



Laurent Paillier

“Elektro Kif”

New choreographic show
presented by
Blanca Li

Creation in December 2010

Show for 8 “electro” dancers - Duration time: 1h10
(Young audiences sessions possible)



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INTENTION NOTE

by Blanca Li

“Elektro Kif was born because I wanted to create a show out of the new dance style called “Electro”. I had discovered it a few years ago, as I was sitting in a public garden. A group of young people came by and started performing. There was something very fresh that you can only see in the first moments of a dance that has not come to maturity yet: the creative passion, the excitement...

At that moment I knew that I was the witness of the beginnings of a new dance style full of promises that might one day gather dancers from all around the world. I knew immediately that I would create a choreography from that unique moment I had experienced.

And that’s how I gathered eight electro dancers, most of them coming from Val-de-Marne (near Paris) where the first signs of electro style were born (in Pondorly, Rungis).

From what I know « Elektro Kif » will be the first experience of a theatrical show based on electro dance”.

DISTRIBUTION

Choreography and direction: Blanca Li

Dancers: Kevin BAGO, Mamadou BATHILY, Jérôme FIDELIN, Romain GUILLERMIC, Théophile LANDJI, Adrien LARRAZET, Lenny LOUVES, Ismaila N'DIAYE

Music: Tao Gutierrez

Lights design: Jacques Chatelet

Choreography assistant: Glyslein Lefever

Costumes: Françoise Yapo

Technical coordination and light manager: Sylvie Debare

Stage manager: Pascal Dibilio

Show created in december 2010 at L'Avant-Seine Theatre, Colombes

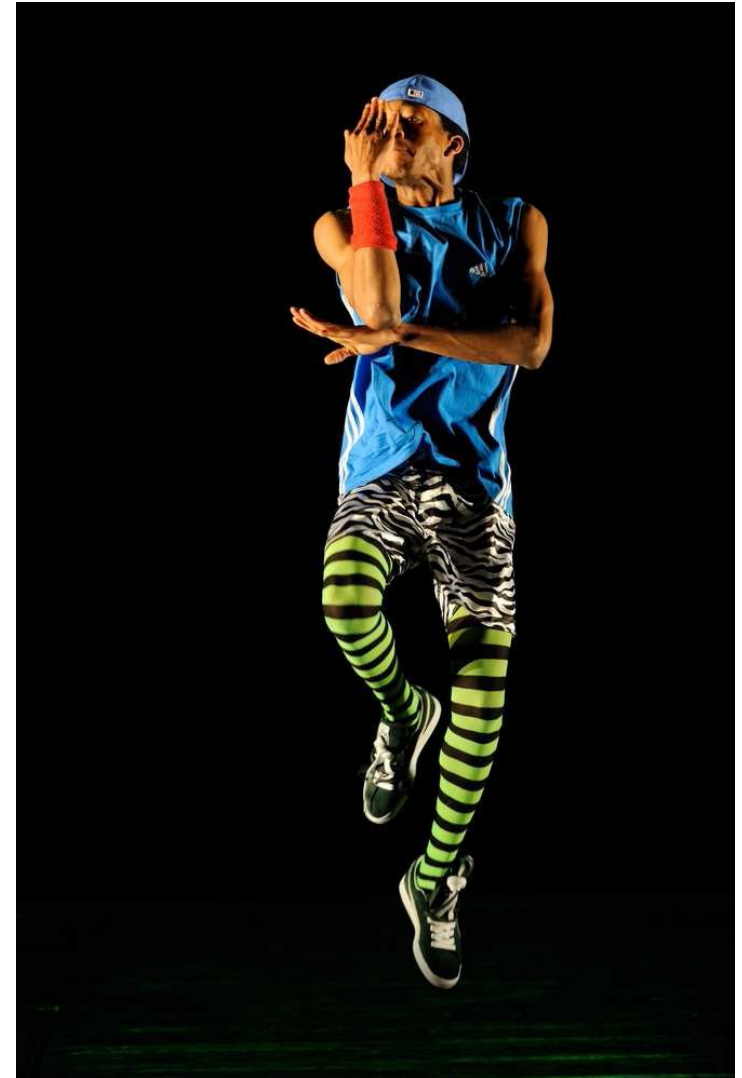
Coproduction : Blanca Li's Company, CCN (National Choreographic Center) of Créteil and Val-de-Marne, / Cie Käfig, Creteil City, Theatre L'Avant-Seine Colombes), with the support of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

During rehearsal...
Blanca Li with 8 "Elektro Kif" dancers





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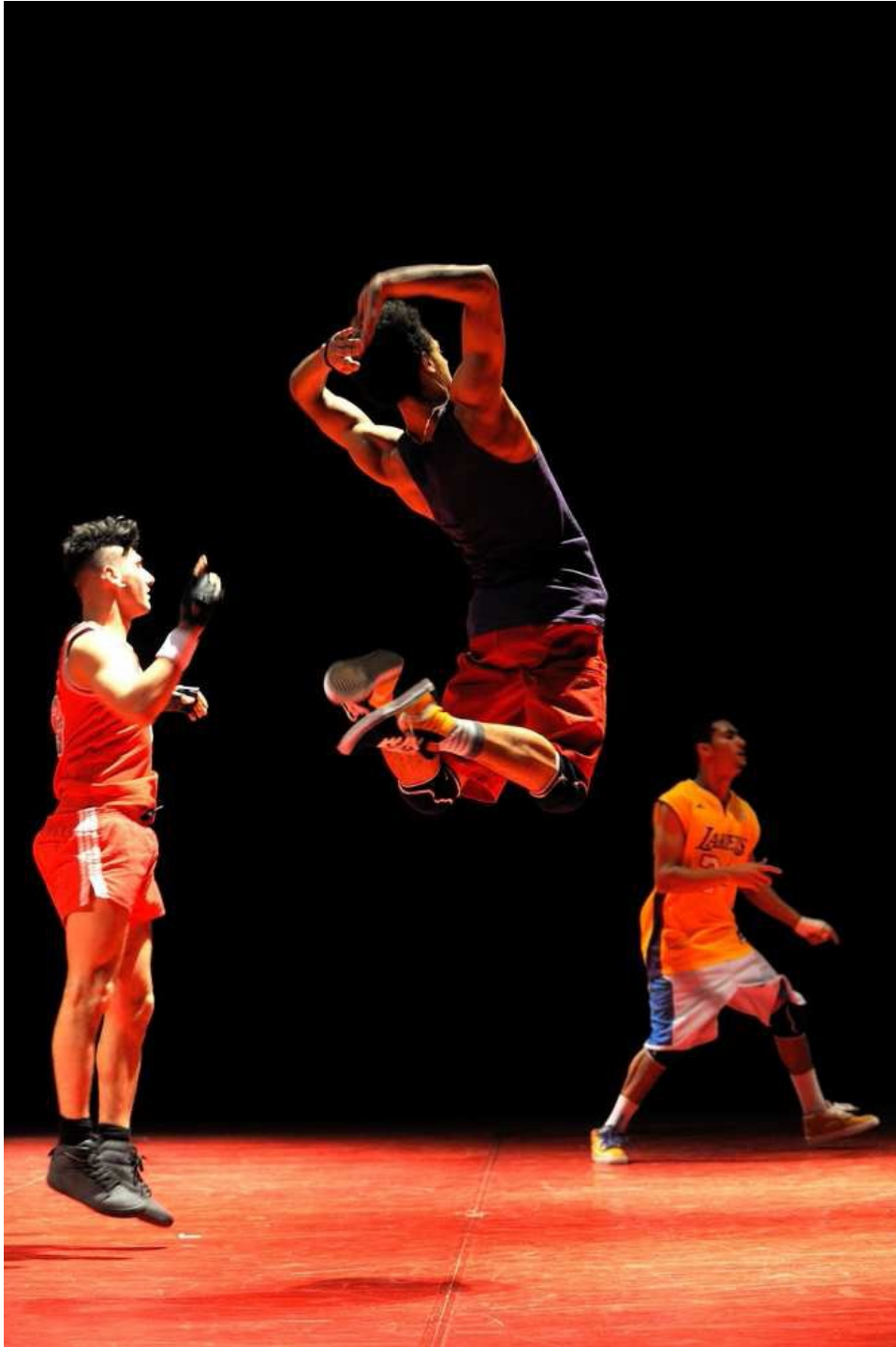




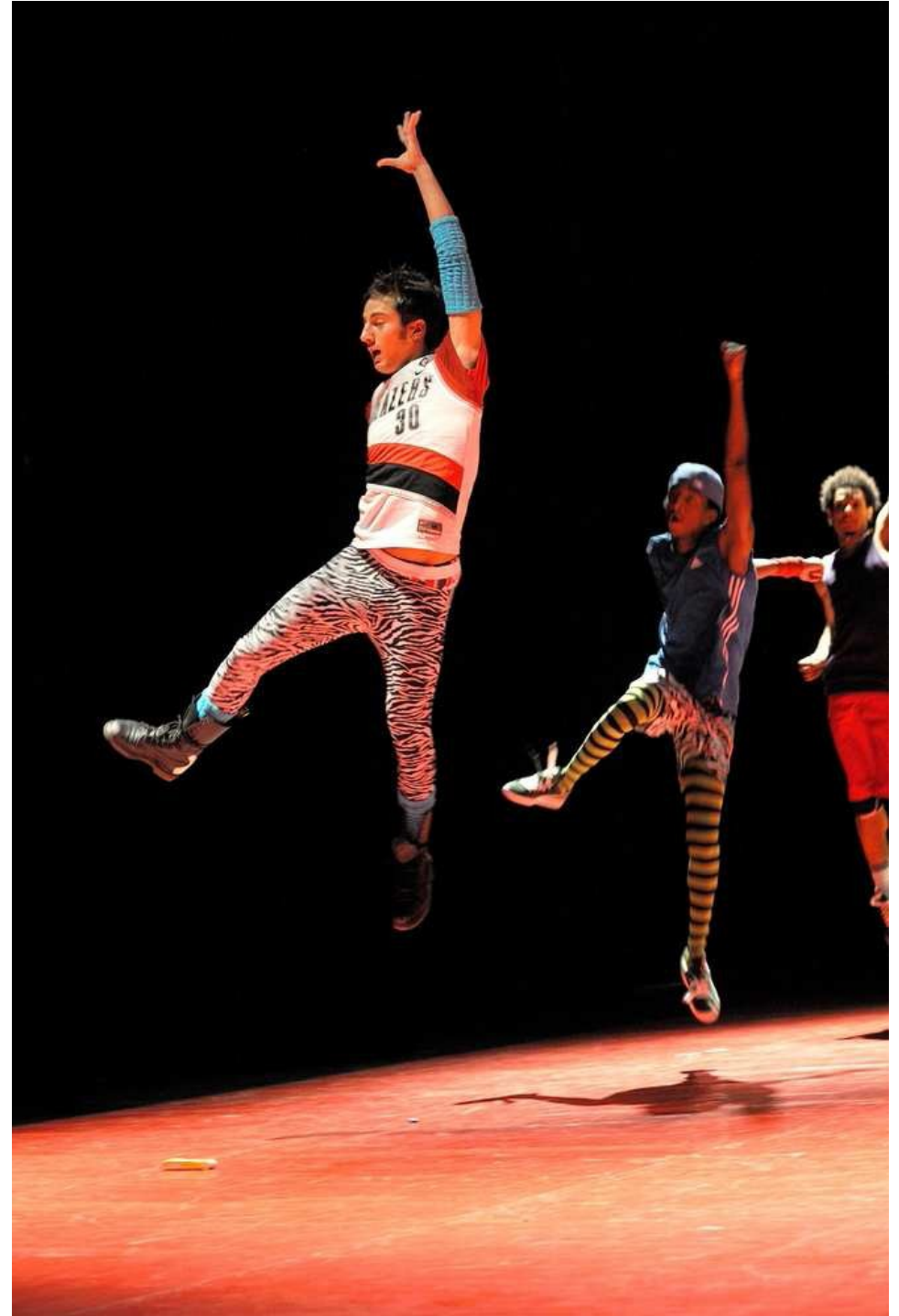
Dan Aucante



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ELECTRO DANCE HISTORY

Electro dance was invented by French teenagers from the Ile-de-France in the early 2000s during nightclub parties in Paris and suburbs (Redlight, Mix Club, Metropolis in Rungis).

This new style grew richer thanks to battles inspired by the hip hop movement. The techno style inspired the young dancers some moves, but electro dance is most of all recognisable with its feet and arms special movements. As anyone could dance in the middle of the street as well as on the dance floors, electro dance quickly became very popular. This early success is also due to the Internet, where dancers use to post videos of them dancing.

The electro dance is adapted to electro house music rhythms, between hardteck music from northern European countries like Belgium, Netherlands or Germany and techno genre from Italy. But one of the main characteristics of this new style is the possibility of creating one's own footsteps.

The electro dancers grew up, their dance has matured. Electro dance is now taught in the whole world and its adepts meet every year during “Vertifight” world championships.

This dance has evolved a lot since its recent creation, integrating aesthetical, technical and musical elements. Today and for the first time, a choreographer puts electro dance away from pure performance and puts it on stage, through a contemporaneous choreographic project.

BIOGRAPHIES

BLANCA LI, production and choreography

“Blanca Li is never where we expect her to be” (*Les Inrocks*)



Ali Mahdavi

Since the creation of her dance company in 1993, Blanca Li has added 14 creations to her repertory (*Nana et Lila, Salomé, l'Amour Sorcier / Al Andalus, Stress, Zap ! Zap ! Zap!, Macadam Macadam, Borderline, Alarme, Le Songe du Minotaure, Corazon Loco, Poeta en Nueva York, Garden of Earthly Delights, Elektro Kif, ROBOT*). From a broad spectrum of corporal forms of expressions (flamenco, hip-hop, classical / contemporary dance...), Blanca Li has exhibited a very personal type of career. She mixes disciplines and universes together in order to tell the story of a unique artistic adventure.

Among her latest creations, *Macadam Macadam*, initiated in 1999 for the Suresnes Festival Cités Danse in France, became a reference in the hip hop genre, and was recreated in 2006 with a new team. In 2007, Blanca Li received the “Best Opera/ballet” French Crystal Globe for this show. *Corazon Loco* produced in January 2007 at the Odysseus-Blagnac Theatre in France and at the Theatre National de Chaillot in Paris, gathers company dancers and lyrical singers from the “Sequenza 9.3 Ensemble”.

Poeta en Nueva York, inspired by Federico Garcia Lorca’s poems and experience in New York, was created in July 2007 in Granada (Spain), Alhambra Gardens. Accompanied by the singer Carmen Linares, the dancer Andrés Marin and a group of twenty other dancers, Blanca Li then created a musical mixing jazz and flamenco with the original music by Tao Gutierrez. *Garden of Earthly Delights* inspired by Hieronymus Bosch’s famous painting was created in June 2009 for the opening of Montpellier Danse Festival, as well as *ROBOT*, the new show of the Company, created in 2013.

Blanca Li also creates operas, ballets and musicals. Invited by the National Opera of Paris, she created the ballet opera *Les Indes Galantes* in 1999 and *Shéhérazade* in 2001. She is appointed artistic director and choreographer of the Berlin

Ballet at the Komische Opera during an entire season and created *Le Songe du Minotaure* in 2002 for 24 dancers there. In October 2008, she puts on stage *Enamorados Anonimos*, a musical played during seven months at the Teatro Movistar in Madrid. In January 2010, she created *What a Circus!* for the French collective “Jeu de jambes”, pioneer of Jazz Rock in France.

In March 2010 she puts on stage the opera *Treemonisha* written by Scott Joplin for the Theatre du Châtelet in Paris. In June 2010, she puts on stage in Spain two operas of the compositor Luis de Pablo: *Very Gentle* and *Un Parque*.

In the field of visual arts and multimedia, Blanca Li is invited by the MUSAC, Contemporary Art Museum of Castilla y Leon in Spain, for her first exhibition *Te Voy a Enseñar a Bailar* (I'll teach you how to dance). In September 2009, Blanca Li performs *Ven a Bailar Conmigo* (Come dance with me) for the event Noche en Blanco (White Night) in Madrid, a choreographic and interactive stroll.

The exhibition created for the Festival EXIT of the Maison des Arts of Creteil named “Dancing Machine” has also been presented at the exhibition Lille 3000 in France.

Blanca Li realises her first movie in 2002, *The Challenge*, a tribute to American musicals transposed to the French hip hop world. Her second movie *Step by Step* is a documentary about the wings of the show *Corazon Loco*. She also realises that year *For Her* and plays in the French movie *The Code Has Changed*.

In June 2009, Blanca was named “Associate Artist” of the National Choreographic Center of Créteil and Val de Marne, alongside the new director Mourad Merzouki.

She was named “Officier des Arts et des Lettres” by the French Minister of Culture (2007) and “Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite” by the Minister of European Affairs (2004). In 2009, she received the “Medalla de oro al mérito en las Bellas Artes”, a prestigious award given annually by the King of Spain, upon Spanish Minister of Culture proposal, and the “Manual de Falla Prize” in 2004 for her choreographic work.

Tao Gutierrez, music

Born in Grenada (south of Spain), Tao Gutierrez studied musical composition and percussions in New York with Nana Vasconcelos and Ron Carter. After a musical career, he collaborated with some of the most important jazz bands and musicians (Don Cherry), African ones (Baba Olatunji) and Brazilian ones. After this, he came back to Spain in the 90's and started composing music for films (*Poniente*, *The Challenge*, *El Calentito*) and dance (Blanca Li Company). He also worked as a producer and music arranger for several bands such as Hevia and Edu. He recently developed his own musical production named Gaspanic.

Jacques Chatelet, lights

Jacques Chatelet has worked with Dominique Bagouet, Françoise Adret, Angelin Preljocaj, Catherine Diverres, Jacques Dombrowski, Blanca Li, RŽgis Obadia, Anne-Marie Porras and many others. He was invited by the Nice opera (Marc Ribaud show), the Avignon opera-theatre (Nadine Duffaut show) and other prestigious places all around the world. He also worked on the lighting for Sonia Petrovna, Jean-Louis Grinda, Anne-Marie Porras creations.



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