



FA

Creation 2023
Cie Amoukanama



In the beginning

Amoukanama is a young and dynamic company founded by Nathalie Vandenaabeele and Alseny Sacko. Nathalie, bioengineer and equestrian artist, met acrobat Alseny during the show Tagadart in France. Since then, they have worked together and have successfully launched various artistic, socio-cultural and educative projects in Belgium, France and Guinea.

The search for connection, understanding, exchange, courage and perseverance of acrobats is at the heart of these projects. *Amoukanama*, in Sussu "What does not break, always persists" consists appropriately of a group of acrobats who have chosen the circus as a means of life. The group of Guinean acrobats who are gathered in this project, all grew up in Conakry and through their life as an artist, they wish to share their energy, their wisdom and their joie de vivre with the general public.

*"What does not break,
will always exist..."*





Our association was born in 2016 when we launched a project for Conakry in collaboration with the province of West Flanders in Belgium. We received the first support to build a circus school for young people who wish to build a future as a circus artist (professional formation aspect) or use the circus as a means of discovering themselves and others (social circus aspect). We are still working on the realization of this school which, we hope, will open its doors in 2022.

More information about our projects in Europe and Guinea can be found here:

<https://amoukanama.files.wordpress.com/2022/04/presentation-amoukanama-english.pptx.pdf>





FA

This creation is inspired by the current effervescent youth movement for the construction of a better future.

FA shares the reflection of this through a deeply human adventure where the voice is given to the power of a community by a united and generous group.

Coming from different backgrounds, these fiery and candid individuals cross to a new destination. A new path opens and hope grows to find deep resonance in a long awaited new world. We are witnessing a lifting of the veil, by floor and aerial movement, where the liveliness of their different cultures are combined with a contemporary writing by Anthony Weiss.

What can we achieve by coming together? What dreams can come true?

How far can we go, beyond our own limits?

"To go beyond..."



This creation is a way of contributing to the history of contemporary circus through a human focus and diversity. It is a project different in style, combining traditions with modern writing. Anthony's style and all that this group brings with its acrobatic and choreographic traditions takes us to a new genre, a new perspective where acrobats are valued more as artists and individuals. We are also concerned with giving a voice to those acrobats who do not often have the opportunity. And we emphasize the diversity, which may still seem foreign to some (s).

The project is thus an opportunity to diversify the scene and to promote African artists. Together with other partners, we are trying to work on a more diverse image, in a framework other than the social circus, for the African circus in an international network.





FA

Circus arts, dance, music

Slender with a determined step, a youth coming from different horizons sets out in search of a renewal.

Their human alliance prevails over their differences and they walk together to go beyond...

Meeting themselves and others, they wish to achieve a harmonious future and overcome prospective obstacles for the emergence of an unified and sharing world.

An adventure takes shape and takes us for a grand acrobatic piece at crossroads of Africa and the Western world.

Paths are multiple but together they will stay, oriented towards their dreams.

Accompanied by the rhythm of laughter and percussions from Guinea, without ever interrupting their perpetual or eternal movement, they present us with high energy, an Ode to Life radiating a deep human and sacred union.

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Teaser 2021 :

<https://vimeo.com/549246398>

Images from creation residency 2022*:

<https://youtu.be/RFeuW3IRxg8>

Duration

1h15.

**A presentation of a work in progress of 35min is available upon request*

Technical Requirements

Scene: Wooden floor with dance mats

Surface: Ideal 10m by 8m

Sound: Diffusion of sound adapted to the place.

Light: In creation, to be defined.

Aerials: 8m optimum height - between 3 and 4 aerial attachment points + 2 points on the ground for pulley system.

FA is Sussu for "to Come"



*Floor acrobatics - Partner acrobatics -
Banquine - Platform flights - Aerial Silk
Aerial Straps - Dance - Music*





Artistic Team

Director and Choreography: Anthony Weiss

Assistant Director: Dolores Calvi

Acrobats: Mamadou Lamarana Bah, Ibrahima Sory Bangoura, Mohamed Bangoura, Tidjane Bangoura, Ibrahima Sory Camara, Facinet Camara, Alseny Sacko, Panival Soumah, Nathalie Vandenabeele

Acrobatic collaboration: Mahmoud Louertani

Production: Nathalie Vandenabeele

Residencies:

Centre Jeunesse Kindia, Guinée · Compagnie Isis, Pargny-Filain, France · Ecole Nationale de Cirque Châtelleraut, France. The Box Miramiro, Gand, Belgique. CRAC Lomme. 2022: Espace Périphérique, La Villette Paris - ENCC, Châtelleraut – Centre Culturel Franco-Guinéen, Conakry. 2023: La Grainerie, Toulouse.

Pre-purchases:

Short version, public space (30min)*

-Eclat(s) de la Rue. August 2022.

-Koentekroafs, Langemark-Poelkapelle, Belgium. June 2022.

-Sziget festival, Hungary. August 2022.

Indoor version (1h15min),

Festival Vaison Danses, Vaison-la-Romaine. July 2023.

**Faced with the covid pandemic and the internationality of the project, we decided to release a shorter version in the summer of 2022 for the public space as a creative stage.*

FA is supported by

- European Union, creation support.
- Espace Périphérique, France, creation support.
- Company Les Mélangeurs, France. Coproduction.
- Miramiro, Belgium, creation support.
- Ecole Nationale de Cirque Châtellerauld, France. Creation support.
- Petit Musée, Conakry. Creation Support
- La Tohu, Canada. Help with diffusion.
- Community Langemark-Poelkapelle, Belgium. Project support.

And a big team of acrobats and volunteers (friends, mothers, grandmothers, children...)

The Bigger Picture

FA is part of a project initiated in Guinea which includes both artistic and social initiatives. We focus on training for young people in Guinea, exchanges with young people in Europe, constructive communication from our partners in Guinea and investment in the cultural sector in West Africa. In addition, we recently joined FEDEC and we look forward to this new collaboration.

If possible, we would like to combine a performance with an interactive moment with the local community. Do not hesitate to ask us for more information if you are interested.





Creative team

The Encounter with Anthony Weiss partly made this project possible. It was a convergence of ideas, experiences and ambition to bring our creation into the world. During the work, we constantly seek the dynamic balance between the artist and the choreographer so that the magic is born from the collision, the discovery, the encounter and the sharing.



Anthony is a multidisciplinary artist, director and emerging circus choreographer.

From his childhood, he was trained in dance and circus arts. He connected to the arts at a very young age, his relationship to the stage being innate and obvious.

He trained with his dance mother, then with Surraya Mahmood & Jonathan Sutton (Théâtre du Soleil - Ecole Jacques Lecoq) at Acrobatic Theaters in Aix-en-Provence.



www.anthonyweiss.com

He then joined the National Circus School of Châtellerault (BAC Cirque) then the National Circus School of Montreal in Canada, and became a swinging trapeze artist. He graduated in 2009 and began his career through various projects and cabarets. He also continued his apprenticeship with the master of the swinging trapeze: Victor Fomine (Cirque du Soleil - National Circus School of Montreal - Studio Léotard). Together they will present the fruit of their work at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris in 2012. 2013 marks the beginning of an adventure towards creation.

An essential redirection on his return to Europe to move towards deeper artistic work. He began to self-taught to explore the discipline of aerial straps and developed work on aerial movement, drawing on a technical base. He embarked on several projects as a duet with an actress: "Drop" and "Letters of Love" by David Bobée or "Guerre" by Samuel Mathieu, a piece of contemporary dance and aerial straps.

At the same time, in 2015, he founded UNATI and created his first show: *ÛMAN*, An introspective solo about the transition of Humanity today. Release: January 2018 then July 2019 at the Avignon Festival OFF where it won the prize for "Best Circus / Dance Show".

He also continues to train in parallel: in MAO (electronic music), intuitive singing, drum ... And he thus develops over several years his style of musical composition, for the benefit of his creations.

2018 he also obtains a Certificate in Circassian Dramaturgy at the National Circus Arts Center and at the Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque de Bruxelles.

He was then offered the artistic direction and staging of a new creation: FA for Amoukanama Circus, a Belgian-Guinean project and the role of choreographer and aerial coach on an international production in Turkey.

2020 is a new dawn for him, the time to transmit, create and affirmatively share his avant-garde vision in the arts world with "FA" and his upcoming new creation "RÂ".

Together with...



After a workshop in 2018 and research laboratory in 2019 in Guinea, the final group of FA was selected and consists of...



Alseny Sacko (base, aerial straps)

Alseny Sacko grew up in Guinea and has a good understanding of the many challenges for young people in Conakry. Through inspiring examples and his own life choices, he was able to create a future for himself and his family. He has trained many young acrobats and raised many more at his home in Matam. Several of them are now working in international circus companies abroad. He has an experience of a lifetime in the circus. He has worked throughout Africa (Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali, Guinea ...) and in various major shows in Europe (Afrika! Afrika !, Boulevard Conakry , Tagadart equestrian show). He has skills in a wide range of circus disciplines: acrobatics, straps, basing, hand to hand, trampoline, Chinese pole, juggling, dance, djembe, human pyramids. He was one of the initiative takers for the creation of FA and has a supporting role as a technical coach.

Nathalie Vandenabeele (flyer, silks)

Nathalie has several years of experience as a project coordinator. She completed her studies as a bioengineer at the University of Ghent, Wageningen (The Netherlands) and Addis Ababa Ethiopia with cum Laude. After her studies, she traveled abroad to gain experience in several countries and projects. Thanks to her love for and experience with horses, she was introduced to the world of Circus after an audition for Cavalia. So, she received formation and was then hired as an artist in Tagadart. There she started with acrobatics, aerial silks and hand to hand. She continued her journey in Guinea, at Archaos Marseille and in various structures in Belgium. She is coached by Mahmoud Louertani in hand to hand, by Catie Brier in contortion and flexibility, by Sascha Bachmann in equilibrium and through numerous encounters in the aerial silks. At the same time as her introduction into the world of circus, the desire to lead the project in Guinea was born. With her partner, Alseny Sacko, she facilitated the creation of the Amoukanama association in Guinea and also started a division in Belgium. For several years, she has been working with the rest of the team to grow this association. It has gained support from the Belgian government, Europe and other private and public donors.





Ibrahima Sory Bangoura (flyer)

The youngest of the group, Kapté, has lived with Alseny since his childhood. He trained with the oldest acrobats in Conakry. Although under difficult circumstances, he nevertheless reached a high level in acrobatics, banquine, flying, human pyramids, dance, music and comedy. He has also participated in shows at the Franco Guinean Cultural Center in Conakry, at the MASA Ivory Coast, in Les Enfants de Soleil et la Lune (directed by Moussa Doumbouya), at the Palace of Culture in Conakry, etc. In November 2019, he traveled to China with Amoukanama to participate in a cultural festival.

Given his dynamism and youthful enthusiasm, it was a logical choice to cooperate with Kapté in this project.

Panival Soumah (flyer, aerial straps)

Panival is a versatile acrobat with many years of experience. He started at the Tinifan circus school, Conakry, then came to Amoukanama. He specializes in acrobatics, flying (banquine, plateau, hand to hand) and aerial straps. He has participated in various shows across Africa and has been selected several times during auditions for international companies in Guinea (including Cavalia).

He immediately stood out for the FA creation by his good technique, his energy and his expression.



Tidjane Bangoura (base)



Born in Sierra Leone, Tidjane is an example of courage and perseverance in life. For several years, he has been working on a future through the circus arts. Much like Mamadou, he has grown rapidly and into a solid base with enormous talent for dance, acrobatics and theater. He has already participated in various shows and events in Guinea and is ready for the next step.

Mamadou Lamarana Bah (base)

Fairly new to circus, Mamadou made a rapid development in the arts. His talent was noticed and he has already traveled to Ivory Coast and China to participate in cultural festivals. He specializes in basing and dancing and works on acrobatics and juggling. With his talent a period in Europe can certainly develop his potential. Thanks to his integrity, talent and artistic potential, he was also quickly selected for the FA project.



Ibrahima Sory Camara (flyer)

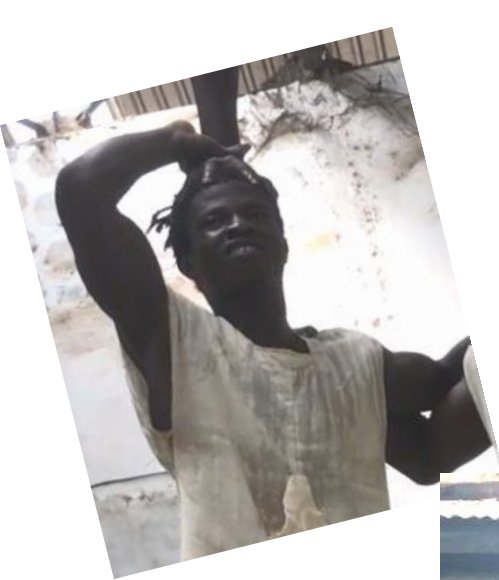
Since childhood, Ibrahima has worked on the beach every day to become an acrobat. He specializes in acrobatics on the ground and flying. He is one of the most consistent flyers who will be able to open the spectrum to new figures. He has participated in various shows in Guinea and other African countries and is ready to grow as an artist in this production.

Mohamed Bangoura (danser, flyer)

Mohamed has such a special technique in acrobatics and movement that he is always noticed. He practices acrobatics, dance, handstands, etc. for years and has also traveled across Africa to take part in shows. He was selected during auditions for Cavalia and other international companies in Conakry, but was never able to travel. We hope that with this project, Mohamed will finally be able to share his talents with a wider audience in Europe and beyond.

Facinet Camara (base)

Facinet has worked as an artist in the circus world for several years and holds a responsible position within Amoukanama in Guinea. He started out as an acrobat like the others on the beach. During one of the previous Cavalia auditions he was selected and he was able to work for several years for the Odysseo show in Canada / North America and Cavalia in China. There he learned various other disciplines (eg Chinese pole). He is a versatile acrobat with a talent for dancing and has experience to help lead the group in this project.





AMOUKANAMA CIRCUS

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