



YEBO YES! by AFIA

"Singing more than one part, telling more than one story, at the same time, No voice surrenders its individual identity, nor does any one voice steal the show, There is no front person, no soloist, no leader."

"When I soften my hearing, something happens.

The many songs coalesce to make one song that doesn't exist in any of the one voices alone. It is an emergent song that I can't find by unraveling the music into its separate strand!"

- "Entangled Life" by Merlin Sheldrake

YEBO YES is a work for five dancers by/with choreographers and artistic leaders Joanna Holewa Chrona and Theresa Gustavsson - with the dancers Sibusiso Mthembu, Gugulethu Mofokeng and David Morale from South Africa joining on stage.

The idea behind the performance started from seeking connections between different street dances and individual dancers. Later on in the process the interest grew of exploring the power in the individual expression, in choreography and in a club environment. What really caught Joanna and Theresa's interest to work with Pantsula was the feeling of a synchronized mass that never seem to stop, amongst rhythms, characters, playfulness, footwork and drive. The dancers are using their own dance as a way of expression to create their unique self. This is something that the artistic leaders has chosen to highlight, but also to nurse the energy that occurs between the self-taught street dancers.

The meeting between the dancers, the cultures and the personalities gives the performance an honest expression and a raw image of what streetdance culture and personal expression could be.



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Choreographers: Joanna Holewa Chrona and Theresa Gustavsson

IsiPantsula choreographer: Sibusiso Mthembu

Dancers: Sibusiso Mthembu, Patricia Mofokeng, David Mokale, Theresa Gustavsson, Joanna Holewa Chrona

Music: Yared Tilahun Cederlund

Vocals: Ntsika Fana Xganga

Costume: Victoria Denise Tcha

Light: Erik Wiedersheim-Paul

Producer: AFIA

Co-producer: Norrlandsoperan, Dansnät Sverige, Dansens Hus

With support from: Konstnärnsnämnden, Vusi Art project, Riksteatern, Kulturrådet

About AFIA

AFIA is a cultural event producer with the aim to connect and celebrate people and hold space for African cultures. Afia is founded by Joanna Holewa Chrona and Theresa Gustavsson, two Swedish-based freelancing professional dancers, choreographers and project leaders. Afia grew from the longing of wanting to make a change in the society, from wanting to support African artists and honoring African cultures, as well as to create a platform for people to enjoy, meet, connect and celebrate.

With Joanna's and Theresa's common interest for dance and music they have been traveling together to numerous African countries but ever since they set foot in South Africa 2015 it has reserved a special place in their hearts. Joanna has lived part time in Johannesburg since 2016. For the past 4 years they have been organizing a festival called "Afia Presents Pantsula" but who recently switched name to "AFIA FESTIVAL" with invited South African artists (Dancers and Djs), and since 2019 they are active with their own dance piece "YEBO YES!" starring both Swedish and South African dancers.

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