



FA

Creation 2023  
Cie Amoukanama



# In the beginning

Amoukanama is a young and dynamic company founded by Nathalie Vandenabeele and Alseny Sacko. Nathalie, bioengineer and equestrian artist, met acrobat Alseny during the show Tagadart in France. Since then, they have worked together and have successfully launched various artistic, socio-cultural and educative projects in Belgium, France and Guinea.

The search for connection, understanding, exchange, courage and perseverance of acrobats is at the heart of these projects. *Amoukanama*, in Sussu "What does not break, always persists" consists appropriately of a group of acrobats who have chosen the circus as a means of life. The group of Guinean acrobats who are gathered in this project, all grew up in Conakry and through their life as an artist, they wish to share their energy, their wisdom and their joie de vivre with the general public.

*"What does not break,  
will always exist..."*







Our association was born in 2016 when we launched a project for Conakry in collaboration with the province of West Flanders in Belgium. We received the first support to build a circus school for young people who wish to build a future as a circus artist (professional formation aspect) or use the circus as a means of discovering themselves and others (social circus aspect). We continue to work on the realization of the physical space for our school which we envision to open its in 2023.

More information about our projects in Europe and Guinea can be found here:

<https://amoukanama.files.wordpress.com/2022/04/presentation-amoukanama-english.pptx.pdf>









# FA

The creation appeared when we received support from “Frame Voice Report” to create a show, an organization supported by the European Union whose vocation is to strengthen the commitment of European citizens towards a global consciousness.

The founders of Amoukanama invite Anthony Weiss from 2019 to Guinea Conakry to bring artistic practices and education to the group, do a workshop, laboratories of research and creation and residencies of creation. In 2023, co-founder Balla Moussa Bangoura also joins the project and as such a group of 9 Guinean acrobats and one Belgian acrobat is naturally formed.

This creation is a way to contribute to the history of contemporary circus on a human and diversity axis. It is a great singular piece, acrobatic and danced to meet the Western world and the traditions of West Africa.

A public space version was created and broadcast the summer of 2022 in Europe, ahead of the 2023 theater creation. This version has toured in 2023 in France, Belgium, Hungary and United States.

*“To go beyond...”*



Première FA – Public space – Zomer van Antwerpen July 2022









This creation is inspired by the current effervescent youth movement for the construction of a better future. FA is a human journey through obstacles where the voice is given to a united and generous community. Coming from different backgrounds, these fiery and candid individuals walk towards their dreams, beyond their limits...

FA is a project combining contemporary writing with ethnic traditions. The show direction and choreography of Anthony Weiss combined with the acrobatic art of this group creates a singular writing where the acrobat dancer, individually and in the collective, is the central point of this piece.

On a refined stage, the body in motion is a main vector and the musical creation plunges us completely into a journey.

FA is an invitation to human union. to a new vision.



# FA

*Circus arts, Dance, Music*

*Soaring with a determined step  
a young group goes in search of a new world.  
Coming from different backgrounds, they walk together to go beyond...*

*FA is a great crossing towards a change.*

*Propelled by a surge of passion and hope,  
these sunny and candid individuals follow the light of a new land on the horizon.  
They help each other step by step, twirling through obstacles,  
and build a new path, that of tomorrow.*

*An adventure thus takes shape and takes us on a journey at crossroads of Africa and the West,  
in search of freedom and a better world.*

*FA is an Ode to Life, overflowing with energy and radiating of a deep and sacred human union.*



## Teaser 2023:

To come in november.

Video full show

Please ask us the link to the full show.

## Duration

80min

## Technical requirements

Platform - 10/8m - height 8m

Sound: Diffusion of the sound adapted to the place.

Light: See lightplan.

Aerials: 1 à 2 rigging points + 1 à 2 floor points for pulley system.



*Floor acrobatics - Partner acrobatics - Banquine  
- Aerial silks - Straps - Platform flights - Dance  
- Music*



## Artistic Team

**Director and Choreography:** Anthony Weiss

**Assistant Director February 2022:** Dolores Calvi

**Acrobats:** Mamadou Lamarana Bah, Ibrahima Sory Bangoura, Balla Moussa Bangoura, Mohamed Bangoura, Tidjane Bangoura, Ibrahima Sory Camara, Facinet Camara, Alseny Sacko, Panival Soumah, Nathalie Vandenabeele

**Acrobatic collaboration:** Mahmoud Louertani

**Production:** Nathalie Vandenabeele / Danny Keuppens

### **Co-production:**

Espace Périphérique, Paris – Flemish Government, Belgium – French Institute - Dommelhof, Neerpelt, Belgium - European Union – Commune Langemark-Poelkapelle.

### **Creation Residence:**

Kindia Youth Center, Guinea · Compagnie Isis, Pargny-Filain, France · National Circus School Châtelleraut, France. The Box Miramiro, Ghent, Belgium - CRAC Lomme - Espace Périphérique, La Villette Paris - ENCC, Châtelleraut France - Franco-Guinean Cultural Center, Conakry - Les Baladins du Miroir, Jodoigne Belgium.

March to June 2023: Espace Périphérique, Paris - National Circus School Shems'y, Morocco - Cirklabo, Louvain Belgium - Dommelhof, Belgium.

### **Tour 2023:**

Belgium: CC Bruges: **PREMIERE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

NT Gent - De Grote Post Oostende - CC Dilbeek - De Spil Roeselare – Pelt Theater op de Markt – GC Oosterzele



## FA is supported by

- European Union
- Espace Périphérique, Paris, France. Coproduction.
- Flemish government. Coproduction.
- Company Les Mélangeurs. France. Coproduction.
- Dommelhof, Belgium.
- Institut Français.
- Miramiro, Ghent, Belgium.
- Ecole Nationale de Cirque Châtellerault, France. Coproduction.
- Petit Musée, Conakry, Guinea.
- Centre Culturel Franco-Guinéen, Conakry, Guinea. .
- Commune de Langemark-Poelkapelle, Belgium.
- Les Baladins du Miroir, Jodoigne, Belgique.

And a big team of acrobats and volunteers (friends, mothers, grandmothers, children...)

## The Bigger Picture

FA is part of a project initiated in Guinea which includes both artistic and social initiatives. We focus on training for young people in Guinea, exchanges with young people in Europe, constructive communication from our partners in Guinea and investment in the cultural sector in West Africa. In addition, we recently joined FEDEC and we look forward to this new collaboration.

If possible, we would like to combine a performance with an interactive moment with the local community. Do not hesitate to ask us for more information if you are interested.







In search of :  
Coproduction – Residency light creation juin 2023 – Diffusion





## Creative team

The Encounter with Anthony Weiss partly made this project possible. It was a convergence of ideas, experiences and ambition to bring our creation into the world. During the work, we constantly seek the dynamic balance between the artist and the choreographer so that the magic is born from the collision, the discovery, the encounter and the sharing.



Anthony is a multidisciplinary artist, director and emerging circus choreographer.

From his childhood, he was trained in dance and circus arts. He connected to the arts at a very young age, his relationship to the stage being innate and obvious.

He trained with his dance mother, then with Surraya Mahmood & Jonathan Sutton (Théâtre du Soleil - Ecole Jacques Lecoq) at Acrobatic Theaters in Aix-en-Provence.



[www.anthonyweiss.com](http://www.anthonyweiss.com)

He then joined the National Circus School of Châtellerault (BAC Cirque) then the National Circus School of Montreal in Canada, and became a swinging trapeze artist. He graduated in 2009 and began his career through various projects and cabarets. He also continued his apprenticeship with the master of the swinging trapeze: Victor Fomine (Cirque du Soleil - National Circus School of Montreal - Studio Léotard). Together they will present the fruit of their work at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris in 2012. 2013 marks the beginning of an adventure towards creation.

An essential redirection on his return to Europe to move towards deeper artistic work. He began to self-taught to explore the discipline of aerial straps and developed work on aerial movement, drawing on a technical base. He embarked on several projects as a duet with an actress: "Drop" and "Letters of Love" by David Bobée or "Guerre" by Samuel Mathieu, a piece of contemporary dance and aerial straps.

At the same time, in 2015, he founded UNATI and created his first show: *ÛMAN*, An introspective solo about the transition of Humanity today. Release: January 2018 then July 2019 at the Avignon Festival OFF where it won the prize for "Best Circus / Dance Show".

He also continues to train in parallel: in MAO (electronic music), intuitive singing, drum ... And he thus develops over several years his style of musical composition, for the benefit of his creations.

2018 he also obtains a Certificate in Circassian Dramaturgy at the National Circus Arts Center and at the Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque de Bruxelles.

He was then offered the artistic direction and staging of a new creation: FA for Amoukanama Circus, a Belgian-Guinean project and the role of choreographer and aerial coach on an international production in Turkey.

2020 is a new dawn for him, the time to transmit, create and affirmatively share his avant-garde vision in the arts world with "FA" and his upcoming new creation "RÂ".



Together with



After a workshop in 2018 and research laboratory in 2019 in Guinea, the final group of FA was selected and consists of ...

## Alseny Sacko - base, aerial straps



Alseny Sacko grew up in Guinea and has a good understanding of the many challenges for young people in Conakry. Through inspiring examples and his own life choices, he was able to create a future for himself and his family. He has trained many young acrobats and raised many more at his home in Matam. Several of them are now working in international circus companies abroad. He has an experience of a lifetime in the circus. He has worked throughout Africa (Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali, Guinea ...) and in various major shows in Europe (Afrika! Afrika !, Boulevard Conakry , Tagadart equestrian show). He has skills in a wide range of circus disciplines: acrobatics, straps, basing, hand to hand, trampoline, Chinese pole, juggling, dance, djembe, human pyramids. He was one of the initiative takers for the creation of FA and has a supporting role as a technical coach.

## Nathalie Vandenabeele - flyer, silks

Nathalie has several years of experience as a project coordinator. She completed her studies as a bioengineer at the University of Ghent, Wageningen (The Netherlands) and Addis Ababa Ethiopia with cum Laude. After her studies, she traveled abroad to gain experience in several countries and projects. Thanks to her love for and experience with horses, she was introduced to the world of Circus after an audition for Cavalia. So, she received formation and was then hired as an artist in Tagadart. There she started with acrobatics, aerial silks and hand to hand. She continued her journey in Guinea, at Archaos Marseille and in various structures in Belgium. She is coached by Mahmoud Louertani in hand to hand, by Catie Brier in contortion and flexibility, by Sascha Bachmann in equilibrium and through numerous encounters in the aerial silks. At the same time as her introduction into the world of circus, the desire to lead the project in Guinea was born. With her partner, Alseny Sacko, she facilitated the creation of the Amoukanama association in Guinea and also started a division in Belgium. For several years, she has been working with the rest of the team to grow this association. It has gained support from the Belgian government, Europe and other private and public donors.







## Balla Moussa Bangoura - Flyer, musician, dancer

The founder of Amoukanama is integrated into the FA project this year. He brings with him a huge wealth of experience, knowledge and skills. After his work with the company Cavalia he moved to Montreal to continue developing his talent. When his contract with Cirque du Soleil was finished, he decided to invest his time and energy in his own company, Amoukanama....



## Ibrahima Sory Bangoura -Flyer

The youngest of the group, Kapté, has lived with Alseny since his childhood. He trained with the oldest acrobats in Conakry. Although under difficult circumstances, he nevertheless reached a high level in acrobatics, banquine, flying, human pyramids, dance, music and comedy. He has also participated in shows at the Franco Guinean Cultural Center in Conakry, at the MASA Ivory Coast, in Les Enfants de Soleil et la Lune (directed by Moussa Doumbouya), at the Palace of Culture in Conakry, etc. In November 2019, he traveled to China with Amoukanama to participate in a cultural festival.

Given his dynamism and youthful enthusiasm, it was a logical choice to cooperate with Kapté in this project.



## Tidjane Bangoura – Base

Born in Sierra Leone, Tidjane is an example of courage and perseverance in life. For several years, he has been working on a future through the circus arts. Much like Mamadou, he has grown rapidly and into a solid base with enormous talent for dance, acrobatics and theater. He has already participated in various shows and events in Guinea and is ready for the next step.



## Panival Soumah- Flyer, Aerial straps

Panival is a versatile acrobat with many years of experience. He started at the Tinifan circus school, Conakry, then came to Amoukanama. He specializes in acrobatics, flying (banquine, plateau, hand to hand) and aerial straps. He has participated in various shows across Africa and has been selected several times during auditions for international companies in Guinea (including Cavalia).

He immediately stood out for the FA creation by his good technique, his energy and his expression.

## Mamadou Lamarana Bah – Base

Fairly new to circus, Mamadou made a rapid development in the arts. His talent was noticed and he has already traveled to Ivory Coast and China to participate in cultural festivals. He specializes in basing and dancing and works on acrobatics and juggling. With his talent a period in Europe can certainly develop his potential. Thanks to his integrity, talent and artistic potential, he was also quickly selected for the FA project.







## Ibrahima Sory Camara - flyer

Since childhood, Ibrahima has worked on the beach every day to become an acrobat. He specializes in acrobatics on the ground and flying. He is one of the most consistent flyers who will be able to open the spectrum to new figures. He has participated in various shows in Guinea and other African countries and is ready to grow as an artist in this production.



## Mohamed Bangoura - danser, flyer

Mohamed has such a special technique in acrobatics and movement that he is always noticed. He practices acrobatics, dance, handstands, etc. for years and has also traveled across Africa to take part in shows. He was selected during auditions for Cavalia and other international companies in Conakry, but was never able to travel. We hope that with this project, Mohamed will finally be able to share his talents with a wider audience in Europe and beyond.

## Facinet Camara - base

Facinet has worked as an artist in the circus world for several years and holds a responsible position within Amoukanama in Guinea. He started out as an acrobat like the others on the beach. During one of the previous Cavalia auditions he was selected and he was able to work for several years for the Odysseo show in Canada / North America and Cavalia in China. There he learned various other disciplines (eg Chinese pole). He is a versatile acrobat with a talent for dancing and has experience to help lead the group in this project.



# AMOUKANAMA CIRCUS

## Contacts

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