

# [ PÉNÉLOPE ]

A Penelope more combative than myths portray



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# [ PÉNÉLOPE ]

contemporary ballet

choreography Jean-Claude Gallotta

assistant choreographer Mathilde Altaraz

texts and dramaturgy Claude-Henri Buffard

music (Part 1)

composition and interpretation Noémi Boutin, Géraldine Foucault et Marie Nachury

production Cie Frotter | Frapper

music (Part 2)

composition Antoine Strippoli

interpretation Hélène Avice, Chrystelle Blanc Lanaute, Sylvie Lemariey-Perrot, Salvator Lunetta, Laurence Romieu, Alice Tilquin

sound creation Philippe Fontaine, Yann Perrin

music (Part 3)

composition & interpretation Sophie Martel

lights Manuel Bernard

costumes Chiraz Sedouga

with Axelle André, Naïs Arlaud, Alice Botelho, Ibrahim Guetissi, Fuxi Li, Bernardita Moya Alcalde, Clara Protar, Jérémy Silvetti, Gaetano Vaccaro et Thierry Verger

video sequence by Paul Callet

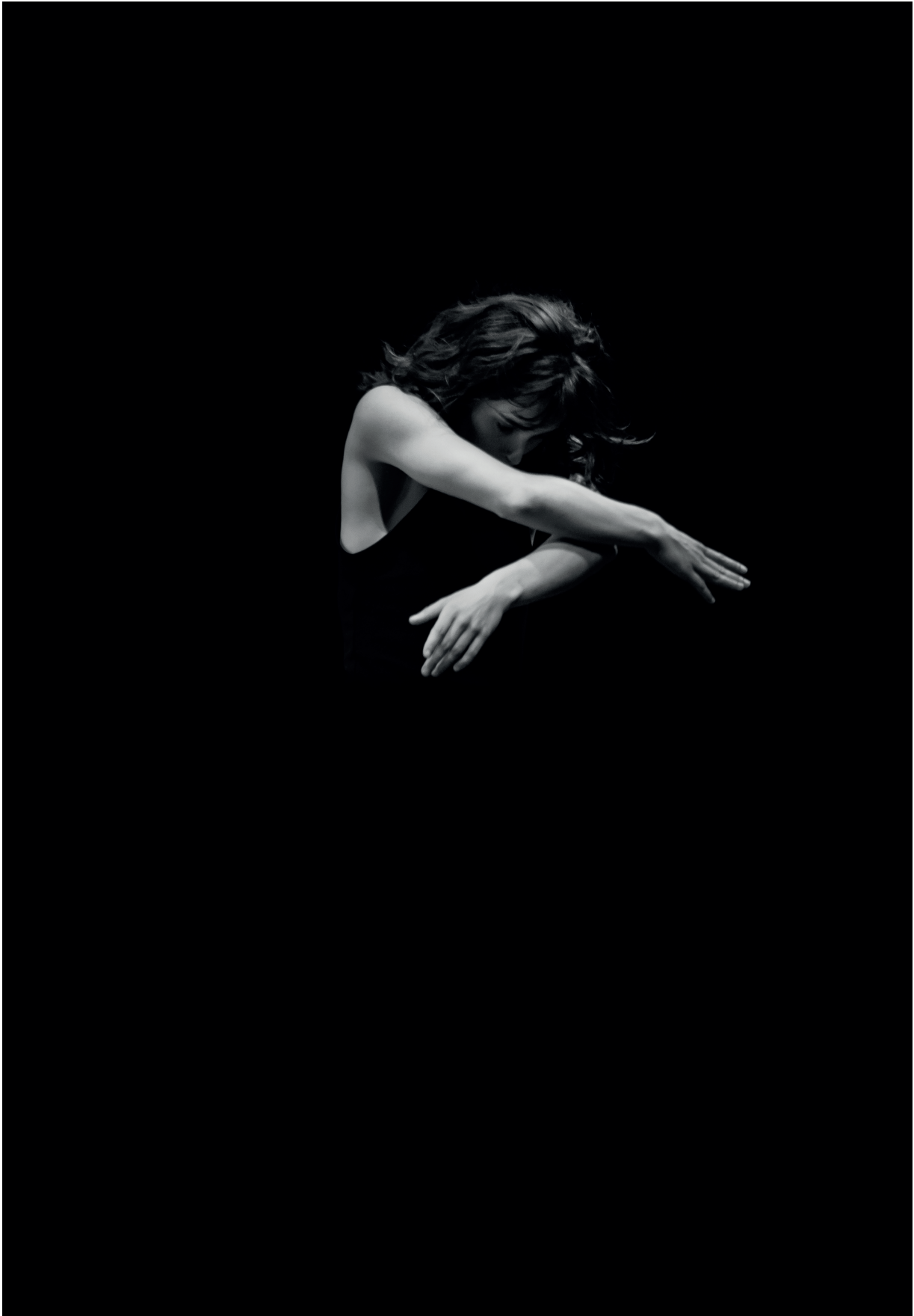
performed by George Mac Briar & Béatrice Warrand

with the voices of Dominique Laidet et Béatrice Warrand

production Groupe Émile Dubois / Cie Jean-Claude Gallotta

coproduction Scènes Vosges, Escher Theater, Le Volcan, Scène nationale du Havre

With the backing of the MC2: Grenoble



# [ TOURING SCHEDULE ]

## 2022-2023

Penelope, the contemporary female version of Ulysses, was conceived in such a way as to allow the two plays to be performed in succession.

**Creation October 11, 2022**  
[ Scènes Vosges - Épinal ]

**January 5 - 6, 2023**  
[ Bonlieu, Scène nationale - Annecy ]

**January 13 to 22, 2023**  
[ Théâtre du Rond-Point - Paris ]

**February 10, 2023**  
[ Théâtre - Caen ]  
*+ Ulysse February 7 - 8, 2023*

**February 22, 2023**  
[ Théâtre - Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg) ]

**March 16, 2023**  
[ Scène nationale - Dieppe ]  
*+ Ulysse March 14, 2023*

**March 22 to 24, 2023**  
[ MC2: - Grenoble ]

**May 16 - 17, 2023**  
[ Scène nationale - Havre ]



Following on from his celebrated *Ulysse*, which returns to the stage again this season, Jean-Claude Gallotta continues his exploration of mythological figures with a new show entitled *Pénélope*.

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries various writers and poets have undertaken to revisit the character of Penelope with a view to freeing her from the timeless representation of a woman faithful to her long-absent husband, slave to an unrealizable tapestry, and virtuous to the point of cunning in her attitude toward male lust. In the mind of Jean-Claude Gallotta it makes every sense to broaden our view of the Homeric epic and to probe it from the point of view of Penelope herself.

His intention is to re-invent the traditional figure with a renewed status, that of a protean representative of all women. Simultaneously his ballet *Pénélope* pays homage to a choreography that stages playfully the architecture of space and where symmetry, perspective, ensemble steps, entrances and exits, and the multiplicity of centers are all explored in Gallotta's own inimitable way. In other words, as always, his choreography is replete with sensuality, physical interlacing, ironic detachments and cheeky insolences.

Gallotta's *Pénélope* is conceived as the mirror opposite of his Ballet Blanc *Ulysse*. It is, so to speak, a « Ballet Noir », black on black, playing with all the rhythms and nuances that this color intimates. Again, his intention is to show the very light that inhabits a shadow, the glimmers and gleams that traverse a darkened soul, the secret energies which spur the living being to persevere in her effort regardless of what may arise.

C.-H.B.





# [ BIOGRAPHY ]

## JEAN-CLAUDE GALLOTTA

Since the beginning of the 1980's, the choreographer Jean-Claude Gallotta has imposed himself as a pioneer of what is called the 'New French Dance'. With the Groupe Émile Dubois he created in Grenoble with Mathilde Altaraz, he is at the origin of one of the first Centre Chorégraphique National de France (National Choreographic Center of France) he headed from 1984 to 2015. He invents a playful and energetic dance, with a rich and complex construction, allowing its interpreters to show their talent of improvisation and their quality of execution. His first main piece in 1981, Ulysses, a ballet blanc which has become emblematic and which plays on the codes of classical dance without destroying them, brought him an international recognition. His repertoire is currently constituted of eighty choreographies including pieces such as: Daphnis é Chloé, Hommage à Yves P, Mammame, Docteur Labus, Trois Générations, Le Sacre du Printemps - The Rite of Spring, L'homme à tête de chou - Cabbage Head Man, My Rock...which are reference works having left a strong mark. Jean-Claude Gallotta has often used French literature as a source of inspiration with: Les Larmes de Marco Polo, Presque Don Quichotte, L'Étranger - The Stranger, Bonjour Tristesse... He has been associated author for the Théâtre du Rond-Point (Paris) since 2015. The Groupe Emile Dubois is located in the premises of MC2 in Grenoble. After having recreated Ulysse in 2021, Jean-Claude Gallotta creates, in 2022, a new show entitled Pénélope to explore the myth from a feminine point of view.



All the latest news about the company is on our website  
[www.gallotta-danse.com](http://www.gallotta-danse.com)

The Groupe Émile Dubois / Compagnie Jean-Claude Gallotta is backed by the Ministry of Culture - DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the Département de l'Isère.

It is supported by Grenoble's City Council for its activity in the city.