

HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



Right into our flesh
Arte TV

An invigorating, timeless freshness
Danser

Pure dance, an opera for body and soul
La République du Centre

An unclassifiable work
La Terrasse

Impressive
L'Humanité

An outstanding acting work
La Marseillaise

A refinement in the dance, a style
Philippe Verrière - Avignon Festival

A powerful masterpiece
L'Alsace




SPEDIDAM
les droits des artistes-interprètes



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the choreographer

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La Manufacture des Arts
the co-producer

Vendetta Mathea the choreographer



A dancer, choreographer, teacher and visual artist, Vendetta Mathea was trained by the great masters of dance, who taught her their techniques (Graham, Limon, Dunham, ...).

Having moved to New York, she toured with major companies and with Walter Nicks from 1971. Vendetta Mathea performed her own solo pieces for several seasons from 1979. In 1983, at the height of the contemporary movement, she set up the Compagnie Vendetta Mathea in France.

Among her many experiences, Vendetta Mathea spent three years from 1993 to 1995 researching the theme "Gestural modernity and Musical tradition" with the help of fifty dancers, singers, musicians and visual artists of all kinds. This led to the creation of three pieces. *"When a new, magnificent, powerful essence springs up from the interwoven roots of music and dance from here and elsewhere, 'Colors de Vida' crystallises an unprecedented revelation."* - 1994 - Christine Lebas.

She has written some fifty pieces. After a 30-year career and thousands of performances all over the world, Vendetta Mathea presented "Women" in New-York in 2004, a production described in the Encarta encyclopaedia as one of the great dates in modern dance.

Her latest piece is "Homme | Animal" created in Paris in January 2010. *"... a quality of writing and a refinement in the dance ... It's a style. A style made up of fluidity and superb work especially on the relationship with weight ... Something very personal, original and very precious."* Philippe Verrièle - Rencontres danse - Avignon Festival - July 2010

Since 1992, Vendetta Mathea has directed La Manufacture in Aurillac, a derelict industrial site built in 1898 and covering 1,300 m², which is now a centre for training, creation, production and performance totally dedicated to dance, movement and images.

HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



Vendetta Mathea & Co the company

Founded in 1983, the company moved to Aurillac (France) in 1985, to what was then a National Theatre. Its repertoire included a number of pieces by Vendetta Mathea, including "Lobo", "Hélios", "Art Gallery", "Not For Kids Only", "Colors de Vida", "Flowing Waters", "Distant Dreams", etc., which were first performed in France (Nice, Monaco, Avignon, Aurillac), the United States (New York, Detroit, Newark) and China (Qingdao).

After the in-depth work done on the theme of "Gestural modernity and Musical tradition", the Company moved into a period of research entitled "Work in Progress" from 1996 to 2000, which involved residence and creation work, the production of small-scale performances and collaboration with artistes from different cultures, from China, the United States, India and elsewhere.

In 2001, Vendetta Mathea began a new, long-term project that led to the presentation of a number of phases in the extension of her personal reflection on human nature.

In 2004, the Compagnie Vendetta Mathea performed the production "Women", to a score by musician Bill Kleinsmith.

Having changed its name to Vendetta Mathea & Co in 2007, the company presented "Quand j'étais humain" at Aurillac Theatre (a public-funded theatre) in June 2008. *"...Vendetta Mathea's choreography in "Quand j'étais humain" expresses the interior nature of being. Every movement is justified; its sensitive content reaches out to the audience and remains compatible with virtuosity. Movement is spontaneous and technically superb, the references are there, the roots and sources create an authentic, profound, very pure style. We are moved by a dance that is formal, concentrated, enthusiastic and dazzling. A broad range of expression sways between rigour and freedom. The technical quality of the dancers and the choreographic design leave us constantly surprised and confronted with the unexpected"* - Nicole Guerber-Walsh



HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



Homme | Animal the production

Choreography, dance and voice
Choreographers, dancers

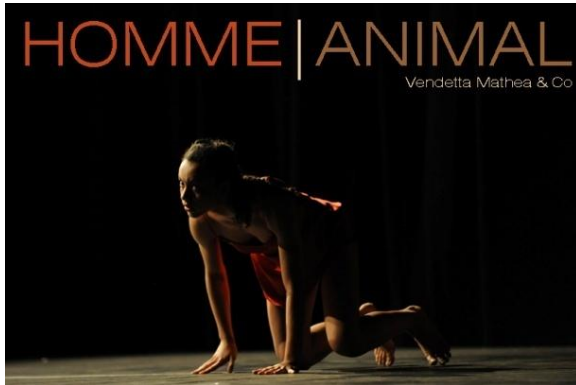
Vendetta Mathea
Surya Berthomieux
Link Berthomieux

Nicolas Garsault or Béatrice Debrabant
Tchad

Music
Lighting

Olivier Caldamaison

> This production was mounted as part of a residence at La Manufacture, presented at the 2009 Avignon Festival and performed in Paris in January 2010. It examines the foundations of human nature, the study of which has always been part of choreographer Vendetta Mathea's life, even outside her artistic creation. She uses virtuoso dancers who have been working with her for a number of years.



The sound track evokes the elements and takes its inspiration from the five continents. The lighting provides an evocative harmony with no technical concessions, and finds solutions to the problems caused by the portability of the pieces.

> **Becoming Man, building a personality, becoming free,...**
A magnificent adventure!
And yet, he's born a primate and remains a primate.
Remains an **Animal**, feels, experiences, ...
A necessity if he is to retain his emotions and wisdom.
Would he still be human without this vital part?

Homme | Animal is a joint production by the "Vendetta Mathea & Co" company and the "La Manufacture des Arts" Association with the support of Aurillac Council, Cantal Departmental Council, Auvergne Regional Council, ADAMI and SPEDIDAM

HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



Homme | Animal the programme

VENDETTA | MATHEA

Vendetta Mathea: a choreographer and visual artist who has had an unusual career.

From her commitment to the struggle for civil rights in the days of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, alongside Martin Luther King on that famous day in August 1963,

From her three years (1993-1995) spent studying the "bourrée" in the depths of the Cantal with fifty artistes from all over the place,

From her many experiences in New York in the '70s,

From the seasons spent ten years later touring her solo pieces around Europe,

From her revelation of dance with Merce Cunningham and José Limon by the Dance Power Program in Detroit,

From her slow, profound rebirth in Aurillac, in a place with new generations of dance performers and choreographers,

About human nature, the study of which has always been part of choreographer Vendetta Mathea's life, even outside her artistic creation,

Vendetta Mathea has created "**Homme | Animal**", a production that marks her career as Lobo did and opens another way towards the present.

HOMME | ANIMAL: THE ROAD TO OUR NATURE

I'm blind, living in the dark.

Darkness is my education.

Education of family. I'm blind.

Education of religion. I'm blind.

Education of culture. I'm blind.

How can I know who I am,

If I believe I am who and what they want me to be.

Sacrificing,

Sacrificing myself until I am no more,

Sacrificing myself to find harmony around me.

How can I find harmony,

Living in a small part of my person, my universe?

Feeling energy, my heart, my mind, my body, my

soul,

This is how I find harmony around me,

Myself,

And love.

I feel. I see. I am an animal.'

"Je suis aveugle, je vis dans le noir.

L'obscurité est mon éducation.

Education familiale. Je suis aveugle.

Education religieuse. Je suis aveugle.

Education culturelle. Je suis aveugle.

Comment savoir qui je suis,

Si j'accepte d'être la personne qu'ils veulent que je sois.

Me sacrifier,

Me sacrifier jusqu'à ne plus être,

Me sacrifier pour trouver une harmonie autour de moi.

Comment puis-je trouver l'harmonie,

Si je ne vis qu'à l'intérieur d'une petite partie de moi, de

mon univers ?

Ressentir l'énergie, mon cœur, mon esprit, mon corps, mon

âme,

C'est comme cela que je trouve l'harmonie autour de moi,

En moi,

Et l'amour.

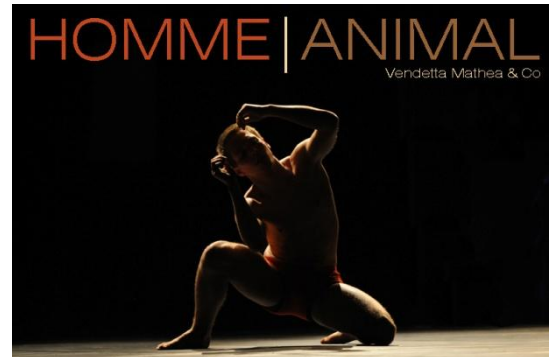
Je ressens. Je vois. Je suis un animal."

Homme | Animal the press review

*"The work of Franco-American choreographer Vendetta Mathea examines our view of human nature by trying to seize that vital part, that animality that makes us human. The three dancers give everything they've got, portraying this unusual, wild, poetic universe. Man/Animal is **a powerful show that gets right into our flesh.**"* **Stephen Pisani - Arte TV**

*"One cannot avoid mentioning the beauty of Surya, Link and Nicolas, or their youth. A form of self-sacrifice and innocence in doing it, but it's not just that. There's also the grace of the **score created** for them **by Vendetta Mathea, which is made up of profoundly incarnate movements, some violent, others elegant, written and danced on eggshells.** Each segment of the three bodies gives an account of this questioning that stirs us: between Man and animal, what do we want to be? Through this performance **we feel ourselves being gently guided towards the paths of equilibrium ...**"* **Anne-Marie Goulay - AVIGnews.com**

*"**"Man Animal", a moment of grace at the Golovine Theatre.** Life grabs us, desire escapes us. "Who are you if you lose your instinct, your soul, your heart? How can you be happy if you're no longer any more than half of yourself?" asks choreographer Vendetta Mathea before handing the stage over to **two male dancers and one female, who show an astonishing feline grace and virtuosity.** Man Animal, the production that they dance, examines human nature. Man and animal in turn, prehistoric and mechanical, fluid and possessed, they explore the adventure that makes us become a Man but forces us to remain an animal in order to feel and experience, all to a bewitching soundtrack chanted by Vendetta Mathea herself. A wonderful moment of grace and energy." **Kathy Hanin - Midi Libre***



"The choreographer who comes and introduces her topic, the three dancers, the two men in shorts and the girl in a little, flimsy dress, all barefoot, the lyrical music made up of an expressive collage, with a synthesizer... A **strange sensation of a work forgotten by time, anachronistic and particularly disconcerting for the undeniable quality of the production and performance.** Man Animal, a production inspired by the forms of thirty years ago in the United States, with an approach similar to that of Ailey. And Vendetta Mathea, the choreographer who learned her craft from Graham, Limon and Dunham when all these masters were still alive, brings a pleasing care to her script, which is all fluidity, energy and virtuosity. The structure, a vast sequence shot with scenes following on from each other according to an expressed dramatic intention, remains clear and supports that intention. This is simple and slightly naive, mixing the great stereotypes in the genre. Animal, Man stands upright and discovers social conflict, the conflicts of love and aggression. He passes through rigour



(a dance marked by a few classical reminiscences) and urbanity (with a hint of hip hop) to reach a moral resolution. **As the intention never falls into ponderous cliché and is supported by brilliant interpretation** - the choreographers would do well to have a look at Surya Berthomieux – **we luxuriate in the sensation of a timeless work.**" Philippe Verrière - L'été danse des Hivernales

"Dire Avignone ormai è non solo riferirsi alla bella e caratteristica città dei papi, ma significa dire teatro, arti e performance di grande qualità internazionale. Ogni anno dal 1947 infatti la città bagnata dal Reno richiama migliaia di persone animandosi in ogni calle, pertugio e cortile, lasciando il turista - spettatore abbagliato e disorientato

dalla molteplice e variegata offerta artistica. Performance non ufficialmente selezionati si affiancano alla programmazione ufficiale diventando il vero perno di attrazione del festival di Avignone. Quest'anno più di 1200 compagnie si sono alternate accattivando il pubblico, come in usanza, tappezzando l'intera città di locandine ed orari degli spettacoli presenti. ... **Lo spettacolo tra i più apprezzati di quest'anno è Homme animal, della brava regista Vendetta Mathea.**" Roberta Spaventa - Fiori.tv

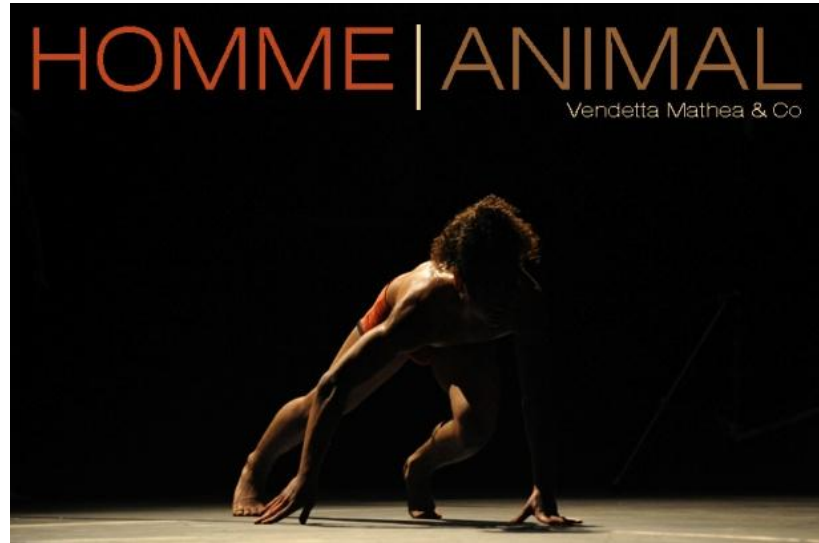
*"Silenzio..e via la ritmo, alla voce e ad una musica in perfetta sinergia con la danza di 3 incredibili ballerini. **Un movimento fluido e ritmico spesso spezzato da un uso del corpo fatto di sapienza tecnica, passionalità e armonia.** Lo spettacolo procede ad un ritmo frenetico dove la profonda essenza dell'essere umano si mescola a istinti tribali e impulsi animali. E la scena si fa giungla, savana, terra, tra giochi e passaggi in perfetta fluidità, dove voci e ritmi esterni spezzano, accavallano e cavalcano le movenze dei corpi in continuo divenire. **Uno spettacolo eccellente dove tutta la formazione e l'arte della brava regista Vendetta Mathea incontra la grande arte dei 3 ballerini diretti in Homme |Animal.**" Luciana Talamonti - La Stampa Alternativa*

*"A choreographer who makes reference to Limon, Dunham and other great modern American masters. **A superbly danced production** - we must keep an eye on Surya Berthomieux - **that strives to be understood by the public and that believes in the honest message of dance!** Everything from the costumes - short dress and tight-fitting boxer shorts - to the synthesizer music contributes to a feeling of anachronism. And yet it all works well, the scenes link together clearly and energetically. Yes, the dramatic intention is simple but effective and engaging. Yes, Man is an animal and remains so; as the movements explain, he has to find his humanity within himself. Yes, the mix of classical, jazz and hip-hop dance is anticipated. Yes to all that. But **by making no concession to fashion** and by believing in its ancient virtues, **Man Animal has an invigorating, timeless freshness.**" Philippe Verrière - Danser - October 2009*

*""**Man Animal**": pure dance, an opera for body and soul, stunning for its completeness and virtuosity. Introduced by choreographer Vendetta Mathea who, alone on stage, talks about her questioning of what is inside her body, "Man Animal" is a remarkable piece of choreography. Performed by three young dancers, Surya Berthomieux, Link Berthomieux and Nicolas Garsault, it is an extraordinarily dense work and no doubt a physical test for the artistes, but also an extreme self-sacrifice. Against a background of world music past and present, from requiem to hip hop, "Man Animal" is a wonderful, fierce, loving, hour-long hymn to nature. In short, whether they're dancing in a silence disturbed only by their own breathing, or to a background of birdsong, Vendetta Mathea's voice or the sound of a storm, **the performers are the medium through which we are given a very rare offering.**" Jean-Dominique Burtin - La Republique du Centre - 30 January 2010*

"How can I know myself if I think I'm someone they want me to be?" *With these words as a preface to her ballet "Man | Animal", choreographer **Vendetta Mathea continues her quest for the essential in man, where he is close to the animal.** Three dancers of an exemplary virtuosity and physical commitment dance her words. By acknowledging the animal in us, vibrant, fierce and powerful, we discover the core of our humanity. Man's animal origins will only harm society if they are discredited. **Dance offers the only vocabulary capable of reaching out towards the sources of our behaviour.**" L'Union - 18 May 2010*

"There's something very passionate about *Homme|Animal!* The theme is broken down into three figures performed by three excellent dancers (two men and a woman), who have created the musical accompaniment themselves, and it develops like a hymn to nature, with bird cries, melodic notes, sounds of storms and vocal expressions instilled by the choreographer defining an enchanting, timeless setting. It's conducive to an **adventure in movement in which sensuality** – swaying, expressive bursts of energy, feline postures – **agitates the bodies** in a restrained, graceful manner. Man is upright, animal is undulation, litheness, instinct. But there's nothing erotic about it. Man accepts the animal part that's within him, with no feeling of guilt. The message, that some people have said is "a real therapy", has a liberating quality to it. **Vendetta Mathea uses the poetry of the body to teach us self love: it's a great idea!"** Lise Ott - Midi Libre - 9 June 2010



"The Franco-American choreographer Vendetta Mathea is presenting **a remarkable piece, magnificently performed** by three young dancers. Trained at the Juilliard School of Music, New York, Vendetta Mathea started out as a performer in 1971. She danced in the companies of Walter Nicks, Katherine Dunham and Paul Taylor, then began composing her own pieces in 1979: solos that she presented mainly in Europe and France, where she settled to found her company in Aurillac, in 1983. People talked about her "contemporary ethnic dance": her Afro-American origins and her fight for civil rights (she was a militant in the days of Martin Luther King) are echoed in her pieces. With some fifty new pieces, she has invented her own path away from the major currents of contemporary dance. With *Man Animal*, created in 2009, she has produced an **unclassifiable work**, inspired by the great masters of modern American dance with whom she trained and by her attention to other techniques, including tai chi and urban dance. She thus offers us **a warm-hearted journey through the thinking that has been at the forefront of her choreographic searching for many years: human nature and the emotions.** How do we remain animal and become man?" **Marie Chavanieux - La Terrasse - July 2010**

"Vendetta goes back a long way. The Franco-American choreographer Vendetta Mathea is presenting *Man Animal*, a piece for three young dancers (Surya Berthomieux, Link Berthomieux and Nicolas Garsault). Vendetta Mathea, who fought for civil rights in the United States, has followed her own path slightly apart from the major currents of contemporary dance. She creates an intimate mix between the influences of the great masters of modern American dance and other techniques, such as tai chi and urban dance. *Man Animal* confronts constricted bodies overawed by duty (arms and legs stretched out) with others subject to an agitation very expressive of emotion. Sensitive to the sounds of nearby nature, the howl of a wolf, the dancers discard their learned postures. They are transformed before our eyes, reviving buried forces and seeming to rediscover the full use of what they were before civilisation. **Impressive.**" **Muriel Steinmetz - L'Humanité - 12 July 2010**

"... **a quality of writing and a refinement in the dance** ... The piece is happy to accept itself as one that is very danced, with a variety of different gestural techniques. It's not at all a fusion dance ... **It's a style.** A style made up of fluidity and superb work especially on the relationship with weight ... Something very personal, original and **precious.**" **Philippe Verrière - Rencontres danse - Avignon Festival - 23 July 2010**

"A return to the original being: primitive man or evolved animal? Dance and so-called modern choreographies sometimes put off the uninitiated by taking too complex an approach. This is not the case in *Man Animal*. Here, choreographer Vendetta Mathea presents **a show in which the techniques and rigor of dance are enhanced by outstanding acting work and a moving script.** The piece is truly within everyone's reach. Simply let yourself be carried away by the music and the dance, let your mind wander and feel yourself become an insect, a butterfly in Amazonia or a wolf hunting for food. The dancers make us forget their human bodies, returning to the state of primitive beings. They take us to another level of consciousness, a trance or hypnosis, and bring out our animal instinct. The cries of animal or human origin, the noise of the storm and the fluidity of the four dancers immerse us in a parallel world. The observation of animal behaviour is quite remarkable in the way that the dancers move and how the wolves behave in the face of death. A great moment of gentleness, happiness, pleasure and emotion." **Jean-Michel Gauthier - La Marseillaise - 29 July 2010**

Homme | Animal the audience view

"The final standing ovation was nothing compared to the pleasure that this company gave me. A real therapy for rediscovering our primitive side. The choreographer's passion for her creation and the dancers' passion for their art makes us forget the everyday. It's all there: 3 magnificent, hugely energetic dancers, 10,000% into their dance. Musical crescendo, tears in the eyes after such a marvellous performance. Thank you again for giving me 45 minutes of sheer delight. Go and see it again and again." **Christine Boutte (madeinavignon.com)**

"Three outstanding dancers! The surprise of this festival ..." **Rougy (avignon.blog.arte.tv)**

"Hello. I don't know whether you manage to put across so many emotions every day. The day I came to see you, half the audience left with tears in their eyes. I'm lucky enough to be able to see a lot of dance shows and I have to say that Man Animal is one of the finest I've had the privilege of seeing this year. Please let me know if you're coming to Paris. I'd like very much to contact the programme planners at the Chaillot National Theatre to tell them about you. The initial idea is a great source of inspiration. Next year, I'm due to stage a production on the theme of the paradox between the freedom of the individual and the frustrations that are a necessary part of life in society. (Great introduction speech, Vendetta). If you enjoy seeing what other choreographers and dancers are doing, the only show that has moved me so much this year is Entity by Wayne Mc Gregor. I don't know what to say: you're magicians, poets, angels. Thank you for an hour spent in an intense emotional nirvana. I wish you as much happiness as we felt in the audience. Please, keep me informed about your performances. Artistically yours." **Benjamin Merran (www.hommeanimal.com)**

"The performers remind us of the essence of what we are. Free of all codes and of everything that science and culture have brought us, they dance man in his pure state: organic movement. The powerful impulse of the bodies warms the auditorium. While the light carves out the shapes, the spectator is captivated by the inner tension of each dancer. The unique, personal vocabulary is released through the technique and precision of the movement. Gestures are born from a rhythm that comes from the ground. They bring us back to the essential; an essence so difficult to capture in such a demanding society in which man's soul tends to be pushed into the background." **Cynthia Walsh (Café de la danse - Paris)**

... my eyes, heart and head are still full of what I've seen... Vendetta's aura has stayed the same, she continues to take the same risks and still manages to overcome them and move us... Link and Surya's eyes on the stage and their astonishing energy and control have been with me, day and night since we came. An unforgettable moment ..." **Didier Mulleras (La Chapelle - Montpellier)**

HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



Homme | Animal on tour

> **The team** (6 people)

Artistic team

Vendetta Mathea
Surya Berthomieux
Link Berthomieux

Technical team

Nicolas Garsault or Béatrice Debrabant
Olivier Caldamaison (lighting director)
Laurent Berthomieux (stage manager)

> **Services** (at the theatre, at school, in the districts, ...)

Homme | Animal

The piece - Duration: 60 minutes

School Demonstration

Discovery and excerpts of the piece - Duration: 45 minutes

Danced Conference

"**The genesis of the piece**" run by the artistic and technical crews of the company

Master Class

"**Self-awareness**" run by Vendetta Mathea

Dance Workshop

"**The artistic language of the piece**" run by Vendetta Mathea and the dancers from the company

Technical Workshop

Contemporary or hip-hop dance classe run by the dancers of the company

HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



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A "Vendetta Mathea & Co" and "La Manufacture des Arts" joint production
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See the "Vendetta Mathea & Co" company and "La Manufacture des Arts" on

www.vendettamatheaco.com www.hommeanimal.com www.la-manufacture.com



HOMME | ANIMAL

Vendetta Mathea & Co



La Manufacture des Arts the co-producer

- > **La Manufacture** is supported by:

Aurillac Council

The **Aurillac Basin** Conurbation

Cantal Departmental Council

Auvergne Regional Council

DRAC Auvergne (for the Government-recognised Dance Teacher Diploma examinations)

- > **La Manufacture** operates in **partnership** with:

Aurillac Theatre | a public-funded theatre

Aurillac Music and Dance Academy

Cantal Music and Dance

- > As part of its residence and joint production policy, La Manufacture **Creation & Diffusion** department welcomes:

The "**Vendetta Mathea & Co**" company

Three school companies attached to the training centre

A young associate choreographer, Jody Etienne

Young, emerging creators and artistes in the field of dance, movement and images. It organises the "36 heures" festival and events related to dance, live performance and images.

- > The La Manufacture **Studies & Training** department is:

Approved by the Ministry of Culture and Communication for tuition for the Government-recognised diploma in contemporary, jazz and classical dance, Recognised by the Government as an artistic training establishment that offers courses leading to the dance, choreography and dance teaching professions.



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