

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned short-sleeved shirt and dark pants, stands on a rooftop. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background features a clear blue sky and several multi-story buildings with balconies, suggesting an urban setting. The lighting is bright, indicating it's daytime.

YALLAH DANSE !

From education to artistic creation

A project by Emilio Calcagno / ECO company

As part of the FEF programme

NOTE ON THE PROJECT

Between 2024 and 2026, Emilio Calcagno has decided to involve his company in the development of an international cooperation project between Algeria, Italy and France, based on two components: training and creation.

Entitled *Yallah danse!* this year-long programme will train a group of 20 Algerian dancers, giving them the artistic resources to develop their own choreographic universe. Some of them will take part in the creation of a programme consisting of two pieces designed by Emilio Calcagno and due to be performed from autumn 2025.

The ballet *Les Noces*, with music by Stravinsky, will be accompanied by the piece *Soyez les bienvenus*, with original music by the Franco-Algerian composer Malik Djoudi.



NOTE OF INTENT

"As part of the Algerian tour organised by the French Institutes in January 2023, I travelled from Oran to Algiers, via Constantine, Tlemcen and Annaba. I had the chance to meet over 100 dancers, through master classes.

During these encounters, which were powerful in both human and artistic terms, I met artists with strong personalities and a desire to do and create that went beyond their possibilities. It quickly became clear that I wanted to support this talent incubator on a more permanent basis, through a training project that would be more engaging than a Master class. With *Yallah danse!* the apprentices will be trained and nurtured throughout this cooperation project, the aim of which is to help develop the dance sector in Algeria.

The desire to create this project also echoes my personal and artistic background. Very much attached to the Mediterranean, this part of the world has shaped my life as a man and an artist. As a Sicilian, I feel that I have always shared Mediterranean culture in my work. I initiated my first collaboration with the Maghreb in Tunisia over 20 years ago when I took part in the inauguration of the Tunis Opera with the creation of *Les 4 Saisons ou le Mariage du loup*.

The Mediterranean is part of me. Sicily, with its strong oriental influence, is where Africa begins or ends and Europe begins. The two-part work I created with the dancers from my company, Catania Catania and L'Isola, are the result of this cultural mix.

My links with Algeria also go back a long way. Over 20 years ago, I worked in Annaba in collaboration with the French Institute. This wonderful experience led to the reopening of the Theatre and the integration of some dancers into professional training courses.

Returning to Algeria today feels like the obvious thing to do. With *Yallah danse!* my aim is to set up a sustainable artistic and choreographic training project for the benefit of Algerians. I feel they have a sincerity, a way of dancing and a raw energy that matches my approach in every way. I also want to take these dancers beyond urban dance. Their background will be a tool for exploring new horizons and creating their own contemporary dance."



ONE PROJECT, TWO ASPECTS

TRAINING

A choreographic incubator

Auditions were held at the French Institute of Algiers on 8 and 9 November 2023. The first class of *Yallah danse!* was born, made up of 20 apprentices, most of them self-taught or from urban dance backgrounds. Many are fans of social networks such as Instagram or TikTok, which often represent a window on the world, a form of inspiration and communication with the outside world. This allows them to mix styles and exchange ideas with other artists about cultures and approaches to the body, without ever losing their identity.

In the form of monthly sessions, the aim of the programme in which these apprentices are involved is not to train them in a specific dance style, but to give them the keys to developing their own dance. In order to enrich the training with complementary approaches to choreography, the sessions will be taught by several guest lecturers. Apprentices will benefit from technical classes, research laboratories and choreographic composition. The course will also include dance history classes and the viewing and analysis of contemporary works in collaboration with the Numéridanse platform.

A choreographic incubator connected to the professional world

Immersive courses in various professional structures, adapted to their career paths, are planned.

Sylvain Groud, director of the **Roubaix CCN**, has also joined the project. He will be working with the participants on the transmission of his piece *l'Oubli*, part of which will take place in Algiers and part in Roubaix, where it will be presented to the public.

Among the participants in the project, 2 choreographers will present an extract from their first creative project on the occasion of their visit to the **Roubaix CCN** in February 2024.

This event will be a unique choreographic experience and will give them the opportunity to meet a panel of professionals.

An entrepreneurial approach

Particular attention will be paid to supporting apprentices with a view to giving them the operational skills they need to develop their projects in Algeria. Apprentices who wish to set up their own projects will be given support to help them structure their approach and understand the basics of setting up a project. All participants will receive support in understanding their administrative environment and identifying its resources.

The aim of the programme is to contribute fully to the structuring of the Algerian dance industry.

ONE PROJECT, TWO ASPECTS

THE CREATIONS

Emilio Calcagno would like to work on a double evening, based around two 30-minute creations. These two pieces will be created with 12 Algerian dancers selected from among the apprentices. For the first piece, Emilio Calcagno will revisit the famous Russian ballet *Les Noces*, set to the sublime music of Stravinsky. In the second half, *Soyez les bienvenus* will be accompanied by electronic music in collaboration with Franco-Algerian composer Malik Djoudi. This piece will explore the dreams, daily lives and hopes of Algerian youth, as well as their relationship with social networks, a window for these young people on what is happening in the world.

Les noces de Stravinsky

"This primarily musical immersion will invite the dancers to explore a theme that is as universal as it is intriguing. What do the *Noces* mean to these young Algerians? What is its true value?

I want these *Noces* to be electric and joyful, like a ritual full of different interpretations.

It is therefore an ambitious project that I wish to treat with delicacy and sincerity, without ever offending the culture and traditions of these people, by seeking to highlight the discrepancies that can exist in the marriage process. In this way, in the form of a celebration, Stravinsky's music will sound like an urgent need to reveal oneself, to express what cannot be said through the medium of vibrant, explosive bodies".

Soyez les bienvenus

"This expression, widely used in Algeria, resonates in my head as something ironic, indicating both the welcome we offer to a stranger in the literal sense but also as something uncertain that could be held in store for this new arrival. Digging into the daily lives of these young people, I want to highlight their dreams and their relationship with the rest of the world.

Soyez les bienvenus takes up the challenge of highlighting the talent and the universe of each Algerian dancer, their sense of irony, and showing a bubbling imagination. Coming from a variety of backgrounds – acrobatics, circus, popping, locking, new style house – and from different towns, these dancers are invited to commit themselves fully to the collective game and the artistic approach proposed.

This project touches me to the core, because many of the elements that inspire me are linked to my history, to what these dancers embody. The central theme of this creation is young people, their vision of the world and their relationship with the virtual. Looking at their profiles on social networks, I realised that this 'virtual shop window' is not the same for a European or an Algerian dancer. When asked 'What does Instagram mean to you?', one Algerian dancer replied: 'The shop window of the poor, where you can look at everything but buy nothing!'"

PRODUCTION DETAILS

SCHEDULE

Training

Ten 10-day modules from June 2024 to May 2025

September 2024

Teatro Libero in Palermo residency and 'cartes blanches

January 2025

- Laboratory with Sylvain Groud – Roubaix CCN in Algiers
Revival of *l'Oubli* and presentation

February 2025

- Training module at the Ballet National de Marseille
- Laboratory with Sylvain Groud – CCN de Roubaix Rehearsal of *l'Oubli* and presentation
- Cartes blanches at the Roubaix CCN

Rehearsals April to June 2025

Tours season 2025/2026

Between June and July 2025

Oran, Algiers, Annaba
Sidi bel Abbes, Constantine

Autumn 2025 (dates to be confirmed)

Scène nationale de Sète
Scène nationale de Maubeuge
Scène nationale de Perpignan

CREATION CREDITS

Choreography Emilio Calcagno

Assistant choreographer Rosada Zangri

Performers 12 dancers from the *Yallah danse!* programme

Musical creation Malik Djoudi

Costume design in progress

PARTNERS

In collaboration with the French Institute of Algeria, the French Institute in Paris, the French Embassy, Lille Métropole, the Italian Institute of Algeria

In partnership with the Roubaix CCN, l'École Nationale de Marseille and l'École Nationale Supérieure Rosella Hightower, La Table Verte productions (entrepreneurial section of the incubator).



PARCOURS ARTISTIQUES



EMILIO CALCAGNO, Director of compagnie ECO, project creator

Emilio Calcagno is a free spirit on the contemporary dance scene.

Originally from Sicily, he arrived in France in 1989 to join the Rosella Hightower International Centre and then the Centre national de danse contemporaine d'Angers under the direction of Joëlle Bouvier and Régis Obadia.

In 1995, he joined the Ballet Preljocaj, with whom he danced on the most prestigious stages before taking responsibility for teaching activities and European projects, including the D.a.n.c.e. project in collaboration with W. Forsythe, F. Flamand, W. M. Gregor and A. Preljocaj.

The first pieces, which were on the borderline between dance and the world of comics, were followed by choreographies with a strong cinematographic dimension, one with which his contemporary movement is in constant dialogue.

Fascinated by the marvellous and the universe of childhood, he likes to immerse himself in the world of fairy tales, such as *Peau d'Âne* in 2012, *Les petites histoires de...* inspired by the work of Tim Burton in 2018, and *Pinocchio* in 2021.

In 2018 he created *Les 4 Saisons ou le Mariage du loup* with 15 dancers from the Tunis Opera.

Since his pieces *Catania* and *Isola*, Emilio Calcagno has been exploring the territories of the Mediterranean, constantly moving back and forth between France – his home country – and his native Sicily. Guided by his ability to listen and his sensitivity, he intertwines bodies and land according to his questions, whether they be geo-graphical, disciplinary, psychological or cultural. The interplays of influence he highlights reveal new shared territories and encourage us to look beyond borders. Between 2021 and 2024 he was Director of Dance at the Opéra du Grand Avignon. After *Storm*, a piece for 14 dancers and 7 industrial fans, *D'un matin de printemps* is his second signature work, in which he revisits the French repertoire of Debussy, Ravel and Satie with Ensemble Ouest and the 14 dancers of the Ballet. In 2023, he directed the 7*7 project, in which he invited 7 choreographers to share the stage with 7 Ballet dancers, and choreographed the opera *Three Lunar Seas*, directed by F. Roels.

PARCOURS ARTISTIQUES



ROSADA ZANGRI, performer and choreographic assistant

Artist, dancer and teacher, Rosada Letizia Zangri trained at the National Academy of Dance in Rome and then at the CND in Paris in 2022.

In 2010 she joined the company of Wayne McGregor and Ismael Ivo and continued her training with the Zappalà company. In 2015 she joined Emilio Calcagno's ECO company as a performer in various pieces such as *Catania Catania*, *L'Isola* and *Pinocchio*.

Since 2012, she has been working with various institutions, including Scenario Pubblico and the Conservatoire Régional de Paris, on their educational content. She organises workshops in contemporary techniques and dance theatre for professional training courses. In 2013, she won the "young choreographers" competition in Sicily with *Sospiri*. In 2018, she continued her career alongside Emilio Calcagno as assistant choreographer with *Vivaldi's 4 Seasons* in Tunis. The same year, she collaborated with Cie MF as a performer for the piece *Farde-moi*. In 2019 she presented her first work at the Perfarmare festival, *Cori*.

PARCOURS ARTISTIQUES

MALIK DJOUDI, composer and singer

Malik Djoudi was born in Poitiers in 1979 son of a French father and a Vietnamese-Algerian mother. At the age of 18, he moved to Paris and composed sound illustrations for television and film, which enabled him to buy his first home studio to make arrangements.

There he attended singing lessons with Klaus Blasquiz, the former virtuoso vocalist from the group Magma3, and embarked on a career as a musician and singer in English with various bands including Alan Cock, Kim Tim and Moon Pallas. He performed all over the world as part of choreographer Pierre Rigal's rock opera *Micro* and the musical *Même*.

At the age of 25, he began composing and writing his own

songs in French. He released his first album, *Un*, in 2015. His second album, *Tempéraments*, was released in 2019. On this occasion, he recorded the track *À tes côtés* with Étienne Daho. The album was nominated at the Victoires de la Musique awards in the Album Revelation of the Year category. His third album, *Troie*, came out in 2021. This album featured contributions from Philippe Katerine, Lala &ce and Isabelle Adjani.

In September 2024, Malik Djoudi released his fourth album, which according to Les Inrocks was the "best French album of the year". He will play a sold-out show at La Cigale in Paris in December 2024 and at L'Olympia in November 2025.



CONTACTS

Artistic Director Emilio Calcagno
emilio.calcagno@compagnie-eco.com / +33 6 81 32 70 17

Entrepreneurial programme / training dedicated to the creation of artistic projects
La Table Verte productions – Pauline Barascou / direction@latableverte-productions.fr

Website www.compagnie-eco.com

Project presentation vimeo.com/1014747838

