

# INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

15 JULY TO 11 AUGUST 2024

**ÉCOLE  
DES  
SABLES**  
GERMAINE ACOGNY

HERE AND NOW! - URBAN AND CONTEMPORARY BLACK DANCES

A photograph of two dancers in motion, captured within a large blue circular graphic. The dancer on the left is a Black woman with short hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and black leggings, in a dynamic pose. The dancer on the right is a white woman with long hair, wearing a black and orange top and black leggings, also in a dynamic pose. The blue circle has the text 'HERE AND NOW! - URBAN AND CONTEMPORARY BLACK DANCES' written in white, curved letters around the dancers.

**Discovery, embodiment  
and experimentation of  
Urban and Contemporary  
black dances at the  
École des Sables.**

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# ECOLE DES SABLES



The Ecole des Sables, **International Centre for Traditional and Contemporary African Dances**, is at the same time a school for theoretical and practical teaching, a research laboratory and a place for meetings and exchanges, conferences and artistic residencies.

The School was **founded in 1998 by Germaine Acogny and her husband Helmut Vogt**. Since then, the School has regularly organised professional training courses bringing together dancers and choreographers from Africa, its diaspora and the whole world. More than 700 dancers from 26 African countries have benefited from a high level of technical training, given by internationally renowned African and Western teachers.

The School is under the **Artistic Direction of Alesandra Seutin and Wesley Ruzibiza** since 2020.

Forts de l'héritage de la fondatrice Germaine Acogny, leur objectif est de renforcer le pont entre l'Afrique et sa diaspora.

The new artistic direction is convinced that we need to create together to overcome our differences.

It is interested in the interplay between dance and other art forms such as theatre, music and the visual arts. Their teaching methods are based on the back-and-forth between artistic research, workshops exploring the unknown and the spiritual, and the transmission of our ancestral cultures from the African continent to contemporary creation, giving rise to live performance.

# THE VENUE

The work space consists of two large dance rooms: one of 400m<sup>2</sup> with a sand floor, called "**Aloopho**"; the other of 280m<sup>2</sup> with a professional dance floor, called "**Henriette Room**".

In addition, the Centre also has a conference room to ensure optimal reception. The School has 24 bungalows with a total capacity of 72 people, divided into three "villages". Meals are taken in the Centre's restaurant, which can accommodate 70 people and is run by the women of the village.





# Henriette Studio

280m2 avec piste de danse professionnelle

École des Stables | © Agence Sénégalaise de Promotion Touristique



# Aloopho

Studio de danse de 400 m2 avec sol en sable



© Dasilvio P. BIZENGA





PHOTOS © ASPT © HATTY BELL



# CONCEPT

## INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP

HERE AND NOW ! – URBAN AND CONTEMPORARY BLACK DANCES

*From 15 July to 11 August 2024*

The International Professional Training Course is an original programme created by l'École des Sables in 2018 to strengthen the technical, theoretical and creative skills of professional dancers engaged in their profession. It also aims to provide quality teachers with international experience within the immersive setting of École des Sables, recognised as a professional choreographic centre in Africa.

Each year, the international course brings together professional dancers from all over the world to immerse themselves in the essence and the heritage and contemporary universe of the dances of Africa and its Diaspora. It's a unique opportunity for dancers from all over the world to exchange, discuss, practise and reflect alongside African dancers, in an exceptional environment renowned for its artistic and educational excellence.

# OBJECTIFS DE LA FORMATION

- To offer a fresh perspective on the world of dance within a global community of dancers, providing an environment for professional development and exploration.
- To offer a high-quality course with dance teachers whose skills are recognised locally and internationally.
- Discover, experiment with or deepen your knowledge of the Acogny technique.
- Discover the richness and diversity of black urban and contemporary dance.
- To explore the essence of these dances in order to develop new perspectives and uses through creative laboratories.
- Giving participants the opportunity to discover the world through the guest teachers, as well as benefiting from exchanges and sharing between participants from Africa and elsewhere.
- Benefit from lectures/seminars on the context of the dances on offer.
- Stimulate new creativity through approaches based on the fusion of telluric energy and movement.
- Discover another universe to understand and get closer to your own culture.





Restitution SPI 2023 | Photos:

International Professional Workshop | From 15 July to 11 August 2024



# WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP FOR?

**IPW**  
INTERNATIONAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
WORKSHOP

15 JULY TO 11 AUGUST 2024

Our workshop is aimed **at professionals in the art of dance and advanced dance students, aged 18 and above.** Limited to just **40 participants**, this immersive experience welcomes individuals hailing from all 7 continents.

**We invite dedicated individuals working with dance for various purposes,** such as theatre, dance therapy, voice performance, and more, to enroll if they have an intermediate level of dance with **a solid 3 years of weekly practice.** Elevate your artistry and secure your place now!



# THE PROGRAMME

Four-week workshop

Seven hours of classes a day

## **Monday to Friday**

9:15–10:45 Class 1

11:00–13:00 Class 2

13:30–14:30 Lunch (+ 1 hour break afterwards)

15:30–17:30 Class 3

18:00–19:00 Discussions / Screenings (twice a week)

## **Saturday**

10:00–12:00 Creative Lab / Knowledge sharing

## **Sunday**

Excursion (deux au total)

# THE TEACHERS

Nora Chipaumire (Zimbabwe / USA)  
Michel Kouakou (Ivory Coast / USA)  
Akosua Akoto (Ghana / USA)  
Alesandra Seutin (Zimbabwe / SA / Belgium)  
Merlin Nyakam (Cameroun / France)

*More information coming soon.*



# HOW TO APPLY?

Apply by completing the following **FORM** no later than 20 May 2024 and attaching the following documents:

- a C.V,
- a motivational video explaining why you want to take part in this workshop, (*YouTube, Vimeo or Instagram link, no Wettransfer*)
- a recent portrait,
- a one-minute video of you dancing solo in your personal style. (*YouTube, Vimeo or Instagram link, no Wettransfer*)



# APPLY NOW

International Professional Workshop | From 15 July to 11 August 2024



# APPLICATION CRITERIA

## APPLICATION

Apply by completing the following **FORM** no later than 20 May 2024.

## THE COST OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop costs 2.225 euros

*Including: Accommodation, Catering, 140 hours of lessons and Taxi from the airport to the School*

*Flight tickets, visas (if required), vaccinations, compulsory travel insurance and excursion costs are at the trainee's expense.*

### **In case of cancellation :**

Non-refundable 200€ deposit.

After 15 June until 30 June 2023, 850€ of the total amount will be withheld.

After 1 July the full amount will be withheld.

## PAYMENT PLAN

200€ to reserve your place, no later than 10 days after being accepted.

+

1.000€ before 15 May 2024.

1.025€ before 15 June 2024.

**Or**

675€ before 15 April 2024.

675€ before 15 May 2024.

675€ before 15 June 2024.

*Full payment by 15 June 2024.\**

*The transaction charges are the responsibility of the participant.*



# MORE INFORMATION

## **VISA**

An entry visa is required for some countries to come to Senegal (except for ECOWAS nationals). Ask at the Senegalese consulate in your country or on the website [www.visasenegal.sn](http://www.visasenegal.sn)

We will send you a letter of invitation, which specifies the availability of accommodation on site. This letter may be useful in obtaining your VISA.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE**

Health insurance is compulsory. Check that your insurance covers Senegal in the event of hospitalisation or medical repatriation.



# INFORMATIONS DE CONTACT

## ÉCOLE DES SABLES

Village de Toubab Dialaw

Adresse | BP 22626 – 15523 – Dakar – SÉNÉGAL

Téléphone | +221 33 836 23 88

### Website

[www.ecoledessables.org](http://www.ecoledessables.org)

### Plus d'informations

[candidature@ecoledessables.org](mailto:candidature@ecoledessables.org)

### Directeurs artistiques

Alesandra Seutin

[alesandra.seutin@ecoledessables.org](mailto:alesandra.seutin@ecoledessables.org)

Wesley Ruzibiza

[wesley.ruzibiza@ecoledessables.org](mailto:wesley.ruzibiza@ecoledessables.org)

### Directeur général et administratif

Paul Sagne

[paul.sagne@ecoledessables.org](mailto:paul.sagne@ecoledessables.org)

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