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SO BLUE



PHOTO: CARL LESSARD

Premiere: December 7, 2012, tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf

Conceived and choreographed by: Louise Lecavalier

Created and performed by: Louise Lecavalier, Frédéric Tavernini

Assistant Choreographer and Rehearsal Director: France Bruyère

Lighting Design: Alain Lortie

Music: Mercan Dede

Additional Music: Normand-Pierre Bilodeau, Daft Punk, Meiko Kaji

Remixing Producer: Normand-Pierre Bilodeau

Costume Design: Yso

Length: 60 min

Production : Fou glorieux, in co-production with: tanzhaus nrw (Düsseldorf); Théâtre de la Ville (Paris); Hellerau (Dresden); National Arts Centre (Ottawa); Festival TransAmériques (Montréal); Residency: Szene Salzburg

Louise Lecavalier is supported by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Montreal Arts Council.

SO BLUE

Louise Lecavalier and partner Frédéric Tavernini risk all in the high-voltage atmosphere of this radical, raw, and haunting work set to the visceral music of Mercan Dede. Quick as thought, the body dictates its laws and transgresses its limits. "I wanted to allow the body to say everything it wants to say or can surprise itself by revealing, without censoring it, so that out of this profusion of spontaneous movements, something true and beyond our control emerges, something that exposes some of the states of confusion, excesses, and contradictions we're made of — both the darkness that inhabits us and the unbearable lightness of being and of the soul." (Louise Lecavalier)

Speed, slowness, abstraction, theatricality: all are valid means to express, represent, and incarnate — in a simple, complex, strange, and sometimes even spectacular manner — the noble, thoroughbred body, the animal body, the excessive body, the changing body, always mysterious, the perpetually-searching body, alive, untamed and nervous with and without constraints, the body that takes risks and even invents them as if constantly goaded to surpass itself, the body, object of play and of challenge, first alone, then paired, a known and unknown object of representation, the body, in trance and transcended, blue atomic, mutating into the body of breath, energy, and light, the body we no longer need to decode. Ultimately, it traces its own path, struggles, gives up, bounces back, and fades into space.

Here, the body becomes a "living art", between sculpture, performance, and dance. Dance states succeed one another, producing waves that ripple through arms, legs, feet, neck, head, and face, occasionally in rhythmic, syncopated sections: vivid, obsessive sequences that also contrast with slower, more fluid ones, rigidly controlled to the point of abandonment. Almost all the movements are inspired by simple everyday gestures that become extreme when they are repetitive, decomposed, or cumulative.

Louise Lecavalier took the risk of plunging alone into the adventure of choreographic creation, assisted by France Bruyère, her rehearsal mistress and artistic collaborator. A large part of the intensely rhythmical soundtrack consists of pieces by Mercan Dede (*alias* Arkin Allen); this Montreal composer of Turkish origin is an essential, atypical world-music artist who fuses Ottoman tradition and Western modernity. The lighting is designed by Alain Lortie, who also collaborated with Louise Lecavalier in *Children* and *A Few Minutes of Lock*. Costumes are by stylist and creator Yso, now a Montrealer by adoption. The stage design, minimal and sober, gives the dance both a more intimate and a more open framework by delineating the performance space with bands of light-coloured dance floor set upon black.



PHOTO: ANDRÉ CORNELLIER

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

\ LOUISE LECAVALIER AND COLLABORATORS



PHOTO: MASSIMO CHIARADIA

LOUISE LECAVALIER, choreographer, dancer and artistic director

Born in Montreal, Louise Lecavalier joined La La La Human Steps in 1981 in *Oranges* and went on to perform in all of the company's productions until 1999. In 1985, she became the first Canadian to win a Bessie Award in New York for her performance in *Businessman in the Process of Becoming an Angel* (1983).

Louise starred in *Human Sex* (1985), *New Demons* (1987), *Infante* (1991), and finally, in *2* (1995) and *Salt* (1998), works in which she attained remarkable maturity as a performer. As the La La La Human Steps icon and luminary for nearly two decades, she gave her heart and soul to her art, embodying dance at the outer edge with passion and unrestrained generosity, dazzling audiences everywhere. She also participated in all the company's spectacular collaborations, including the David Bowie *Sound and Vision* tour in 1990; *The Yellow Shark* concert by Frank Zappa and the Ensemble Modern of Germany in autumn, 1992; and Michael Apted's film, *Inspirations*, in 1996.

In 2003, Louise Lecavalier worked with choreographer Tedd Robinson, who created the duet *Lula and the Sailor* for Louise and himself, and *Cobalt rouge*, a piece for Louise and three male dancers which premiered at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. In 2006, choreographers Benoît Lachambre and Crystal Pite each created a solo for Louise. These two works, *"I" Is Memory* and *Lone Epic*, together with *Lula and the Sailor*, made up a program that was performed 80 times between 2006 and 2009 in North America, Europe, and Japan. The above works were produced under the banner of Louise's company, Fou glorieux, a flexible working structure that she established in 2006.

The duet *Is You Me*, a collaboration between Louise Lecavalier and Benoît Lachambre produced by the company Par b.l.eux, was created in spring 2008 at Festival Transamériques in Montreal and was performed 54 times in international tours until the summer of 2011. The double bill comprising *Children*, a duet choreographed by Nigel Charnock, and *A Few Minutes of Lock*, three updated Édouard Lock duets, was presented 92 times from 2009 until the end of 2013 in North America, Europe, and Australia. In parallel to her intense touring schedule, Louise choreographed, staged, and performed a new work, *So Blue*. The first part of this piece previewed at Festival Sommerszene in Salzburg in July, 2012; the world premiere was on December 7, 2012, at tanzhaus nrw in Dusseldorf. *So Blue* continues to tour in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. In June 2015, in Toronto, it won the Dora Mavor Moore Prize for Outstanding Production following its presentation at the 2104 Luminato Festival. The world premiere of Louise's new work, *Battleground*, took place in Germany in February.

Louise Lecavalier's career path has been strewn with awards and distinctions. In May 1999, she received the Jean A. Chalmers National Award, the first time this major Canadian dance award was given to a performer. In February 2003, Louise received a career grant from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. In December 2008, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her illustrious contribution to contemporary dance. In June 2011, she was named Dance Personality of the Year 2010-2011 by the Syndicat professionnel français de la critique (French Critics' Union) in Paris. In November 2011, she became the first winner of the new Prix de la danse de Montréal, and in September 2013, in Positano, Italy, she won the Léonide Massine prize for Outstanding Female Dancer of the Year on the Contemporary Scene. The following year, Louise Lecavalier and Fou glorieux won two prestigious awards in March: Louise was among the winners of the 2014 Governor General Performing Arts Award for lifetime artistic achievement, while the company received the 29th Grand Prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal. In March 2015, the dancer was named a Companion of l'Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec, one of 35 personalities honoured for their contribution to the resonance of Quebec's culture in the world.



FRÉDÉRIC TAVERNINI, dancer

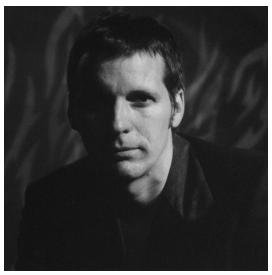
Frédéric Tavernini obtained a state diploma in classical and contemporary dance at l'École de danse de l'Opéra de Paris. He worked with the Ballet National de Nancy et de Lorraine before dancing as a soloist for Béjart Ballet Lausanne, the Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, and the Ballet national de Marseille. An independent dancer since 2005, he has collaborated with Juha Pekka-Marsalo, Louise Lecavalier (*Cobalt rouge*), Danièle Desnoyers, Lynda Gaudreau, Virginie Brunelle, Dave St-Pierre, and Frédérick Gravel.

As a choreographer, Frédéric has created: *Li fet met* (2003) and *Le projet de la chambre humaine* (2005) for the Jeune Ballet du Québec; *Slonec Street* (2004) for Les Ballets de la Parenthèse; *Green* (2004) for the June Events festival under the direction of Carolyn Carlson; *Ju-ON* (2005) for l'École supérieure de ballet de Montréal; and in collaboration with composer and musician Jean-François Laporte, *Wedged in the Red Room* (2009), an installation/performance work presented at l'Espace Totem in Montreal and at OFFTA 2010. His last work, *Le tératome*, was presented at the Monument-national in Montreal as part of Tangente – Laboratory for contemporary movements. *Wolf Songs for Lambs*, premiered at the Théâtre La Chapelle in Montreal in April 2015 , and *Things are leaving quietly, in silence* was presented at the Monument-National in May, 2016.



MERCAN DEDE, music

Mercan Dede believes that when you put digital, electronic sounds together with hand-made, human ones, you can create universal language, capable of uniting old and young, ancient and modern, East and West. It's a bold claim, but the Turkish-born and Montreal-based musician/producer/DJ has the career and the music to back it up with over 800 concerts worldwide in his fifteen-year musical career. Mercan Dede's last three albums, *Su[Water]* (2004), *Breath* (2006) and *800* (2007), all topped the European World Music Chart. His last album *800*, dedicated to the 800th birthday of the great Sufi philosopher Mevlana, was selected as the "World's Best World Music Album of 2008" by WOMEX, the leading international world music fair for professionals. In 2013, he released a new double album, *Dünya / Earth*. A diverse artist with an educational background and focus on fine arts, Mercan Dede has also started to display his paintings on his webpage (www.mercandede.com) after first showing them on a CNN documentary.



ALAIN LORTIE, lighting design

Alain Lortie has pursued his chosen career with passion for over thirty years. First associated with multidisciplinary artists Michel Lemieux, Marie Chouinard, and Édouard Lock, he went on to collaborate with Québécois and European singers Jean-Pierre Ferland, Diane Dufresne, Robert Charlebois, Daniel Bélanger, Peter Gabriel, Francis Cabrel, and Eros Ramazzotti. Named Lighting Designer of the Year several times at the ADISQ Awards, he also received the Masque for Best Lighting for *Les âmes mortes* (1996), and the Dora Mavor Moore Prize in Toronto for *Œdipus Rex* (1997). Among his major achievements are *Starmania* (1993), *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1998), *Arturo Brachetti* (1999), *Cavalia* (2003), and *Odysseo* (2011). He also worked on the Cirque du Soleil shows *Soleil de minuit* (2004), *Delirium* (2006), and *Zarkana* (2011). Alain Lortie has designed the lighting for several musicals in Asia, as well as two permanent circus productions for the Shanghai Circus World: *Era* (2005) and *Kaleido* (2010). From 2001 to 2005, he was the Artistic Director of the Celebration of Light at the Montreal High Lights Festival.



YSO, costume design

Born in Vientiane, Laos, Montreal-based Siphay Southidara, better known as Yso, holds a diploma in fashion design from the Collège Marie-Victorin in Montreal. Passionate about fashion design, artistic direction, and all forms of contemporary creation, he applies his many talents to each of these domains, and has been rewarded with numerous prizes. After beginning his career with Marie Saint Pierre and Todd Lynn, he went on to direct his own ready-to-wear line for women: "Yso." A long-time collaborator with fashion designer Denis Gagnon, he has worked as artistic director on several of his shows. All sectors of the artistic community, including contemporary dance, theatre, music, film and visual arts, have called upon his creative talents: Brigitte Haentjens (Sibyllines), Robin Aubert, Lhasa de Sela, Patrick Watson, Cirque du Soleil, Louise Lecavalier, Tedd Robinson, Sylvain Émard, BJM Danse, the Biennale de Montréal, etc. In 2010, Yso joined the Folio Montreal Agency as a stylist.



FRANCE BRUYÈRE, rehearsal director and assistant choreographer

Classically trained, France Bruyère quickly widened her field of interest to include contemporary and jazz dance. After her professional debut at seventeen with Groupe Nouvelle Aire in Montreal, she danced for numerous choreographers and with several dance companies which, besides Nouvelle Aire, included Groupe Axis, the Louise Latreille dance troupe, Pointépiénu, and the Danny Grossman Dance Company in Toronto. France teaches dance at university and in the private sector. After a decade as rehearsal mistress for La La La Human Steps, she has pursued her teaching activities with passion. She also does free-lance rehearsal work in both dance and the circus arts.

louise LECAVALIER

\ 2012-2017 TOURING SCHEDULE

DATES	CITY COUNTRY	THEATRE/ FESTIVAL	PROGRAM
2012			
July 5-6	SALZBURG AUSTRIA	Republic Sommerszene	*So Blue* (excerpt) *A Few Minutes of Lock*
October 19	MONCTON NEW-BRUNSWICK	Théâtre l'Escaouette Atlantic Dance Festival	*Children* A Few Minutes of Lock
October 27-28	MONTERREY MEXICO	Extremadura International Dance Festival	*Children* *A Few Minutes of Lock*
December 7-8, 8 p.m.	DÜSSELDORF GERMANY	tanzhaus nrw	*So Blue*
2013			
February 15-16, 8 p.m.	DRESDEN GERMANY	Hellerau	*So Blue*
March 6-7-8-9, 7:15 p.m.	ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA	Adelaide Festival	*Children* *A Few Minutes of Lock*
May 15, 9 p.m.	COLLEGNO ITALY	Lavanderia a Vapore	*So Blue*
June 6-7, 8 p.m.	MONTREAL CANADA	Théâtre Maisonneuve Festival TransAmériques	*So Blue*
July 27, 8 p.m. July 28, 6 p.m.	SAINT-SAUVEUR CANADA	Festival des arts	*A Few Minutes of Lock*
August 6-8-9, 9 p.m.	VIENNA AUSTRIA	Akademietheater ImPulsTanz	*So Blue*
November 1st, 9 p.m.	FERRARA ITALY	Teatro Comunale	*Children* *A Few Minutes of Lock*
November 3, 6 p.m.	FERRARA ITALY	Teatro Comunale	*So Blue*
December 13-14	DÜSSELDORF GERMANY	tanzhaus nrw	*So Blue* (excerpt)

DATES	CITY COUNTRY	THEATRE/ FESTIVAL	PROGRAM
2014			
February 26-27 March 1-4-5-6, 8:30 p.m. March 2, 4 p.m.	PARIS FRANCE	Centquatre	*So Blue*
March 8, 8:30 p.m.	ROUBAIX FRANCE	CCN Roubaix	*So Blue*
March 27-29, 8:30 p.m.	MONTRÉAL CANADA	Usine C	*So Blue*
April 30, 9 p.m.	SÃO PAULO BRAZIL	Auditório Ibirapuera Festival O Boticário na Dança	*So Blue*
May 2, 9 p.m.	RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZIL	Teatro Municipal Festival O Boticário na Dança	*So Blue*
May 14, 8 p.m.	FREIBURG GERMANY	Tanzfestival Freiburg	*So Blue*
May 30-31 June 1st, 8 p.m.	MÜNSTER GERMANY	Pumpenhaus	*So Blue*
June 6, 7:30 p.m.	TROIS-RIVIÈRES CANADA	Festival international de Danse Encore	*So Blue*
June 13-14, 8 p.m. June 15, 3 p.m.	TORONTO CANADA	Fleck Theatre Luminato Festival	*So Blue*
June 18, 7:30 p.m.	BANFF CANADA	The Banff Centre	*So Blue*
July 2, 7:30 p.m.	LONDON UK	Queen Elizabeth Hall	*So Blue*
July 7, 8 p.m.	SAINT-ÉTIENNE FRANCE	Festival des Sept-Collines	*So Blue*
July 10-11, 8:30 p.m.	AMSTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS	Julidans	*So Blue*
August 29-31	BERN SWITZERLAND	Dampfzentrale	*So Blue*
September 5, 7:30 p.m. September 6, 8 p.m.	BASEL SWITZERLAND	Kaserne	*So Blue*
October 8-9, 7:30 p.m	OTTAWA CANADA	National Arts Centre	*So Blue*
December 14, 7:30 p.m	LAUSANNE SWITZERLAND	Théâtre de l'Octogone	*So Blue*
December 17, 7:15 p.m December 18, 8:30 p.m.	MONTPELLIER FRANCE	Montpellier Danse	*So Blue*

DATES	CITY COUNTRY	THEATRE/ FESTIVAL	PROGRAM
2015			
January 16, 8 p.m.	LOS ANGELES UNITED STATES	UCLA	*So Blue*
January 20-21, 8 p.m.	VANCOUVER CANADA	Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre Push Festival	*So Blue*
February 13, 8 p.m.	MONTREAL QUEBEC	Théâtre Outremont	*So Blue*
February 20, 8 p.m.	STE-THÉRÈSE QUEBEC	Théâtre Lionel-Groulx	*So Blue*
February 28, 8 p.m.	LAVAL QUEBEC	Maison des Arts	*So Blue*
March 12, 8 p.m.	LONGUEUIL QUEBEC	Théâtre de la Ville	*So Blue*
March 15, 3:30 p.m.	ST-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU QUEBEC	Salle Desjardins Théâtre des deux rives	*So Blue*
March 31, 8 p.m.	QUEBEC CITY	Grand Théâtre	*So Blue*
May 19	ISTRES FRANCE	Théâtre de l'Olivier	*So Blue*
May 21, 8:30 p.m.	CHÂTEAUVALLON FRANCE	Théâtre couvert	*So Blue*
May 29, 30	TORONTO CANADA	Bluma Appel Theatre	*So Blue*
September 9-10-11-12	NEW YORK UNITED STATES	New York Live Arts	*So Blue*
September 29	LENNOXVILLE QUEBEC	Centennial Theatre	*So Blue*
October 6	ST JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA	LSFU Hall Festival of New Dance	*So Blue*
November 12-13-14-15	TAIPEI TAIWAN	Dance In Autum National Center for the Performing Arts	*So Blue*

DATES	CITY COUNTRY	THEATRE/ FESTIVAL	PROGRAM
2016			
February 13-14	DÜSSELDORF GERMANY	tanzhaus nrw	*Battleground*
February 19-20	DRESDEN GERMANY	Hellerau	*Battleground*
March 2	BRUGGE BELGIUM	Magdalenazaal	*So Blue*
March 5	KORTRIJK BELGIUM	Schouwburg	*So Blue*
March 9	HASSELT BELGIUM	Cultuurcentrum	*So Blue*
April 7-8-9	PARIS FRANCE	Centquatre	*Battleground*
April 29-29	STRASBURG FRANCE	Pôle Sud	*So Blue*
May 3	VILNIUS LITUANIE	Arts Printing House New Baltic Dance Festival	*So Blue*
May 31- June 1-2	MONTREAL QUEBEC	Monument-National Festival TransAmériques	*Battleground*
August 11	SAINT-SAUVEUR QUEBEC	Big Top Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur	*So Blue*
September 26-27	OULLINS FRANCE	Théâtre de la Renaissance Biennale de la danse de Lyon	*Battleground*
September 29	ANNEMASSE FRANCE	Château Rouge La Biennale en région	*Battleground*
October 6	VICTORIAVILLE QUEBEC	Le Carré 150	*So Blue*
October 14	MONT-LAURIER QUEBEC	Espace Théâtre Muni-Spec	*So Blue*
November 26	BANFF CANADA	The Banff Centre Margaret Greenham Theatre	*Battleground*
2017			
January 6-7-8	CALGARY CANADA	DJD Dance Centre High Performance Rodeo Festival	*So Blue*

This schedule is subject to change 18/07/2016