

2024 Page Spring Seminar



Mourad Merzouki
Dancer, Choreographer, Artistic Director

A figure in the hip-hop movement since the early 1990s, the choreographer places his work at the crossroads of multiple disciplines. Around hip-hop dance, circus, martial arts, plastic arts, video and live music, opening new horizons to dance. His training took root at the age of seven in the practice of martial arts and circus arts in Saint-Priest. At 15, his encounter with hip-hop culture took him to the world of dance. He created his first company Accrorap in 1989,

with Kader Attou, Eric Mezino and Chaouki Saïd. He developed these gestures born in the street while confronting other choreographic languages, notably with Maryse Delente, Jean-François Duroure and Josef Nadj. In 1994, the company presented Athina during the Lyon Dance Biennale, a real success which succeeded in transposing hip-hop dance from the street to the stage. To develop his artistic universe, he decided to found his own company in 1996, which took the name of his inaugural piece: Käfig.

Meaning "cage" in Arabic and German, this name indicates his bias towards openness and his refusal to lock himself into a style. From 1996 to date, he has created 37 pieces, whose distribution continues to expand. In total, more than two million spectators discovered the creations of his company during 4,000 performances in France and abroad, across 65 countries. In order to support hip-hop creation, he designed a place for creation and choreographic development: the Pôle Pik Choreographic Center opened its doors in Bron in 2009. The establishment of this place stimulated the implementation of the Karavel festival, which became an unmissable event for hip-hop dance on the national scene. In



June 2009, the choreographer was appointed to the management of the National Choreographic Center of Créteil and Val-de-Marne. There he developed a project entitled "Dance, a window on the world", in which openness is the key word. Alongside the creation and distribution of his shows, he continues training and awareness-raising work in hip-hop dance, by creating original meetings promoting access to choreographic art and support for independent teams. In 2013, he created the Kalypso festival, offering a new space of visibility to hip-hop dance companies in the Ile-de-France region. In March 2016, he was appointed artistic advisor to Pôle en Scènes in Bron, a project bringing together the Pôle Pik Choreographic Center and the Espace Albert Camus around a common ambition of dissemination, training and creation of live performance. He remains faithful to his artistic approach by proposing to create bridges between disciplines, to open spaces and invest them with an ever-wider audience. In January 2023, after 13 years at the head of the CCN of Créteil and Val-de-Marne, he re-established the Käfig company in eastern Lyon, in Bron and Saint-Priest, reconnecting with the territory that saw him grow.

Mourad Merzouki was a member of the choreographic creation assistance commission of the DRAC Île-de-France and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. He participates in the dance sponsorship committee of Caisse des Dépôts and is listed in Who's Who. It entered the Petit Larousse Illustré in 2019.