

LOWRY

SPRING CONTEMPORARY SEASON 2026

DICKSON MBI: TELLUS



INTRODUCTION FROM STEVE COWTON CO-HEAD OF THEATRES

We're delighted to welcome back Dickson Mbi with his stunning new show TELLUS. Dickson is an artist we have championed for many years now - one of the graduates from our Developed With scheme he has gone on to establish a central role in the UK Dance scene - making work that is extraordinary and unique. At a time when funding for dance has never been more precarious - Lowry was delighted to support the creation of this major new work which we're very proud to present.

TELLUS begins with a simple, intimate act: award-winning choreographer and composer Dickson Mbi's desire to tell his son a bedtime story. But this isn't just any story: it's an epic drawn from the wellspring of Mbi's Cameroonian heritage, inspired by the mythical deity Mami Wata, a life source of beauty and love whose power can also turn to destruction. Mbi's immersive score, from gentle lullaby to stirring chant, underscores dancers fusing intense physicality with ethereal grace.

TELLUS is more than a performance; it's a ritual to reconnect with the quiet, powerful source of everything: our Earth, our past, our mother.

This vision is brought to life by eight dancers of global heritage, fusing intense physicality with ethereal grace. Their world is built by a creative team including video artists Yeast Culture, lighting designer Lee Curran, set designer Ruby Law, costume design by Debbie Duru and costume consultant Fay Fullerton, with sound design by Tony Gayle, co-written with poet Nick Drake and with dramaturgy by Simon McBurney.

Co-commissioned by Sadler's Wells Theatre, schrit_tmacher Festival NL and DanceEast, as a DanceEast Jerwood Commission. TELLUS is a 'Developed with Complicité' project - a strand of their Mudlarks Ideas Development programme.

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Lowry's theatres present over 1000 performances a year, reaching 850,000 audience members with its diverse programme of drama, opera, musicals, dance and comedy. Partner companies include National Theatre, Rambert, Opera North and Birmingham Royal Ballet and the programme regularly features productions from the nation's most established companies, including Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Royal Shakespeare Company and Complicité.

Lowry has an extensive commissioning and artist development programme that showcases its commitment to the development of new work for theatre. Recent commissions and co-productions include Operation Mincemeat, A Squash and a Squeeze, Complicité's Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Rambert's Peaky Blinders, High School Musical with Hope Mill Theatre and Bank of Dave The Musical.

CREDITS

Dickson Mbi Company

Artistic Director

Dickson Mbi

Producer

Donna Meierdiercks

Technical Director

Dom Martin

Project & Marketing

Coordinator

Emi Del Bene

DANCERS

Kenny Wing Tao Ho
Monique Jonas
Vanessa Vince-Pang
Nathan Goodman
Harvey Burke-Hamilton
Tania Dimbelolo
Hannah Joseph
Siyu Lu
Jonadette Carpio

CREATIVES

Video Artists

Nick Hillel / Yeast Culture

Set Designer

Ruby Law

Light Designer

Lee Curran

Costume Designer

Debbie Duru

Costume Consultant

Fay Fullerton

Sound Designer

Tony Gayle

Co-Writer

Nick Drake

Dramaturg

Simon McBurney

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