

Under the sponsorship of Hubert Reeves, Pierre Rabhi et Jean Marie Pelt

Les Porteurs D'eau (Reunion Island France) in coproduction with Free State Theatre Company and PACOFS, in partnership with Artscape (South Africa) presents

Embracing the Planet

By Philippe Pelen Baldini

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Why this show?

"Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse. No more can it be dismissed as science fiction; we are already feeling the effects...To serve as custodians of creation is not an empty title; it requires that we act, and with all the urgency this dire situation demands. "

Archbishop Desmond Tutu(nobel peace prize)



« Embracing the Planet » proposes an immersive experience, a groundbreaking performance and different outreach programs for all audiences to raise awareness of the beauty of nature, the living , and planet emergencies.

A show for the planet

« Embracing the Planet » is an immersive live performance inspired by the San Bushman of southern Africa and science, to explore our vital link to Nature and the Cosmos.

In the wake of genocides and ecocides, despite the loss and denial, how do we reconnect in the depth of our cells to the memory of the planet, universe and other living beings?



Featuring world class performers (musicians, dancers, actors, digital artists) this show merges the spirit of first peoples' artistry with the innovation of modern technologies.

An universal story



How did this happen so quickly? Is this a dream, a nightmare or reality?

His land, the land of sources , became the land of thirst.

His family has lost all memory and does not know how to read the stars in sky or follow the tracks on the ground.

He is only a child and he looks at the world around him dying.

Walking alone in the desert , he hears the voice of the Earth like a Mother.

He travels in a world of frequencies, hearing the chant and the language of each living being.

Despite oblivion and all ruptures, will he be able to find into his body's memory, the link to his origin, nature, and to find the dance of the elements again?

Will he and his family ever be able to find the sources and the water holes again?



Performance highlights



- **Deep immersion into Life and Living, Nature and the Cosmos**
- **A universal story**
- **A multi-sensory experience**
- **Interaction between performers and the audience**



- **Contemporary choreography and direction inspired by the San culture**
- **Video projections “Movie painting” styles inspired by rock paintings in interaction with the dancers**
- **Live music fusing chants from first peoples with rock and electronic music**
- **Deep immersion into frequencies from click languages, sounds of the planets (recorded by NASA) and nature**
- **World class artists : musicians, dancers, singers, actors, videographer from South Africa and Reunion Island**



Notes for direction and choreography

With "Embracing the Planet" Philippe Pelen Baldini, assisted by Thierry Moucazambo, defends a narrative form driven by a strong multisensory universe. He develops a "Theatre of the Body" ("theatre du corps"), a physical dramaturgy linked to digital arts. As the universe is created through patterns of frequency, Philippe tends to make the invisible visible: How the human body reacts to frequencies running through it?



Inspired by first peoples and science, he searches for an innovative language allowing for an immersive experience. A true interaction between the virtual world(both visual and audible) and real physical presence. Based on physical experience of the frequency, the direction and choreography explore the vital link to nature in an intimate way. Science is now documenting what first peoples have known forever : Everything that exists in the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual realms does so on a vibratory basis.



The show invites everyone to get inside of a cave like the womb of the Earth in the middle of the rock paintings. Everyone is invited to a dreamlike journey carried by the first peoples' languages and live music.

«The cave represents the start of cinematic imagery and marks the beginning of the immersive experience». David McConville

Background

“Embracing the Planet” is a fruit of the creative team of Philippe Pelen Baldini and Thierry Moucazambo from Reunion Island. The show comes as a result of over 30 years of in-depth artistic experience, research and collaboration with the San bushmen (the first people from Southern Africa) and different indigenous groups. During this time Philippe and Thierry , as choreographers, directors also worked with scientists, archeologists, neuroscientists, biologists, astronomers working to bridge the gap between art, science and indigenous traditional wisdom.

Over the last 30 years Philippe and Thierry have created 25 award winning shows with performances in over 62 countries featured at famous venues such as Opera de Paris, Théâtre de la Ville de Paris, Grande Halle de la Villette and well-known festivals in Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Italy, Scotland, England, Brazil, Canada, South Africa, Poland, Senegal and many other countries.



Artists



Irven Morapedi Teme
Performer



Kenny Rakotsoane
African traditional music composer
Performer



Thierry Moucazambo
Assistant Director,
Performer



Eric Angels
Video creator
Performer



Philippe Pelen Baldini
Artistic director
Director
Choreographer
Author



San Bushman Mother
(video)



Young San Bushman lady
(video)



Jeremy Roske
Musician, Performer

Testimony/Production team



I am LESARWA (San bushman) by origin but raised to believe that I am something else that I am not.

... Being taught that being what I am is wrong and low class in some way... All my life I've been nomadic moving from one place to another searching but not knowing for what.

This project it's important to me... As it's helping me to reconnect with my roots where I come from who I really am... And what do I stand for understand it cherish it and take pride. In what I am as a Sarwa man. I need to learn my history and how my people lived their beliefs and spirituality. How they were when they were happy in harmony with Nature... How they were when they were Sad and rejected. I am tired of living the life that wasn't meant for me and walking the walk that ain't mine.

Irven Morapedi Teme

Dancer-performer, sarwa(san bushman)

Director , choreographer : Philippe Pelen Baldini
assisted by Thierry Moucazambo
Contemporary music composers : in progress
African traditional music composer : Kenny Rakotsoane
Video creator : Eric Angels
Artistic adviser : Daniel Facerias
Performers : 5 on stage
Scientific advisor: Dr Nadeem Oozeer
Artistic agent : François Cranet



Tribute to Oupa Dawid Kruiper traditional
San bushman leader who blessed the project