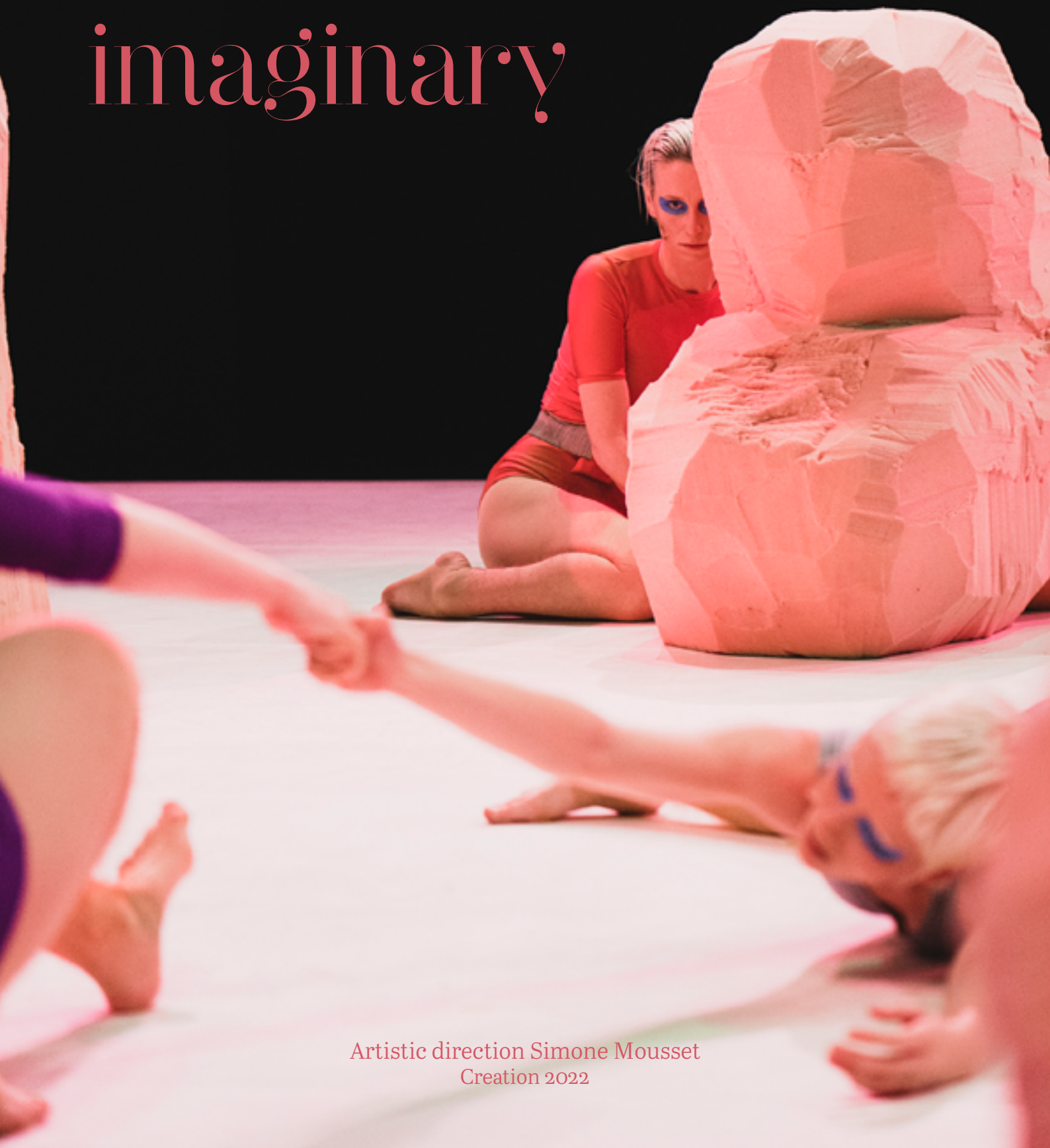


Empire of a faun imaginary

Tour Pack



Artistic direction Simone Mousset
Creation 2022

About

Something between a prehistoric opera and an eerie ballet, *Empire of a Faun Imaginary* is a melancholic world in search of the miraculous. Combining vocal work, visual art, and bodies in movement, this work explores our tussle with a contradictory, messy, and uncertain world, where horror and beauty carry on a strange dialogue.

Addressing feelings of meaninglessness and futility, the inadequate devices we have to navigate them, and the fantasies this generates, *Empire of a Faun Imaginary* is a choreographic spell. It is born out of a desire to channel the potential of imagination and the imaginary in a climate of fragmentation, silence, and emptiness. Yearning for transformation and new futures, it asks: How can we go on, and how can we dream again?



Artistic statement

For me, live performance is a mysterious way of human gathering that disrupts the real world, a testament to rigorous processes of the imagination and strange qualities of presence. In my work, I am interested in asking questions about our relationship to the uncertain, the messy, and the unresolved. I seek to create striking and existential worlds, situated on the border between fiction and a heightened reality, that shift the familiar and open up spaces for the weird, the surreal, the imaginary. My practice spans dance, theatre, performance, magic, visual art, and writing.

Empire of a Faun Imaginary was initially inspired by a growing curiosity about what kind of work would emerge after a pandemic. What atmospheres would it hold? Of which urgencies and thoughts would it speak? I carried within me a sense of the extreme reduction of possibilities, and of a melancholic, claustrophobic, yet also liberating and glorious suspension of time. I became interested in the feeling of being stuck in an emotional state dominated by futility, disconnection, stagnation, and the absence of meaning, where there seems to be no way out, or forward. Triggered by my own existential difficulty to see meaning in things, during the pandemic but also generally, *Empire of a Faun Imaginary* became about dreaming of alternative worlds, and fantasising about feeling differently.



Through uncanny silences as well as cries that resonate, unheard, in a vast and mysterious universe, I want to speak of a quiet and erosive kind of violence, that relates to both the impossibility to shift the way I am feeling internally, as well as the violence that is going on more visibly in the outer world. This is a world where nothing shifts, where things are held on to inexorably. Something needs to break, something so fundamental, that I feel like it needs a phenomenon beyond the human, a force so very other, so unimagined and undreamed-of, that the sky could be cracked open.

Empire of a Faun Imaginary is my fantasy of such a force.

Simone Mousset, choreographer

Biography

Simone Mousset is a Luxembourgish choreographer based between London, Luxembourg, and France. Recipient in 2017 of the Luxembourgish Dance Award, supported by the Réseau Grand Luxe in 2018-2019 and associate artist of the Escher Theater in 2020-2022, Simone is currently a Work Place Artist at The Place and accompanied by the Fondation Cléo Thiberge Edrom in France.

Simone trained in London at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, the Royal Academy of Dance, and the London Contemporary Dance School/EDge, touring works by Sasha Waltz, Igor Urzelai & Moreno Solinas, James Wilton, Tony Adigun, Matthias

Sperling, and Rachel Lopez de la Nieta. Simone has worked with independent choreographers and companies including Anu Sistonen, Jean-Guillaume Weis, Dog Kennel Hill Project, Caracalla Dance Theatre, Provincial Dances Theatre, Olga Pona/Chelyabinsk Contemporary Dance Theatre, Ballet Moskva and others.

Simone develops interdisciplinary work that orbits around the surreal, the fantastical, and the existential in conversation with individual artists and venues in Europe and beyond. Her company, Simone Mousset Projects, was founded in 2018 and is accredited and supported by the Ministry of Culture of Luxembourg since 2020.

Videos

Teaser 1

Teaser 2

Teaser 3 (rehearsal insights)



Press

“

Empire of a Faun Imaginary balances in a permanent in-between, between anguish of the end, and poetry.

With subtlety, Simone Mousset creates a universe of symbols, which holds this ambiguity, where moments of grace (...) coexist with disturbing dissonances, notably through the chiselled, rigorously crafted voice work.

Belinda Mathieu, Sceneweb (online)

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“

With Empire of a Faun Imaginary, Simone Mousset once again leads the spectator into a fascinating surrealist world, both delicate and powerful. This time she explores the existential anguish of death, in a creation as profound as it is free, served by a superb cast.

Marie-Laure Rolland, La Glaneuse (online)

”

“

A reverie oscillating between hope and despair, anguish and redemption, laughter and tears.

Jérôme Quiqueret, Tageblatt

”

“

Finally, this Empire of a Faun Imaginary articulates once again a formidable freedom of tone and a lightness of form at the service of a powerful questioning. The piece does not offer an answer to our existential anxieties, but at least we feel particularly alive during the 60 minutes of the show.

Marie-Laure Rolland, La Glaneuse (online)

”



PRODUCTION
Simone Mousset Projects

COPRODUCTION
Escher Theater; Esch 2022 Capitale européenne de la Culture; POLE-SUD, Centre de Développement Chorégraphique National, Strasbourg; Centre Chorégraphique National de Nantes; KLAP Maison pour la danse; Les Hivernales - CDCN d'Avignon; Atelier de Paris CDCN; Centre Chorégraphique National de Rillieux-la-Pape, direction Yuval PICK

FINANCIAL PARTNERS
The Place - Londres; TROIS C-L – Centre de Création Chorégraphique Luxembourgeois; CN D Centre national de la danse dans le cadre du dispositif Artistes en expérimentation à Lyon; Fondation Indépendance by BIL

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London Contemporary Dance School Costume Department

Simone Mousset Projects is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. Simone Mousset is associate artist at The Place in London, and she is supported by the Fondation Cléo Thiberge Edrom.

Distribution

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Simone Mousset

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Eevi Kinnunen, Hannah Parsons, avec
Jorge Motel

DRAMATURG
Lou Cope

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CULTURAL THEORY CONSULTANT
Macon Holt

SOUND
Alberto Ruiz Soler

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Show length: 65 minutes

Minimum age : Recommended from 8 years (loud sound, loud screaming)

Creation

PREMIÈRE

9/12/2022 :

Escher Theater, Luxembourg

On tour

16/02/2023 :

Les Hivernales CDCN, Avignon ^(FR)

28/02/2023 :

The Place, London ^(UK)

29/03/2023 :

Festival Le Grand Bain, Le Gymnase CDCN, Roubaix ^(FR)

13/04/2023 :

KLAP Maison pour la danse/Théâtre Joliette, Marseille ^(FR)

03/06/2023 :

Festival TalentLAB, Grand Théâtre du Luxembourg ^(LU)

06/06/2023 :

Festival June Events, Atelier de Paris ^(FR)



SIMONE MOUSSET
PROJECTS

