

*What the Day  
Owes to the Night*

Compagnie  
Hervé Koubi

Tuesday-Wednesday, January 30-31  
Boroughs Theatre  
Prior Presents 2023-24

**PRIOR**  
Performing Arts Center

# Welcome

Dear friends,

Bringing international artists to Holy Cross and greater Worcester was a key priority of Arts Transcending Borders, the visiting artist program which preceded the new performing arts center and inspired the Prior Presents series. Among the artists championed by the program was the French choreographer Hervé Koubi, who makes his third visit to the College this week. Hailing from countries and cultures throughout France and the Mediterranean region, the dancers of his company defy stylistic definitions. Simply put, they'll take your breath away.

On Hervé Koubi's first visit, in 2016, Holy Cross became among the first U.S. institutions to present the piece you'll see today. "What the Day Owes to the Night" is now recognized as Hervé Koubi's signature work, astounding audiences around the world. And while the company came to the College for another residency in 2017, that time giving an exciting performance at St. John's High School, it is only in 2024, with the opening of the new center, that we are able to present these artists in a true theater on Holy Cross's own campus. We are delighted to return "What the Day Owes to the Night" to Worcester this winter as a bridge between Holy Cross' rich history of investment in the arts and the bright futures made possible with The Prior.

On January 31, Hervé Koubi will offer a special version of "What the Day Owes to the Night" for Worcester Public School students in the French World Language program as well as heritage and native-speaking French students. These young audience members will bring special insight into the cross-cultural themes at the heart of all of Hervé Koubi's work, and we are eager to welcome them to Holy Cross.

Kyle Frisina  
Interim Director  
Prior Performing Arts Center

# Program

## What the Day Owes to the Night

### Choreography Assistants

Hervé Koubi  
Guillaume Gabriel  
Fayçal Hamlat

### Dancers

Badr Benr Guibi  
Giacomo Buffoni  
Mohammed Elhilali  
Youssef El Kanfoudi Abdelghani Ferradji  
Vladimir Gruev  
Oualid Guennoun  
Bendehiba Maamar Nadjib Meherhera  
Houssni Mijem  
Matteo Ruiz  
Ismail Oubbajaddi  
El Houssaini ZAHID

### Music

Sufi music  
Hamza El Din with Kronos Quartet  
Jean-Sébastien Bach

### Original Music

Maxime Bodson

### Arrangements

Guillaume Gabriel

### Lighting

Lionel Buzonie

### Costumes

Guillaume Gabriel

### Produced by

Compagnie Hervé Koubi

### Co-produced by

Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin  
Centre Chorégraphique  
National de Créteil et du  
Val-de-Marne — Cie Käfig  
Palais des congrès de Loudéac  
Centre Culturel de Vitry  
Ballet Preljocaj — Centre  
Chorégraphique National  
Centre Chorégraphique  
National — Malandain  
Ballet Biarritz

On January 30, the program will be followed by a Q&A with choreographer Hervé Koubi led by Foreign Language Assistants Lizzie Caurel (University of Burgundy in Dijon) and Naïla El-Hassouni (Sciences Po in Strasbourg).

Premiere: January 31, 2013, Pavillon Noir, Aix-en-Provence, France.

Recreation: Festival Scena Otzwarta.

# Program Notes

## What the Day Owes to the Night

From the opening moments of this haunting creation by Hervé Koubi, one is swept up into a unique world, a language of kinetic power and beauty. Inspired throughout his choreographic ventures by works of literature, music and art, Koubi makes his second collaboration in "What the Day Owes to the Night" with street dancers from around the Mediterranean basin. As Koubi set out to investigate his Algerian heritage, he describes "...a mixing up of time and a story of links" which provided the landscape for this piece Explosive yet lyrical, the work is a metaphor for the complex ties that link us all.

In 2009, Hervé Koubi held auditions in Algiers, taking the first step in a creation process that would culminate in 2013 with the premiere of "What the Day Owes to the Night."

Inspired by the young hero in Yasmina Khadra's novel of the same name—an ordinary boy shuffled from one family to the next—Hervé Koubi ventures into his own history, following a path that eventually leads to History, with a big H. "I would like to give life to my dreams as a child born in France who discovered belatedly his true origins and those of his parents, Algerians from birth."

Through meetings and custom work developed partially under the El Din initiative, the twelve Algerian and Burkinabé performers, coming mostly from the world of street dance and hip-hop, have provided the necessary effort to bring this long-term project to its conclusion.

Influenced by Orientalist paintings and the stone lace found in Islamic architecture, Hervé Koubi traces his own entangled path. Lace and its intricate designs have always been a source of fascination for Koubi, who sees them first as "a way to create a day, a day rendered in textiles, in matter... in my own history..."

"What the Day Owes to the Night" is, as its title implies, a disruption in time and a story about links.

— Compagnie Hervé Koubi

*Special thanks for their support of and engagement with this residency to Jimena Bermejo, Emma Burston, Joanne Caidor, Lizzie Caurel, Audra Carabetta, Rosa Carasquillo, Naïla El-Hassouni, Lynn Kremer, Thibaut Schilt, Taylor Travassos-Lomba, and the Worcester Public Schools.*

# Prior Performing Arts Center

A catalyst for creativity and learning, the Prior Performing Arts Center amplifies the arts at Holy Cross and provides the College, the greater Worcester community, and visiting creative thinkers with an inspiring environment to pursue diverse questions of the human experience.

For more information, visit [www.priorperformingartscenter.org](http://www.priorperformingartscenter.org).

## Prior Presents

"What the Day Owes to the Night" is the fourth event of this year's **Prior Presents** series, the Prior's signature visiting artist program, which complements the innovation and creativity of work produced throughout the year by Holy Cross students, faculty, and staff. Building on the foundation laid by Arts Transcending Borders (2014-2023), Prior Presents is the keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, merging thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community. Creative residencies, which provide artists with time and space to develop new work, make an essential contribution to the broader arts ecosystem and provide on- and off-campus community members with a window into intimate aspects of the creative process.

Upcoming Prior Presents events include:

### Reginald Dwayne Betts

February 26, 2024 | 6:00 pm | Luth Concert Hall

A critically acclaimed poet, scholar, and graduate of Yale Law School, Reginald Dwayne Betts draws on his personal experience with incarceration to work across diverse literary forms and advocacy projects for reform of the criminal justice system.

### Cultural Exchange Rate

Tania El Khoury

March 11-16, 2024 | Boroughs Theatre

In this interactive multimedia experience by Lebanese live artist Tania El Khoury, audiences are invited to engage with an astonishing collection of sensory artifacts that collectively trace more than a century of border crossings.

### Rhiannon Giddens

March 14, 2024 | 7:30 pm | Luth Concert Hall

The iconic folk artist Rhiannon Giddens, who has stretched her inimitable brand of folk music into nearly every field imaginable, performs from her first album of entirely original songs, "You're the One."

### Boston Lyric Opera

The Wanderer's Tethering

April 6, 2024 | 3:00 pm | Luth Concert Hall

With poetry by Boston Poet Laureate Porsha Olayiwola and music by composer Mason Bynes, "The Wanderer's Tethering" reconsiders the 1803 Igbo revolt on the shores of Georgia through the eyes of one of their descendants.

Previous artists in the 2023-2024 season have included playwright **Lloyd Suh**; the string quartet **Brooklyn Rider**; the choreographer **Deborah Goffe**; and photographer **LaToya Ruby Frazier**.

## Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic and Engagement Initiatives  
Evan Crocker, Event and Front of House Manager  
Rosemarie Cruz, Director of Production  
Matthew Freije, AV Assistant  
Kyle Frisina, Interim Director  
Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager  
Katrina Lewonczyk, Office Coordinator  
Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director  
Judi Olson, Assistant Costume Shop Manager  
Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director  
Brian Saia, Sound Supervisor  
Matthew Wasser, Lighting Director

## Prior Performing Arts Center Student Staff

Brendon Alvarez, Kasamba Amiri, Frank Amuso, Cecilia Baillon, Josiah Bargmann, Anna Brown, Emma Butler, Alexandra Carey, Sophie Cassarino, Matthew Conway, Melia Cook-Wright, Tim Cordes, Kelsey Crutchfield Archila, Laurel Denneen, Rachel Dentinger, Delia Drace, Abigail Durkin, Adele Feldberg, Shane Fitzpatrick, Lara Garabedian, Stephen Giannikas, Emmett Griffin, Erin Haddad, Anyelly Herrera, Amelia Hogan, Alejandro Irizarry, Christopher Irving, Abby Jacobs, Ishanpepe Jagsah, Elaine Kelly, Mary Grace Kelly, Jovani Lorenzo, Foster Martinuk, Joel Michaud, Camila Muller-Juez, Natasha Nichols, Vanessa Nolan, John O'Keefe, Elise O'Neill, Alexandria Paradise, Sarah Park, Catalina Powderly, Charbel Saouma, Blake Sheridan, Wesley Smith, Hannah Smyth, Paige Thomson, Marquis Wilson