

BALLET de l'OPÉRA GRAND AVIGNON

AMERICA

Choreography by Martin Harriague



“For my first evening as the new director of the Ballet de l’Opéra Grand Avignon, I made the bold choice to stick to current events: dominating the screens of a world stage, a showman without limits makes the race for the White House the triumph of performing arts.

I use his simplistic rhetoric and play on the paradox: the character is both entertaining and frightening. The rusticity of the messages echoes the complexity of the world, the musicality of the language coats the crudeness of the words, the speech celebrates love and brutal force, sings of pride by taking us into a dark night.

But as these words ring out like a death knell, the curtain rises on other stories - the tales of hope, optimism and adventure of a colorful, confident America breaking down walls.

I wanted to capture the electric and tumultuous energy of this society in an explosive and jubilant dance, full of the unexpected. »

Martin Harriague

*America is part of a creative continuity, taking up and complementing previous works by Martin Harriague, such as *Walls* (2019) for the Basque-Spanish company Dantzaz and *Americaaa* (2020) for the Leipzig Ballet. These one-off creations punctuate a journey that began in Israel, where Martin Harriague acquired the physicality of his dance and witnesses the aversion of walls, to end at the prestigious Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York in the fall of 2024, where he will be in residence of creation... in the middle of the American election. Created for the dancers of the Ballet de l’Opéra Grand Avignon, this piece marks the end of a cycle, but also the beginning of a new artistic adventure: a special program in May 2025 highlighting three American choreographers. A true American season...*

AMERICA

Création pour 14 danseurs

Length	60 minutes
Choreography & staging	Martin Harriague
Music	The Shoes, Krzysztof Penderecki, Nina Simone, Barry White, The Knife
Dancers	Daniele Badagliacca, Sylvain Bouvier, Lucie-Mei Chuzel, Elisa Cloza, Mariana Faria, Aurélie Garros, Joffray Gonzalez, Léo Khébizi, Hanae Kunimoto, Tabatha Longdoz, Kyril Matantsau, Marion Moreul, Ari Soto
Ballet master	Brigitte Prato
Sound editing, lights & set design, costumes	Martin Harriague
Choreographer assistants	Nadav Gal & Mathieu Geffré
Lighting technician	Peïo Lamarque
Video technician	One way & Steeve Calvo
Ballet stage manager	Michele Soro
Set design & costumes production	Opéra Grand Avignon
Production	Opéra Grand Avignon

PREMIÈRE

30 NOVEMBRE & 1er DÉCEMBRE 2025

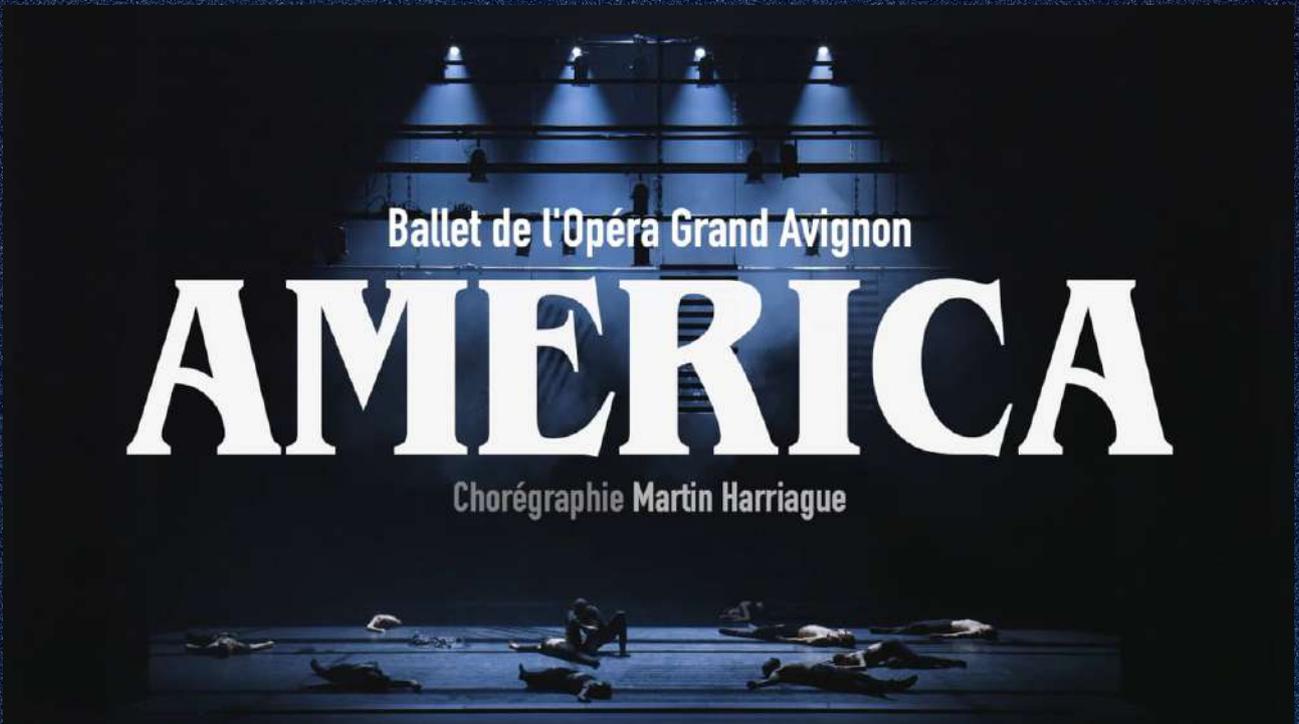
OPÉRA GRAND AVIGNON

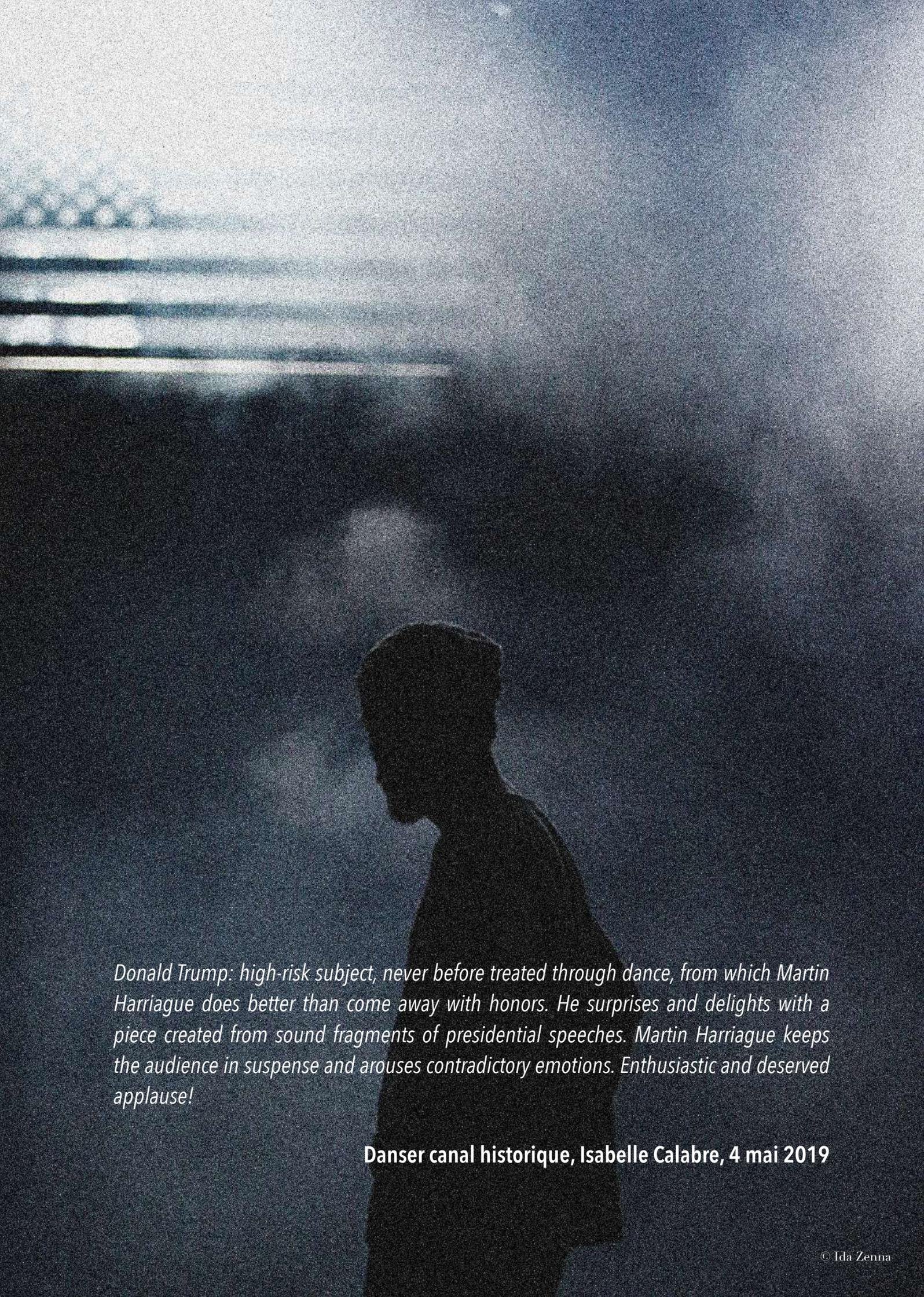
TRAILER

Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon

AMERICA

Chorégraphie Martin Harriague





Donald Trump: high-risk subject, never before treated through dance, from which Martin Harriague does better than come away with honors. He surprises and delights with a piece created from sound fragments of presidential speeches. Martin Harriague keeps the audience in suspense and arouses contradictory emotions. Enthusiastic and deserved applause!

Danser canal historique, Isabelle Calabre, 4 mai 2019

MARTIN HARRIAGUE

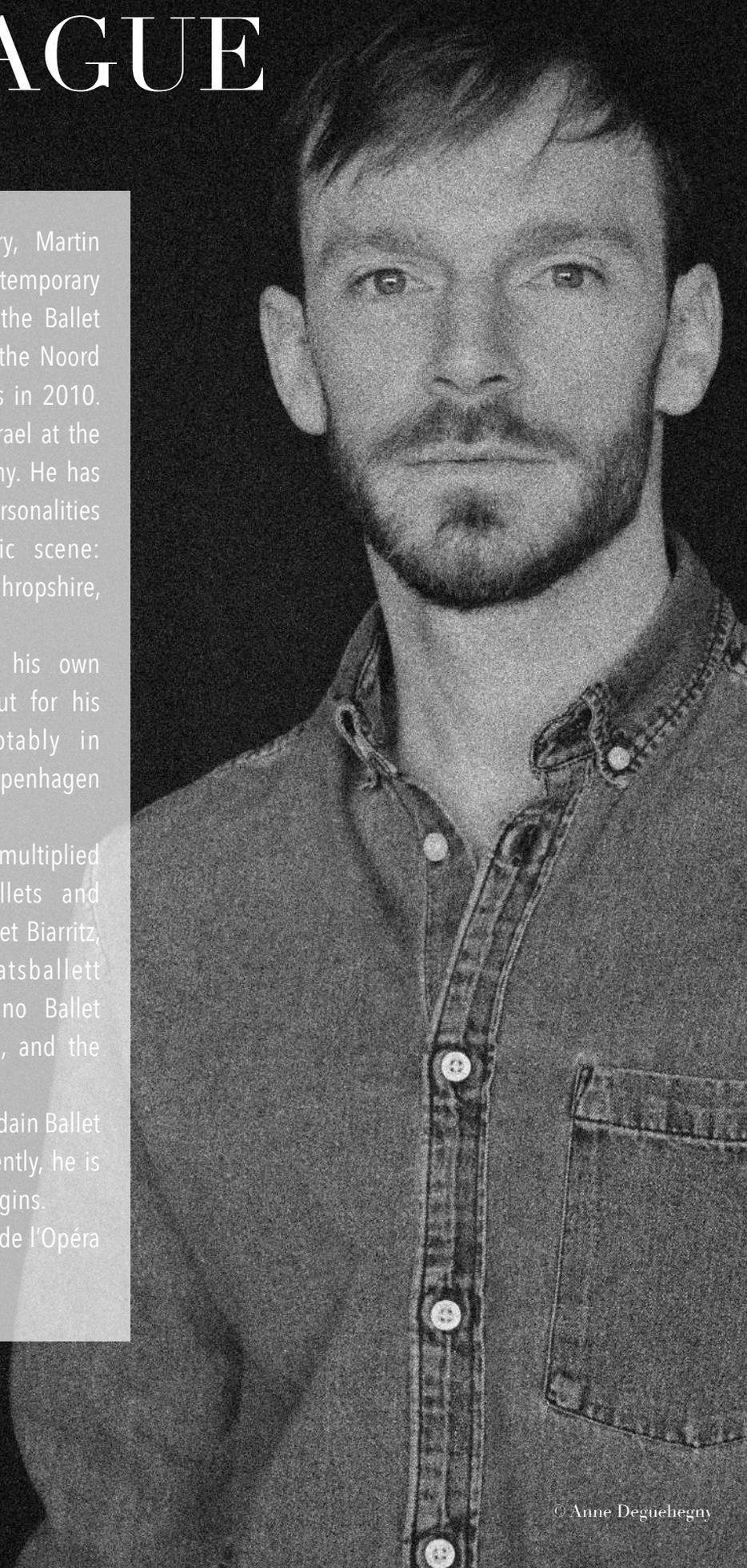
Originally from the Basque Country, Martin Harriague began classical and contemporary dance at the age of 19. He joined the Ballet National de Marseille in 2008, then the Noord Nederlandse Dans in the Netherlands in 2010. From 2013 to 2018, he danced in Israel at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company. He has notably performed pieces by great personalities of the international choreographic scene: Emanuel Gat, Roy Assaf, Stephen Shropshire, Thierry Malandain, Itzik Galili...

At the same time, he developed his own choreographic writing, and stood out for his multiple rewarded creations, notably in competitions in Hanover, Stuttgart, Copenhagen and Biarritz.

For a decade, Martin Harriague has multiplied collaborations with numerous ballets and companies in Europe: Malandain Ballet Biarritz, Leipzig Ballett, Hessisches Staatsballett Wiesbaden, Chemnitz Ballett, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Dantzaz Konpainia, Korzo, and the Ballet de l'Opéra du Grand Avignon.

He was associated with the CCN Malandain Ballet Biarritz from 2018 to 2021 and, currently, he is an associated artist at Scène 55 in Mougins.

He becomes the director of the Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon in September 2024.



The Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon is based in the medieval city of Avignon in France, known internationally for its Theater Festival.

The Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon, with a heritage spanning several decades within its house, has long been at the service of Opera shows. Today, it is towards a more contemporary aesthetic that the Ballet is approaching these next seasons with the presence of contemporary choreographers with in particular this brand new program composed of three promising American choreographers.

Made up of 12 permanent dancers, accompanied since the 2021/2022 season by two apprentice dancers, the Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon goes on tour each season on numerous national and international stages, bringing the influence of Avignon everywhere France and around the world. The Ballet also invests in mediation actions and increases its interventions with new audiences, particularly since the 2021/2022 season, with the Choreographic Intervention Center, in order to develop encounters between the company and residents, in the urban spaces of the cities of Greater Avignon.

After three years under the direction of Emilio Calcagno, the Opéra Grand Avignon and its director Frédéric Roels are pleased to announce the arrival of Martin Harriague as director of the Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon, effective September, 1st, 2024.

"Martin Harriague knows the Grand Avignon Opera Ballet having already choreographed with our dancers, PITCH, a show inspired by the personality of Piotr Illitch Tchaikovsky. His language is characterized by a very original and precise vocabulary, permanently connected to the music. For the Ballet, he carries a project strongly anchored on the questions of our time and on the link to the world in which we evolve. It is extremely relevant and very much in line with the vision that I myself defend for the Opera. I look forward to our future collaboration" **Frédéric Roels**

"My artistic project for the Ballet de l'Opéra Grand Avignon will give priority to physical, virtuoso, inventive dance... in touch with the issues of our time, and revealing new talents. I want a Ballet that is both an ambassador for the City of the Popes, in France and internationally, and firmly anchored in its territory by meeting audiences, in a logic of cooperation and partnerships" **Martin Harriague**

ON TOUR

2024

Sept. 11	Biarritz (France) - Festival Temps d'Aimer	<i>Les nuits d'été</i>
Oct. 6	Suresnes (FR)	<i>7*7 Salon chorégraphique</i>
Oct. 9 > 12	Paris (FR) - Théâtre du Rond Point	<i>7*7 Salon chorégraphique</i>
Oct. 29	Nancy (FR) - Opéra National de Lorraine	<i>D'un matin de printemps</i>
Nov. 30	Opéra Grand Avignon	<i>America</i>
Dec. 1	Opéra Grand Avignon	<i>America</i>
Dec. 21 > 22	Ludwigshagen (DE)	<i>Boléro / Oiseau de feu</i>

2025

January 11 > 12	Montélimar (FR)	<i>Boléro / Oiseau de feu</i>
January 15	Alençon (FR)	<i>Storm</i>
January 25	Auxerre (FR)	<i>Boléro / Oiseau de feu</i>
Feb. 4	Saint-Étienne (FR)	<i>Les nuits d'été</i>
Feb. 7	Epinay (FR)	<i>Boléro / Oiseau de feu</i>
March 11 > 27	Italy (dates to be announced)	<i>Boléro / Oiseau de feu</i>
March 18	Le Thor (FR)	<i>Histoire du soldat</i>
March 17 > 18	Opéra Grand Avignon (FR)	<i>United Dances of America</i>

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