

DeLaVallet Bidiefono/ Banninga company

PRINTS / WORDS WILL COME LATER



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First performed in **Congo in February 2009 / in France in September 2009**

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Le Grand Gardon Blanc production and touring

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Credits

Conception and choreography **DeLaVallet Bidiefono**(asso.baninga@yahoo.fr - Congo + 242 657 93 40)

With the artistic collaboration of **Salia Sanou** and **Cynthia Barthélemy**

With **Dimitri Aubin Babakila, Malone Bayimissa, DeLaVallet Bidiefono, Ella Ganga**

Musician **Morgan Banguissa**

Light design **Stéphane Aubert**

Sound design **Jean-Noël Françoise**



© Baudouin Mvouanda

Production **Compagnie Banninga / Le Grand Gardon Blanc**

Administration in Congo **Christian Mudzika**

Co production **The Mégisserie – EPCC Vienne-Glâne**, the **Festival International of Francophonies in Limousin**, the **Centre Culturel Français of Brazzaville**, the **CDC La Termitière in Ouagadougou**.
With the support of **CulturesFrance** and of the **Association Beaumarchais**

On tour...

September 26th 2009 : La Mégisserie - EPCC Vienne-Glâne - Saint-Junien (FR)

September 28th and 29th 2009 : Festival International des Francophonies en Limousin – Limoges (FR)

February 20th 2010 : CDC Les Hivernales - Avignon (FR)

March 22nd and 23rd, 2010 : Festival EXIT - Maison des Arts - Créteil (FR)

March 26th and 27th, 2010 : Gare Saint Sauveur – lille3000 – Lille (FR)

April 28th to May 26th, 2010 : African tour (Brazzaville, Kinshasa, Dakar, Saint-Louis, Malabo, Bata, Bamako, Libreville, Accra, Bobo-Dioulasso, Ouagadougou)

May 12th, 2011 : La Faïencerie – Scène conventionnée de Creil (FR)

May 17th 2011 : Les Treize Arches – Brives-la-Gaillarde (FR)

May 21st, 2011 : Hippodrome – Scène nationale de Douai (FR)

May 24th to 28th, 2011 : Théâtre National de Bretagne – Rennes (FR)

June 3rd 2011 : Le Manège – scène nationale de Maubeuge (FR)

June 7th & 8th: Hebbel Am Hufer in the framework of a Fokus Tanz organized by Planete Metis (DE)

The 2011 tour is supported by ONDA

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First intentions

For his fifth creation, DeLaVallet Bidiefono questions the origins of his commitment to dance.

Prints / Words will come later takes place in Brazzaville nights, and gives voice to a youth that built itself despite it all; a youth for which it is simply a need to leave a mark, an imprint. There is an urgency to do rather than to talk. For this youth, it is now primordial to give back some meaning.

The Republic of Congo is a withdrawn country, shaped by many years of a civil war, and on which the government has a stranglehold. This government neglects the basic needs of the population, be it hospitals or schools. There are no museums in Congo, and the very few cinemas and theatres that still exist have been gradually abandoned to « awakening churches» (one of those religious sects that grow so often in Central Africa).

The latest creation of the Company Banninga / DeLaVallet Bidiefono is built around the idea of reflection. It translates into motion the foundations of an artistic quest that melts into a deep search for identity. It is through the symbol of Print that DeLaVallet molds his dance. These are prints with which he gets involved at the very beginning of his career, but also traces of the past, of his own roots and of his culture; traces that have all been spoilt but still carry a meaning; prints that can be followed, like the path of elder brothers, who opened the way. DeLaVallet gets involved with them with sincerity, with curiosity, and his eyes wide open. These are also prints of what exists already throughout the world, at the crossroad of meetings and crossfertilisations; these are, all said and done, traces of what remains invisible but that preludes any kind of creative impulse.



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The creation step by step

The company Banninga / DeLaVallet Bidiefono started their new creation in August 2007. The project was developed in five stages, throughout the year 2008/2009. It culminated with the African opening, on February 28th, 2009 in the Centre Culturel Français of Brazzaville, and with the French premiere, on September 26th, 2009 at the Mégisserie - EPCC Vienne-Glane in Saint-Junien.

African creation, February 2009

In August/September and November 2008, two workshops took place in Congo. During these workshops, the choreographer prepared the ground for his new creation, with both members of the company and non-member dancers from Brazzaville. On September 12th, the first steps of the creation were presented at the Centre Culturel Français in Brazzaville. For a selection of young Congolese dancers, this was the occasion to perform before a local audience for the first time. In parallel to this research work, Baudouin Mouanda conducted photographic works, and another local artist produced a documentary film on the whole creation.

The third step of the project took place in late November 2009 in Paris. This was the second opportunity for DeLaVallet to work with Julien Rocchia, with whom he had created the sound track for a previous show, **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another**, in August 2007.

The fourth step took place in Ouagadougou in **CDC La Termitère**, right after the Company performed **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another** at the festival **Dialogues de corps** 2008. The Company took advantage of the artistic equipments available at CDC. Hosted by the Director Salia Sanou, the choreographer DeLaVallet Bidiefono was then able to push the choreographic research one step further.

Salia had previously supported DeLaVallet on the creations **Pollution** (2006) and **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another** (2007). This explains why DeLaVallet was invited in Brazzaville in February 2009, for the opening of the new creation. His stay was the occasion to keep pursuing the work begun with the company Banninga in 2006. It also enabled dancers from Brazzaville to take part in workshops lead by Salia.

French première, September 2009

From 7-25 September 2009, the company Banninga was hosted in residence at the Mégisserie in Saint-Junien (87) in order to create the lights and sound track for the show.

DeLaVallet Bidiefono and the company Banninga first performed Prints/Words in Saint-Junien. Then the show began touring at the Festival International of Francophonies in Limousin, 28-29 September 2009.



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DeLaVallet Bidiefono

Born in Pointe-Noire, Congo, in the early 80's, DeLaVallet is one of the rising figures of contemporary dance, which is a young artistic discipline in Congo and in Africa in general. Nothing preordained DeLaVallet to dance except the fact that he was born in a country where dancing is a talent given at birth, and his own outstanding tenacity which allows him to work relentlessly, like a dance adventurer or a researcher. DeLaVallet Bidiefono was born in a place where the words "arts" and "contemporary" never matched. He was 15 years old when he heard the word for the first time.

He has been performing since the very beginning of the nineties, with several dance companies and musical groups. He began as a singer and drummer in a musical band named "Racines", and progressively leaned towards contemporary dance.

In 2001, he moved to Brazzaville, where he launched his dance carrier. He took part in the choreographic research workshops organised by the Centre Culturel Français in Brazzaville, where he worked with several artists and choreographers from Africa, Europe and America. This undoubtedly enriched his work with a mix of cultures and blended influences.

Company Banninga

In 2005, DeLaVallet founded the Banninga Company with Cynthia Barthelemy (production manager until February 2009) and created **Free Speech** (July 2005), which is the company's first choreography. **Pollution** (October 2005) and **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another** (September 2007) followed. Little-by-little, the company established itself in the Congolese choreographic landscape.

On December 2006, DeLaVallet took part in a professional training organised by La Termitière, the Choreographic Development Centre in Ouagadougou, where he met Salia Sanou. He worked on **Pollution** under Salia's artistic eye and advice. Salia later gave him a hand on **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another**.

The company Banninga was awarded the second prize at the African and Indian Ocean's choreographic meeting contest organised in Tunis in May 2008 by CulturesFrance and Ness El Fen. Thanks to this price, **Ndjila Na Ndjila – a road to another** has toured in French and European dance centres and festivals such as Montpellier Dance Festival and La Villette meetings.

Collaboration with David Bobee / RICTUS GROUP

DeLaVallet has collaborated with the French stage director David Bobee on **Our children frighten us when we met them in the street**. Written by Ronan Cheneau, directed by David Bobee, choreographed by DeLaVallet Bidiefono (created on January 2009 at the National Dramatic Centre of Gennevilliers and touring in France), this show is the beginning of a long-term dialogue between the two artists. Several dancers of the company Banninga are involved in **Hamlet**, RICTUS's 2010 creation, which is directed by David Bobee and choreographed by DeLaVallet.

Project in Brazzaville

DeLaVallet is a passionate artist who is committed to his country, and surrounds himself with artists from Brazzaville and Pointe Noire and works with them on a daily basis. As he juggles his choreographer life with his dancing activities, DeLaVallet contributes to develop the contemporary dance scene in Brazzaville, hoping to raise public awareness. He is currently working on the creation of a Dance Centre in Brazzaville, that will host and promote the work of local artists.

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