

FOCUS PORTUGAL

by TIAGO GUEDES

A SOUND JOURNEY THROUGH THE BODY

The Focus Portugal at DañsFabrik Festival de Brest 2018 was thought considering three aspects with which dance in Portugal has ties of complicity: the relation with word, document and memory, the relation with voice and sound, and intergenerational and legational questions. The presence of these aspects resulted in the choice of Vera Mantero and Cláudia Dias, along with the young artists Marco da Silva Ferreira, Jonathan Saldanha and Ana Rita Teodoro.

In *Os Serrenhos do Caldeirão*, Vera Mantero takes us on an imaginary journey to Serra do Caldeirão, a mountain range located in the south of Portugal, immersing herself in habits, traditions and practices of the people who still live there. On the other hand, Cláudia Dias, in *Tuesday – All that is solid melts into air*, traces a geopolitical journey which follows migratory flows and their brutal consequences. The choreographer, together with Italian clown Luca Bellezze, builds a strong landscape made from the materiality of a string.

In these two projects, mapping Portugal (Mantero) and mapping the world (Dias) happens with the use of voice, but in *Brother*, by Marco da Silva Ferreira, is the time that is mapped and inscribes the ancestry of dances coming from various latitudes, tribal to urban, directly in the body of performers. The choreographic language of *Brother* is reinvented through a ritualistic notation which is in constant construction of a collective made from the strangeness of bodies and their mimicked movements.

The strong presence of music created by Rui Lima and Sérgio Matias also reminds us the work that has been done in Portugal in the field of sound research.

Jonathan Saldanha, a multidisciplinary artist, assaults the Passerelle - Center d'art contemporain with a new and vibrant video installation where voice and image are protagonists.

Finally, in *Me/Te*, Ana Rita Teodoro grapple with her body/grub Quartz common spaces, and in *Fantôme Méchant*, reveals traditional Portuguese songs made of intriguing tableaux vivants.

Through these five artists we can realise how diverse is the current performing arts scene in Portugal. The programme we propose is a journey of words, sounds, different geographies and spaces that complement and add other dimensions to the body.



TIAGO GUEDES

Tiago Guedes, choreographer, is since September 2014 the director of Teatro Municipal do Porto - Rivoli and Campo Alegre, and since 2016 of Festival DDD-Dias da Dança - Porto, Matosinhos and Gaia, Portugal.

In parallel to his activity as a programmer, he co-coordinates the postgraduate degree in Contemporary Dance from the School of Music and the Performing Arts, Polytechnic of Porto. He began developing his work as a choreographer in 2001, presenting in theaters and festivals around the world. He was associate choreographer at RE.AL (Lisbon) from 2003-07 and resident choreographer at Le Vivat, Armentières, France, from 2006-08, where he also programmed CARTE BLANCHE, a showcase of Portuguese

artists.

In 2007 he founded the Cultural Association - Materiais Diversos, and its international performing arts festival in 2009, he directed until 2014.

He was artistic director of Cine-Teatro São Pedro in Alcanena (2011-2012) and of Teatro Virgínia in Torres Novas (2013-2014), Portugal.