

# SOUL PROJECT

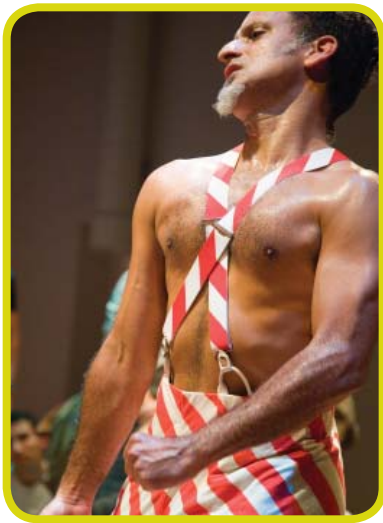
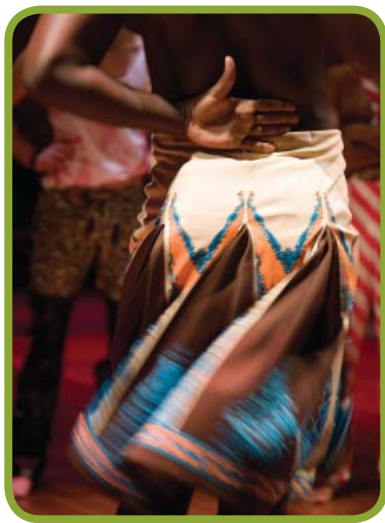
A DANCE  
PERFORMANCE  
BY  
DAVID  
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NORTH AMERICAN TOUR APRIL-JUNE 2012



It begins...spontaneously...an extraordinary, unpredictable presentation and experience of being continuously alive. On, like a candle.

The music starts and dancers emerge from the audience, moving to a sublime live recording of a "vintage" soul singer - Aretha Franklin, Ike & Tina Turner, Bettye Lavette, Gladys Knight & The Pips - following their own movement quest to embody the dance as deeply and powerfully as the singer reveals the song.

*Soul Project*, conceived and directed by Venezuelan choreographer David Zambrano, in collaboration with a cast of seven remarkable performers from Mozambique, Slovenia, Greece, Slovakia, the U.S. and Venezuela, simultaneously creates a sense of heightened perception and grounded physicality. Designed to be performed in an open space - a gallery, black box, gymnasium, ballroom, church, large stage, or even outdoors - *Soul Project* is a series of virtuosic solos, each lasting the length of a song; but the order of the solos and their location in the space is a function of chance, making each night's performance unique.

Throughout the work, the audience is invited to mingle, get close to the cast, and witness the dance from any angle they choose. All at once the experience is intimate and personal - you can feel every tremble and sigh of the performers' bodies - and communal, as together with the rest of the audience you anticipate the next dancer and the next song, and share in the discovery once it begins.

*Soul Project* has been performed extensively throughout Europe and it had its U.S. premiere at Danspace Project in NYC in January 2010. While Zambrano's work has been seen around the world, this 2012 tour will mark his long overdue debut outside of New York in the U.S.

For more information contact:

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# DAVID ZAMBRANO

David Zambrano has been a major figure in the international dance community for a quarter century, and his passion for cultural exchange continues to influence his work. Living and making work in Amsterdam and teaching/performing internationally, Zambrano is an ambassador and liaison across many borders, bringing together artists from all over the planet for his projects. He has visited 40 countries, worked with more than 25,000 students, and has performed at hundreds of venues across the world. His pieces range from set choreography, structured improvisation, and pure improvisation. Born and raised in Venezuela, Zambrano spent 15 years in New York, and now lives in Amsterdam.

Notable examples of his original projects include: *Twelve Flies Went Out at Noon* (2005), *Barcelona in 48 Hours* (2004), *The Rabbit Project/Proyecto Conejo* (2003), *Mandraking* (2002), *David Zambrano Invites...* (2000), *Acme* (1999), *Ballroom* (1996), *Proyecto: Z* (1994), *Red Blink* (1994), *Agua Fuerte* (1993), *Cancion de Diente* (1993), *Sabana* (1990), *Fetiché* (1987), and *Para Carmen* (1984). He also founded the Festival de Danza Postmoderna in Venezuela in 1989 and was its director until 1993.

His performance work has been presented internationally by Festival Aix-en-Provence (France), Tanzwerkstatt Berlin (Germany), Tampere International Theater Festival (Finland), Primer Taller Internacional de Danza (Cuba), Periferics (Spain), CODA (Norway), Impulstanz Festival (Austria), Konfrontance (Czech Republic), Theater Frascati (Netherlands), and many others. In the U.S. his work has been seen at: Movement Research, Dance Theater Workshop, The Kitchen, Improvisation Festival/New York, P.S. 122, Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, and the Whitney Museum.

David Zambrano is the recipient of a 2010 Latin America and Caribbean John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. He has also received grants, awards and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Suitcase Fund administered by Dance Theater Workshop, the New York State Council for the Arts, The Jerome Foundation, and the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Foundation. Zambrano has been a panelist for the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Certamen Coreografico de Madrid, and the PARTS School for Contemporary Dance in Brussels. As a recognized artist of merit, he was granted special residency status by the Dutch government.

# COLLABORATORS + PERFORMERS



**Edivaldo Ernesto (Dancer)** was born in Mozambique and began dancing with the Tsemba group in 1988, where he learned traditional Mozambican dance. In 2001 he was invited to be a member of the Ussoforal-Western Africa traditional dance group, and in 2003, he started to work with Esculturas Humanas. In that same year, he participated in the 1st Choreographic Development Stage, a six month choreographic training program organized by CulturArte (Maputo, Mozambique) and Danças na Cidade (Lisbon, Portugal), with workshops with Boyzie Cekwana/Desire Davids (South Africa), David Zambrano/Mat Voorter (Venezuela/Netherlands) and Faustin Linyekula (Democratic Republic of Congo). In 2004 he worked with Gilles Jobim (Switzerland) and Robert Hilton (England) among others. He was also part of the piece *habitue-se a escolher*, a final student work directed by Faustin Linyekula. In 2004, he started to dance with Zambrano in *Twelve Flies Went Out At Noon*, followed by *Soul Project* and *SHOCK*. Recently Edivaldo was invited by Sasha Waltz to perform in *Travelogue I-Twenty to eight, Jagden and Formen*.

**Milan Herich (Dancer)** started his dance training with the traditional children's dance company Dumber in Slovakia. He studied dance at the Conservatory J.L. Bella in Banska Bystrica in Slovakia, the University of the Arts in Bratislava and at P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels. He has danced professionally or collaborated with Zuzana Hajkova, Dance Studio Company, M. Kozanek, Z. Bacova, M. Polakova and T. Mantel. He danced in *Puur* by Wim Vandekeybus and in the creation *Myth* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. In 2007, he co-founded his own company Les Slovaks Dance Collective and created *Opening Night*. Milan has studied intensively with Zambrano and was one of the invited participants for Zambrano's summer intensive *Proyecto Conejo/The Rabbit Project*. He has performed in Zambrano's *Twelve Flies Went Out At Noon* and *Soul Project*, and Zambrano will create a duet with him for *HOLES* (2010).

**Peter Jasko (Dancer)** graduated in 2001 from the Conservatory J.L. Bella in Banska Bystrica in Slovakia and continued his higher education at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava before entering the international school of dance P.A.R.T.S. in Brussels in 2002. His professional experience ranges from dancing with international artists and companies in Belgium, Italy and The Netherlands. For the last nine years, Peter has collaborated with David Zambrano as a performer in *Proyecto Conejo/The Rabbit Project*, *Twelve Flies Went Out At Noon*, *Soul Project*, and *MA-ZA-DA-MA*, and also as an assistant for classes, workshops and choreographies. Jasko is one of the members and creators of the new contemporary dance group, Les Slovaks Dance Collective, based in Brussels. He also teaches at dance studios, circus schools and companies in Belgium, Slovakia, Holland, Norway, Spain and Slovenia.

**Horacio Macuacua (Dancer)** was born in Mozambique and started his training in the traditional dance of Mozambique in 1996. He later trained in contemporary dance in Maputo with Frans Poelstra, Paulo Henrique, Marcelo Evelin, Sello Pesa, George Khumalo and David Zambrano, among others. Since 1999, he has been a member of CulturArte Dance Company, one of the first contemporary dance companies in Mozambique, under the direction of Panaibra Gabriel. In 2002 he participated in *Ha Mais*, a dance piece directed by Thomas Hauert, which was created in Mozambique and toured throughout Europe. He also took part in an exchange project *Three Continent* (2003) in Rio de Janeiro, and in *Homens* (2005). In 2004 he participated in the DanceWEB ImpulsTanz in Vienna and worked with Mark Tompkins, Louise Lecavalier, Boris Charmatz, Ted Stoffer, Germaine LeBlanc and David Zambrano. There he met Pablo Colberte, with whom he created *OCA* the following year. He has been working with David Zambrano since 2004 in *Twelve Flies Went Out At Noon*, *Soul Project* and *SHOCK*. He has directed his own work including *Comum and Canais* and has taught in Maputo, Brazil and Europe.

**Ellen Knops (Lighting Design)** began her career in 1989 lighting music concerts, but quickly switched to designing lights for theater and dance. In 1994 Katie Duck asked Knops to design the lighting for an improvisation performance, with the instruction "surprise me." Since then they have been collaborating. In recent years, she has worked with choreographers David Zambrano, Micheal Schumacher, Gonny Heggen, Nederlands Danstheater 3, and Lily Kiara. Ellen also teaches workshops at the School for New Dance Development in Amsterdam, to share her vision that light can be played with as an autonomous element -- light as movement, rather than a static aspect of the performance, which changes the sense of space, time and atmosphere.

**Mat Voorter (Costume Design)** was born in the Netherlands, studied at the Rotterdam Dance Academy and works internationally as a creative dancer. His most important collaborations have been with Thomas Hauert and his group ZOO, and David Zambrano. He has performed and created the costumes for *Proyecto: Z*, *Ballroom*, *ACME*, *Mandraking*, *Soul Project* and *SHOCK*. For the dance-talk-show *David Zambrano Invites...* he created a stage set which continued to transform during the series. He has also created costumes for dance productions by Frans Poelstra/Robert Steijn (*Frans Poelstra, his dramaturg and Bach*), Deigo Gil (*Creating Sense*) and Les Slovaks Dance Collective (*Opening Night* and *Journey Home*).



# WORKSHOPS + TEACHING

An inspiring teacher, Zambrano has contributed generously to the field of dance in ways that have influenced many and impacted the dance world from several angles. His development of the “Flying Low” and “Passing Through” techniques are among his recent innovations that have helped to lead improvisational dance into an exciting future.

## Improvisation on Stage

Students learn to create instant pieces of dance onstage in front of an audience through learning to use one’s life experience and being able to consciously and continuously shape one’s energy, integrating the body and mind, time and space, through the practice of dance improvisation. The workshop begins with students improvising solos, duets, and small groups utilizing the class as an audience. Zambrano pushes the students to realize that there is always something more inside and that performing is spontaneous. The students are urged to break down old habits to search for new possibilities, becoming more flexible as they learn to communicate within their bodies, the bodies of fellow performers, and the environment in which they are working. Zambrano asks his students to accept everything one can imagine, especially the impossible, and to learn to call upon it when creating an improvisation.

## Flying-Low Dance Technique

This workshop focuses mainly on the dancer’s relationship with the floor. The class utilizes simple movement patterns that involve breathing, speed and the release of energy throughout the body in order to activate the relationship between the center and the joints, moving in and out of the ground more efficiently by maintaining a centered state. There is a focus on the skeletal structure that will help improve the dancer’s physical perception and alertness. The class includes partnering work and movement phrases, which explore the primary laws of physics: cohesion and expansion.

## Dance Web Workshop

In the making of movement compositions, David Zambrano focuses on creating and developing the dynamics for complex systems to present leadership in the form of a group web. In science, cells do not need a protein leader to create life. Neither does the brain need one protein leader to create a thought. With this in mind, Zambrano feels that movement needs no leader in creation. After taking part in the dance web, the student will learn to instantly connect with their environment and become more spontaneous in the making of choices as an improviser, choreographer or dancer in someone else’s work.

**EVOCAATION  
VOCATION  
ACTION**

**BEING  
CONTINUOUSLY  
ALIVE.**

**ON,  
LIKE A CANDLE.**