



The current pandemic has made us think about the need, as a global society, to look at our relationship with planet Earth. Science has been warning us for a while that if we don't take actions to change our relationship towards the planet, we risk having floods, refugee crises, wild fires and pandemics. We believe that the current pandemic can be a call to action. **Our Skin** is a project that aims to reflect on the place where we live and to remember that we are nature.

Our Skin is a 35 minutes dance film created by Yael Karavan and Rita Vilhena and made in collaboration with film maker Francisca Manuel, performers Joana Castro, Thamiris Carvalho and Jim Clark, costume designer Carlota Lagido and sound designer Kino Sousa. Filmed in the wilderness of Coentral Grande, in Castanheira de Pêra, the artistic object is composed of images captured with micro and macro lenses of the skin of the trees, the veins of the rivers, and the bodies of the dancers, contradicting the separation that exists in urban society. The film observes and questions how we influence each other: Body-Earth, Earth-Body as it explores the transformation of the female body merging with the natural landscape. The boundaries between the performers bodies and the landscape disappear, highlighting the continuity of our skin into the skin of the earth.

Our Skin aims to bring back the wild nature into the urban spaces where it once belonged.

The project also includes a workshop with the local community towards a performative action with the intention of sensitizing and motivating the participants into critical thinking on the main climate related themes of the project. The presentation of the film is thus accompanied by a performance that results from a 2-3 days workshop offered to the local community.

This project is a public art work, aiming to reach diverse communities regardless of their financial background, class and/or artistic inclination. We wish to bring back nature to different urban spaces where it once thrived, and thus remind ourselves that we are not independent from it. The film is designed to be projected in large format on the facades of buildings in the city, visible to passers-by in the street or in galleries and/or museums, or in dance film festivals. We want to bring back the presence of the wild nature, into the urban spaces.

Dedicated in memory of the artists Dani Karavan who passed away during the creation of this film.

Link to teaser- (full film on demand) - <https://youtu.be/TshsYUuGa2w>

THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Concept and direction: Yael Karavan and Rita Vilhena

Performed and devised by: Yael Karavan, Rita Vilhena with Joana Castro, Thamiris Carvalho and Jim Clark

Film maker, editing and colour correction: Francisca Manuel

Sound design : Diogo Melo

Costumes: Carlota Lagido

Photography: Josefa Searle

Executive production: Rita Vilhena/ Joana Cordeiro

Administrative and financial management: Vítor Alves Brotas - Agência 25

Production: Particula Extravagante and Agência 25

Photo by Carlota Lagido and Josefa Searle

Supported by the ministry of culture of Portugal- DGARTES, Re-union residency, Dance centre Victor Cordon and Castanhera de Pera council.

About the artists

Yael Karavan Award-winning Israeli/British performer, dancer and director, Yael has traveled throughout Europe, Russia, Brazil and Japan studying with numerous masters in search of an authentic training method and a contemporary physical language of expression linking east and west, theatre and dance. Using elements of Butoh, dance, mime, clown, physical and visual theatre, she explores way to react to current pressing socio-political issue, putting an emphasize on memory, metamorphosis, the invisible and the notion of repetitive cycles, intertwining dreamlike poetry with a humorous edge, balancing between the tragic and the comic, the intimate and the collective.

Since 1999 she has been working professionally performing in theatres, festivals as well as galleries and museums, teaching in schools and universities worldwide, creating numerous solos and collaboration for herself and others around the world and was, among others, member of multiple Award-winning Russian dance theatre company 'Derevo' as well as Tadashi Endo's 'Mamu Dance theatre'. In 2009 she created the Karavan Ensemble, an award-winning international dance/physical theatre and site-specific company.

www.yaelkaravan.com / www.karavanensemble.com

Rita Vilhena is a Portuguese choreographer and researcher of dance and movement in cultural and/or religious acts in different communities and of the body as culture or sacred place. Since 2003 she has been working as a professional dancer with the main motivation of the idea of transformation and participation, driven by intuition and pleasure. Her latest works "#VIBRA #DOR" and "Corpo Santo" are a mark of her artistic journey with interest in Ritual and Performance. In 2005 he created *Baila Louca improvisation and performance* in Rotterdam, the city where he lived (2002-2015). BL was born from an individual challenge, to give visibility and make collaborations with artists who inspired her. She teaches dance at Superior Dance School in Lisbon and in The Netherlands and festival around the world, and is part of the national and international community of Contact Improvisation.

She's graduated from the Superior Dance School (IPL), Rotterdam Academy of Dance (CODARTS), and has a master in Performing Arts (FCSH) and has worked as a scholarship holder at the INET-md Scientific Research Centre for Dance and Musicology.
www.ritavilha.com/www.bailalouca.com

Contact – thekaravanensemble@gmail.com

