

Ruth Childs (Scarlett's)



Photo: Marie Magnin

Blast!

Artistic direction :
Ruth Childs
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Production, diffusion,
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Production Scarlett's

ARTISTIC TEAM

Choreography/Performance : Ruth Childs
Technical direction and light design : Joana Oliveira
Sound design and research : Stéphane Vecchione
Artistic Collaboration: Bryan Campbell
Costume Design : Coco Petitpierre
Costume Production : Anne Tesson, Coralie Chauvin
Outside eye : Cécile Bouffard
Coaching: Michèle Gurtner

Delegated production, ad- ministration, diffusion

Tutu Production, Lise Leclerc and Cécilia Lubrano

Coproduction

Pavillon ADC – Genève (CH), La Bâtie-Festival de Genève, Arsenic Centre d'art scénique contemporain, Lausanne, Atelier de Paris/CDCN, CCN de Tours / Thomas Lebrun (dans le cadre de l'accueil studio), Centre chorégraphique national de Rillieux-la-Pape/direction Yuval PICK, A-CDCN (Les Hivernales - CDCN d'Avignon, La Manufacture - CDCN Nouvelle-Aquitaine Bordeaux · La Rochelle, L'échangeur - CDCN Hauts-de-France, Le Dancing CDCN Dijon Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Chorège CDCN, Le Pacifique - CDCN Grenoble - Auvergne - Rhône-Alpes, Touka Danses - CDCN Guyane, Atelier de Paris / CDCN, Le Gymnase CDCN Roubaix - Hauts-de-France, POLE-SUD CDCN / Strasbourg, La Place de la Danse - CDCN Toulouse / Occitanie, La Maison CDCN Uzès Gard Occitanie, La Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de-Marne)

With support from

Pro Helvetia fondation Suisse pour la culture, the Stanley Thomas Johnson foundation, and the Lo Studio - Performing Arts Centre, Bellinzona – Switzerland

Many thanks to

Adèle Ottiger and the Théâtre Sévelin 36 Lausanne, Jérôme Richer, Odds Bodkin, Lou Forster, Dominique Dardant, Leila Chakroun, Florence Magni, Susan Childs, Edward Childs, Marco Berrettini, Daisy Philips

Creation 2022

Première - 27.08 – 31.08.22 - Pavillon de la danse/ La Bâtie festival, Geneva, Switzerland

21-25.09.22 - Arsenic,, Lausanne, Switzerland

1.10.22 – FIT Festival, Lugano, Switzerland

21/22.10.22 - Atelier de Paris/CDCN, Paris with the Centre culturel suisse. Paris

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2023

13.02.23 - La Place de la Danse - CDCN Toulouse/Occitanie

16.02.23 - Les Hivernales - CDCN Avignon

18.03.23 - Le Dancing – CDCN Dijon Bourgogne – Franche-Comté

16.05.23 - Chorège CDCN, Falaise

15.06.23 - Le Pacifique – CDCN Grenoble – Auvergne – Rhône-Alpes

TBC for autumn 2023:

Le Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de-Marne, L'échangeur – CDCN Hauts-de-France, La Manufacture

CDCN Nouvelle-Aquitaine Bordeaux-La Rochelle, POLE_SUD CDCN/Strasbourg,

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2024

Le Gymnase CDCN Roubaix – Hauts de France

5-9.06.24 - La Maison CDCN Uzès Gard Occitanie



Photo: Marie Magnin

"Blast! is based on my observations of how humans express themselves. If my previous creation fantasia invoked sensations and movements linked to my own intimate memory, this new solo Blast! is a study, panorama, or re-appropriation of bodies, focusing on the painful, suffering, strange, explosive, and violent body.

For some time now, I have felt the need to respond to violence by embodying and transforming it in my work. Not necessarily my own violence, but the violence that surrounds us, traverses the history of humanity, haunts us with imagery and stories, the violence of our imagination or our nightmares.

In dialogue with the percussive sound design by Stéphane Vecchione, I interact with representations of bodies which, for me, embody a terrible violence, bodies that disgust me, scare me, bodies that I don't understand, bodies that overflow with suffering, nastiness, or destructive energy. What emerges from these bodies, what sound, what grimace, what word?

These physical and sound elements are woven together into a choreographic circle at times meditative and at times explosive. As the body evolves in this circular voyage, I imagine a flow of text and sound effects emerging from my body which mix into this ritual. Is it storytelling? A ballad? Sound Poetry? Automatic writing? Nonsense? True or false? An attempt to contain but also liberate something boiling in the depths of my soul."

Ruth Childs

* The word blast has several meanings which amuse me and bring me back to my research on the explosivity of a grimace.

-A destructive wave of highly compressed air spreading outwards from an explosion

-A strong gust of wind or air

-A single loud note of a horn, whistle, or similar.

**In British English « blast » is also a swear. And then we could also say we're "having a blast!" to say, "we are having so much fun!" I like this small word that contains so much meaning.

References

STORIES

- Penthesilea (Heinrich von Kleist)
- Les Guérillères (Monique Wittig)
- Histoire de l'oeil (Georges Bataille)

POETRY

- De ta faiblesse, domine ! (Henri Michaux)



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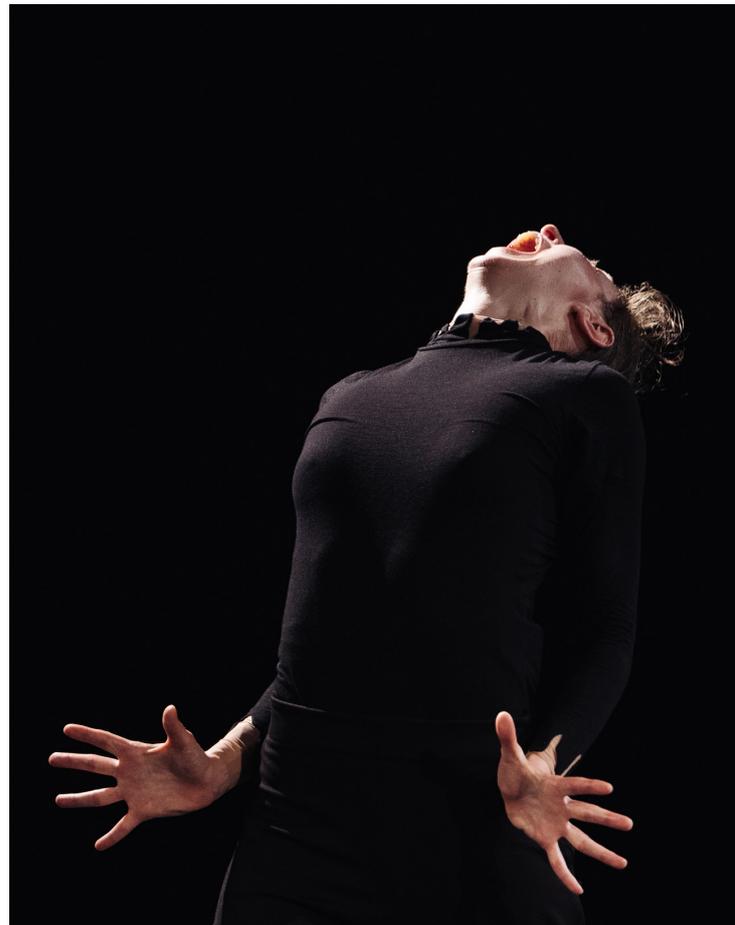


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Press

"Should we see the terror of a character of Edvard Munch, the painter who made the cry the symbol of our condition? Ruth Childs probes this impulse as if she were revealing her own backstage. But her exploration is broader: it is tied to what is called the original astonishment, that which is expressed in the face of any event, when it is not preceded by an explanation. It's the "What?" of the child on the threshold of language or of the old man when words no longer know how to talk, it is the "What?" of the animal in front of the fire, it is the "What?" which, in her mouth, punctuates the room, like an opening to adventure."

(Alexandre Demidoff, Le temps)

"Ruth Childs invents her own grammar, a syntax is born from the depths of her entrails... As though traversed by jolts, electric shocks, she releases all the inner tensions, all the specters that obscure judgment and vision... she invites us to an astringent and lively *mise en abyme* of violence."

(Olivier Frégaville-Gratian d'Amore, L'Oeil d'Olivier)

"The choreographer and dancer reinvents her stage presence in a punchy piece, with the strange flavor of a performance as unmissable as it is mysterious."

(Nathalie Yokel, la terrasse)

"Ruth Childs signs an extremely precise, punchy, and aesthetic piece, both in terms of her fluid and graceful dance and in terms of the lights and music that accompany eloquent images of disturbing, tortured, caustic and even humorous rituals. The audience is glued to their seats. It is difficult for them to leave the room as everyone is impregnated by this realistic universe. Exceptional!"

(Sophie Lesort, Danser Canal Historique)



Photo: Marie Magnin

Ruth Childs

British-American dancer and performer Ruth Childs was born in 1984 in London. She grew up in the United States where she studied dance (classical and contemporary) and music. In 2003 she moved to Geneva to finish her dance training with the Ballet Junior de Genève. Following this, she started working with many internationally known choreographers and directors including Foofwa d'Imobilité, La Ribot, Gilles Jobin, Massimo Furlan, Marco Berrettini and Yasmine Hugonnet.

Since 2015, she is also working on a re-creation and revival project of the early works of her the aunt, the American choreographer Lucinda Childs.

In 2014 she founded her company Scarlett's in order to develop her own work through dance, performance, film and music and collaborates with Stéphane Vecchione on the musical project Scarlett's Fall. In 2016 the state of Geneva awarded her a scholarship and research residency in Berlin of 6 months to develop her own work. Her first stage piece in collaboration with Stéphane Vecchione, *The Goldfish and the Inner Tube*, premiered in April 2018.

She premiered *fantasia*, her first solo at the ADC, Geneva in October 2019 and then *Blast!* in 2022 at the Festival de la Bâtie in Geneva.

Ruth is currently one of the associated artists at Arsenic in Lausanne.

Stéphane Vecchione

Sound designer, performer and self-taught drummer, Stéphane Vecchione, born in 1971 in Yverdon-les Bains, trained as an actor, at the Conservatoire de Lausanne, in the Dramatic Arts section, from 1995 to 1999.

He then worked as a performer and or musician for many artists and companies including Stefan Kaegi, Denis Maillefer, Massimo Furlan, Nicole Seiler, Philippe Saire, Yasmine Hugonnet, Clédât & Petitpierre. He is also a member of the group *Velma* (important band and performance collective based in Lausanne) and *Deviation* (sound installation collective based in Lausanne.)

In 2002, he received a prize for "young music creators" from the Vaud Foundation for the promotion of artistic creations. In 2010 he founded his company SORI, to develop his own work through performance and sound. In 2014 he started his collaboration with Ruth Childs first with their musical duo *SCARLETT'S FALL* and then *The Goldfish and the Inner Tube* (2018) and her solos *fantasia* (2019) and *Blast!* (2022.)

Joana Oliveira

Joana Oliveira was born in Porto in Portugal. Early on, she developed passion for performing arts and in particular light design. In 2006 she entered the Academy of Contemporary Performance in Porto to study light design.

Following her graduation, she created lighting for diverse performances including dance and theatre and in situ projects. In 2014 she received a study scholarship and moved to Lausanne, Switzerland to work as an apprentice in the Arsenic theatre. She then started to work with many different Swiss companies, and now designs lighting for the following choreographers and theater directors: Audrey Cavellius, Ludovic Chazaud, Orélie Fuchs Chen, Le Collectif sur un Malentendu, Claire Deutsch, Christophe Jaquet, YoungSoon Cho Jaquet and Old Masters. In 2018, elle a collaboré avec Scarlett's pour *The Goldfish* and the *Inner Tube*, puis *fantasia* en 2019, et *Blast!* en 2022.

Bryan Campbell

Bryan Campbell is an American artist living in Paris. Since 2008, he has developed a body of multi-disciplinary work that mixes image, graphic design, text, and choreography. After studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, he took part in *ex.e.r.ce*, a research program under the direction of Mathilde Monnier at the Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier. While there, he initiated a period of research around the animated television series *My Little Pony* during which he created the conference/performance *Research for the quadruped protagonist* (2010), later presented at the Théâtre de la Cité Internationale (Paris), Beursschouwburg (Brussels), the Judson Church (New York), and elsewhere. Meanwhile, Campbell continued to perform with Loïc Touzé, Jana Unmüßig, and Emmanuelle Huynh. He received a research grant from the NRW Kultursekretariat (Wuppertal) in 2011, as well as the DanceWEB scholarship in 2013. In 2015, Bryan Campbell premiered *MARVELOUS*, a performance and magazine presented at PACT Zollverein (Essen), Working Title Festival in Kaaistudios (Brussels), Théâtre de Vanves (Paris – Île de France), and Actoral (Marseille). He has been an assistant for projects by Antonija Livingstone and Jacob Peter Kovner, and has recently danced in work by Olivia Grandville, DD Dorvillier, Jocelyn Cottencin, and Antonija Livingstone & Jennifer Lacey.