

ROSELAND MUSICAL
DANCE COMPANY



I AM FROM HERE

DANCE AS A COMMUNITY ART

SHOW COPRODUCED BY THE GREC FESTIVAL OF BARCELONA 2023



photography: Luis San Andres

I AM FORM HERE It is a dance show for children and young people that, in an energetic and entertaining way, portrays the everyday life of a group of very different neighbors. Through dance and movement, we will get to know the relationships between them, the day-to-day coincidences, the plurality, the celebrations, and the conflicts. A set of daily fragments that in the contact and the interchange of coexistence in the public space, despite the apparent differences, weave communitarian bonds.



photography: Román Cadaflach

The setting of I AM FROM HERE is a well-known neighborhood in Barcelona: L'Eixample. It is the largest planned urban extension in Barcelona. It is based on a homogeneous serial repetition: Eixample represents an egalitarian principle of urbanism for all, a search for balance and symmetry. Through terraces, walls, patios, galleries, and balconies, different styles of dance and music dialogue and intertwine, allowing us to get to know the everyday life of this group of neighbors.

Following Roseland Comapany's visual aesthetic, with a clear focus on technology, immersive projections in this Barcelona courtyard guide the audience and set the scene for a show full of energy and color.

Drawing inspiration from the sounds of a city's everyday environment, contemporary and eclectic music has been composed, blending a wide range of genres, giving rise to hybrid styles of afrobeats, kuduro, amapiano, tarraxo, and kizomba. The musical proposal incorporates electro and afro swing elements, fused with an electronic sound.

Both the music and audiovisual projections accompany and follow the story of I AM FROM HERE at all times, engaging the audience in a performance that will make them want to get up from their chairs and dance!



photography: Luis San Andres

Origin of the show

The globalization and the social and political transformations of recent years have meant that for decades now, in Western countries, people from very diverse origins have been born, lived, and worked in the same city.

Society has changed, so the current cultural proposals should give visibility to this new paradigm. I AM FROM HERE is based on the artistic alliance between the director and choreographer Marta Almirall, from Barcelona, and the dancer from Senegal Anna Mbengue, who lives in Barcelona, to highlight this change and work on equal opportunities.

The show was created with the intention of crafting a dance performance where diversity, in a broad sense, takes center stage in the production. I AM FROM HERE is founded on a creative process led by a group of dancers, musicians, and choreographers living in Barcelona but hailing from diverse backgrounds. This collective of artists, spanning various ages and possessing diverse professional and personal experiences, came together for 10 months to regularly share and exchange through dance. From their diverse backgrounds, they sought to explore and reflect on the concept of community.

Around all of this, through the range of different dance styles, the show revolves around a question but above all an answer:

And you, where are you from? I AM FROM HERE



photography: Silvia Framis

A different way of working: «The external view»

The internal creative process of the dancers and musicians is complemented by meetings with teenagers from Barcelona. They offer an external view of the show and allow to open a dialogue with the young people of the city, the target audience of the staging. These exchanges aim to collect their opinions, emotions, and reflections that will be taken into account in the following stages of the creation process.

Since October, the company has been working with a group of 12 and 13-year-old students from the Institut Turó de Roquetes, a high school in Barcelona with great diversity and a very complex social and cultural context. Once a month, the artists and students meet in sessions that combine training, exchange, and presentation of fragments of the show, following the process. These classes have also sought to bring dance and artistic creation closer to a sector of society that is often excluded from culture due to socio-economic barriers.



photography: Luis San Andres

Teaser of the show

Artistic profile

Aproject of Marta Almirall and Anna Mbengue

- **Artistic direction:** Marta Almirall
- **Choreography:** Collective creation
- **Répétiteur and choreography assistants:** Anna Mbengue and Anna Planas
- **External look:** Students of the high school Turó de Roquetes
- **Cast:** Anna Mbengue/Amanita Diao 'Mamy', Maragda Induráin, Yahya Sarr 'Dave', Marta Gómez, Guillem Ripoll, Miriam Salvador
- **Music composition:** Oscar Tylor 'Opoku' and Ismael Bamba (Collective Jokkoo)
- **Visuals/scenography:** Román Cadafalch and Rubén Carrillo
- **Costumes:** Marcela Salgado, Montse Ginesta and Roseland Musical
- **Lighting design:** Andreu Fàbregas
- **Lighting technician:** Gemma Abellán
- **Audiovisual technicians:** Rubén Carrillo and Marta Iñiguez
- **Production:** Clara Soler Mañé and Silvia Framis (Roseland Musical)

The Cast



Anna Marie Mbengue (Senegal - Catalunya) graduated as a professional dancer at the Douta Sek National Conservatory of Music and Dance of Senegal. Once settled in Barcelona, she developed her artistic career always linked to the city and the cultural life of Barcelona. She took part in the inauguration of the big event Forum of Cultures and, for years, she has participated as a dancer and choreographer in the Cavalcade of the Three Kings and the different editions of the MAC Festival (Mercè Arts de Carrer).

Guillem Ripoll (Catalunya) has trained in different urban dance techniques such as popping, locking, house and hip hop, body percussion, and tap. He has performed in renowned festivals such as the Sismògraf of Olot and the Brno Tap Festival of the Czech Republic. He has also participated in projects presented at the Mercat de les Flors and the Teatre de la Llotja, Lleida. In the company Roseland, he was a dancer in the production Geometria (2019).





Yahya Sarr 'Dave' (Senegal - Catalunya) has dedicated his artistic career to African dances, as an interpreter and choreographer of dance pieces for video clips, urban shows and directed artistic works.



Maragda Induráin (Catalunya) has been trained in contemporary dance, circus and acrobatics. As a dancer, she has been part of different shows programmed at the Festival Grec, Sala Hiroshima or MAC Festival.



Marta Gómez (Murcia - Catalunya) has studied contemporary dance as well as hip-hop, jazz, and flamenco. With the company Fre3 Bodies, she has performed at the MAC Festival with the company Sol Picó and also with the company Vero Cendoya. She has collaborated with Brodas Bros.

Miriam Salvador (Catalunya) studied contemporary and classical dance, jazz, and urban dance. She participated in the Roseland Geometria show (2019). Additionally, she has performed in several festivals such as the HOP Festival in Barcelona. With the company Kiko López, she has been part of several productions such as Etéreas, Djama, and Retorn. Moreover, she has collaborated in various music video shoots both in Barcelona and Madrid.





Oscar Tylor 'Opoku' i Ismael Bamba (England and France - Catalunya), musicians part of Jokkoo, an artistic musical collective from Barcelona created in 2017 with the intention and the need to investigate and disseminate the most contemporary electronic music and the avantgarde scene of the African continent and its diaspora. They combine diasporic narratives with hybrid afro electronic music. They have performed in venues like Razzmatazz or Apolo and music festivals like the Nyege Nyege, the Perifèries d'Ozca, and the Festival Arxipèlag in Madrid.



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