

# KASHIYL

Ashley CHEN

# UNISSON

available on tour

created in January 2018 Nantes CNN - Festival Trajectoires



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## Cast

**Creation - choreography**

Ashley Chen

**Performers**

Magali Caillet-Gajan, Ashley Chen, Konan Dayot, Peggy Grelat Dupont, Mai Ishiwata, Théo Le Bruman, Lucius Roméo-From

**Music**

Pierre Le Bourgeois / Animaux Vivants

**Lighting**

Eric Wurtz

## Technical Requirements

+++ 7 performers & 1 musician

1 lighting engineer

1 production manager

**Teaser** <https://vimeo.com/258223075>

## Project Note

We overconsume, we throw away, we scatter all over the place what we don't need anymore. We gobble up everything thoughtlessly –news, food, everything physical, even our every movement ... We don't pay enough attention to all of this and therefore digest it badly. Are we afraid of missing something? Are we afraid of having to go without? Why don't we take the time to appreciate the little things in life? Everything is speeded up. We wonder about what we inherit, what we have inherited ourselves, all the while trying to progress. Our gestures and our acts are exclusive to ourselves. We no longer dance as much with other people, we dance less together, in society... It is nevertheless one of life's simple pleasures.

Has folk dancing become old-fashioned? What do we remember about how we felt about folk dancing in our collective memory?

On the stage there are materials and there are dance steps. There are objects which are obsolete, broken, done with and there are movements already out of style, neglected, forgotten. Defragmented, deconstructed. No element seems to have a connection with any other. How could we possibly find any kind of unity with all this stuff? What do we keep? How do we recycle it? We take our time. We watch. We search.

And finally we start to move, we come together, we build by starting from a detail, a gesture, collectively and in unison. We move together. Out of necessity we invent our new space. Out of pleasure a new dance.

Ashley Chen

## Ashley Chen

Ashley Chen trained at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et Danse de Paris from 1994 to 1999. After working on the creation of a piece with Thomas Duchâtelet, he left for New-York in 2000 to join the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. He stayed there for four years contributing to the creation of five choreographies and dancing up to ten pieces from the repertory.

Ashley came back to France and joined the Lyon Opera Ballet, where he performed the choreographies of Christian Rizzo, Angelin Preljocaj, William Forsythe, Russel Maliphant, Mathilde Monnier and Trisha Brown.

In 2006, he left the Ballet to travel across Europe collaborating with John Scott and Liz Roche in Dublin, Michael Clark in London, Jean-Luc Ducourt and Michèle Ann de Mey in Brussels, Philippe Decouflé, Boris Charmatz, Mié Coquempot, Fabrice Dugied in France.

In 2002, Ashley Chen wrote the choreography *We're all grown up now!* in New-York. One year later, he created *I'm not a Gurre!!*, with Marise la Lagrave, a vidéo-dance filmed in New-York state. In 2008, he wrote *I meant to move* with the group Loge 22 in Lyon. In 2012 he established Compagnie Kashyl based in Normandy (France). He has a strong desire to investigate his individual creative process leading to significant and unconventional works. He has since created *Habits/Habits* (2012), *Whack!!* (2015, in collaboration with Philip Connaughton), *Chance, Space & Time* (2016), *Unisson* (2018) and *Rush* (2019). He is currently working on a group piece for 10 performers, *Distances* (January 2021).

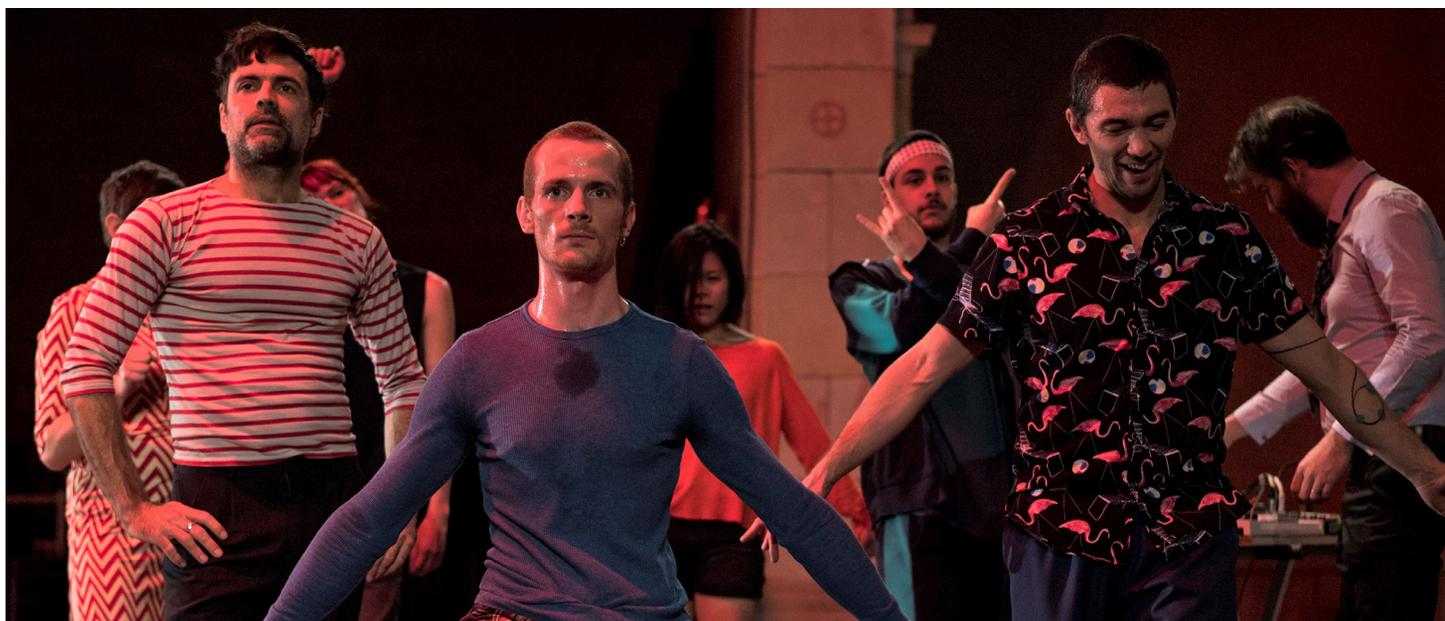
# Kashyl Company

Ashley Chen founded the Kashyl Company in 2012 in the county of Calvados in Normandy, France. After a career as a performer with a wide and eclectic range he has the urge to write original and unusual choreography through which he can take the liberty of creating in depth exploratory pieces for the stage. His choreographic interest is to be found more in the way the audience is plunged into diverse moods –rather than on a harmonious composition of movement or a narration of situations.

He tends towards experimenting with what is real in the dancer's physical performance, as he pursues the task conscientiously and determinedly, thus revealing the performer's deep-seated raw dedication. He pushes the dancer's body to a certain physical state of commitment in order to reach a stage of exhaustion in which movement is to be found both ethereal and true.

He therefore puts to question various topics, such as the need for the dancer to rehearse until he's exhausted, or the persistence of the performers as they go about their tasks in *Habits / Habits* (2013). Or again the need for one man to outdo another and the absurdity of their competitive spirit in *Whack!!* (2015). He questions the way the audience's view is influenced by the way light, props, music or choreography affect them, or by playing on the unexpected in *Chance, Space and Time* (2016). In *Unisson*, he puts to question the positive social dimension of folk dancing based on the energy and meaning of togetherness within the group.

He starts up a new piece called *Rush* (2019), a duo with Julien Monty based on the concept of running a race to reveal how it affects the mind and the body, experiencing the urgency of it and the paramount need to speed things up. He is already looking forward to his next group choreography *Distances* (2021) starting up a piece on the awareness of the performers' interaction within their private space, it is a question of living space, intrusion, distance and isolation, but also proximity, what is exposed when individuals are close, too close, far, too far.



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## Kashyl company Programm

8 mai 2019, *Rush*, Festival Danse De Tous Les Sens, Chorège - Falaise

8 June 2019, *Ritual*, Performance in recognition to Merce Cunningham, Cheryl Therrien & Ashley Chen, CCN de Tours

11 June 2019, work step *Distances*, June Events in partnership with ODIA Normandie, CDCN - Atelier de Paris

15 June 2019, *Unisson*, Festival Tours d'Horizons, CCN de Tours

25 & 26 June 2019, *Chance, Space & Time* and others forms, Montpellier Danse 2019

16 November 2019, *Rush*, Le NeufNeuf Festival, Cie Samuel Mathieu

5 February 2020, *Rush*, Festival Pharenheit - Le Phare / Centre chorégraphique national du Havre Normandie, direction Emmanuelle Vo-Dinh

7 June 2020, *Rush*, Danse à tous les étages, Scène de territoire danse // Domaine de Kerguéhenec

## Partnerships

Production Compagnie Kashyl

### Coproductions

CNDC Angers /direction Robert Swinston

CCN de Nantes /direction Ambra Senatore

CCN de Grenoble / direction Yoann Bourgeois et Rachid Ouramdane

CCN de Caen / direction Alban Richard

CND - Centre national de la danse

Danse à Tous les Etages, scène de territoire danse

Patrons : Piece created within the programme of "Accueils Dancing" at the Beau Geste Company.

**Patrons of the company** Normandy Region / Regional direction of culture in lower Normandy/ Council Department of Calvados/ Caen's City

With the support of Réseau Labaye

## Contacts

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