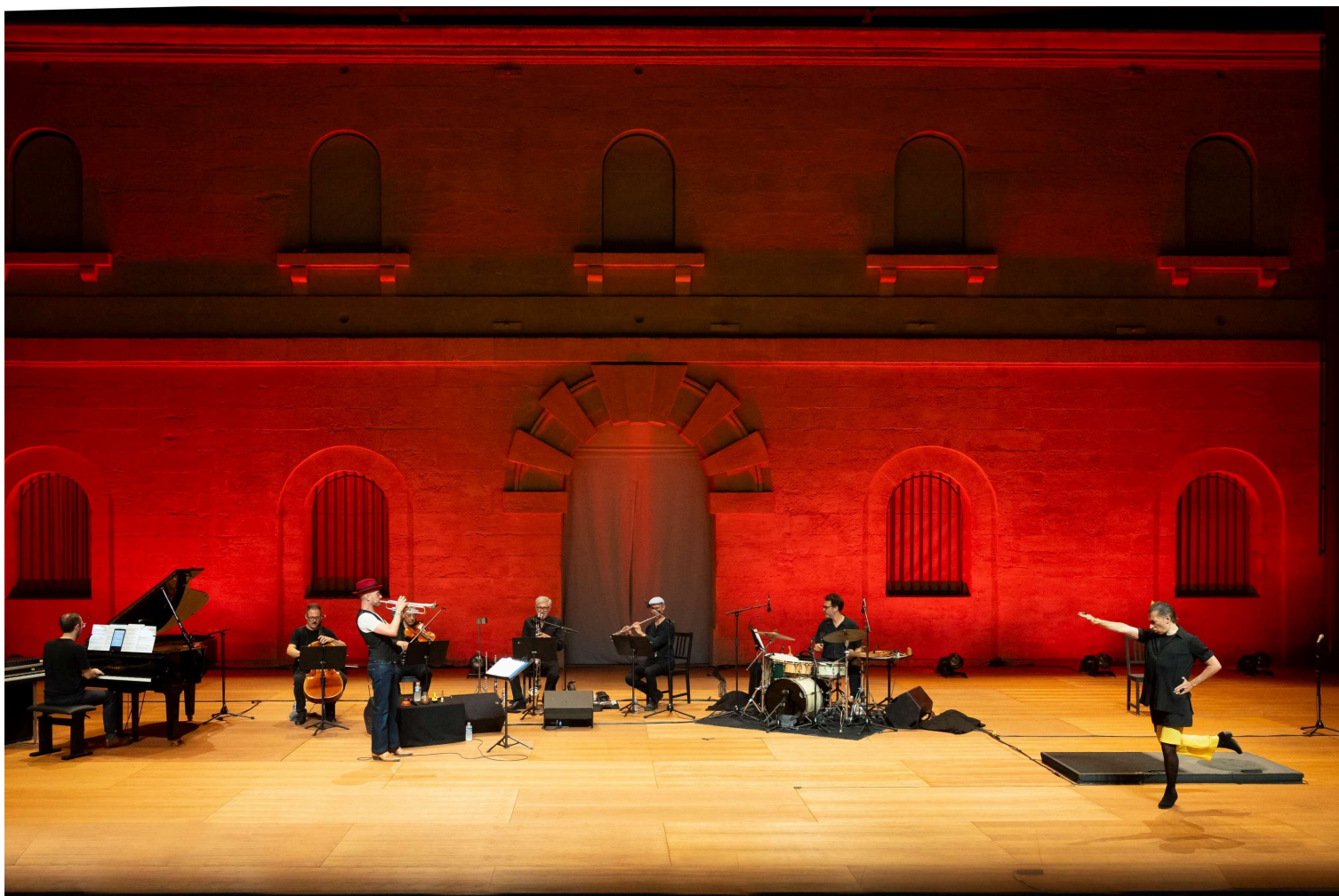


Spintica

Israel Galván & Michael Leonhart, New Sketches of Spain at Montpellier Danse



For his New Sketches of Spain piece at the Montpellier Danse festival, in the courtyard of the Agora, Israel Galván's expressive, rhythmic, percussive body meets jazz, its pulsation and languor. Alongside him, New York trumpeter Michael Leonhart plays a set inspired by Miles Davis and Gil Evans' album Sketches of Spain with a 6-musician line-up.



Israel Galván, A new Sketches of Spain, Festival Montpellier Danse Qc Laurent Philippe

Sketches of Spain is the title of the album Miles Davis and Gil Evans recorded in New York in 1960. For this *New Sketches of Spain*, Israel Galván shares the stage with Michael Leonhart and six musicians. Jazz music with Arabo-Andalusian accents, Aranjuez concerto, trumpet, bass, transverse flute, depth of cello, violin, piano, clarinet and percussion, converse with Israel Galván's dance. Divided into 8 movements, the music follows the structure of the original album, opening with a reprise of the Aranjuez concerto.



Israel Galván, *A new Sketches of Spain*, Festival Montpellier Danse Qc Laurent Philippe

The flamenco rhythm, the sound of the brass, the warmth of the night under the Agora sky, the whiteness of the walls of the ursuline convent and the warm lights that blaze the stage backdrop from the ground, transport us to the Alhambra's Cour des Myrtes, as much as to Columbia's 30th Street Studio, aka The Church, a former Presbyterian church that became Manhattan's most famous recording studio of the 60s. Stravinsky, who also appealed to Israel Galván (see [ICI](#)), and Miles Davis have all passed through this studio.

A musical dialogue develops slowly between Israel Galván and Michael Leonhart, first gauging tempo, timbre, melodic axes, then gradually guiding Galván's movements: from listening to dancing, from garden to courtyard, from heels to fingertips. The fans of the Montpellier Danse audience waved, stopped and picked up again, to the rhythm of breezes, air currents, melodic sections and jazz deconstructions. And as always, because he listens to and takes charge of the music that flows through him, Israel Galván then deploys all the power, grace and expression of his distinctive dance, suspending the audience to the slightest of his gestures.



Israel Galván, *A new Sketches of Spain*, Festival Montpellier Danse Laurent Philippe

While it would never occur to anyone today to say that Miles Davis's music isn't jazzy enough, or that Israel Galván's dancing isn't flamenco enough, both have been criticized in the past by purists. *Sketches of Spain* is a highly written album, leaving little room for improvisation, something Miles Davis was criticized for. Miles Davis is said to have retorted to those who told him that his album betrayed the spirit of jazz, "It's music, and I like it". Continuing the dialogue, 6 years later, Israel Galván agrees, adding "The truth is that it's music that makes me dance".

Marie Reverdy

Choreography and dance: Israel Galván

Music performed live: Michael Leonhart - trumpet, Frei Addison - wood and piano, Antonio Leofreddi - viola, Gilberto Tarocco - clarinet and bass clarinet, Carlo Nicita - flute, Mattia Boschi - cello, Daniel Freedman - percussion / Arrangement and orchestration: Michael Leonhart / Music inspired by Miles Davis and Gil Evans *Sketches of Spain* / Music production: Alberto Fabris / Sound: William Novati / Pedro León / Lighting: Francesco Trambaioli / Alessandro Lazzarini

Production: IGalvan Company and Ponderosa Music & Art / Coproduction: Festival Montpellier Danse zo2ç

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