

MUSIC CENTER
STRATHMORE

Strathmore presents

**COMPAGNIE
HERVÉ KOUBI**
Sol Invictus

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 8pm



SOL INVICTUS

Choreography

Hervé Koubi

Assistant

Fayçal Hamlat

Dancers

Francesca Bazzucchi, Badr Benr Guibi, Joy Isabella Brown, Denis Chernykh, Samuel Da Silveira Lima, Youssef El Kanfoudi, Abdelghani Ferradji, Elder Matheus Freitas Fernandes Oliveira, Oualid Guennoun, Hsuan-Hung Hsu, Pavel Krupa, Nadjib Meherhera, Ismail Oubbajaddi, Ediomar Pinheiro De Queiroz, Matteo Ruiz, Allan Sobral Dos Santos, Karn Steiner

Music

Mikael Karlsson | Maxime Bodson | Steve Reich | Ludwig Van Beethoven

Arrangements

Guillaume Gabriel

Light

Lionel Buzonie

Costumes

Guillaume Gabriel

Artistic Advisor

Bérengère Alfort

External Advisors

Odile Cougoule | Mohamed Zerouali

Production

Compagnie Hervé Koubi

Coproduction

Ballets De Monte-Carlo - Direction Jean-Christophe Maillot / Le Grrranit - Scène Nationale De Belfort / La Barcarolle - Scène Conventionnée De Saint-Omer / L'empreinte - Scène Nationale Brive -Tulle / Centre Chorégraphique National De Biarritz - Thierry Malandain / Bcmo Pole Chorégraphique De Calais / Théâtre De Grasse - Scène Conventionnée D'intérêt National / Ville De Cannes / Oara – Résidences De Création Avec Le Soutien De L'esplanade Du Lac De Divonne-Les Bains / Conservatoire De Calais / Le Channel Scène Nationale De Calais / Spedidam

www.cie-koubi.fr

Booking Representative

Margaret Selby

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ABOUT HERVÉ KOUBI



Hervé Koubi trained at the “Ecole de la danse,” notably with Rosella Hightower, and began his career as a performer in pieces by Jean-Christophe Paré and Emilio Calcagno. He danced at the Centre Chorégraphique National de

Nantes with Claude Brumachon and Benjamin Lamarche, at the Centre Chorégraphique National de Caen with Karine Saporta, and in the Compagnie Thor in Brussels with Thierry Smits.

In 2000, Koubi decided to develop his choreographic project. It is first the idea of tradition, and all the oral and bodily transmissions that accompany it, which captured his interest. A dance which gathers, which unites, which makes the links between the balls of yesteryear, the rave parties, and the dance gatherings of today.

It was then notions of traces, memories, and affiliations which led him in particular to Algeria, in search of his roots. This is how, in 2009, the man and his artistic career were struck by urban dances, even though they were already present, like a precursor echo, from his first creations.

Since then, he has considered the porosity of techniques between them as a space for experimentation that would go beyond technical and aesthetic frameworks and affiliations. Since 2017, he has collaborated on all of his creations with Fayçal Hamlat, a dancer and choreographer with whom he shares a common vision. Hamlat, whom Koubi met when he was the official choreographer of the National Ballet of Algiers, was a dancer for Koubi and then his assistant.

While Koubi was struck by hip-hop dance, Hamlat took the opposite path, influenced and nourished in turn by contemporary dance. Hamlat has since made contributions in the dance world and has become an integral collaborator with Koubi.

Field choreography brings together Koubi’s works, the public, and various practices he develops with his team. Through territorial projects, he questions and redefines what a 21st-century ballet can be—one that honors its history while remaining open and contemporary. In July 2015, he was decorated with the Order of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres.

PROGRAM NOTE

A manifesto for life.

Sol Invictus will be Luminous, Generous and Universal. Always halfway between hip-hop physicality and classic elevation, *Sol Invictus* will be a declaration of love, my declaration of love to dance, to its past, to its present, to its future.

Celebrating the links that unite us, those of life entangled in the cycle of the seasons.

To be reborn and then rediscover childhood, to become again this child amazed by the discovery of the world and the mystery of Life.

Oh yes, dancing like a child.

Dizzying with the place of the living in the immensity of the universe, with our place. Maybe it is just only about dancing, but dance allows this, beyond words, to celebrate life and bring us together.

But what is “dancing together”?

The answer remains a mystery to me. What I do know, however, is that I want to talk about love, mutual help, solidarity, light and bonds, the one that unites us to life.

I call on stage, a whole world and its smiles, a liberated spelling in the service of a writing that goes beyond borders, aesthetics, languages and styles. There will also be rounds and spirals. Those who raise each one of us thanks to the others, thanks to the Other. So; here we are...maybe.

I want to make the stage a playground of all possibilities to welcome a dance that laughs, a dance that comes from the heart, from the mouth, from the hips, from the feet on a burning floor.

There is an emergency, that of gathering yes but also of arousing hope.

So I choose. It will be a rite, a rite that we will invent at each performance to celebrate that we are alive.

Stanley Kubrick said, “The most terrifying fact about the universe is not that it is hostile but that it is indifferent; but if we can come to terms with this indifference and accept the challenges of life within the boundaries of death our existence as a species can have genuine meaning and fulfillment. However vast the darkness, we must supply our own light.”

And since for me loving and dancing are indeed part of the same indivisible whole that is life, I would like *Sol Invictus* to be a spark.

A spark as brilliant as a life filled with the joy of dancing...together.

—*Hervé Koubi*