

BRIGITTE CHATAIGNIER

a creation

With two dancers, a musician & an actor

Text : Zéno Bianu

Music : Carol Robinson

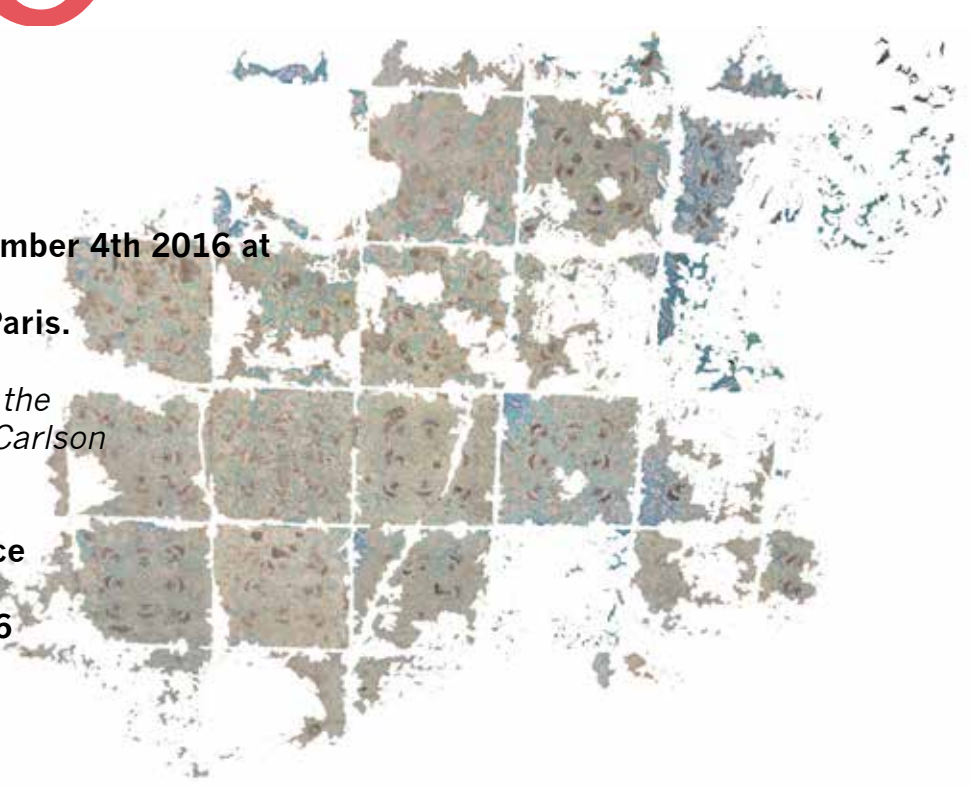
bhopal blue

**From November 18th to December 4th 2016 at
the Théâtre de Soleil,
Cartoucherie de Vincennes, Paris.**

*In partnership with ARTA and the
CDC Atelier de Paris-Carolyn Carlson*

**Under the high patronage of
the Embassy of India in France**

Festival Namasté France 2016





*Enter now into your heart
be still within yourself
be still
this is the region of spectres
this is the region of sleepwalkers
enter into your heart
and remember
the people began to run
everywhere
in all directions
a whole city running
a whole city trembling
a clamouring in the bristling night
an assault of darkness
it is the labyrinth of high terrors
it is time gaping in immensity
time as the jaw of a cobra
winter of the heart
fifth season
even the just among the just
can no longer step out of the circle
of birth and death*

Zéno Bianu, *Bhopal Blue* (excerpt)



As dancer and choreographer, Brigitte Chataignier has developed an artistic journey, an interweaving of cultures that calls upon both Eastern and Western civilizations while retaining an entirely modern approach.



In the same way that her previous creation, GANGÂ, brought together the themes of Water and Femininity, BHOPAL BLUE reveals another face of India, in the confrontation between the extraordinary, spiritual India and the industrial lobbying of globalisation.

BHOPAL BLUE appears as a ritual that is both an exorcism and a meditation on the major catastrophe and its corollary, contamination (a reality at the heart of our civilization) but above all, the rebuilding of the force that sustained the survivors of the tragedy.

BHOPAL BLUE takes us «beyond the one who had the experience and the one who is discovering it», to create a kind of «choreographic mantra» that can reveal and transcend situations in which men, women, and children have become the victims.

For Brigitte Chataignier, the presentiment of the tension that exists between past disaster and a regenerative force, where a strong belief in nature and its primeval energy remains alive, is a first stratum in her creation.

She dances in duo with her daughter, Djeya Lestrehan, to better reveal the presence and the witnessing, the transmission and devastation. Slowing to an extreme certain movements acts as a counterpoint to the sustained tension. The choreographer focuses on the words and sounds, natural and stylized gestures, the organic movement of theatricality.

For her fifth piece, a collaboration with the poet Zeno Bianu, who wrote BHOPAL BLUE for this creation, Brigitte Chataignier has gradually built a hybrid language in terms of staging and dramatic performance. The text is narrated by actor Jean-François Dusigne, who acts as «go-between” to give voice and body to the words of Zeno Bianu.

After a period during which Brigitte Chataignier became familiar with the works of Giacinto Scelsi, she now works with the French-American musician Carol Robinson who composes and interprets music for basset horn, voice and electronic sound.

BHOPAL BLUE seeks a dual starting point towards both Eastern and Western cultures in the transmission of a memory that connects us to ourselves.



*Where do you come from
eldest brother of the world ?*

*I know not
no longer know
what my name is
what my caste is
which my house is
I belong to no one now
no one belongs to me
was there ever anyone
I no longer know
know nothing
I have left the world
I have reached the edge of time
I am
the narrator of wild jungles
my task is to announce the celebration*

Zéno Bianu, *Bhopal Blue* (excerpt)



Genesis of the project

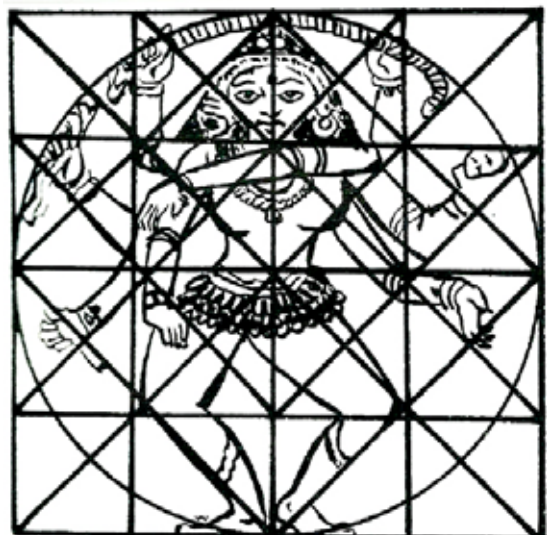
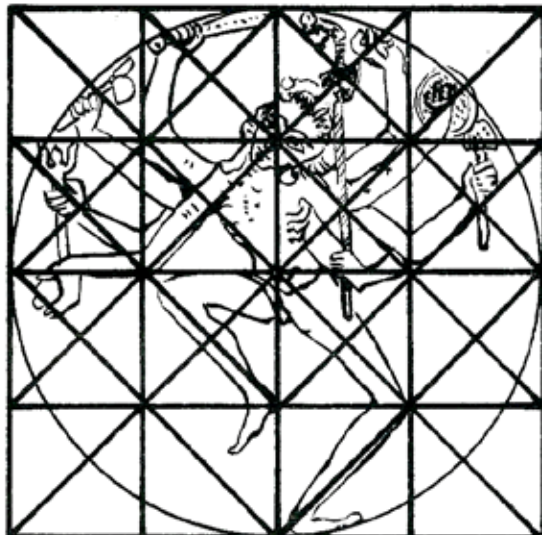
Since her first visit to Bhopal in 2012 for upstream tracking of the tour for her previous creation, Ganga, followed by a second period of immersion in February 2013 during a performance held in the city, Brigitte Chataignier has been convinced that her new creation, Bhopal Blue could find inspiration on this site in the heart of India.

Bhopal, a city ruined by the explosion of a chemical plant one night in December 1984, still bears the traces thirty-two years later of this poisonous tide. Beyond the harmful and deadly effects, one can see in the damaged homes a transcendent and universal life force, a cultural survival and resistance.

To capture the spiritual dimension of rebirth after the disaster, Brigitte Chataignier sees man as an echo of architecture and has based her work on the Treatise of Vastu Shastra, who puts people at the heart of architecture, as well as on the Ayurveda, to establish correlations between the strength of heritage and the power of the human being in the generic sense of the words.

In the heart of Bhopal lies the Sambhavna Care Centre that works ceaselessly to relieve, treat and soothe the wounds of men, women and children, all victims with serious physical and psychological consequences.

Her action, full of hope, is shown in the dedication and deep commitment to the creation of a garden of medicinal plants in the heart of a slum - where it is possible to sow, to collect and replant; physical gestures that carry a highly symbolic value.



Brigitte Chataignier

Journey between Tradition and Creation

Brigitte Chataignier was originally trained in classical and contemporary dance forms, mime and yoga. In 1986, she discovered her passion for Mohiniattam and studied in India for seven years with several Masters, with whom she still remains connected.

Parallel to her work, she also works on Carnatic song, the female roles of Kathakali and the fundamentals of Kalarippayat.

In France, with Michel Lestrehan, she founded *Companie Prana* in 1995 in Rennes. Since then she has divided her time and work between India and France.

She has been invited to the French stage by the City Theatre, La Villette, and the Guimet Museum, as well as in Kerala at prestigious Indian festivals and religious temples. She has made valuable audio-visual recordings in India, and directed the film "The Dance of the Enchantress" with Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

She was artistic director of the CD *The Songs of Mohiniattam* for the *Inédit* ("unpublished") label.

She also researches contemporary creation.

She choreographed respectively in 1995, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2011, *Les vêpres des grenouilles*, *Amba*, *La chambre des vertiges*, *Élémentaire*, *Gopika*, *Ganga*,

In 2004, she collaborated with the Rennes Opera, a production of Leo Delibes' opera, *LAKMÉ*. Her last creation, *Gangâ*, was presented on tour in an adaptation for the *Bonjour India* festival in 2013.

From time to time she is guest teacher at the TNB (the Brittany National Theatre) at the Museum of Dance in the CCNRB (Rennes and Brittany National Centre of Choreography), the ARTA (Research Association for Acting Traditions), ESDC (Cannes Dance Academy), at the University of Rennes 2, in the CFMI (Training Centre for Teachers of Music), at *Madness in Music* and the *Tapovan Centre*.

In 2012, she received support for research into Heritage Dance *CND* and is recognized as «Panel member artist in Mohiniyattam performance» by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



Zéno Bianu

Poet

Zéno Bianu, one of the signatories of the “Electric Manifesto” in the 1970s, has written a wide range of works that examine poetry, theatre and the Orient. His writings, published notably by the publishing houses Gallimard and Actes Sud Papiers, echo the work of such great artistic outsiders as Antonin Artaud, Van Gogh, Chet Baker and John Coltrane. As a man of the theatre, his plays and adaptations have been performed at the Avignon Festival and at the Odeon Theatre of Europe. Familiar with the poetry of the East, he is the author of a remarkable book about Krishnamurti, and has compiled two anthologies of Haiku poetry.



Carol Robinson

Musical composition

Composer and clarinetist, Carol Robinson has a multifaceted musical life. Equally at ease in the classical and experimental realms, she performs in major concert halls and international festivals (Wien Modern, RomaEuropa, MaerzMusik, Huddersfield, Archipel, Musica, Musica Contemporanea, etc.). In addition to working closely with composers, she pursues the new in more alternative contexts, collaborating with video artists, photographers, and musicians from diverse horizons.

Carol Robinson plays all types and sizes of clarinets, including the Lithuanian birbynė.

She began composing by writing for her own music theatre productions, subsequently receiving commissions for concert pieces, installations, radio, dance and film productions. Her works often combine acoustic sounds with electronics, and her musical aesthetic is strongly influenced by a fascination for aleatoric systems. Particularly interested in dance, she has collaborated with the choreographers Susan Buirge, Nadège MacLeay, Robert Swinston, Thierry Thieû Niang, François Verret and Young Ho Nam.

In 2008, she was awarded a composition fellowship from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Italy.

Her works have been recorded by the Hessischer Rundfunk, Saarlandischer Rundfunk, Lithuanian National Radio, and Radio France. A CD of *Billows*, for clarinets and live electronics, was released by PLUSH in 2009. Other recent releases include solo monograph recordings of music by Giacinto Scelsi, Morton Feldman, Luigi Nono, and Luciano Berio for MODE, Phil Niblock for TOUCH as well as classical music and jazz for SYRIUS, BTL and NATO.

Carol Robinson was born in the United States and graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory. She currently lives in France.



Jean-François Dusigne

Jeu

Acteur, Jean-François Dusigne s'est formé à l'École internationale de mime, mouvement, théâtre de Jacques Lecoq (1979-81). Il fut assidu du Studio classique de Christian Rist et a suivi des stages auprès d'Andréas Voutsinas, Daniel Mesguich, et des pédagogues russes du GITIS : Natalia Zvereva, Irina Promptova, Nikolaï Karpov.

Il a été membre de la compagnie du Théâtre du Soleil d'Ariane Mnouchkine, de 1983 à 1990.

Il a ensuite poursuivi son parcours d'acteur, de metteur en scène et de pédagogue. Depuis 1999, il est directeur artistique d'ARTA, l'association de recherche des traditions de l'acteur. Située à la Cartoucherie, Paris, ARTA est une école et un studio de recherche pour artistes professionnels, ayant pour vocation l'ouverture internationale. Dans le cadre de creusets de recherche, il n'a cessé de réaliser esquisses et performances croisant théâtre, danse et musique, avec la collaboration de maîtres de traditions étrangères, notamment chinoises, russes, indiennes, japonaises, sud-américaines...

Il est également relaxologue et sophrologue, et mène des ateliers hebdomadaires autour des techniques respiratoires, vocales et déclamatoires, combinées avec le mouvement : Le souffle de la parole, les impulsions du texte. Jean-François Dusigne est aussi professeur en arts du spectacle, théâtre, ethnoscénologie à l'Université Paris 8.

En juillet 2014, il a été promu au titre de Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres.

Il a notamment publié : *Le Théâtre d'Art, aventure européenne du XXème siècle* ; *Du théâtre d'art à l'art du théâtre, anthologie des textes-fondateurs* ; *Le Théâtre du Soleil, des traditions orientales à la modernité occidentale* ; *L'Acteur naissant, la passion du jeu* ; *Les Passeurs d'expérience, ARTA, école internationale de l'acteur* ; aux éditions Théâtrales.

Avec la collaboration du Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique, il a été initiateur et porteur du projet Labex « *les processus de direction d'acteurs, de transmission et d'échange* » qui a donné lieu depuis 2011 à des sessions expérimentales, événements et rencontres internationales. Il a conçu et coordonné l'ouvrage collectif *La direction d'acteurs peut-elle s'apprendre ?* paru en juin 2015 aux éditions Les Solitaires intempestifs.



Bhopal Blue on tour

at the THEATRE DU SOLEIL, Cartoucherie de Vincennes, Paris

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Brigitte Chataignier	artistic direction, Choreography and dance
Djeya Lestréhan	dance
Zéno Bianu	text
Jean-François Dusigne	acting
Carol Robinson	music / <i>basset, voice and electronics</i>
Philippe Lacroix	scenography
Sylvie Garot	lights

Production : Prana Company

With the help of the Ministry of Culture DRAC Brittany, the city of Rennes, Brittany Region, With the Financial Support of Spectacle Vivant en Bretagne, The Embassy of India in France.

Supported by, residences : Au Bout du Plongeoir, Le Grand Logis, ARTA, Quartz, CDRM, 783

The Prana Company was founded in 1995 in Rennes by Brigitte Chataignier and Michel Lestrehan. It receives support from the City of Rennes and Brittany. She is a founding member of the Rennes Metropole Dance Collective.



CONTACT, INFORMATIONS, PRESS PACK

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