



# JAPAN

«Living – that is to continually eliminate from oneself what is about to die.» Nietzsche

CHOREOGRAPHY/DANCE:

Simon Tanguy

LIGHT DESIGN:

Pablo Fontdevila

MUSIC:

Christoph Scherbaum

# JAPAN ARTISTIC REPORT OF CREATION



Always ready, to die and to live. I wanted through the solo to return to the question of expressionism, a return to the spectacular, but in movement. To catch a glimpse of the possibility that everything could stop at any time. To always live the last day of one's life, to seize every single moment. Death, this garment that we hide and that gives a special taste to life. A car just passes right by your hips. A little sting that reminds us that the body is no solid entity, but more like a sponge that sucks in states and sensations. Dance to me is this primitive sense of returning to life. – This understanding of dance derives in continuation of the piece „Gerro, Minos and Him“. The solo has its physical departure point at the end of this trio.

### **Structure of «Japan» in 4 sections:**

- A) agony made of 7 deaths which have their own climax
- B) primitive dance/tribal
- C) the words before dying
- D) rebirth

### ***The research***

#### **Agonie**

In this solo, I explore the whole physical and poetical vocabulary of agony. Agony is the combat just before death. I contract and release the whole body or just parts of it. I suspend movements. 'Agon' in greek signifies the battle. It is an exploration of collapsing, fainting, awakening, the burst before death, the terrible and brutal coma, the downfall of the body. Thus, the movements are bound to gravity and to the floor. The horizontal dimension is somewhat the dramaturgy of the piece, «something comes to standing and returns to the ground». The research is a record about the poetry of the body on the ground: an insomniac body; a dream body; a corpse. All this vocabulary has a musicality that stops abruptly, that unfolds, that melts, that unsettles. To

me it's a free-jazz musicality that defines itself without defining itself.

### **Body states**

Further on, I investigate body states. I embody states that transform during the dance and the choreography. I call this a change of register. The choreography radically falls over. My pieces are often ruptures in style. For example: a dance that starts formally on the ground and then transforms into a pig whose throat has been cut off. To me such ruptures surprise and recall the unconscious structures of the spectator. They require a vivid concentration, a body that changes completely. The states are mixed with phrases or archetypes (being in coma and receiving good news, hurried amnesia). The physical coach of this project, Roger Sala Reyner, now works with Meg Stuart for her new piece premiering in Avignon. He is very experienced in this physical domain. The body states allow the body to be in sensation, imagination and movement. We talk a lot about the overflow of energy, of prosaic quantity (see article of Magalie Sauvage, press folder).

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## ***The three dramaturgies***

The company's work is based on the affirmation "more is more". In my pieces I always try to multiply, to rather make things more complex than more simple. I work on the fat body, states of drunkenness, of extasy, and all of these are present in the dance at the same time. I am interested in simultaneity and ubiquity.

Since the first piece (Gerro and Minos) the juxtaposition of dramaturgies seems to be a real field of experience. "Japan" inhabits three dramaturgies: the agony, the swing, and abstract dance solos. Agony remains something like an access point, but it is not the main theme of the piece. These dramaturgies are connected, juxtaposed, or collaged to each other. These different physicalities are then confronted in one single body. My vision of dance is to come back to all the potentialities of the body, thoughts, and choreography. To be several bodies, to have different dance styles. I am trying to create a piece that is violent, poetic, and danced. The work asks for great physical and mental expenses, a samurai discipline.

I have also been deeply influenced by the work of Deborah Hay. In this specific endeavor I am also applying her question/practice: "What if where I am is what I need?" "The whole body at once as a teacher." This gives an antagonistic access to the movement.

## ***Time and Space in the piece***

Change and rupture are fundamental principles of this piece's research. I work on the affordances of space to being differently perceived by the dancer and the spectator. I transfer from a public space to a private space to find the junction of these different perceptions of space.

## ***The extreme***

The extreme is a whole working axis of itself. I also investigate the animal nature. A man who dies rejoins the animal nature. Or not? The liberation of the animal energy also permits to find the bestiality, the raw. In this way I question the human territory. To work on extreme states of the body signifies the noise, the screaming, the laughter, the heavy downfalls, the slaps, the states of drunkenness, ecstasy, trance. This part of the work is inspired by the theater of cruelty of Antonin Artaud. The piece creates a transcendental and poetic space where the body of the performer transforms into a cruel and sadistic being.

## ***Music:***

### ***the man and the guitar***

Christoph Scherbaum made a guitar composition for this piece. All samples only comes from a guitar. The music is contained during the whole piece and let it go at the end. The guitar calls back loneliness, blues.

# TOUR

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The solo «japan» is coproduced by *Le Théâtre de la Ville* Paris  
*Hetveem Theater Amsterdam* supports the work of Simon tanguy



Nellie de Boer

**Hetveem**, Amsterdam

Friday 11 th march

Saturday 12 th march

Sunday 13 th march

**Festival «Mouvement sur la Ville»,**

Montpellier, France

*1-2 th July*

**Festival «Just in»**

Mannheim, Germany

*9-10 th July*

**Théâtre des Abbesses**, Paris

*September 2011*

Jeudi 15 th september

Friday 16 th september

Saturday 17 th september

Monday 19 th september

Tuesday 20 th september

