

cie. **toula limnaios**

»clair obscur«



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about »clair obscur«

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»clair obscur«

»clair obscur« is the new creation of cie. toula limnaios, which was developed during the lockdown. the starting point of the dance piece is the theme of shadows, loosely inspired by adelbert chamisso's art fairy tale »the wonderful history of peter schlemihl«, which was written in 1813 and tells the story of a man who sells his shadow. »clair obscur« is an attempt to approach the complexity and multi-layeredness of shadows and their paradox, because shadows have many faces.

the HALLE is transformed into a stage divided into two parts. the two parts face each other like two sides of the same coin, like light and shadow, like day and night - one cannot exist without the other and this is how this work is composed: the two perspectives are inseparable and yet can be perceived separately...

»see how this body casts its shadow and how dreams are born from it.«
henri bosco

who hasn't tried to catch their shadow while walking back then? who has not wondered about this strange apparition that constantly accompanies us, but also always slips away? from plato's »allegory of the cave« to carl gustav jung's »analytical psychology« to the dream world of every human being, the shadow veils and reveals the secrets of the world. where does this shadow come from? what does the shadow tell us? and where does it escape to when we no longer see it? what is this shadow that wanders in search of its body, and what is a body without a shadow?

the crazy attempt to catch the shadow is always doomed to failure.

»in these shadow phases i am unable to think, to feel, to love.«
fernando Pessoa

but there are also shadows that cover our existence. they unfold, act and live-in silence. shadows can have many names... they appear around the corner, in the unexpected and suddenly take possession of us. shadow sides that dwell within us and that we carry with us. shadows that arise, full of doubts, full of illusions. they reach out to the visible world through our senses and take possession in impermanence.

concept/ choreography/ stage/ costumes: toulalimnaios

music: ralf r. ollertz

dance/ creation: daniel afonso, leonard d' aquino, francesca bedin, laura beschi, alba de miguel, alessio scandale, hironori sugata, karolina wyrwal

choreographic assistance: ute pliestermann

technical director/ lightdesign: felix grimm

lighting/ stage technics: domenik engemann

public relations: marie-therese schulte

touring/ cooperations: inga scheuven (marie schmieder)

length: 60 minutes

the cie. toulalimnaios is institutionally funded by the state of berlin, senate department for culture and europe.

Senatsverwaltung
für Kultur und Europa

be  Berlin



full length video »clair obscur«
password clair

trailer »clair obscur«

press reviews »clair obscur«

»in »clair obscur« the dance stands for itself. this rebellion and sinking of the bodies, the lostness in the rigidity of shock, and then the expressive acting into the space: that is already a very fascinating dance language.«
(extract frank schmid, rbb-kulturradio)

»on may 27th, after seven months of silence, seven long months since the last live show, the same day in which italy mourns the disappearance of the great carla fracci, here in berlin the cie. toulalimnaios comes back to the stage with »clair obscur«, giving a sign of hope to the whole dance world.

inspired by »the wonderful history of peter schlemihl«, one of the most beautiful tales of german romanticism, the show, as the title suggests, focuses on the idea of shadow. as in the tale by adelbert von chamisso, whose protagonist, due to his naivety, sells his own shadow, in »clair obscur«, one of the protagonists loses the shadow due to a mysterious man dressed in black.

the audience watches the performance from the two opposite sides of the stage. before starting, on one side, limnaios herself, on the other, her assistant to choreography, ute pliestermann, present and introduce »clair obscur«. the stage is divided by four walls that separate the dancers in pairs. thanks to their transparency (they are made of thin netted fabric), the four walls allow, in a game of 'chiaroscuro', to see even the dancers who stay on the opposite side of the performative space. in this mirror dance, some performers become the shadows of the others. then this pattern breaks and, in a dynamic, intense and brilliant dance, suggestive images full of symbolism follow one another. finally, as in a game of mirrors, the action of one is reflected in the other, reproducing itself endlessly.

the great achievement of the cie. toulalimnaios' new production, besides the choreography, the skill, the precision, the harmony of the dancers and the music of ralf r. ollertz, lies in transforming the limits imposed by the emergency situation into stimuli for creativity. the idea of giving life to suggestive shadows and transparency games, to divide the space and justify this need with the dramaturgy of the piece, demonstrates how much the inventiveness of an artist is what allows to always go beyond creativity, fueling art. «

i could not wish for a better return to live dance!

(nicola campanelli, campadanza -dance magazine)

toula limnaios (choreographer/ artistic director)

toula limnaios (*1963, athens/ greece) is trained in classical and modern dance, m. alexander and laban technique as well as music and followed a dance education in brussels, she worked as an interpreter with claudio bernardo, régine chopinot and as an assistant with pierre droulers. later she continued her education at the folkwang hochschule in essen, where after a short time she became a member of the folkwang tanzstudio under the direction of pina bausch. from 1995-2003 she danced in live improvisations with the musicians konrad bauer and peter kowald. 2007/2008 she was guest professor for choreography at the hochschule ernst busch in berlin and was guest choreographer at various theatres. since 1996 she has founded and directed the cie. toula limnaios together with ralf r. ollertz.

ralf r. ollertz (music)

ralf r. ollertz (*1964, mönchengladbach/ germany) studied composition, electroacoustic music and conducting in italy and at the folkwang hochschule in essen. in addition to chamber and orchestral music, he has also written electroacoustic music and radio plays, for which he has received numerous international awards and grants. in 2002 he composed the short opera »carcrash« with willy daum for the state operas in hanover and stuttgart. tours, radio and television productions have taken him through europe, south america, the usa, japan, australia and africa. since 1996 he has founded and directs the cie. toula limnaios together with toula limnaios

daniel afonso (dance)

daniel afonso (*1981, las palmas/ spain) completed his training at the royal conservatory in madrid. he worked for 10&10, tenerifedanzalab in tenerife, at the staats theater braunschweig with jan pusch as well as with yossi berg & oded graf and douglas thorpe. in the company chameleon (uk), he danced for choreographers such as anthony missen, gemma nixon and john goddard as well as for dmt (nl) with judith van der klink. daniel also teaches and develops projects of his own. he is a member of the cie. toula limnaios since 2015.

laura beschi (dance)

laura beschi (* 1993, como / italy). she felt passionate in dance and performing arts since very young age. she graduated in sead in 2017. in the past years she collaborated with different choreographers and companies in europe such as ryan mason, jelka milic, rakesh suresh, eduardo torroja (ultima vez), francisco cordova, manuel ronda, michikazu matsune, tanz company elio gervasi, nicola galli performing art, along others. since february 2020 she is a member of cie. toula limnaios.

francesca bedin (dance)

francesca bedin (*1990, vicenza/ italy) studied contemporary dance, tap dance, percussion and drums in italy and abroad (tanzfabrik, marameo, danseateliers, eastman...). she joined sinedomo group by l. tonin and started her professional career with naturalis labor by l. padovani, s. bertoncelli and with esklan art's factory by e. silgoner. by the collaboration with the choreographer g. menti she won the 1. prize and the eastmanprize at 22nd int. solo tanz theater festival. francesca is member of the cie. toula limnaios since july 2020.

leonardo d'aquino (dance)

leonardo d'aquino [*1985, joinville/ brazil] studied contemporary dance at sead – salzburg experimental academy of dance, and has a bachelor degree in performing arts with a major in theater acting at university of são paulo. in europe he has worked amongst others with christine gouzelis, jelka milic, ryan mason and mzamo nondlwana. in brazil, he was part of the company [ph2]: estado de teatro and as a dancer for minik momdó dance cie. since autumn 2015 leonardo is a member of the cie. toula limnaios

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alba de miguel (dance)

alba de miguel (*1990, logroño/ spain) completed her studies in sports before graduating from the conservatory r.c.p.d mariemma in madrid and completing her education at sead, salzburg. she worked as a dancer with various choreographers and was also a member of the company larreal. after joining the dance company input in 2015, she worked as freelancer in europe in various projects. since autumn 2017 she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

alessio scandale (dance)

alessio scandale (* 1993, varese / italy) studied at the ballet teatro in turin and at the conservatory of professional dance mariemma in madrid and graduated at the sead / salzburg. together with laura beschi he started to develop his own work. during the last years he worked in different countries with ariella vidach aiep, zsuzsa rozsavolgyi, cie willi dorer, alix eynaudi, loose collective, daniel ninarello and the dance company gervasi. since april 2018 he is a member of the cie. toula limnaios.

hironori sugata (dance)

hironori sugata (*1968, osaka/ japan) studied dance in the eguti otoy company with fujiwara etuko and sumi masayuki. in japan, he worked at spacdance and danced the repertoire of jean-claude gallotta. in 2000, he moved to europe and danced with emio greco, vicante saez, bud blumenthal, the cie. tandem, with nardi morgan and the theater der klänge. from 2003 until 2004, hironori sugata worked with jean-guillaume weis, the teatri del vento and with silke z. he was a dancer/performer for the cie. toula limnaios from 2005 until 2010 and rejoined the ensembles as a permanent member in 2013.

karolina wyrwal (dance)

karolina wyrwal (*1981, stettin/ poland) is a graduate of the northern school of contemporary dance (uk). after collaborating with companies such as the theater thikwa berlin and tanztheater globale, she spent four years with the polish dance theater. there, karolina worked with choreographers such as ohad naharin, jacek przybylowicz, yossi berg, and yoshifumi inao. in addition, she created three pieces for the polish dance-theater-atelier and teaches cunningham technique. she is a member of the cie. toula limnaios since 2012.

felix grimm (technical director/ light design)

felix grimm (*1983, güstrow/ germany) is a lighting, video and sound designer and technical production manager for theater, dance, performance and corporate events. he worked for schlossplatztheater / junge oper berlin, total brutal / nir de volff, berlin society for new music, chico mello, naoko tanaka, bignotwendigkeit, monster truck, novoflot, theater koblenz, perform(d)ance and major german event technology service providers. he has been working with the cie. toula limnaios as lighting designer since 2014 and since 2020 he is the technical director and lighting designer of the company.





the cie. toula limnaios is an ensemble for contemporary dance, founded in brussel in 1996 by choreographer and performer toula limnaios and composer ralf r. ollertz. a year later the company moved to berlin. in 2001, they were awarded the »meeting neuer tanz« prize. in 2004, their beckett trilogy was rearranged into a documentary entitled »atemzug« produced by zdf/arte. their own production house halle opened in 2003 and is an internationally connected theatre.

the company gets funding from the city of berlin department for culture and europe since 2005 and was selected by the fonds darstellende künste to receive conceptual funding for »leading ensembles in the field of independent theater and dance« from 2008 until 2010. in 2012, they were awarded the »george tabori prize«.

in addition to her artistic work, she is committed not only to innovative working structures, but also to the outreach and distribution of dance in our society. the cie. toula limnaios ensemble presents 60-70 performances every year and works with 18 salaried employees, who are supported by an even larger number of closely associated freelancers. with its flexible, lean, but highly effective structure and in co-production with international partners, the company continuously produces ensemble work of exceptional quality, making them one of the most successful ensembles for contemporary dance today.

as a representative of the german dance scene for the goethe institute and the federal foreign office, they present their repertoire in europe and worldwide since 2005. the company is institutionally funded by the city of berlin, senate department of culture and europe since 2014.

the cie. toula limnaios presents dance that is awake, critical and bold – with concern for humankind, made by and for people.

cie. toula limnaios

press reviews

»nothing that is not an excerpt of the heart, finds its expression in the work of toula limnaios, whereby the originality of this artist, a perfectionist of excesses, may lie therein. her excesses focus on mankind, the mysteries of his origins, the fire of his future. «
(saison de la danse, jean-marie gourreau)

»one of the most renowned choreographers of the european dance scene has created a ›tosca‹ a lasting and impressive piece of the contemporary dance. the spectators were excited and touched. the magnificent final tableau swept the audience off their feet into ecstatic rounds of applause. «
(frankfurter allgemeine zeitung)

»limnaios, one of the most striking figures in the contemporary dance for years, remains at the heights of her artistry«
(neuer zürcher zeitung)

»the spectators get to see somnambulistic images, poetically sensitive and intimate impressions in which real and surreal interweave. the word is about toula limnaios, a choreographer born in athens who has made berlin her home since 1997. the pieces she created with her company make people drift-away... for the images are really magical. the experts know that toula limnaios with her choreographies takes a special place in the vast dance scene in germany, an exceptional place. what she turns into dance is seen nowhere and she herself follows no trends. «
(rbb-kulturradio)

»the cie. toula limnaios creates dance that penetrates the soul... visually stunning and intense, atmospheric journeys into the abysses and posterity. toula limnaios managed to find a very unique power of expression in her pieces. the choreographer's source of inspiration are often master works, world literature, century-scores. she overwrites the classics with her own aesthetics, her own vocabulary of the movement and creates psychologically well-tared contemporary pieces. the company is admirably diligent, and its theatre is one of the most popular addresses for contemporary dance. «
(tagesspiegel)

»the company presents an unusually successful story: here, almost every show is sold out, the cie. toula limnaios managed to gain its own audience, not necessarily with an affinity for dance, that follows the artists from a production to production filled with trust and enthusiasm. «
(goethe-institute)

»the auditorium is packed. the first couple begins, the second joins in a way that takes your breath away. responsible for this frenzy of feelings and images are toula limnaios und ralf ollertz. he creates the acoustic visual realms that she causes to explode on stage with help of her dance ensemble. 39 productions in 19 years, moreover numerous revivals and world tours demonstrate their unbelievable symbiosis and productivity. making her one of the most important choreographers for contemporary dance today.

choreographer toula limnaios is one of those who, together with composer ralf r. ollertz, ensure that this art form of dance continues to retain its unmitigated vitality. for almost 20 years now, toula limnaios has headed her own company, which bears her name. and with her small, but excellent, international ensemble, she brings contemporary dance onto the stage – in berlin, where the ensemble is based and across the world.

those, who have the privilege of seeing the cie. toula limnaios dance, experience a celebration of emotion. the intensity of the movements and the dancers' feelings enthrall the viewer. the audience senses the physicality, becomes part of the dance. over and over again, in every single performance. «
(zdf aspekte, stefanie heidbrink)

»toula limnaios is known to reframe classical works of art and literature into sensational dance pieces with a strong focus on human connections. in ›tempus fugit‹, from intricate floor-work to flying across the stage, the agile bodies of the dancers were well-adapted to limnaios' highly charged movement vocabulary. «
(berlinartlink, beatrix joyce)

cie. toula limnaios

cie. toula limnaios at a glance

1996	founding in brussel: artist in residence/ theatre l' l
1997	moving of the company to berlin
2003	opening of own theater HALLE tanzbühne berlin
2005 - 2013	basic fundings by city of berlin - department for culture and europe
2008 - 2010	conceptual funding by fonds darstellende künste e.v.
2012	george tabori award
since 2014	institutional funding by the city of berlin
since 2016	cultural ambassador of the german ministry of foreign affairs
2021	jubilee 25-years cie. toula limnaios
2022	publication of the illustrated book »cie. toula limnaios« by kettler verlag

members:

artistic director	toula limnaios
choreography/ dance	
artistic director	
music/ production	ralf r. ollertz
ensemble dance	daniel afonso leonardo d'aquino laura beschi francesca bedin priscilla fiuza alessio scandale hironori sugata karolina wyrwal

assistance	alice gaspari
public relations	talea schuré
touring/ cooperations	marie schmieder
technical director/ light design	felix grimm
light/ stage technic	domenik engemann, jan römer
graphic design	cyan - graphisches büro
video	giacomo corvaia
costumes	antonia limnaios
accounting/ controlling	branko gejic
resilience dispatcher	paul tinsley

venues in berlin	akademie der künste, halle tanzbühne berlin
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national	bielefeld, bonn, bremen, bremerhaven, cottbus, dessau, dortmund, dresden, erfurt, erlangen, essen, frankfurt/m, hannover, hameln, krefeld, heilbronn, münster, oberhausen, offenburg, osnabrück, ludwigshafen, quedlinburg, recklinghausen, stuttgart, wuppertal
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international	armenia, austria, belgium, bulgaria, brazil, chile, cyprus, dominican republic, denmark, ecuador, france, georgia, greece, ireland, italy, jordan, lithuania, latvia, mexico, nicaragua, palestine, panama, poland, romania, russia, senegal, serbia, spain, switzerland, trinidad & tobago, venezuela
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repertory

2022 »staubkinder« 2021 »point de vue«, »clair obscur« 2020 »tell me a better story 1+2«, »meantime« 2019 »shifted realities« 2018 »volto umano« 2017 »momentum«, »die einen, die anderen« 2016 »tempus fugit« 2015 »minute papillon«, »la salle« 2014 »blind date«, »miles mysteries« 2013 »if I was real«, »the thing I am« 2012 »wut«, »the rest of me« 2011 »anderland«, »every single day« 2010 »secrets perdus«, »à contre corps« 2009 »wound«, »les possédés« 2008 »the silencers«, »reading toscas« 2007 »simply gifts«, »life is perfect« 2006 »real time.compiler«, »éclats du réel«, »irrsinn« 2005 »die sanfte«, »short stories« 2004 »double sens«, »spuren« 2003 »better days«, »here to there«, »isson« 2002 »outré vie«, »drift« 2001 »nichts. ich werde da sein, indem ich nicht da bin.« 2000 »falten der nacht«, »ysteres«, »vertige« 1999 »faits d'hiver« 1998 »entrevisions« 1997 »landscapes«, »le temps d'après« 1996 »d'un(e)s«

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