

NEW
PRODUCTION



WE, US and OTHER GAMES

SPELLBOUND 
CONTEMPORARY BALLET



Choreography and Direction Dunja Jovic

Performers Anita Bonavida, Lorenzo Capozzi, Mario Laterza, Giuliana Mele, Mateo Mirdita, Alessandro Piergentili, Miriam Raffone, Martina Staltari

Original music Renger Koning

Actor Milutin Dapcevic

Lighting design Marco Policastro

Dramaturgy Nikola Zavisic

Original text Barbi Markovic

Costumes Anna Coluccia

Text translation Mascha Dabic

A Spellbound production

in co-production with Birds Productions, Bolzano danza
and with the contribution of the Ministry of Culture

VIDEO

PHOTOS

For the first time, Serbian-Dutch choreographer Dunja Jovic signs a commissioned evening work for Spellbound Contemporary Ballet, with whom she previously collaborated in 2016 for the project “La Mode” directed by Tomoko Mukayama.

“Everyone who knew how to do it left to the digital world.”

Even though the recent developments in A.I. shocked the world, it is clear that its evolution is still in its infancy. Developments on nano technology and brain emulation follow in its footsteps and will soon reach results that go beyond our wildest imagination. In her new piece, Jovic takes us on a trip down the rabbit hole into the possible future that lies ahead of us. We see a father, who stayed behind in the analogue world (previously called “the natural world”) and sets out to find his daughter who now lives in a game called “The Living Project”.

When the world as we know it becomes unlivable, where else to turn to but to the digital world? But what kind of world would this be?



Dunja Jovic is a choreographer of Serbian origin but resident in Amsterdam. She has danced with illustrious companies such as, Club Guy and Roni and Emio Greco /PC (The Netherlands), Ballet du Nord (France), Saskia Bodekke and Peter Greenaway to name but a few. In 2021 his work The Resident was awarded the prestigious VSCD Zwaan. In 2016 his short film 'The Bird' received the Cinedance Public Award. For her performance in "Midnight Rising" by Club Guy and Roni, Dunja Jovic was nominated for a Golden Swan in 2013. Over the years, her works have been presented in theatres such as the Stadsschouw burg in Rotterdam, the Bellvue Theater in Amsterdam, the Utrecht Stadsschouwburg in the Netherlands, the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House in Taiwan, the Serbian National Theater in Belgrade, and festivals such as the Nederlandse Dansdagen in Amsterdam (the Netherlands), the Dance New Air festival in Tokyo (Japan), the Trans Art Festival in Bolzano (Italy) and the Temps d'aimer la Dance in Biarritz (France).

Spellbound Contemporary Ballet, produced by the Spellbound Association, was founded in 1994 specifically by the choreographer Mauro Astolfi who was joined two years later by Valentina Marini to help in management and under whose direction the company has begun a widespread international activity. Spellbound is today among the chosen Italian groups who are most competitive in an international context, acclaimed by the audiences of the most important European, Asian and American Festivals. Almost 30 years of professional experience has strengthened the knowhow of a consolidated team of professionals able to embrace projects they can produce and manage with an evident international vocation. Since 2015 the company has broadened its activities co-operating with other artists in production in a renewed pluralistic vision. Spellbound's activities in fact besides the core creations by the choreographer Mauro Astolfi, principle resident choreographer, include a series of online projects with other artists and institutions on an international level, such as the international co-production "Pa|Ethos" authored by the Tibetan choreographer Sang Jijia in collaboration with Fabbrica Europa, Scuola Civica Paolo Grassi, Marche Teatro, Beijing Dance Festival, "La Mode", an installation by Tomoko Mukayama and Tojo Ito which inaugurated the National Taichung Theater in Taiwan in October 2016, the installation performance "R e Mark" created by the choreographer Sang Jijia with Fondazione Fabbrica Europa, City Contemporary Dance Company Hong Kong, Versilia Danza, the project "Collapse" by Francesco Sgrò, the co-production in partnership with the Grand Theater de Luxembourg in 2019 in collaboration with Jean Guillaume Weis, previously an artist working with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Baush, Spellbound 25 by Astolfi, Marcos Morau, Marco Goecke for the event of the 25th anniversary in 2020 and the recent "We, us and other games" by Dunja Jovic in collaboration with Bolzano Dance. Spellbound's work has been subsidized by the Ministry of Culture since 2000 and from 2022 it has been recognised for its role in National Production Center for Dance within the wider Project ORBITA|Spellbound co-directed by Astolfi and Marini. Spellbound, that for over 25 years has been involved in the areas of production, training, programming and circulation of dance conceived the idea of the Centre of Production due to their desire to make available their work experience to a wider community: a production centre that works as a link between the creative resources existing in the area of Rome and their productions on a national and international level. Designed for a metropolitan city Orbita has found its home in the Palladium theatre in Rome and extends its activities to other satellite venues in the city, diverse in function and identity, such as the Teatro Biblioteca Quarticciolo and the Spazio Rossellini. The different functions of the Centre come together in their commitment to promote the language of performance and dance which can be found in the body, in political, cultural and health issues that are embodied in them, an exchange of practises, knowledge and competences with effects on a social and political level.

"An artfully evening of extraordinary dancing"

by Susan Fulks, Palm Beach Daily News U.S.A.

"If Spellbound were a car, it would be a Ferrari"

The Annenberg center of Performing Arts-Philadelphia U.S.A.

"...spellbinding."

By Donald Rosenberg, The Plain Dealer , Cleveland U.S.A.

"60 minutes of breath taking art of dance ..."

Sabine Rother, Letzte Aktualisierung, Germany

"Astolfi exhilarating choreography is a model of invention"

Janet Soares, Ballet Review U.S.A

"The troupe has an alien beauty to its movement that has become the touchstone of reputable contemporary dance. The performers are magnificent in appearance, and their technique is remarkable."

Susan Fulks, Palm Beach Daily News

"Dancers of such chameleon-like suppleness, they were not only spellbinding, but breathtaking."

Merilyn Jackson, The Philadelphia Inquirer

SPELLBOUND CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Artistic Director **Mauro Astolfi** - General Manager **Valentina Marini**

Technical director, lighting designer **Marco Policastro**

Coordinator and organizer **Mariagiovanna Esposito**

Administration office **Letizia Coppotelli, Noemi Massari**

Choreography assistant **Alessandra Chirulli**

Administrative and fiscal consultancy **Studio PMC**

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Centro di Produzione Nazionale della Danza

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