemporary topics through the performances of his dancers.