

ADP ALBERTA BAIR



T H E A T E R

EDUCATION GUIDE



Hervé Koubi
Tuesday, February 23
9:30 & 12:30

Recommended for Grades 4-12

Tickets: \$7.00 per person

Jane Wallace ABT Student Matinee Series

ABT Education Partner



Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
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Educational Activity Program

Exploring the Artistry of Compagnie Hervé Koubi

Compagnie Hervé Koubi, renowned for its exceptional contemporary dance performances, offers a rich source of inspiration for educational activities. This program aims to immerse students in the world of contemporary dance and urban dances, exploring themes of identity, culture, and movement through the lens of Hervé Koubi's choreography.

Objectives

- Introduce students to contemporary dance, urban dances, and the work of Compagnie Hervé Koubi.
- Encourage an appreciation for artistic expression and cultural diversity.
- Develop students' physical coordination, creativity, and teamwork skills.
- Foster critical thinking and reflection on themes presented in Koubi's work.

Different Programs

Master class or discovery class to Hervé Koubi's work and Urban Dances

After a warm-up beginning with a simple stretching routine to prepare students for movement activities the artist of the company will introduce students to Hervé Koubi, his background, the key themes of his work, and the basics of urban dances.

The dancer will bring the students in a cheerful and pleasant experience including examples of urban dance styles and excerpts from Koubi's performances.

A creative exploration will encourage students to create their own short dance pieces, focusing on expressing emotions and storytelling through movement.

The class will end by engaging the students in a discussion about their impressions of the performances and the emotions they evoke.

Talks with Hervé Koubi about Cultural Context, Identity, and Urban Influences

Hervé Koubi, will share his experience, will discuss the cultural influences in his work, including his exploration of Mediterranean, North African identity, and urban dance culture.

Before this meeting, a research activity is encouraged, under the direction of the teacher, to assign students to discover various cultural elements that influence his choreography and urban dance culture.

Q&A Session After a Performance by Compagnie Hervé Koubi

After a performance (whether it is a full length or a 30 minute excerpt as it is during school matinee) Hervé Koubi alongside his talented troupe of dancers welcome the audience.

The Q&A is a unique occasion to meet the dancers and the choreographer not on stage but in a more informal way, allowing everybody to ask about the inspiration behind the performance, about the dancers' rigorous training routines, about the cultural significance of the costumes or about dance and choreography in a more general sense.

The insightful exchange offered by the Q&A not only deepens the audience's appreciation for the performance but also created a sense of connection with the artists.

A Danced Conference: Exploring the Roots of Urban Dance

An Artistic Journey Through Popping, Locking, Break Dance, House, and Capoeira

Imagine a stage where movement becomes a storyteller, where every step, pop, lock, and spin speaks of cultural heritage and geographic journeys. This danced conference, brought to you by the talented dancers of Compagnie Hervé Koubi, delves into the vibrant and diverse roots of urban dance forms such as popping, locking, break dance, house, and capoeira. This unique event not only showcases the technical prowess of the dancers but also offers an insightful exploration into the cultural, musical, and geographic origins of each dance style.

Popping and Locking

The conference begins with a dynamic display of popping and locking, two foundational styles of urban dance that originated in the streets of California during the 1970s. Popping, characterized by sudden tensing and releasing of muscles to create a jerking effect, and locking, known for its distinctive pauses and exaggerated movements, are brought to life through electrifying performances. The dancers will discuss the cultural significance of these styles, highlighting their roots in funk music and their role in the broader hip-hop culture.

Break Dance

Next, the spotlight turns to break dance, or b-boying, a dance form that emerged in the Bronx during the early 1970s. The dancers of Compagnie Hervé Koubi will demonstrate the athleticism and creativity of break dance, showcasing moves like spins, freezes, and power moves. The discussion will cover the cultural landscape of the Bronx during this era, emphasizing how break dance served as an expressive outlet for youth in urban environments, and its evolution into a global phenomenon.

House Dance

The journey continues with house dance, a style that sprang from the underground house music scene in Chicago and New York during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Known for its fluid footwork, rhythmic grooving, and complex jacking movements, house dance embodies the spirit of the club scene. The dancers will explore the musical influences of house dance, including the gospel, soul,

and funk elements that shape its rhythm and vibe, as well as the communal and inclusive ethos that defines house culture.

Capoeira

Finally, the conference dives into the world of capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art that blends dance, acrobatics, and music. Originating from the African slaves brought to Brazil, capoeira is a testament to resilience and cultural fusion. The dancers will perform a mesmerizing roda, or circle, where capoeira practitioners engage in a fluid dialogue of movements. The discussion will trace capoeira's roots back to Africa, its evolution in Brazil, and its significance as a symbol of resistance and cultural identity.

Interactive Sessions

Throughout the conference, the audience will have opportunities to engage with the dancers and choreographer Hervé Koubi. These interactive sessions will include demonstrations of basic moves, discussions about the cultural contexts of each dance style, and Q&A segments where attendees can ask about the dancers' personal journeys and the inspirations behind their art.

As the conference draws to a close, the dancers will come together for a collaborative performance that blends elements from all the styles explored. This final piece will be a celebration of diversity, creativity, and cultural exchange, highlighting the shared humanity that underpins all forms of artistic expression. Attendees will leave with a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of urban dance and the cultural stories it tells, inspired to explore and engage with these vibrant dance forms in their own lives.

Resources

- Videos of Compagnie Hervé Koubi's performances
- Articles and interviews about Hervé Koubi and his work
- Books on contemporary dance techniques, urban dance styles, and cultural studies
- Access to a dance studio or open space for movement activities

This educational activity program is designed to inspire and engage students, helping them to appreciate the beauty and complexity of contemporary dance, urban dances, and the rich cultural tapestry that informs the work of Compagnie Hervé Koubi.