

# DARLING

by Moya Michael & Igor Shyshko



**Premiered in 2013**  
Stuk Kunstencentrum (Louvain, Belgique)

**Available on tour in 2017-2018**

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## NOTES ABOUT THE CREATION PROCESS by Kitty Kortés Lynch

“The timeline shared between two artists reveals similarities of their histories, one coming of age in apartheid South Africa, and the other in Belarus in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. Darling, as a term of endearment between these two friends becomes symbolic of their complicity.

Conversations on the institutionalised racism, homophobia, political turmoil of their respective homelands - and what was interiorised or blissfully ignored in their youth - emerged as the starting point for a dance duet whose form is layered with cultural references. Darling sublimates this double-edged dialogue; how to cherish what is dear and protest the unbearable, with unmediated physicality.”

### ABOUT

French psychologist Anne Ancelin Schutzenberger spent decades studying what she called the ancestor syndrome, saying “we are links in a chain of generations, unconsciously affected by their suffering or unfinished business until we acknowledge the past.”

The defining elements of DARLING are found in the hermetically tight and loyal relationship between the dancers, the continuous small steps - continuously stepping, the convulsive, central point of rupture, and the linear evolution of the piece within a soundscape rich in imagery, from beginning to end.

There is no narrative, the dancers do not play themselves; they are undifferentiated in status. There are variations within the stepping, culturally charged yet distilled. What emerges from this is a boldly liberating dance piece, constructed on multiple layers of cultural references, striving for a way forward.

What began as a dialogue between two friends and dance makers, resulted in a duet of unmediated drive and physicality.

**CREDITS**

**Created & performed by** Moya Michael & Igor Shyshko

**Dramaturgy** Kitty Kortés Lynch

**Costumes** Ann Weckx

**Set design** Tom Bruwier, Moya Michael, Ann Weckx

**Soundscape** Gasper Piano

**Light design** Tom Bruwier

**Photos** Mihail Onea & Constance Neuenschwander

**Video by** VISDKI – Baris Avci: <https://youtu.be/5U-e9Ua0Fa4>

**Diffusion in France & Europe** CoKoT / Julie Le Gall & Hanna El Fakir

**Producer** Stuk Kunstencentrum (Louvain, Belgique)

**Coproducers** Zeldá productions, Workspacebrussels, Dance Umbrella 2013. Supported by Belgian Flemish Community.

**TEAM ON TOUR - 4 people**

- 2 performers

- 1 stage & light manager

- 1 tour manager

**DURATION – 55 min**

## Moya MICHAEL

Moya Michael is a dancer, performing artist and choreographer born and raised in Johannesburg South Africa. She obtained a national diploma in Contemporary and African dance at the Tswane University in Pretoria. Following her diploma, she received a full scholarship to study at P.A.R.T.S. (Performing Arts Research and Training Studios) under the direction of Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker.

Last years she has danced with the likes of Akram Khan, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker (Rosas), Sidi Larbi Cherkoui and Damien Jalet (Eastman), Faustin Linyekula and David Hernandez.

Moya was nominated for a best dancer award at the 'ITS' Festival in Holland and was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist Award for dance at the National Arts festival in Grahamstown South Africa.

Moya currently resides in Brussels Belgium which is her base for creating her own work.

Moya Has worked on commissions in India, China, Germany, South Africa and Austria. Her latest Works include 'Darling' in collaboration with Igor Shyshko which they still perform and 'A\_Part' created for three talented dancers from the SEAD's Bodhi project in Salzburg Austria.

Moya is currently working on a series of solos and is also spearheading an open ended collaboration which started in Pondicherry (India) last February, with a group of multidisciplinary artists from across the globe.

Moya is interested in 'performing the self' and developing projects with other artists and artistic fields and has an ongoing commitment to process, discourse and becoming.

## Igor SHYSHKO

was born in the city of Gomel, Belarus. At the age of 16, Igor developed an interest in dance and joined the local community cabaret group ZAVTRA.

In 1993, he moved to Minsk where he studied at the Belarusian University of Culture, completing majors in Contemporary and Folk dance. While studying, he performed with the group 'Kvadro' under the direction of Aslamova Inna.

In 1997, Igor moved to Belgium to further his studies in contemporary dance at P.A.R.T.S. In his final year, he contributed to the creation of *RUSH* by Akram Khan.

From 2000 to 2010, Igor danced as a member of the Rosas dance company. He performed and toured numerous works internationally, contributing to the creation of *Rain*, *April me*, *Bitches Brew /Tacoma Narrows*, *Kassandra*, *Raga for the rainy season / A love Supreme*, *D'un Soir un Jour*, *Bartok - Beethoven*, *Schoenberg*, *Repertory Evening - Steve Reich Evening and Zeitung*. Igor continues to freelance with Rosas for his role in *Drumming*.

In 2010, he participated in the creation *Minutes Opportunes* for the Company Michèle Noiret. He continues to tour with this piece. Igor also dances with iconic choreographer Marc Vanrunxt, with whom he has created three pieces; *Zeit* and *Abstraction* and Vanrunxt's latest piece, *Art Touches the Sky and the Earth (Xavier Mellery, 1901)* danced on the sea shore; the edge of culture and nature. He will be

performing with Arco Renz in his latest creation *Dust*. He also performs in *De fietsendief* by Flemish director and writer Bart Van Nuffelen.

## **Gasper PIANO**

Is a composer. He was born in Slovenia and graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social anthropology and culture studies. During his studies, he composed and performed in Slovenia and abroad. The Ministry of Culture of Slovenia acknowledged him as a budding artist, composer and musician.

Since 2008, he has been active as an independent composer for performative arts (theatre, dance, performance), for visual arts (multimedia projects, installations, film, video, TV projects) chamber ensembles and acoustic-experimental-electronic groups. His works are performed at national and international festivals and exhibitions. In 2012/13, Gasper composed the soundscape for *DARLING*. He performs live in the piece *Trigon*, choreography by Salva Sanchis, Marc Vanrunxt and Georgia Vardarou. In 2013, he collaborated with choreographer Roberto Oliván for *Natural Strange Days*. Gasper currently lives and works in Brussels Belgium.

## **Kitty Kortés Lynch**

began performing and dressmaking while in high school in her hometown in Texas and won best actress at the interscholastic league for one-act plays and first place in the state-wide make *It Yourself with Wool* seamstress competitions.

Tertiary Education was in theatre and dance from University of Utah and Ballet West, and MUDRA, the ephemeral school of Maurice Bejart. She has a degree in philosophy from Katholieke Universiteit van Leuven and more recently studied Diversity Literacy under Melissa Stein (*Whiteness Just Isn't What It Used to Be*) at the University of Cape Town.

Professionally she has worked in France in cinema and in Belgium in contemporary dance and theatre. She created Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's first play (Heiner Müller's *Verkommenes Ufer Medeamaterial Landschaft mit Argonauten*) and Jan Ritsema's first dance piece (*Le Fin du Temps*). Her last performance piece was for choreographer Marc Van Runxt; *Unspeakable*, deemed a small masterpiece by dance critic Jeroen Peeters.

She multi-tasked for P.A.R.T.S. for four years; conducting international auditions and participating in program development, particularly the place and format for the dancers' own work, their performances and coaching. There she met Moya Michael and Igor Shyshko. She served as member of the Dance Commission for the French-language Minister of Culture.

Currently, she lives in Cape Town South Africa and has a production company for documentary films, and social and cultural events. In 2011 she curated *Collection [malunga]* for the French catalogue 3 Suisses and their project with UN WOMEN. She supports *Dance For All*, a non-profit organization offering daily, quality dance training for hundreds of young people from the townships around Cape Town.

In January 2012, Moya asked her to assist her for the premiere of her solo for two performers; *Right Here Right Now* at Dance Umbrella in Johannesburg. She deeply enjoyed returning to the questions of contemporary dance, performance and dramaturgy. For Moya's last piece *Darling*, with Igor, Kitty also worked as a dramaturge.

## DARLING PREVIOUS DATES

### **December 2016**

KVS (Brussels, Belgium)

GC De Warandepoort (Tervuren, Belgium)

### **January 2014**

De Spil (Roeselare, Belgium)

### **April 2014**

KVS (Brussels, Belgium)

Stuk Kunstencentrum (Leuven, Belgium)

### **September 2014**

JazzArt Festival @ Artscape Theater (Cape Town, South Africa)

Dance Umbrella Festival @ Wits theater (Johannesburgs, South Africa)