

ARTISTIC DOSSIER
PLANET[WANDERER]
DAMIEN JALET /
KOHEI NAWA



Théâtre National de Bretagne
Direction Arthur Nauzyciel
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PLANET [WANDERER] DAMIEN JALET / KOHEI NAWA

The birth of a choreography that bridges between the imagination of two artists. One is a French-Belgian choreographer, the other, a Japanese visual artist.

Damien Jalet loves metamorphosis. That of bodies, forms, materials. Elements that go from solid to liquid, from horizontal to vertical, from gravity to the air, from the real to the phantasmatic, from the human to the non-human. His dance is perpetual movement. Life unfolds on stage in a balance of opposites that Japanese artist Kohei Nawa's gaze makes phantasmagorical.

Together Damien Jalet and Kohei Nawa created *Vessel*, a dance in which the almost naked bodies of dancers glistened under the light. With *Planet[wanderer]*, they loop the loop of their diptych with a dreamlike choreography as if carved on a sparkling black floor.



AVAILABLE ON TOUR

Season 2024-2025 & 2025-2026
Recording available on request

CREATION 2021

Paris, Chaillot – Théâtre National de la Danse

ON TOUR

06 10 – 08 10 2023
Festival Charleroi Danse (BE)
07 12 – 09 12 2023
Hamburg, Kampnagel (DE)
08 03 – 10 03 2024
Grand Théâtre de Genève (CH)

Duration 55min

Choreography
DAMIEN JALET

Set design
KOHEI NAWA

Music
TIM HECKER

Lighting
YUKIKO YOSHIMOTO

Costumes
SRULI RECHT

Sound design collaboration
XAVIER JACQUOT

Assistant to the choreography
ALEXANDRA HOÀNG GILBERT

Outside Eye
CATALINA NAVARRETE HERNÁNDEZ

With
SHAWN AHERN
KIM AMANKWAA or **KARIMA EL AMRANI**
AIMILIOS ARAPOGLOU
FRANCESCO FERRARI
VINSON FRALEY
CHRISTINA GUIEB or **THI MAI NGUYEN**
ASTRID SWEENEY
EMA YUASA



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Production revival 2023: Théâtre National de Bretagne / Production creation 2021: Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse
Coproduction : Chaillot, Théâtre national de la Danse – France ; Charleroi Danse – Belgium ; Sandwich Inc. – Japan ; Théâtre National de Bretagne – France ; Festspielhaus St Pölten – Austria ; Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre – Japan ; Rohm Theatre Kyoto – Japan ; Opéra de Rouen Normandie – France ; Theater Kampnagel Hamburg – Germany ; Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève – Switzerland ; Nagelhus Schia Productions – Norway.

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Nagelhus Schia
Productions

Cooperation: Kyoto University of the Arts -
ULTRA SANDWICH Project #14 #15 #16 #17,
Kyoto University - Takenaka University



NOTE OF INTENT

Following their first opus, *Vessel*, Jalet and Nawa keep striving to fuse, bring together and transcend their respective mediums.

At the intersection of moving sculpture and sculptural performance art, *Planet[wanderer]* is a reflecting echo of *Vessel* and the second installment of a diptych.

Building upon the etymology of the word «planet» – which springs from the Greek root *planaomai* and translates as «to roam, to wander» – Jalet and Nawa engage their international cast in a choreographic reflection akin to a rite of passage. In this new piece, they acknowledge that the world as a planetary reality is a drifting body, and conversely, to be adrift is the first attribute of all the bodies of this universe.

Taking a contemporary look at the rock gardens of Kyoto - the setting for their exploration – is perhaps how Jalet and Nawa intend to highlight this wandering. It is this city that the visual artist lives in and where the duo has explored their common language since 2015. Here the set design is both a metaphorical and a metamorphic space where everything seems to interact.

Vessel had the dancers almost naked and hiding their faces and heads, their bodies acting out a continued ambivalence through a series of transforming figures navigating between human, non-human, solid and liquid, sculpture and dance.

Following up on *Vessel*, which created another world from the dancers' anatomy, *Planet[wanderer]* treads a middle road between science lab and mythological tale. While *Vessel* abstractly illustrated two levels of *Kojiki* (the oldest Japanese books that describe the creation of the world) – *Yomi* (the underground world) and *Takama-ga-hara* (the high plain in the skies), *Planet[wanderer]* takes place at the third and last level, *Ashihara-no-Nakatsukuni*, literally «the middle land of reed plains» (referring to the world we live in). Reeds are humans, like in Blaise Pascal's famous quote, hovering precariously between power and vulnerability, harmony and survival, destruction and evolution.

From the human body as an extension of the landscape to the landscape perceived as an extension of the human body, *Planet[wanderer]* abstractly explores various phases of connection and disconnection, harmonious and fragile, violent and devastating.

Through the physical engagement of the human body with different experimental materials, elements and gravity, *Planet[wanderer]* sparks off a raw, visceral and dream-like love story between humans and the planet to which they are connected.



DAMIEN JALET

CHOREOGRAPHER

ASSOCIATE ARTIST

Damien Jalet is an independent Belgian and French choreographer and dancer working internationally. He is an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. He worked as a choreographer and dancer for companies such as les ballet C de la B, Sasha Waltz and Guests, Chunky Move, Eastman, National Youth Dance Company, Hessisches Staatballett, Paris Opera Ballet, Scottish Dance Theatre, Iceland Dance Company. His latest works as choreographer include: *Babel* ^{words} (2013); *Bolero* (2013); *Inked* (2013); *Les Médusés* (2013); *YAMA* (2014), at TNB in 2017; *Gravity Fatigue* (2015); *Vessel* (2015); *Thro(ugh)* (2016); *Skid* (2017); *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2018); *Omphalos* (2018), presented at TNB in 2019. In 2017, he created *The Ferryman* with the director Gilles Delmas, with Abramović and Ryuichi Sakamoto, and choreographed the remake of *Suspiria* by Luca Guadagnino in 2018. In 2019, Damien Jalet made the choreography for the film called *Anima* by Paul Thomas Anderson with Thom Yorke for which he has been awarded by the UKMVA for the best choreography. He is also the choreographer for few scenes of the first *Madame X* tour for Madonna. In 2020, he created *Brise-James* for the Paris Opera Ballet with the visual artist Jr, the pianist Koki Nakano and the dancer Aimilios Arapoglou. In 2021, he signed the film *Mist* for NDT1 and created *Planet[wanderer]* at Chaillot, in collaboration with Kohei Nawa. In 2022, he created *Kites* at the GöteborgsOperans Danskompani. In 2024, Damien Jalet will choreograph the film *Émilie Perez*, Jacques Audiard's first musical

In addition, he works in collaboration with the French stage director Arthur Nauzyciel on several shows such as *L'Image* (2006), *Julius Caesar* (2008), *Ordet* (2008), *Red Waters* (2011), *Jan Karski* (2011), *La Mouette* (2012), *Splendid's* (2015), *La Dame aux camélias* (2018), *Mes frères* (2020) and *Les Paravents* (2023).

KOHEI NAWA

SET DESIGN

Born in Osaka in 1975, Kohei Nawa is based in Kyoto. He graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts in 1998 with a BFA in sculpture, followed by an MFA in sculpture in 2000, and a PhD in fine art and sculpture in 2003. He is professor of art and design studies at Kyoto University of the Arts. Nawa is also the director of SANDWICH, a creative platform that he established in Kyoto in 2009 for multidisciplinary creative work involving architects, photographers, designers and other creators, as well as artists.

Working with beads, prisms, polyurethane foam, silicone oil and a wide range of technologies and materials, Nawa constantly explores the potentiality of sculpture, crossing the borders of visual art. Nawa's recent projects extend this exploration to architecture and performing arts. In 2011, he presented a solo exhibition, KŌHEI NAWA-SYNTHESIS at the Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo. His last monumental sculpture, *Throne*, was exhibited at the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, between July 2018 and February 2019, as one of the highlights of Japonismes. Among other prestigious institutions. His work is part of the collections of MET in NYC and MOT in Tokyo. MOT grand re-opening special exhibition, Weavers of Worlds - A century of Flux in Japanese Modern / Contemporary Art, includes his PixCell series.





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