

L'amour. La liberté. (Love. Freedom.)

Premiered on Sunday October 26th 2014 at Dixon Place, New York



Gwen Rakotovao Company

gwenrakotovaocompany@gmail.com

+33 661 24 47 54

www.gwenrakotovaocompany.org



From the beginning of time, History unites and separates us; cultures bring us closer and divide us. Today, though technology is allowing us to connect with each other on a global level, our ambitions continue to keep us apart.

What if the sole answer were somewhere else ?

Run: 60 minutes, 6 dancers

Choreography: Gwen Rakotovao

Music: In collaboration with the Leeds College of Music led by Anastasia Belina-Johnson.

Musicians: Gavin Doyle, Victor Gutierrez, Daniel Johnson , Joshua Kelly, Beth Temperley.

Programming: Toby Wiltshire, **Engineer:** Tom Orrell

Composers: Tenth Intervention, Ferenz Kallos, Andrian Rack.

Costume stylist: Madina Jah

About the work: in *“L’Amour. La liberté.”* French-born choreographer and Artistic Director, Gwen Rakotovao, explores the connection between cultures and human beings with a message of hope that one day this connection will allow the gaps between generations, genders, judgments and individuals to heal. Rakotovao’s energetic, yet soothing and calming unique movement utilizes different movement from various styles and culture. It is a transcendent dance evening featuring the Nocturnes by Chopin interpreted by the prestigious Leeds College of Music and music by Tenth Intervention, Ferenz Kallos and Adrian Rack.

“L’Amour. La liberté.” Gwen Rakotovao’s first full evening length work, expresses a fresh insight in what is happening now in our society.



A word from the choreographer :

« In numerology, 2013 was a journey of responsibility, relationship, balance, love and healing. A year of re-inventing.

Nowadays because of the advanced technology we are all connected together. If something happens in Japan the entire world will know about it in the next minutes even seconds. Once upon a time history connected us and built the cultures and society we are living in. Consider how World War I and II affected all the countries of the world and ended up by connecting people. In this dance piece initiated in 2013, I wanted to express the connection between cultures and human beings with a message of hope that one day this connection will allow healing the gaps between generations, genders, judgments and individuals.»

Gwen Rakotovao

A word from the Leeds College of Music:

“We’re incredibly excited that our students talents and the skills are being recognized across the world” said Leeds College of Music Director Of Curriculum, Professor Joe Wilson.



About the Gwen Rakotovao Company:

The Gwen Rakotovao Company performed nationally and internationally in many festivals and venues such as Triskellion arts, Gowanus, Movement Research, Dixon Place in New York, the Riley Theater in Leeds, United Kingdom; Alliance Française in Bangkok, Thailand; Théâtre Charles Dullin in Grand-Quevilly, Centre Ketsa, Madagascar, Institut Français in Agadir, Conservatory of Dance in Oujda, Chopin festival Urodzinowe in Warsaw, Afrik UrbanArts in Abidjan, Festival Souar Souar in N'Djamena... "An explosive journey" wrote the writer and journalist Nick Mwaluko, to describe the work of the choreographer Gwen Rakotovao. French and Malagasy, Rakotovao grew up in a multicultural atmosphere which made her discover the rhythms and sounds of the folklore music from Madagascar. Valuing and honoring the diversity of cultures, the Gwen Rakotovao Company dancers are from the Caribbean, South and North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Gwen Rakotovao Company blends the new and the traditional dance techniques for a unique repertory. Together they find the inspiration in the rich theme of the XXeme century. The company invites authors, composers, photographers and poets such as Dorian Wallace, Ferenz Kallos, Andrian Rack... in the choreographic work for which they are collaborators and mentor in the same time.

Gwen Rakotovao (short biography):

Gwen Rakotovao was born in Rouen France. She was awarded the Gold medal at the 2012 Biarritz International Contemporary Dance Competition. Gwen is the founder and Artistic Director of the Gwen Rakotovao Company, a contemporary dance company launched in New York in 2011. She is regularly invited to teach Master Class and dance workshops around the world. Her dance creations toured in United States, Europe, Africa and Asia in many theaters and festivals.

Gwen joined the Alvin Ailey School in 2007 and learned learned modern techniques with American legends such as Elizabeth Roxas, Ana Marie Forsythe, Milton Myers, Mary Hinkson. After graduation, Gwen Rakotovao joined BodyStories/Teresa Fellion Dance in 2009 for which she become a soloist and the Associate Artistic Director. She performed in prestigious theaters and festivals including the Fringe festival in Edimburgh and the Baryshnikov Arts Center. In New York Gwen worked with Regina Nejman, H.T.Chen, Whitney V. Hunter and Brian Carey Chung. Her performances history includes the Skirball Center For the Performing Arts, Dixon Place and the Chen Dance Center Theater.

Gwen Rakotovoao Company performance's highlights

2015

- Fondation des Etats Unis, Paris
- Afrik UrbanArts, Abidjan
- Festival de Chopin Urodzinowe, Varsovie

2014

- Alliance Française Bangkok, Bangkok
- WaxWorks, Tiskellion arts, New York
- Open Performance, Movement research , New York

2013

- Initiation, Théâtre Charles Dullin, Rouen (France)
- Pepe Grillo, Sala Galileo, Madrid
- Crossing Boundaries, Dixon Place, New York
- Gowanus Art + Productions, Green Building, New York

2012

- Masimihanta dance program, Vontovorona (Madagascar)
- Moving Beauty Series , Secret Theater, New York
- Fertile Ground

2011

- Underexposed, Dixon Place, New York
 - White Wave, John Ryan Theater, New York
 - QAS Festival, Webster Hall, New York
-