

*lions will roar, swans will fly,
angels will wrestle heaven,
rains will break: gukurahundi*

Conceived, choreographed and directed by Nora Chipaumire
Original Sound Score by Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited



thursday, february 24, 2011 . 8PM
friday, february 25, 2011 . 8PM
dance theatre

PHOTO BY MKRTICH MALKHASYAN

PROGRAM

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rains will break: gukurahundi*

Conceived, choreographed and directed by Nora Chipaumire
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Performed by:

Nora Chipaumire, dancer

Souleymane Badolo, dancer

Thomas Mapfumo, vocals & guitar

Lancelot Kashesha, percussion & vocals

Gilbert Zvamaida, guitar & vocals

Christopher Muchabaiwa, bass guitar

Chakaipa Mhembere, mbira

Video design by Romain Tardy

Early design by Joelle Dietrick

Original lighting design by Olivier Clausse dit Maurice

Additional lighting design by Joe Novak

Technical direction by Robert W. Henderson Jr.

Costume design by Naoko Nagata

Management of company nora chipaumire by Amy Cassello

Management of Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited by Gray Lady
Artists/Patrick Scotmoore

Booking representation of this production by Pentacle

The program will be approximately 75 minutes long without an intermission.

PROGRAM

Artist's statement from company nora chipaumire (an africanallstarscollective!)

I wanted to make a work that tackled the African brands: Africa as violent/Africa as disease and dying/Africa as famine and hunger/Africa as exotic/happy/Africa the silent/ancient/darkness. I felt the shame and sadness of my fellow Zimbabweans, uprooted and on the run. I wanted to hold us all accountable. To this end, I invited a visual designer, a lighting designer, a costume designer, the world famous Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited and fellow dancer Souleymane Badolo to journey with me, and own "the horror" of it all.

Dance when you're broken open.

Dance if you've torn the bandage off.

Dance in the middle of fighting.

Dance in your blood.

Dance when you're perfectly free.

— Rumi



lions will roar, swans will fly, angels will wrestle heaven, rains will break: gukurahundi is funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and additional funding from the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Community Connections Fund of the MetLife Foundation.

Additional generous support has been provided by Creative Capital, The Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund and The National Endowment for the Arts. *lions will roar, swans will fly, angels will wrestle heaven, rains will break: gukurahundi* is co-commissioned and presented by 651 ARTS' Black Dance: Tradition and Transformation program, primarily funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and co-commissioned by Dance Theater Workshop's Commissioning and Creative Residency Program with support from the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the Jerome Robbins Foundation.

The development of *lions will roar, swans will fly, angels will wrestle heaven, rains will break: gukurahundi* was made possible through a Choreographic Fellowship at the Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography at Florida State University, and creative residencies at ASU Presents, Tempe, Arizona; Dance Theater Workshop, New York City; Ecole des Sables, Senegal; The Yard, Martha's Vineyard; and at the Museum for Contemporary Art, Chicago.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NORA CHIPAUMIRE (choreographer, director and dancer), since 2005 has toured extensively throughout North America, Europe and Africa. She received a 2008 New York Dance and Performance (aka Bessie) Award for her choreographic work *Chimurenga* and a 2007 New York Dance and Performance Award in the performance category for her work with Urban Bush Women, where she also served as Associate Artistic Director. She has been honored with the Mariam McGlone Emerging Choreographer Award from the Wesleyan University Center for the Arts (2007). Chipaumire's work has received funding from the National Dance Project (NDP), Rockefeller MAP Fund, Creative Capital and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is featured in the documentary *Movement(R)evolution Africa* and the focus of two dance films: *Nora*, directed by Alla Kovgan and David Hinton, and *Dark Swan*, directed by Laurie Coyle. Chipaumire studied dance formally and informally in her native Zimbabwe, Senegal, the United States, Cuba and Jamaica. She is a graduate of the University of Zimbabwe's School of Law and holds graduate degrees from Mills College of Oakland, California, in dance (MA) and choreography and performance (MFA). Current projects include *visible*, a collaboration with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, commissioned by Harlem Stage for premiere in October 2011, and *MIRIAM*, a one-woman show inspired by the life of Miriam Makeba. *MIRIAM* has been commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), for premiere in September 2012. *MIRIAM* is produced by MAPP International Productions, www.mappinternational.org.

THOMAS MAPFUMO and **THE BLACKS UNLIMITED** (composer and performers). "The Lion of Zimbabwe" is a cultural icon from Zimbabwe who lives in the United States and has made music for more than four decades within and outside of Africa. His songs integrate the ancient musical instrument mbira, from traditional Zimbabwean folk music with Afro-rock, with lyrics ranging from the envisioning of a cultural revolution to the corruption and vile manipulation of politicians. Since the late 1970s, Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited have been credited as trailblazers of Afro-pop style and as one of the most significant bands from southern Africa to impact world music. Mapfumo, widely embraced as "The People's Poet," is celebrated for his musical innovations, as well as his concern for human rights and confrontation of systematic injustices in Zimbabwe and southern Africa. In 2001, Mapfumo was awarded an honorary doctorate in Music from The Ohio State University. His music is currently banned in Zimbabwe by the government he helped bring to power. He now lives in political exile with his family and band in the Pacific Northwest.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

SOULEYMANE BADOLO (dancer), born in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, started his professional career as a dancer for the *DAMA* (Direction of Arts and Crafts), a traditional African dance company. In 1980, he founded his own Burkina Faso-based troupe, Kongo Ba Téria, which fuses traditional African dances with Western Contemporary Dance and continues to tour internationally. Souleymane has danced with the world-renowned contemporary African dance company Salia ni Seydou, worked with French choreographers Elsa Wolliaston and Mathilde Monnier and performed with the National Ballet of Burkina. Companies he has choreographed for include Company Phoénix de Yaoundé (Cameroon), Cie Gabero de Niamey Company (Nigeria) and The National Ballet of Burkina (Burkina Faso). He also developed a dance program at The Center of Dance, Music and Theatre in Rome that focused on fusion of theatre and dance in contemporary performance, as well as participated in a trans-African program initiative that set up creative collaborations for dancers from multiple African countries. Souleymane recently performed *Yaado*, a new work commissioned by Danspace Project, and *I KA NYE*, a collaboration with Chipaumire and Obo Addy, commissioned by Dance New Amsterdam, both in New York City. He is a studio artist in residence at Dance Theater Workshop for the 2010-2011 season.

OLIVIER CLAUSSE DIT MAURICE (lighting designer) lives in Le Mans, France. Clause's career in lighting started in the cinema, where he worked on feature films with Philippe de Broca, Jacques Audiard, Philippe Harel, Pierre Salvadori, Raul Ruiz and Olivier Marchal, among others. In 1996, he collaborated with the performing artist Stefan Fortin for *El Amor Es Ciego* and in 1999 with Abdel bayBay for *Au Hasard des Oiseaux*. From 1999 to 2001 he was the resident lighting engineer/designer of the Tapis Franc Company (streets arts) and is currently the lighting engineer/designer for Têtes d'Atmosphère. In 2001, Clause founded Baltringos — a collective of builders and plastic artists. Since 2005, he has worked with choreographer and performer Florence Loison and her company, Zutano Bazar, as a videographer and lighting designer.

NAOKO NAGATA (costume designer) started her career as a biochemist in Japan. Her evolution into costume making is a long story. With literally no formal training, Nagata's first costume was created for Jeanine Durning in 1998. From that moment, she has been creating for a diverse group of choreographers and dancers non-stop. She has collaborated with Amanda Loulaki, Bebe Miller, David Dorfman Dance, Doug Elkins, David Neumann, Ellis Wood, Gina Gibney, Liz Lerman, Nina Winthrop, Nora Chipaumire, Reggie Wilson, Tiffany Mills, Urban Bush Women, Zvi Gotheiner and many others. Working closely with collaborators, Nagata helps bring to life what she calls, "the creation of a shared dream." Nagata's work has been seen on both international and national main stages including The Kennedy Center,

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (California), Maggie Allesee National Center for Choreography (Florida), PACT Zollverein (Germany) and New York's Dance Theater Workshop, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Danspace, Joyce Theater, Dance New Amsterdam and Joyce Soho.

ROMAIN TARDY/AALTO (video animator) is mainly focused on motion graphics rather than video. As a drawer, his visual content is directly inspired by various graphic techniques, from simple collage to the latest computer-based 3-D images. The link between still and moving images, traditional and innovative, is fundamental in his work, as he considers his live performances as a real experience of an instant and dynamic visual composition, in sync with the music. Tardy ran several audiovisual projects, from VJ sets in clubs and art galleries in France and Europe (UK, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Netherlands). Since 2007 he has been a member of ANTIVJ, a European visual label and visual research team. He currently lives in Belgium.

JOELLE DIETRICK (video animation designer) is an artist based in Tallahassee, Florida. Since living overseas in Italy, Bahrain, Germany and China, her paintings, drawings and animations examine the lives of female expatriates as a way to explore our complicated relationship to place. Through her artwork, she considers how these adventurous women negotiate their wanderlust with traditional manifestations of ambition. Rather than focusing on the practical challenges of women constructing lives overseas, the artworks concentrate on the more subtle shifts in perception that occur when a woman chooses to move from her country of origin. Dietrick's work has been shown at the Long March Space in Beijing, the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna, the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, the ARC Gallery in Chicago, Soho20 in New York City, Sarai Media Lab in New Delhi and Transitio 2009, Mexico City. Dietrick has received an Individual Artist Fellowship and Artist Enhancement Grants from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs as well as Humanities and Russell Grants from the University of California at San Diego.

ROBERT W. HENDERSON JR. (technical director) is a New York based Lighting Designer. Recent credits include *Khmeropedies I & II*, CT, NY, Amsterdam; *Mary's Wedding* and Tazewell Thompson's *A Christmas Carol* — Westport Country Playhouse, CT; *Dracula*, The Laramie Project, *I Am My Own Wife*, among others — Theatre Three, NY; Associate Designer for the Permanent Exhibition at the Museum of Chinese in America, NY; Van Cleef & Arpels 2010 Christmas windows, NY; and, select Harry Winston and Barney's New York display windows. Worked on the international premiere of the new opera *Where Elephants Weep* presented in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Robert received his MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts Department of Design.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

AMY CASSELLO (General Manager, company nora chipaumire) was the Executive Director of Urban Bush Women from 2002 to 2009. Prior to that she was the Managing Director of Doug Elkins Dance Company (1992-2001). Since 2006, she has been the General Manager of Doug Elkins & Friends' award-winning *Fräulein Maria*. She has worked in development at Dance Theater Workshop and continues to freelance with other independent choreographers. She is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College.

PROGRAM CREDITS

Nora Chipaumire would like to extend her gratitude to Solo, Mukanya (Thomas Mapfumo) and The Blacks Unlimited, her talented collaborators, her hard-working team and the following organizations and individuals:

Jennifer Calienes and Lindsay Meeks of MANCC; Colleen Jennings-Roggensack and Michael Reed at ASU Presents; Peter Taub, Yolanda Cursach, Surinder Martignetti and the entire production team at the MCA in Chicago; Mama Germaine and Helmut Vogt of Ecole des Sables; Creative Capital; New England Foundation for the Arts/National Dance Project; Multi-Arts Production Fund; Wendy Taucher and Lise Brody at The Yard; Kate Peila and everyone at DNA; Aaron Greenwald and everyone at Duke Presents; Michelle Coe and everyone at FIA/Pentacle; and loyal friends and advisors Dan Cantor, Elodie Dielo, Simon Dove, Tim Dugan, Molissa Fenley, Monica Fravia, Susan Hamburger, Alla Kovgan, Erich Ludwig, Jordana Phokompe, Mallory Starling, Marya Wethers, Reggie Wilson and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. It is a thrill to be able to present *lions* here at Clarice Smith.

Thomas Mapfumo and The Blacks Unlimited are represented by Patrick Scotmoore, Gray Lady Artists of Nantucket, grayladyartists@gmail.com. Pentacle (booking representation). Nora Chipaumire is a member of Pentacle (DanceWorks, Inc.), a non-profit service organization for the performing arts. Mara Greenberg and Ivan Sygoda, Directors. 246 West 38th Street, 4th floor, New York, NY 10018. 212-278-8111; fax 212-278-8555; www.pentacle.org. Nora Chipaumire appears under the auspices of the Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc., a non-profit tax-exempt organization administered by Pentacle/DanceWorks, Inc. Contributions to the company's work are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and may be made payable to the Foundation for Independent Artists, Inc. #7 (c/o Pentacle, 246 West 38th Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018), earmarked for member project of Nora Chipaumire. (c) Nora Chipaumire, 2011