



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2017

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Editors: Images are available upon request.

**Algeria's Compagnie Hervé Koubi launches
NextMove Dance's 2017-18 Season of Wow
October 12-15**

(Philadelphia, PA) Compagnie Hervé Koubi, Algeria's all-male dance company, makes its Philadelphia debut kicking off NextMove Dance's 2017-18 season with five performances October 12-15, at the Prince Theater, 1412 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA. The program features the Philadelphia premiere of *Ce que le jour doit a la nuit*, a full-length 75-minute work that fuses hip hop, contemporary dance and martial arts choreographed by Artistic Director Hervé Koubi.

Performances take place Thursday, October 12 at 7:30pm; Friday, October 13 at 8:00pm; Saturday, October 14 at 2:00pm and 8:00 pm; and Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 pm . Tickets are \$20-\$62 and can be purchased in person at the Prince Theater Box Office, by phone 215-422-4580 or online <http://princetheater.org/next-move>.

Set to music by Maxine Bodson, Hamza El Din with the Kronos Quartet, Jean Sebastian Bach and Sufi music, the movement vocabulary features over-the-top gravity-defying flips, whirling dervish head-spins, super-human handstands, kicks, falls, catches and lifts interspersed with quieter moments of trance-like reflection. Closing sections include 12 Muslim men bare-chested in white skirted-pant costumes (designed by Guillaume Gabriel) head spinning like flower petals and a dancer speaking in Arabic a poem written by Hervé Koubi translated as "I went there."

Randy Swartz, Artist Director of NextMove Dance states, "We titled NextMove Dance's 2017-18 the Season of Wow in part because Compagnie Hervé Koubi exceeds expectations of what we expect are the limits of extreme movement. In viewing the work, I wanted Philadelphia audiences to experience the artistry, passion and physicality of this extraordinary troupe who defies gravity."

Ce que le jour doit a la nuit (What the day owes to the night) (2013) traces Koubi's Algerian heritage. Koubi considered himself French only to discover at the age of 25 his family's ancestry was rooted in Algeria. Inspired by a 2008 Yasmina Khadra's novel of the same name, Orientalist paintings and Islamic architecture, the work explores Koubi's path to discover his African roots. *Ce que* is his second collaboration with 12 street dancers from an audition of 200 from Algeria and Burkina Faso. Koubi notes "They are not my dancers. They are my brothers."

Noted dance critic Marcia Segal states, “*What the day owes to the night* incorporated the tricks in a larger framework of movement. It seemed to me an affirmation of multiculturalism and-beyond that- a communal journey with spiritual significance.” Koubi’s piece overturned expectations in so many ways it could be called innovative, groundbreaking.”

(Artfuse Review)

Hervé Koubi grew up in the South of France where he studied both biology and dance at the University of Aix-en-Provence before graduating as a Pharmaceutical Doctor in 2002. He graduated from the world-renowned Rosella Hightower School of Dance in Cannes and danced professionally with the Opera de Marseille, Jean-Charles Gil and Jean-Christophe Paré. His major works include *Le Golem*, *Menagerie and Les abattoirs, fantaisie, 4’30*, *Les Heures Florissantes (The Flowering Hours)*, and *Moon Dogs*. In 2008, he created three works based on three written works: *Coppelia, une fiancée aux yeux d’email*, *The Supremes* and *Bref séjour chez les vivants*. In 2009, he initiated a collaboration with Ivorian dancers from the Beliga Kopé Company for the creation of *Un rendez-vous en Afrique*. Since 2001, he has collaborated with Guillaume Gabriel on all major creations. He also collaborated with videographers on video dance projects: Max Vadukul for Yoji Yamamoto’s *Chic Chef*, Pierre Magnol for *Body Concrete*, and Ovoid Edges, Pierre Magnol et Michel Guimbard for *Body Concrete 2*, and Stephane Chazelon for *Une Histoire de Traces*. Since 2010, he has been working with a group of 12 dancers from Algeria and Burkina Faso, all now French residents, for several productions: *El Din* (2010-2011), *What the day owes to the night* (2013), *Le rêve de Léa* (2014), *Des hommes qui dansent* (2014), *Les nuits barbares* (2015) and *Les premiers matins du monde* (2016). He is Associate Choreographer at the Pole National Supérieur de Danse since 2014 and at the Conservatoire de Danse de Brive-la-Gaillarde since 2015. In July 2015, Hervé Koubi was awarded the French medal of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.

Major funding for the 2017/18 season of NextMove Dance is provided by William Penn Foundation. Additional funding is received through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Support is also provided by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

NextMove Dance

Artistic Director Randy Swartz created the first annual dance series in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre in 1970. In 1983, he launched the Dance Celebration series at the Annenberg Center for a 32-year run and initiated a new annual series at the Prince Theater in October 2015. Dance Affiliates, renamed NextMove Dance, is recognized as one of the nation’s finest dance presenters. Known internationally for award-winning presentations for more than three decades, NextMove Dance provides a wealth of opportunities for the Delaware Valley community to interact with the artists through talk-backs, master classes, artistic collaborations, workshops, children’s programs and much more. Visit www.nextmovedance.org

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