

# KASHYL

Ashley CHEN

# RUSH

creation - 25 January 2019  
KLAP Maison pour la danse - Marseille



## Cast

### Creation - choreography

Ashley Chen

### Performers

Ashley Chen, Julien Monty

### Music

Pierre Le Bourgeois / Animaux  
Vivants

### Lighting

Eric Wurtz

### Costumes

Marion Regnier

## Project Note

The work is based on what it is to rush, on what rushing conjures up about an urgent situation, and what it reveals about the rhythm of our society which beats time to a constant state of urgency. Two men/individuals are running together (side by side), then on their own, they pass each other by, they avoid each other, ignore each other, bump into each other, dashing about, they spend a moment together, they dance, they support each other, they love or hate each other, they question each other, watch each other, all the while rushing about, running incessantly.

Urgency is the question, beating time to the musical surroundings. The pieces of music are essential and diverse and « indispensable » not only to the dancers/runners but also to the audience watching the race. These are pieces which have made their mark and will go on doing so.

The protagonists run to the sound of these different pieces of music and we watch them interact. We see them soar up, dive down and slip in and out. Thus a dense contraflow is created, like the rush hour in a megalopolis or even ants going busily about their business. We see the mental and physical states that arise from this situation, like an adrenaline rush which produces endorphins. The runners are starting to enjoy themselves....

We have arrived at RUSH

Ashley Chen adds this new piece as a continuation to his work on *Unisson*, which evokes today's speeded up urban life characterised by individualism and overconsumerism.

## 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.



© Agnès Mellon

## Partnerships

### Production

Compagnie Kashyl

### Coproductions

KLAP Maison pour la danse - Marseille

CCN d'Orléans

Chorège - Falaise

CDCN Atelier de Paris

### Patrons of the company

Normandy Region

DRAC Normandy

Calvados Department Council

Caen's City

Réseau Labaye

## Technical requirements

+++ 2 performers

1 lights engineer & 1 sound engineer

1 production manager

## Kashyl company programme

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 Kerguéhennec

## Contacts

Contacts Production/Diffusion

Bureau Les Yeux Dans Les Mots

Jonathan Boyer jonathan@lydlm.fr / 06 33 64 91 82

Marylou Vernel marylou@lydlm.fr / 06 02 72 20 48

Cie KASHYL / Ashley Chen cokashyl@gmail.com