

IN THE BRAIN d'Hofesh Shechter ***- Festival Montpellier Danse 46***

*With Hofesh Shechter's *IN THE BRAIN*, the Montpellier Danse festival takes to the stage at the Amphi d'O for the first time. To inaugurate this new venue, the focus is on young people: the eight performers of Shechter II. Amidst the heat of the Montpellier summer, this piece for young dancers unleashes a high-octane collective energy in a work 'where stories dissolve, identity fades and only the rhythm remains'.*



Matilde Agostinone, Teige Bisnought, Nagga Baldina, Federica Fantuzi, Woojin Kwon, Armand Lassus, Skiye Nataliah and Ella Roberts are members of the Shechter II (SII) company, a biennial paid programme dedicated to supporting and developing young contemporary dancers. They are all aged between 18 and 25. It was for this cohort that Hofesh Shechter created *IN THE BRAIN*. During *Histoires de Danses*, we had the opportunity to see an excerpt from the piece. In the intimate setting of the Bagouet studio, the dancers' faces were clearly visible: eight young dancers whom we could get to know, almost one by one. Beneath the sky streaked with heat flashes at the Théâtre d'O, it is the ensemble composition that we see: the strength and cohesion of the group and the piece's athletic performance, in a composition blending movements reminiscent of seaweed, schools of fish and nocturnal birds, alongside pop, funk and modern jazz.

In the distance, a row of 17 LED spotlights with honeycomb facades sculpts the space: by turns beams sinking into the water, a night-club-style openwork screen, a birdcage, urban street lighting, a dancefloor strobe or the subdued light of backrooms. Bodies move to electro music, built upon the frenetic rhythm of **Cave**, composed by Hofesh Shechter and embellished with glitches and stutter effects: inexhaustible and ahead of its time.



The breath and vigour of youth: it seems to me, under the sweltering heat of this scorching summer, that I caught a glimpse in those bodies of something reminiscent of the Halay or the Dabke, that Levantine dance found in Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Palestine, and which is currently flourishing on social media.

Marie Reverdy

Chorégraphie et musique : Hofesh Shechter

Lumière : Tom Visser

Costume : Osnat Kelner

Interprété par Shechter II

Danseurs et danseuses : Matilde Agostinone, Teige Bisnought, Nagga Baldina, Federica Fantuzi, Woojin Kwon, Armand

Lassus, Skiye Nataliah, Ella Roberts

Collaborateur son : Frédéric Despierre

Musique supplémentaire : CAVE par Hofesh Shechter et Âme (Kristian Beyer & Frank Wiedemann) Sous licence accordée en accord avec INNERVISIONS.

Commande : Agora, Cité Internationale de la Danse | Montpellier Danse + CCN Occitanie

Coproduction : Migros Culture Percentage Dance Festival Steps, Château Rouge, scène conventionnée Annemasse, Espace 1789, scène conventionnée danse – Saint-Ouen, Scène nationale de Bourg-en-Bresse, Düsseldorf Festival!, avec le soutien en production du Théâtre de la Ville Paris.

IN THE BRAIN est basé sur CAVE, une œuvre originale produite par la Martha Graham Company, Studio Simkin et Sharing Space, et présentée en première lors du City Center Dance Festival à New York le 6 avril 2022.

Hofesh Shechter Company remercie chaleureusement les partenaires de Shechter II 2026 : la fondation Harold Hyam Wingate et Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement dont le soutien en assure le fonctionnement ainsi que Jerwood Foundation pour Jerwood x SII qui finance le projet – une offre de formation continue (CPD) destinée aux danseurs – et enfin le fonds de dotation Cockayne Grants for the Arts, géré par The Prism Charitable Trust et du Maria Björnson Memorial Fund pour la création et la première londonienne de IN THE BRAIN. Avec l'aide du Garrick Charitable Trust pour la reconversion professionnelle des danseurs.

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