

**Urban**

**Shaman**



ADN Dialect



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# Shaman

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## ***Project Description***

The “Urban Shaman” project is the initiative of the ADN Dialect collective, aimed at unifying various cultures around a single theme - “dance” as a universal language.

In order to celebrate their 10th anniversary with an innovative project, the collective - whose style is defined by its emphasis on the interdisciplinary - wishes to create a context where the cultural, social, political and ideological differences that divide people are, at least for the duration of the show, put aside, and instead draw attention to what human beings have in common. In other words, to nurture what has brought humanity together in a peaceful and universal way since the dawn of time: dance.

## ***Cultural Exchange***

The main goal of the “Urban Shaman” project is to foster cultural exchange between Switzerland and the countries which will help to implement the final performance. “Urban Shaman” will be performed in Switzerland and, subsequently, other possible venues which will be explored. Concurrent to the development of the project, there will be up-dates of the present dossier in order to inform the network of participants of the current plans, the latest developments in the project, the conditions of participation, and any other changes that might occur as the project progresses.

## ***The Purpose***

Have you ever been to a club or a music festival? The rhythmic pulsations build up in a repetitive pattern, seducing any sensitive person into an almost unconscious movement. Anyone carried away by music finds themselves progressively liberated from introspection and abandons him- or herself to the pleasure of the moment, thus leaving behind the anxieties arising from their “rational” vision of life. This “de-mentalisation” caused by “letting go” can be defined as well by the word “trance”. People experiencing this form of escape through movement, as short as it may be, repeatedly discover the benefits of dance, and experience – even if only for fleeting moments, the energetic power of which only shamans from ancient cultures know the secrets. Indeed, the human species distinguishes itself from its animal brethren thanks to unique and surprising practices, sometimes millennia -old. Dance is without doubt one of these practices, the origins of which remain a mystery.

Thus, the “Urban Shaman” project’s goals are simple and essential, grounded in the following:

- “From the most ancient and remote tribes of the world to our most modern-day clubs, something has remained unchanged”.
- “Transported by the tempo and beat of a rhythm, since time immemorial ... human beings have always danced... and keep on dancing”.

## **Development in 3 phases**

### **1. January – July 2011: Investigation of ancient cultures and presentation of the workshops/auditions shaped in the style of the company:**

With the aim of auditioning and discovering talent from other cultures, Angelo Dello Iacono, invited by Ministries of Culture, dance companies and other institutions linked with cultural exchange practices, will travel in the participating countries to select artists and gather testimonies related to the “Urban Shaman” theme.

### **2. (September-December 2011) Final rehearsals for the spectacle:**

The selected artists will be invited to Switzerland for the rehearsals of the final performance. The duration of stay in Switzerland will be determined by the financial resources made available to the company.

### **3. (From January 2012) Presentation of the final show:**

The show will be performed in Switzerland, at venues that offer to stage the event meanwhile distribution efforts will be made throughout the Swiss, European and international network in order to identify other locations where the work could be performed.

## **PLANNING BEEN CONFIRMED** (workshops / auditions - cultural exchange - capturing testimonials - looking for new partners)

from 28 to 31 January 2011 - Hong Kong

from 2 to 15 February 2011 - Auckland - New Zealand

from 16 to 19 February 2011 - Singapore

February 20 to April 28, 2011 - Back in Switzerland (recovery workshops / auditions - Vevey - Geneva - Zurich)

April 29 to May 12, 2011 - Yaounde - Kribi - Cameroon (Performance + workshops / auditions)

May 13 to September 30, 2011 - Switzerland - Barcelona - Mexico City - London (documents being processed - dates to be confirmed)

## **shows "Urban Shaman" confirmed (27 March 2011)**

9 and 10 March 2012 - Octogone Theatre (VD - Suisse)

March 22, 2012 - Theatre Crochetan (VS - Suisse)

3 to 5 May 2012 - Trianon Theatre (Naples - Italy)

more infos on [www.adndialect.ch](http://www.adndialect.ch)

## **Motivations**

A dancer practicing his or her art with passion and sincerity since childhood can hardly identify with an almost entirely urban society - one which is slave to the dictates of the current economic system, and which reduces any artistic endeavour to a simple “creative process”, ignoring its spiritual dimension.

Nevertheless, without being presumptuous, we sincerely believe that if a dedicated dancer doesn't have, to say the least, an interest in the “trance” aspect of dance, he or she is like a canoe going against the current... led astray by egocentrism. Our purpose here is not to provoke or conjure spirits, nor provide a definition of the terms “shaman” or “trance”. We choose here, as when describing any project, to trust in the reader's intelligence.

The fact is that as we speak, all over the world, the last generation, guardian of millennia-old practices and traditions is dying out without having the opportunity or resources to be able to pass on this inestimable heritage.

This phenomenon means an irreversible loss that is having an effect on all fields of human knowledge. Dance is one of them.

In these uncertain and individualistic times, we, its cultural actors sometimes forget to question our actions. The search for authentic energy and spontaneity in dance inevitably leads any real choreographer/dancer worthy of this name, to ask him or herself the following questions:

- What, from the beginning of time, has driven humans to dance?
- Why does our body move as soon as it is stimulated by the cadences of rhythm?
- Where can we find our purest source of inspiration?
- Where are the knowledgeable masters who hold the answers to the intriguing mysteries of dance rituals?
- How can the West provide them with the recognition they deserve?

## **URBAN SHAMAN**

- ***Tribal and contemporary at the same time?***
- ***Why in Switzerland?***
- ***Who are the Urban Shamans?***

From a geo-cultural point of view, Switzerland is in the center of Europe. Its location makes it a unique melting pot of styles and cultural influences. This places Switzerland among the pioneering countries in many fields, especially artistically and musically speaking. Zurich, Lausanne, Bern have become world references thanks to sound engineers, DJs, musicians, choreographers, actors, and trendsetters who have affirmed the fertility of Switzerland as a cultural breeding ground.

On the European level, in cities like London, Paris, Hamburg, Vienna, Rome, Amsterdam and Barcelona many musicians, DJs, dancers and event organizers, have taken on the role of urban shamans - defenders of a cosmic energy for which humanity seems to have a vital need. As proof of such, it's interesting to consider how as profound as the current economic crisis is, it has in no way affected the clubbing scene or other nightlife spaces conceived for dance.

This statement is aimed at causing one to reflect on the fragile link that exists between urban civilizations like ours, where avant-garde and modernity prevail, and the ancient peoples, well-versed in the rituals of dance.

Much like in Switzerland and Europe, this mysterious and universal instinct to dance is found all over the world. This is particularly true in remote areas of countries which this project intends to explore, where the original roots of this ancestral knowledge can be found; without this knowledge, we, the last shamans of modern times, would be rendered cultural orphans.



**Nadège Tissot - Project Coordinator - International PR Manager - Fundraising**

**Main Professional Experiences**

04/2008 - 11/2010 Project Manager – Intermón Oxfam (Spain)

Project management for Haiti, Cuba, Honduras, Dominican Republic and Guatemala

06/2004 - 12/2006 Project Manager - Globetrucker (Switzerland)

Coordination and planning of activities, communications, budget management, public relations.

04/2001 - 07/2002 Project Coordinator- Kawatea Chambers (New Zealand)

Creation of the inter-tribal communications and consultation's strategy at the national level (WAI 262 Claim)

Adaptation of legal documents for wide public diffusion

Organization of official reunions with tribes and legal representatives

10/1998 - 01/2001 Project Coordinator - IUCN (Switzerland)

Coordination of a regional program of biodiversity conservation (Middle East), field team coordination, reporting to international donors (UNDP, SDC), press relations (USA, Kenya, Lebanon, Canada). Coordination of the Reuters Press Award.

**FURTHER COLLABORATIONS**

Foundation Surgir (2007), Women's World Summit Foundation (2003), Association Ecology Economy for a sustainable development (2003), Association BIEN (2006), Festival de la Cité (1998)

**STUDIES**

2010-2011 Master in Art-therapy (Barcelona)

2009 Graduate in Management of Cultural Institutions (Barcelona)

2004 Certified Practitioner in PNL (Switzerland)

1994 – 2001 Graduate and Master in Social Sciences (Switzerland)

**Marion DIL - Project Coordinator - PR Manager - Fundraising**



Patent in history of dance (Brevet en histoire de la danse)

Graduate of the National Academy of Toulouse.

Currently - achieving a diploma in cultural management at UNIL (University of Lausanne - Switzerland)

Formed at Rudra Béjart of Lausanne.

Successively dancer within: Co Nomads, Arthur Kuggeleyn, ADN Dialect and other freelancing projects.

Other Professional Experiences: Le sacre du Primtemps of M.Béjart, Opera Othello and Orphéo

at Grand Théâtre of Geneva. Teacher of ballet and modern dance with l' Ecole/Migros club of Lausanne, and other specific courses.

Project Coordinator - PR Manager - Fundraising for the company ADN Dialect.



### **Angelo Dello Iacono - Choreographer - Art Director**

Dancer within Rudra Béjart Ballet, Compagnie Nomades, Arthur Kuggeleyn. Dances with: Lario Ekson, Claudio Bernardo, Mitia Fedotenko, Paolo Rudelli, and many other international Choreographers/Dancers.

State Diploma of Ballet Dancer - Method J.Vaganova (1986 - 1994).

State Diploma of Moderne Dance Complete Studies - styles M.Graham, M.Cunningham.

State Diploma of "Art Master" in architecture and Design of interiors and decoration (Institute ISA - S.Gennaro Ves - Naples - Italy).

Various projects with Philippe Saire (Expo02), Calvin Klein (Fashion Show), Opening of Modern Tate Gallery-London (Artistic Performance), Stravinsky Hall Montreux (Bolero of M.Béjart), Opera of Cairo (cultural exchange), Nadia Fares (FilmHDV), Kamal Musale (Trailer35mm), Neri Parenti (Film35mm), Vysual (VidéoClip35mm), Mondo Production (ShortMovieHDcam), Company JazzArt South Africa (shows /cultural exchange)

World tours on the 5 continents.

Honorary price from his birthplace City of Palma Campania - Napoli (I) for its artistic creations

Author of the book "Le point Zéro" ...notebook of a mad dancer - Edited by - Edition de L'Aire - Payot - Fnac.

Choreographer and teacher of contemporary dance at Clabo - SwissMediaCenter - Vevey - CH.

Professor of Visual arts and Design - High School EDL - Lausanne CH

Artistic Director and Choreographer of the Company ADN Dialect.

Cofounder and Co-director of Dark Mountain. International Company specialized in Design of high range in collaboration with Felice Carolla.

Director prize winner of the 1st price for the short film "Peace Police" - "Bad Idea Contest" by H&M.



### **Malcolm Braff - Music and live Performance**

Malcolm Braff was born in Brazil in 1970 and is regarded as a citizen of the world: he grew up in Dakar, in Senegal, before coming to be established in Switzerland. Its frequent voyages (he just came back from 2 months in India), prove a pronounced love for interbreedings of all kinds, his open mind as well as his deep respect of difference and diversity which everyone finds in his music and in his complicities with musicians of other horizons.

Strong of a classical music complete studies and academic works (philosophy, musicology and old Hebrew), Malcolm Braff discovers jazz at 19 years of age. Since then its course consisted of a fulgurating accumulation of success: with more than 20 cd albums, programmed very often in Montreux Jazz Festival, in Paleo Festival of Nyon and the Jazz festival of Cully, the great quality and the strong personality of his musical language were applauded on scenes of the whole world, and gave birth also to 2 albums through the prestigious label «Blue Note»



### **Gilles Schwab - Music and live Performance**

Born in 1968 in Switzerland

Musician and internationally recognized Composer. Obtains a diploma of clarinet to the academy of La Chaux-de-Fonds, then studies jazz and improvisation in multiple forms with Jean-François Bovard, at Swiss Jazz School, EJMA Center, and with the Academy of Luzern in Jazz section. Composed for Trialogie, NEC, TCJ, Childhood of art, ADN Dialect, Cirqu' alors, Solam, Ondine, KosmoKult. Played with monsters like: Julien Feltin, Jean Rochat, Pierre Eggimann, Lucas Gonseth, François Lindemann, Popol Lavanchi, Pascal Auberson, Jean-Pierre Schaller, Yannick Oppliger, Leon Francioli, Nunus Bourquin, Markus Moser, Gilles Reber, Julien Monti, Quan Ninh.

Teacher of improvisation freestyle, clarinet and saxophone in French-part of Switzerland (various schools and Academies)

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***cultures/partners of the project:***

**Pygmies Dances** (traditional and contemporary) - **Cameroon** (correspondents: Pierre Bizo - Ministry of Culture - Guy Marc Tony Mefe

**Haka - Maori Dance Traditions - Northland - New Zealand** (correspondents: Ojasvin Kingi & Iris Hausermann)

**Traditional Aboriginal Dances - Australia** (correspondents: Australia Council for the Art - project file in treatment)

**Hindu Traditional Shamanic dances - Kerala - India** (correspondent: Arthur Kuggeleyn)

**Indian Origins of Flamenco - Barcelona - Spain** (correspondent: Nadège Tissot)

**Traditional Shamanic Dance - Ulan Bator - Mongolia** (correspondents: Corine Sombrun - project file in treatment)

**Traditional Shamanic Dance - China** (correspondents: Ming Xiaoxia & Roland Grunder)

**Pow wow - Maya`s Shamanic Traditions - Mexico** (correspondent: Carlos Gabriel Martinez)

**Tarantella - Traditional dance - Italy** (correspondents: Mario Montanino - Regione Campania Istruzione Cultura)

NB: Danced cultures of ancestral traditions are not easily countable everywhere in this world. For reasons of time and available resources, the project will initially try to approach only the mentioned cultures. In the event of favorable development of the project, Latin America and Africa will be the subject of priority investigations, considering the richness and diversity of their traditional inheritance.

Many applications of the Urban Shaman Project are in progress through Ministries of Culture, Museums of Ethnography, Arts centers, Embassies, Theaters, dance companies and other potential partners.



### ***about the company***

Since its creation in 2001, ADN Dialect is devoted to the creation of artistic events with multiple facets, with an aim of promoting ideals of peace and cultural exchange between different peoples, cultures and styles. Its objective is to explore new forms of expression through artistic fields being able to interact with dance.

Its initials shorten the words Alternative Dance Nation, as well as the word “Dialect” symbolizing the constant research for danced performances as an atypical message of exchange beyond the words.

The actions of the company are articulated according to two axes:

scenic arts: the various aspects of the performing arts will be worked there, such as the dance, the music, the theatre, the performance of various artistic horizons.

visual arts: painting, sculpture, photography, design and multi-media installation

It is with this ambition to popularize and fraternize the performing arts and the visual arts that ADN Dialect created a rich and authentic platform. It is in this subtle and daring weaving between the sounds, the images, materials and the dance that the company gave birth to the “scenoplastic” disciplines.

It is in particular through a third teaching axis, that the company maintains its cultural and social activities. That results in many workshops, courses and cultural exchanges of contemporary dance, dances therapy, spectacles, expos, concerts and other interactive events.

## **Conclusion**

Today, we have opportunity to work on a project that takes advantage of the richness of Swiss cultural exchange and the vast diversity of multicultural dance heritage present there.

It has been 10 years since the ADN Dialect collective came to be, and this project aims at celebrating our maturation and exploration through the creation of a spectacular work for the benefit of the wider public. The original draft of this idea was made possible thanks to a meeting with Mr. Pierre Bizo, an outstanding promoter of cultural events in Cameroon, who discovered the ADN Dialect during his exploration of the Swiss cultural landscape. It was the ADN's focus on creating shows where artistic disciplines of different horizons intermingle (in this case an "interbreeding" of tribal and contemporary dance) that first drew his attention.

Like a tree, this project will nourish us from our very own roots in order for our branches to extend higher into a cosmos we have long since stopped paying attention to? From the depths of my dancer's soul, and on behalf of the ADN Dialect collective and our partners, I foresee a bright future!

Angelo Dello Iacono  
ADN Dialect /Art Director

## Contact

For any additional detail, do not hesitate to contact us through the following coordinates:

Marion DIL (Management/Coordination/Switzerland)  
Nadège Tissot (Management/Coordination/International)  
Sébastien Grognez (President)  
Angelo Dello Iacono (Artistic Director)

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