



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."
Quote by Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake

With massive energy and personal stories on stage YEBO YES! is inspired by isiPanstula, freestyle and club culture. The piece invites the audience to feel the dancer's individual expression on stage, unfiltered and raw together with a strong presence of unity, support and heritage. The room gradually fills up with a progressive electronic music made by Yared Tilahun Cederlund from Sweden together with vocalist Ntsika Fana Nxganga from South Africa.

YEBO YES! is a work for five dancers by/with choreographers and artistic leaders Joanna Holewa Chrona and Theresa Gustavsson from Sweden, on stage with pantsula choreographer Sibusiso Mthembu and dancers Patricia Mofokeng and David Mokale from South Africa.

The idea behind the performance grew from an ongoing exchange between David, Patricia, Theresa, Sibusiso and Joanna throughout many years. The concept started with further digging within the connection between the different individual dancers, street dances and cultures. Later in the process, the interest grew in exploring the power of personal expression, in choreography and in a club environment. What really caught Joanna and Theresa's interest in isiPantsula was the feeling of a synchronized mass that never seemed to stop, amongst rhythms, characters, playfulness, footwork and drive. The meeting between the dancers, the cultures and the personalities gives the performance an honest expression and a raw image of what street-dance culture and personal expression can 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: Konstnärskommittén, 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. Now Afia consists of 7 board members from Sweden, Greece and South Africa.

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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