

Sirènes

martin harriague
vivaldi • corelli • araja • raupach

Choreography: Martin Harriague
Artist in residence

6th-7th April 2018 performance at the Victoria Eugenia Antzokia
Donostia / San Sebastian, Spain



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SIRÈNES



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Music	Antonio Vivaldi, Arcangelo Corelli, Francesco Araia & Hermann Raupach
Choreography, set and lighting	Martin Harriague
Assistant Choreographer	Shani Cohen
Costume Designer	Mieke Kockelkorn
Dressmaker	Véronique Murat, Nelly Geyres, Charlotte Margnoux
Props	Annie Onchalo
Set design	Frédéric Vadé

Co-production

Festival Cadences – Théâtre Olympia (Arcachon, France), Donostia Kultura - Victoria Eugenia Antzokia de Donostia (San Sebastian, Spain) – Ballet T, CCN (National Choreographic Centre) – Malandain Ballet Biarritz (Biarritz, France)

Performed on 6th-7th April 2018 at the Teatro Victoria Eugenia de Donostia (San Sebastian, Spain) in conjunction with the Ballet T project

Ballet for 21 dancers
Length: 40 minutes

Foreword

Martin Harriague is one of the two winners of the First Classical & Neoclassical Young Choreographers' Competition (Biarritz – 2016) in conjunction with the Centre for Choreographic Cooperation of Greater Southwestern France. He created *Sirènes* as part of this which is intended to include the repertoire of Malandain Ballet Biarritz. He was also chosen to be Artist in residence at the Biarritz National Choreographic Centre ("Associate Artist" measure put in place by the French Ministry of Culture). As a result, he is provided with long-term logistical support and advice.

About Sirènes

« I grew up by the sea, fascinated, and scrutinising the foam without being able to unravel its mysteries. What would I have sacrificed, what would I have learned, if a fatal pact had let me catch a glimpse of the abyss? It's in this very ocean, both familiar and imaginary, that mermaids and humans play out their destiny. »

■ Martin Harriague

Drawing from the changing traits of legendary mermaids, Martin Harriague overlaps and distorts myths to tell us what is important to him deep down.

First of all, the ocean, fascinating, threatening and threatened, that he has had a close relationship with since childhood. Between humour and seriousness, his choreographic odyssey reveals humanity embarked by the mermaids of "progress" in an adventure that it cannot control. Under Mankind's watchful eye, a shipwreck is imminent, just like the stormy sea that threatens Ulysses and his sailors, in this case joining the jubilant Folia dance. The storm's upheaval will unveil the boundary between two worlds, driven by the ambiguity of the mermaids, sometimes radiant and capricious,



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and naïve or cruel.

« I imagine the world of mermaids as dark, bewitching, sometimes frightening, like the ocean floor that I got a chance to observe in Australia and Indonesia, and its hydrae waving in the half-light", the choreographer admits.

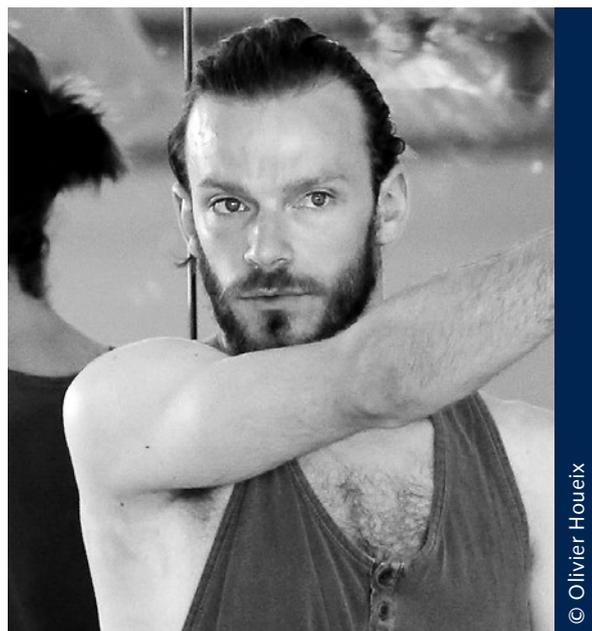
But from these multiple temptations, one day a unique dreamed creature emerges that will make a man a Prince. Deprived of the clear sound of her voice and her fins by an enchantress who wants "the most beautiful things she has" ... what does it matter? The wavering mermaid, now lover and muse, will learn other ways to reveal her soul and celebrate her happiness. The creativity of landsmen will be endless...»



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MARTIN HARRIAGUE

Born in Bayonne in 1986, Martin Harriague began classical and contemporary dance at the age of 19 taught by Jean-Marc Marquerol. He joined the Ballet Biarritz Junior troupe in 2006 followed by the Ballet National de Marseille in 2008, and then Noord Nederlandse Dans in the Netherlands in 2010. Since 2013, he's been dancing in Israël with the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. As a dancer, Martin Harriague has worked with choreographers Itzik Galili, Roy Assaf, Andrea Miller, Keren Levi, Stephen Shropshire, Frédéric Flamand, Thomas Noone, Reut Shemesh and Rami Be'er. He has simultaneously expanded his own choreography work which has won several awards in Stuttgart, Hanover, Copenhagen and Biarritz. He has also created performances for the Ballet National de Marseille, Noord Nederlandse Dans, Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company, Dantzaz Konpainia, and Scapino Ballet Rotterdam. ■



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CHOREOGRAPHY & AWARDS

Sirènes - April 2018 performance - 22 dancers
40-minute performance for Malandain Ballet Biarritz
– directed by Thierry Malandain. Opening April
2018 - Donostia / San Sebastian, Spain & June 2018
– Biarritz, France

Esclavos - December 2017 performance - 6 dancers
10-minute performance for Dantzaz Konpainia,
Spain – directed by Adriana Pous Collaboration
with the Euskal Herria Youth Orchestra (E.G.O.)
in Donostia / San Sebastian, Bilbao, and Vitoria
Gasteiz, Spain

Prince - June 2017 performance - 6 dancers
20-minute performance for Scapino Ballet Rotterdam,
Netherlands – directed by Ed Wubbe. Tour with 25
scheduled performances in the Netherlands and
Germany for the 2017 - 2018 season

Pitch - April 2016 performance - 6 dancers
55-minute performance for Kibbutz Contemporary
Dance Company, Israel – directed by Rami Be'er.
Performed in Tel Aviv, Zichron (Israel), and Biarritz
(France)

Folia - June 2015 performance - 2 dancers
15-minute performance for Project Sally, Netherlands
– directed by Ronald Wintjens. Performed in
Maastricht at the FashionClash (Netherlands)

Beauty & The Beast - January 2015 performance -
2 dancers
Scapino Ballet Production Award – International
Competition for Choreographers, Hanover, Germany,
2015

Audience Award & 3rd Place Choreography
Award – Copenhagen International Choreography
Competition, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2015.
Presented at the 2015 International Exposure festival
in Tel Aviv - Suzanne Dellal (Israël)

You Man - November 2014 performance - solo
Audience Award & 2nd Place Dancer Award – 2015
International Competition in Stuttgart, Germany.
Presented at the 2015 International Exposure festival
in Tel Aviv - Suzanne Dellal (Israël)

Black Pulp - November 2013 performance -
4 dancers
Presented at the 2013 Cannes Dance Festival.
Performed at the Cannes Dance Festival, in Bern
(Switzerland), Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Delhi
(India)

Open Mic. Suffocation - November 2013
performance - 1 dancer
2nd Place Choreography Award 2014 – International
Choreography Competition in Stuttgart, Germany

Of Suits Spots & Fur - June 2011 performance -
5 dancers
Performance added to the repertoire of Noord
Nederlandse Dans, Netherlands. 21 Tour dates in
the Netherlands with Noord Nederlandse Dans

Neko-San Showcase - December 2009 performance
- 3 dancers
15-minute performance for the Ballet National de
Marseille, France. Performed by the Ballet National
de Marseille and the opening performance for *La
vérité 25x par seconde* by Frédéric Flamand. .

PRESS EXCERPTS

« *Pitch* was a risky proposition. Harriague has done his homework and rises to the challenge with just six dancers. He finds depths of articulation in Tchaikovsky's changes of pace. The complex choreography operates at a thrilling speed that owes much to Israel's influential contemporary dance scene. Harriague adds a singular eye for theatre. Harriague's take on Tchaikovsky is sympathetic yet wistful."

■ *Financial Times*, 12 September 2017 by Laura Cappelle

"All this is iconoclastic as well as mainstream, somewhere between Dada Masilo and Jeroen Vebruggen. And one can say that the dancers of Malandain Ballet Biarritz will happily land on planet Harriague. In fact, Thierry Malandain asked this Basque Country native to create a performance with the CCN dancers."

■ *Danser Canal Historique*, 12 September 2017 by Thomas Hahn

"The Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company's six dancers perform an alarming and tormented dance, baffling the audience ... The dance of the little swans is turned into a classical dance lesson directed by the head swan with a good dose of humour. Just like Thierry Malandain, the figurative roles and dance go together perfectly. The 31-year-old Bayonne native has displayed his talent. Very promising."

■ *Sud Ouest*, 12 September 2017 by Maud Jussaume

"The ballet is shifting towards a mixture of variations known by major classical ballet audiences, but with a touch of humour... Martin Harriague's work is demanding on his dancers and vice versa; the choreographer seems to work on every minute detail..."

Martin Harriague is a revelation to many, and a confirmation for Thierry Malandain."

■ *Dansomanie*, 10 September 2017

"The 2016 Fashionclash Festival in Maastricht opened the "HERITAGE" edition with an incredible performance that wowed all the fashion lovers - *Folia* by Martin Harriague."

■ *Kaltblutmagazine*, 5 July 2016 by Marcel Schlutt

Among the performances shown this year, *Folia* was the most striking and engaging, involving two male dancers dressed by Mieke Kockelkorn. Superbly choreographed by Martin Harriague, the dance piece was intense, vibrant and sensual, acting as the perfect prelude to three days of creative fashion.

■ *A Shaded View on Fashion*, 6 July 2016 by Philippe Pourhashemi

CCN MALANDAIN BALLET BIARRITZ

Created in 1998 in Biarritz on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture, and the Town of Biarritz with the support of Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region and the Atlantic Pyrenees Department, Malandain Ballet Biarritz is one of 19 National Choreographic Centres (NCC) in France today.

The particularity of Malandain Ballet Biarritz is that it is made up of 22 permanent dancers trained in classical technique and whose expression in Thierry Malandain's choreographies is contemporary.

Today Malandain Ballet Biarritz is one of Europe's most widely seen companies with 100 000 spectators per season and almost 100 performances per year, including a third abroad.

As a National Choreographic Centre, Malandain Ballet Biarritz also works intensely in terms of public awareness of dance – with on average over 450 events per year – and support to artists and companies thanks to the «Accueil Studio» programme.

Its local presence has led it to forge fertile partnerships with numerous cultural actors in the Euro-region. It has thus constructed the «Ballet T» project, a partnership between Malandain Ballet Biarritz and San Sebastian's Victoria Eugenia Antzokia, with support from Europe and the Aquitaine Euskadi fund. Its aim is to spread choreographic art in the Basque Country, by co-producing and disseminating choreographic works, and also through awareness campaigns and audience mobility within the Euro-region. The Communauté d'Agglomération Pays Basque and the Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa supports Malandain Ballet Biarritz for his actions in Iparralde and Gipuzkoa in the territorial cooperation and in the development of the territorial attractivity. ■



SURROUNDING SIRÈNES

Uhain Berria / new wave project

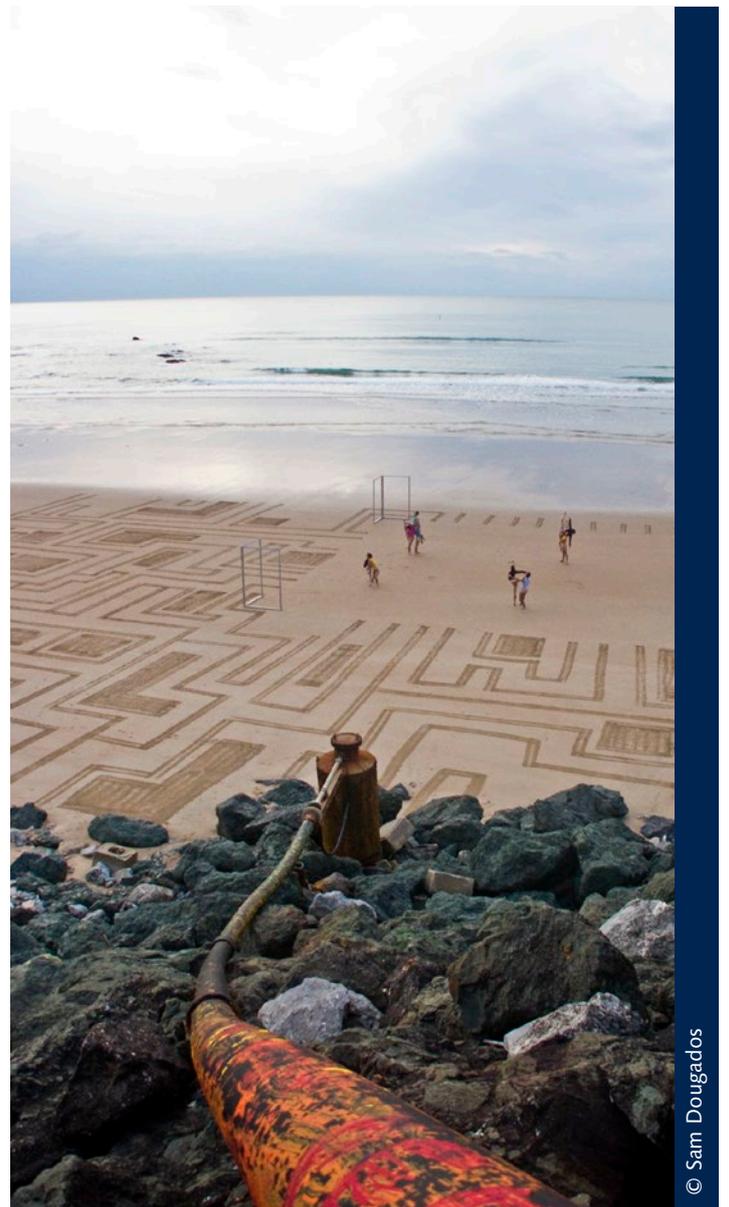
Artistic and societal or environmental commitment, a familiar refrain... Yet, the urgency and the intensity of environmental issues is ever increasing, among hundreds of other issues, global warming, which affects the planet and the coastlines with coastal erosion, flooding, drinking water sources polluted by sea water, rising water levels, warming of sea temperatures causing instability in ecosystems...

As a coastal region, the Basque Country (where Malandain Ballet Biarritz is located) is directly concerned as far as its lifestyle, businesses (tourism, blue economy, etc.), culture, etc.

Consequently, in conjunction with its 2017-2019 artistic project, Malandain Ballet Biarritz with Victoria Eugenia Antzokia de Donostia/San Sebastian and the Surfrider Foundation Europe (NGO), have undertaken an "Art & Environment" programme to raise public awareness concerning the importance of coastal conservation. Beginning with a performance, an artistic gesture, like a "hummingbird"¹, the "Uhain Berria" project participants will try to raise public awareness and even change behaviour, as trivial as that may seem. The Noé ballet choreographed by Thierry Malandain is the first milestone of this initiative. In 2018, Martin Harriague (Artist in residence at the Biarritz CCN) created Sirènes and other creative artists will also take part in this project.

Concerned due to its local roots and aware of the interdependence connecting all of us, with the watchful eye of its public education, Malandain Ballet Biarritz is thus committed to coastal conservation via the Noé and Sirènes ballet performances based on its experience raising public awareness and cultural outreach. ■

¹ One day a terrible fire broke out in a tropical forest. Frightened, all the animals fled, stopped and stood by idly watching their habitat being destroyed. As passive bystanders, they were all bemoaning the destruction of their homes, except for one little hummingbird. It went back and forth relentlessly between the stream and the inferno with a few drops of water in its tiny beak to throw on the fire.
A toucan with a huge beak sitting idly on the shore shouted:
- "You're crazy Hummingbird! You're so little. You'll never put out the fire by yourself!"



 **malandain**
ballet | biarritz



BALLET 



 donostiakultura

 VICTORIA EUGENIA
Atrioak



Gipuzkoako Foru Aldundia
Diputazioa Foru
de Gipuzkoa



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