

### **EQUIPE DE REALISATION**

Supported by

- Communauté d'agglomération TLP
- Ville de Tarbes
- Tarbes en Scènes
- Le Pari
- Smashworks Dance
- Le Parvis scène nationale Tarbes Pyrénées
- Spedidam
- Département des Hautes-Pyrénées
- And with the support of Ville de Lourdes



### **SMASHWORKS DANCE**

Supported by

- Girl Scouts of New York
- Troop 6000
- Yap About It
- Rebel Girls Productions
- Dance The Vote
- Dance Rising
- Girls Inc.



Co-creation

# **EQUIPE DE REALISATION**

PASCAL ESCLARMONDE AND DOMINIQUE PRUNIER Music & Voice

OCCITANIE, FRANCE

# **SMASHWORKS DANCE**

MANON HALLAY AND ASHLEY MCQUEEN

Dance

NEW YORK, USA

## **CREATION OCTOBER 2025**

Production

Equipe de Réalisation

Coproduction

Smashworks Dance Parvis scène nationale Tarbes Pyrénées







I'm falling... I'm falling... ... damn, I'm falling

... and I wasn't taught how to fall a struggle for freedom

# NOTE OF INTENT

On stage, the musician imposes a rhythm, emblematic of the passing time. His presence reflects the inner storm of the actress; the weight of her obsessive thoughts and fears.

Alongside her, two dancers – two bodies – materialize this inner struggle, this "storm under a skull" dear to Hugo. This shared energy, initially marked by confrontation, gradually transforms into a source of vitality. Far from being mere symbols of her inner turmoil, the bodies are essential companions on her journey.

As the performance unfolds, a dynamic establishes itself.

The dancers embody the various facets of her struggles and choices.

They provide moments of comfort and strength amidst this chaos.

They lift her when she hesitates, reflect her pain and joy, and help her navigate the labyrinth of her emotions and decisions.

This quartet creates a powerful dialogue of movement.

A struggle for freedom.

Ashley McQueen - Artistic Director

A **CHOREOGRAPHY** exploring the full range of emotions in an expressive way, without any sense of timidity or shame.

An **ATHLETIC**, powerful **DANCE** that highlights the interplay of the dancers, oscillating between excess and simplicity.

**MUSIC** leaning towards an electronic universe inspired by ambient sounds. Samples, an electric guitar, loops, real-time voice processing.

A TENSE, fragmented WRITING, like a series of small, raw verbal snapshots, captured in the moment.

A **VOICE** emerges from a web of texts, which behind its rage, tries to reclaim the grandeur of humanity, without theatrical play.

A luminous **SCENOGRAPHY**, with LED neon lights, like a rigid frame often imposed on our twisted souls.

A dynamic and authentic **PERFORMANCE** that leaves the door open to improvisation, thus offering a unique performance each time.

contre ce qui nous brise et que nous étreignons contre nos vies ployées untre les porcs qui les piétinent res repus qui les broient au on nous plaque sur la

parfaits

contre notre bêtise les enfants qu'on arme les traitres qu'on lèche la mort qu'on sinflige l'amour qu'on mesure avec parcimonie, une dese et suffit! contre les sales servitudes devant quoi on se courbe to laisses qu'on repeint de couleurs ado-rables

les rages étouffées qui se muent en poison les rages paix promises auxquelles on feint contre les sifflements qui accueillent les anges de croire

contre tous les crachats jetés sur la beaute contre tous les crachats jetés sur la beaute contre les pages doctes et les pages bas

### FORECAST PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

#### **REHEARSALS AND RESIDENCIES**

#### FRANCE

December 2023 at PTMS in Tarbes June 2024 at Espace KDanse in Barbazan-Debat 2025 - Bi-monthly rehearsals in video Spring 2025 - Technical residency 15 September to 5 October 2025 - Creative residency at Pari de Tarbes

#### CREATION

3,4,5 October 2025 - Pari de Tarbes 1<sup>st</sup> representation of the Smashworks Company in France

#### **DISTRIBUTION 2025**

7 Octobre - Angos / Itinérance Culturelle Agglo TLP 8 Octobre - Espace Robert Hossein de Lourdes 9 Octobre - Lanne / Itinérance Culturelle Agglo TLP 10 Octobre - Gayan / Itinérance Culturelle Agglo TLP 11 Octobre - Abbey of Escaladieu / Escales d'Automne - Département HP

#### OTHER DISTRIBUTION INITIATIVES

NEW YORK, USA

Amanda Selwyn Dance Studio - Broadway Arts on Site USArts International

# THE ARTISTS MANON HALLAY



Manon Hallay was born in France.

She started dancing at the Conservatoire in Tarbes and moved to Bordeaux at the age of 13 to study in a preprofessional training program with Christian Conte and Martine Chaumet.

Two years later, she was accepted at the Royal Ballet School in Antwerp and had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Michael Shannon.

She moved to New York at 18 to join the Alvin Ailey School as a scholarship student for 3 years. After graduating, Manon worked as a dance teacher (beginner and adult levels) and a freelance dancer for choreographers like Jeffrey Page and Sarah Locar, and choreographed for music videos like Once in a Lifetime by The Night Game.

She has been a part of the Amanda Selwyn Dance Theatre since 2015 and Smashworks Dance for five seasons. Manon's work extends to fitness and corrective exercises for dancers.

After obtaining her certifications with NASM (National Academy of Sports Medicine) in corrective exercises, performance for athletes, nutrition, and Pilates, she decided to dedicate herself to supporting dancers. She founded Move Better LLC, offering tailored coaching for all.

# ASHLEY MCQUEEN



Ashley McQueen is a performer, choreographer, and teaching artist based in New York.

She holds a BFA in Dance from Webster University and an MFA in Dance from Hollins University. Lauded as "a dancer with the grace of a ballerina, the grounding of an Isadora acolyte, and the impetuous musicality of someone who dances because she has to" (Oberon's Grove), McQueen has worked with choreographers such as Amanda Selwyn, Shawn T. Bible, and Paris Wilcox, and performed as a company member with ShawnBibleDanceCo, Common Thread Contemporary Dance, and Arova Contemporary Ballet. Her choreography has been commissioned by organizations such as Peridance Youth Ensemble, Hamilton College, Minnesota Ballet, Big Muddy Dance Company, Arova Contemporary Ballet, Alabama Dance Theatre, and Southern Danceworks, and presented at festivals such as Dance St. Louis Spring to Dance, Midwest RADFest, NYC Transit Museum, Westfest: All Over Westbeth, and American College Dance Festival. She previously taught as a dance adjunct professor at Manhattanville College and choreographed in residence at Hamilton College and Webster University.

She is the founder and artistic director of Smashworks Dance, a nonprofit dance organization based in New York, whose collaborative credits include writing movement activities for the chapter of the book by Rebel Girls Productions, Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage, and exploring dance-clown fusion, at the Theaterlab Hotel New Work residency in collaboration with Hope Salas and Justin Cimino.

# PASCAL ESCLARMONDE



Pascal Esclarmonde is a multi-instrumentalist guitarist, composer, sound engineer, and videographer.

He studied at the Music Academy International in Nancy, majoring in music production.

He later supplemented his studies with classical music sound recording training. Drawn to the world of video and mapping techniques, he decided to undergo training at GRIM-EDIF in Lyon.

He has composed several albums in electronic music and instrumental guitar (*Cinematic Music, Voyages, Garde à vue...*) which received attention in specialized press and online.

He also realizes, as a sound engineer, various projects, such as the creation of advertising jingles, music for documentaries (*Pyrotechnics* for Martian Invasion), theater (*Around the World in 80 Days* for Théâtre de la Bulle...), or album production.

As a "live" sound engineer, he also works with many nationally and internationally renowned artists (La Charanga Contradanza, Franck Avitabile...).

# DOMINIQUE PRUNIER



For 35 years, Dominique Prunier has served the texts of various classical or contemporary authors (Molière, Lautréamont, Lorca, Dumas, Strindberg, Ionesco, Beckett, Genet, Durringer...) under the direction of various directors (M. Tormo, B. Monforte, JL. Manceau, V. Campo, D. Chevaucher, E. Durand, B. Haegel...).

She participates in several national creations of original works in more contemporary registers : *La Déposition* by Hélène Pedneault ; *Changement de Direction* by Guy Foissy ; *Le Cri...* by Kty Soum ; *Une saison avant la tragédie de Macbeth* by Gloria Carreño...

For about ten years, with Cie des Trente-Six Ports, she has contributed to cycles of reading-performances dedicated to Beckett, Duras, Novarina, Supervielle...

She has been an assistant director with Frédéric Esparel and André Geyré.

## THE AUTHORS

From the inception of this project, the irreverent, fierce, and staccato writing of Lydie Salvayre was obvious, particularly her works *Contre* and *Dis pas ça* (© Gallimard); Lydie Salvayre, who initially embraced a career as... a psychiatrist.

Contre was born from a commission by France Culture for the meetings at the Chartreuse of the Avignon festival.

Why not confront another writing, also born out of a commission? That of the Compagnie Equipe de Réalisation to Francis Ferrié, specifically for this stage creation.

To date, Lydie Salvayre and Éditions Gallimard have issued a favorable opinion regarding our project, in principle, and Francis Ferrié rises to the challenge.

« All means are good to give written words the impact of spoken words, to try to restore the living... »

Lydie Salvayre

#### LYDIE SALVAYRE

Winner of the 2014 Goncourt Prize for *Pas pleurer*, Lydie Salvayre has written about twenty books, translated into many languages, among which are *La vie commune*, *La puissance des mouches*, *La Compagnie des spectres* (November Prize), *La Conférence de Cintegabelle, Contre, Dis pas ça*, and *BW* (François-Billetdoux Prize).

« Lydie Salvayre's language, although often venomous, and rather because of it, is one of the most precise and the most just in our literature."

Eric Chevillard

#### FRANCIS FERRIE

Author, Composer, Performer, Francis Ferrié has written about sixty songs for various musical formations. He has also written for the theater : *C'est quoi une question, La vieille fosse* and in co-writing *Pélot, bandit de cœur.* In 2017, he published *Quelques arbres bleus*, a collection of song texts, poetic texts, a short story, and a play.

« From the first encounter, a few songs heard, I was struck by Francis's writing. It emanated a supplementary soul, modest, poetic, which he carries in his daily life.»

**Roland Abadie** 

## **TECHNICAL CONDITIONS**

Any representation space, even non-dedicated Ideal playing area 8 m x 8 m Almost autonomy sound and light (according to gauge and hall) Necessary darkness Technical sheet in progress

## FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

#### Cost of transfer upon request

#### Transport

Reimbursement for travel to/from Tarbes at the applicable mileage rate set by the government.

#### Accommodation & meals

Plan for 6 people reimbursements at the CCNEAC collective agreement rate.

SACEM/SACD rights at the organizer's expense.



#### AROUND THE SHOW CULTURAL MEDIATION

CONTEMPORARY MASTERCLASS led by the dancers of 404 Inside (Smashworks Dance)

Dance workshop to build self-confidence

Duration: 2 hours

Audience : College and High School Students / Open to all levels

Led by Manon Hallay and Ashley McQueen, Artistic Director of Smashworks Dance

MASTERCLASS Themes :

- Contemporary dance fundamentals, accessible to all levels
- Integration of spoken word and movement
- Emphasis on choreographic creation and personal expression

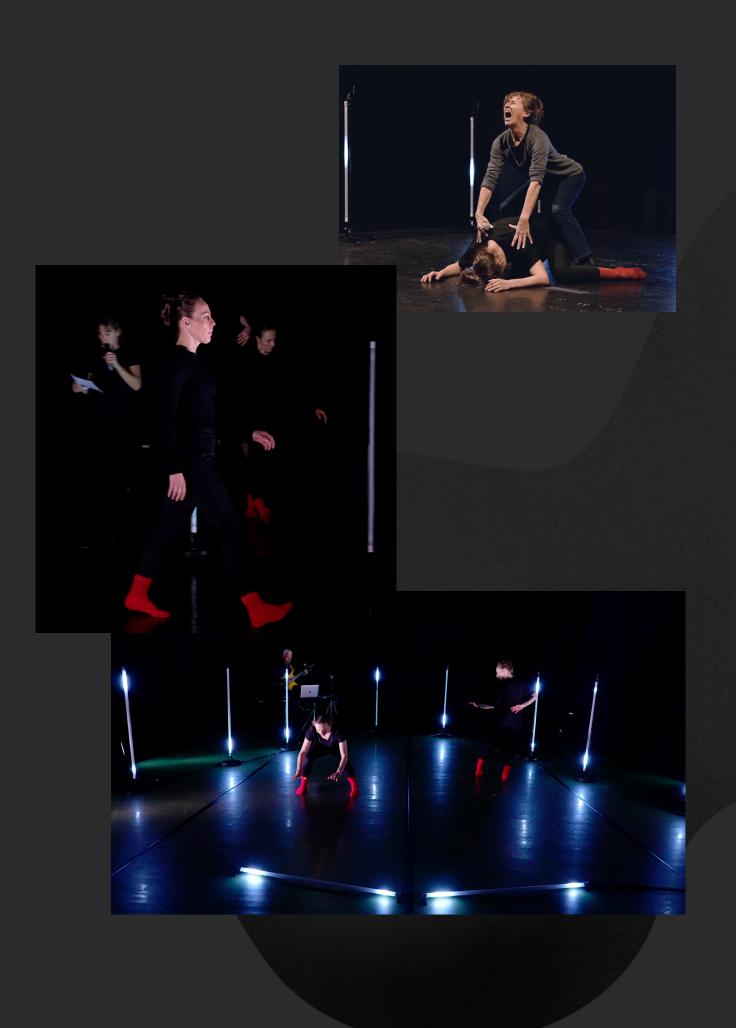
With a focus on confidence-building through movement, this movement experience features a fusion of modern dance techniques, improvisational movement structures, spoken word, and the unique athletic and musical style of Smashworks Dance.

Dancers begin with a technical warm-up in the center, intermixed with improvisational moments and movement mantras that allow students to test physical boundaries while focusing on intention and dynamics.

Class progresses across the floor with fast-paced floor work and full body movement.

Finishing off in the center, dancers learn a phrase and explore the possibilities within it as McQueen creates space for variation, improvisation, and physical contact.

This workshop shares a glimpse of the 404 Inside creative process, in an accessible and interactive movement experience.



# EQUIPE DE REALISATION



G. Carreño

L'EQUIPE DE REALISATION is a theatre company based in the Hautes-Pyrenees (65).

After the production of purely theatrical shows,

the company had the desire to expand its artistic choices toward a multidisciplinary creation, while still giving a priority to the power of spoken word and text.

It has mixed theatre, contemporary dance, music and plastic art against the backdrop of the Spanish civil war *Le Cri...*,

or the marine trumpet and the prose of Lautreamont in Opéra de Maldoror,

or a piano composition played live and the tragedy of Macbeth in *Une saison avant la tragédie de Macbeth.* 

Recently, it's the interaction between an actress and a video creation who seduced the young audience with *Et si...*. LE CRI... « Quel cri ! A rare show ! » La Nlle République (65)

#### **OPERA DE MALDOROR**

« There is, in this staging and setting to music, a real work on the elements... And again, what would the show be without the two actors !..

The prose of Lautreamont finds here all that the theatrical scene has to offer him.» *Le Clou dans la Planche - Manon Ona (31)* 

#### J'AI SOULEVE DE LA POUSSIERE

« Choreography, music, poetry lead us into amazing imaginary worlds and tear us away from the real the time of a show. » La Dépêche du Midi (32)

#### UNE SAISON AVANT LA TRAGEDIE DE MACBETH

" The bold and imaginative staging of Eric Durand, subtly accompanied by the music of Vianney Oudart, and carried brilliantly by the actors, composes a powerful and original theatrical work." *Tarbes-infos.com – JF Courtille (65)* 



# **SMASHWORKS DANCE**

Smashworks Dance is a New York-based group of movers dedicated to accessible dance performance and confidence-building education.

OUR MISSION : Smashworks Dance is a New York-based dance company founded and directed by choreographer Ashley McQueen. We dance to advocate for women's empowerment through performing arts, educational programming, and community outreach.

We make dance accessible and inspire audiences to take action through our performances both onstage and in site-specific environments.

We view artistic expression as power-smashing stereotypes and promoting dance as a unifying and confidence-building practice for all.

"Choreography that was at once innovative to the eye and relatable within the heart." Jessica Ruhlin, Critic **Rebel Girls Productions Partnership** : co-wrote movement activities for their recent chapter book, Alicia Alonso Takes The Stage.

**Collaboration with visual artist Benny Cruz** : partnered with Cruz for multiple performances and artistic collaborations virtually and in New York City.

**Girl Scouts of Greater New York Partnership** : developed Dance Badge workshops for NY troops and partnered with Troop 6000, a program specially designed to serve girls in the New York City Shelter System.

**Village Voice** « **Voice Choices** » **for City Stories** : our first evening length performance at Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn was featured in the Village Voice.

*For Which It Stands* : performance featured in «Brooklyn's Top 20 Things To Do, «Time Out NY,» and the Dance Enthusiast. Also toured to St. Louis, MO.

**Michelle Obama's Becoming Tour**: invited as a community group to hear Michelle Obama speak at the Barclays Center.

Lake Arts Project and Bright Hill Press Collaboration : created original choreography in collaboration with Feast of Crispian and local students' poetry; sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Hotel New Works Residency** : awarded a 40 hour space grant and showing opportunity with Theater Lab NYC under the direction of Justin Cimino in collaboration with Hope Salas.

**LADYFEST at The Tank** : awarded two evening length performances and presented excerpts from the collaborative work-in-progress FEMPIRE.



# **EQUIPE DE REALISATION**

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# **SMASHWORKS DANCE**

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