**Artistic Trajectory of Radouan Mriziga**

Since his arrival in Belgium, choreographer Radouan Mriziga (1985) developed a remarkable and idiosyncratic trajectory in the field of dance in Brussels and Flanders. After studying dance in Morocco, Tunisia and France, he started his education at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels in 2008. He graduated from P.A.R.T.S. in 2012, and subsequently performed in pieces by Bart Meuleman (Toneelhuis), Claire Croizé, Simon Tanguy, and Youness Khoukhou, among others.

In 2014, Mriziga began developing his own work with the support of and as a resident at Moussem Nomadic Arts Centre. In the same year, he presented the first part of a trilogy: the solo '55' (2014). It was followed by the ensemble pieces '3600' (2016) and '7' (which premiered at Kunstenfestivaldesarts in 2017). In this trilogy, he explored the relationship between choreography and architecture, as well as the idea of man as a balancing act between intellect, body, and mind. Both lines of investigation continue to play a key role in his work to this day. Already in his first pieces, a dialogue may be perceived between his background as a Moroccan choreographer and a more Western way of thinking about art and choreography.

His unique, imaginative dance style and his choreographic approach, characterised by a combination of a rational, mathematical way of creating work and deeply spiritual, symbolic elements, resonated with the audience. The performances of this trilogy are still very successful (inter)nationally, and have been presented around 105 times in countries including the US, Argentina, Slovenia, Morocco, France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Norway, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Lebanon, South Korea, Austria, and Switzerland.

In 2017, Mriziga became artist in residency at the Kaaitheater in Brussels. This allowed him to further develop his work for the big stage during a five-year-period, and to show his performances in Brussels on a regular basis. It resulted in an increased visibility for his work, nationally as well as internationally, and in a long-term collaboration with Esther Severi, resident dramaturg of Kaaitheater at the time.

In 2018, Mriziga teamed up with two young Moroccan dancers to examine polyrhythms in preparation of the project '8', presented at Moussem Cities Casablanca. He also developed a site-specific project for the museum context that started from a reflection on gardens as architectural spaces. It took shape under the names '0.Extracity' (2018, Extra City Antwerp) and '0.Kanal' (2019, Performatik, Kanal Centre Pompidou Brussels). '0.Kanal' was a collaboration with architecture students from ETH Zürich, under the supervision of An Fonteyne (Noa Architects). This intense exchange of practices and reflections between the fields of architecture and choreography resulted in a hybrid durational group performance, which explored the concept of the garden from different perspectives.

In 2019, Mriziga premiered the piece '8.2' (in collaboration with hetpaleis, fABULEUS & Moussem), for which he worked with a group of young performers around hip-hop music, rap and dance. The performance was selected for Het Theaterfestival in 2019 and was presented around 30 times in Flanders, Brussels, and abroad. It inspired a new collaboration with hetpaleis, from 2023 to 2027. Also in 2019, Mriziga began working on a new trilogy. In this trilogy, he explores his origins as Imazighen, the indigenous population of North Africa, and aims to bring to the foreground narratives that have been oppressed for centuries. In each piece, a female, mythological figure who embodies and protects the Amazigh culture takes central stage. He started out with the second part, the solo 'Ayur' (Moon), which premiered in 2019 as part of the biennial Dream City in Tunis. He collaborated with the renowned actress and dancer Sondos Belhassen, a pioneer figure for dance in Tunisia. The first part, the solo 'Tafukt' (Sun), danced by Maïté Minh-Tâm Jeannolin, was presented in 2020 during the Alkantara Festival in Lisbon. In May 2021, the performance was revived at the invitation of the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels, and adapted to the corona measures in force at the time, in collaboration with Decoratelier/Jozef Wouters. Dance critic Pieter T'Jonck rightly read the performance as an "attempt by Mriziga and Jeannolin to bring back the richness and polyphony of a repressed culture, and to literally incorporate it”. In this way, according to T'Jonck, Mriziga invites a forgotten world, a forgotten cosmos into the present, thus also indicating a 'different' future". (Pieter T'Jonck, Pzazz, 2021).

In February 2021, Mriziga began working on 'Akal' (Earth). This solo is the final piece of the trilogy about the Imazighen and was created in collaboration with the Rwandan choreographer, dancer and singer Dorothée Munyaneza. Rituals, traditional dances, architecture, stories, song, poetry, rap: Akal brings it all together in an intimate choreographic space in which a new perspective on a repressed past makes us dream of a more inclusive future. The premiere took place on November 16, 2021, in DeSingel, Antwerp. This piece was performed around 40 times so far and is still touring.

In 2020, A7LA5 entered into a collaboration with Rosas/Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker for the project '3ird5@w9rk', which was presented at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in September of that year. De Keersmaeker and Mriziga met in the garden of La Maison des Arts, centrally located in the busy town of Schaerbeek, Brussels. They reflected on what it is like to be 'in' the work and 'at' work. The duet brought together movement material evocative of the oeuvres of both choreographers. This collaboration resulted in plans for future shared projects.

Apart from the creation of 'Akal', the premiere of 'Libya' was also planned for 2021. This performance, an ensemble piece for nine performers, is a continuation and synthesis of the trilogy exploring Amazigh culture. To realise this project, A7LA5 collaborated with L'Art Rue in Tunis, Tunisia. The work was scheduled to premiere in October 2021, as part of the Dream City festival. Due to the precarious corona situation, this premiere was postponed. It eventually took place during the Festival de Marseille, in July 2022.

In September 2023, 'Atlas / the Mountain' premiered at the international arts festival Dream City in Tunis. It is the first part of a new trilogy. In 'Altas / the Mountain', 'Magec / the Desert' and 'Awessu / the Sea', Mriziga focuses on the culture, knowledge and history of the Amazigh to explore choreographic landscapes and ecosystems.