The Divination Palace

An indoor and outdoor performance and installation

By Nzi Dada - Jim Parris and Xumo Nunjo
In association with Company Chameleon
Creative Director – Anthony Missen
Produced by XTRAX

"The most fundamental aesthetic principle in Africa concerning music or anything else is that without participation there is no meaning– you can go so far as to consider African music as being a form of co-operation that happens also to produce sound" – Andrew Tracy



Update: OCT19.2026

The Divination Palace

Dr Jim Parris has been developing the idea for the Divination Palace for several years, building on his years of work as a musician and performer, and more recently his work on a PhD in African Art and Music

The Divination Palace is an African inspired multi-media outdoor performance and installation, inspired by both Yoruban cosmology and traditional African art from throughout the continent. The influence of traditional African architectural painting, fabrics, music and performance are all used to create a contemporary ritual in which the participants come together to participate and share in wondering about their destiny.

The audience are invited to participate in a divination process. Each participant randomly takes a card, featuring one of sixteen designs, and is guided to a corresponding fabric banner within an architectural outdoor structure, with bespoke accompanying music and text.

Indoor Premiere:
Teatre Principal d'Olot (Spain) 15 & 16 May 2025
Outdoor Premiere:
La Mercè (Barcelona) 26 & 27 September 2026

Commissioned by: Teatre Principal d'Olot, XTRAX and DanceEast
R&D supported by: Manchester International Festival and 101 Creation Centre
Funded by Arts Council England




OUTDOOR Premiere











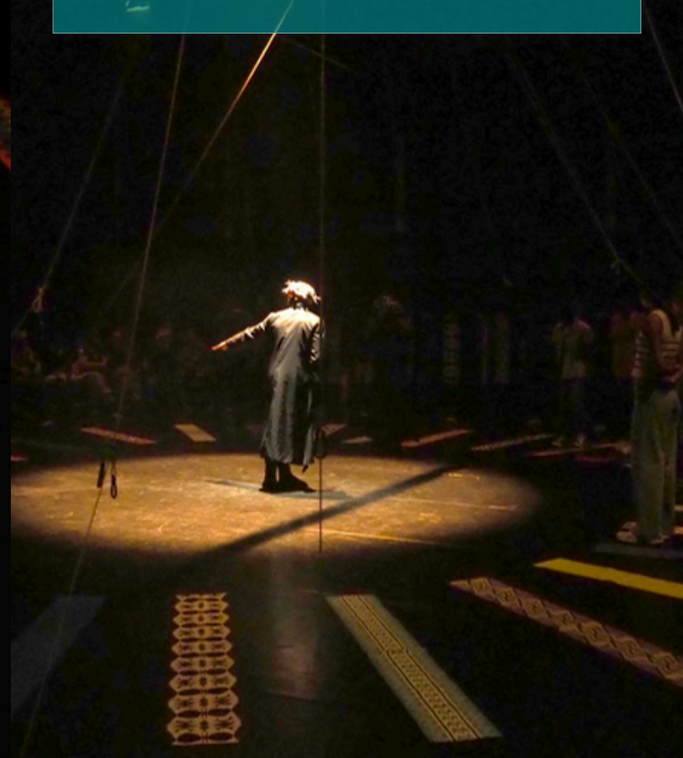




INDOOR Premiere













Touring Requirements

Touring : 7 people

Show duration: 45 mins (outdoor) / 90 mins (indoor)

Up to 2 shows per day

Suitable for all audiences

All props travel with the company (no freight)

Additional: A range of accompanying workshops can be offered exploring African music, percussion and volcalisation

The piece can remain in situ as an installation.

VIDEO OF THE SHOW

- **Indoor: Trailer / Full length video**
- **Outdoor Teaser (from open rehearsal) / Full length video**

TECHNICAL RIDER - INDOOR & OUTDOOR

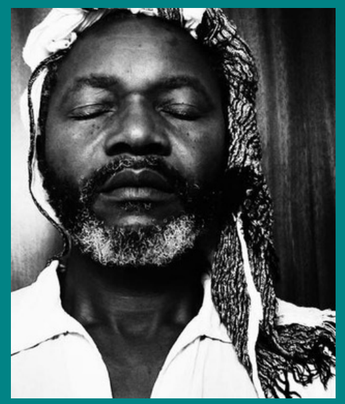
IDEAL FOR

- Outdoor Arts festivals
- Dance and music festivals
- Presenters seeking participatory performance
- African diaspora and heritage programming
- Accessible arts and wellbeing programming

Creative Team



Dr Jim Parris (Lead Artist) Influenced by classic reggae, jazz and African music,Jim Parris started the jazz band Carmel in 1981 and enjoyed many years of success as a recording and touring artist, selling over 3 million records. As well as being an accomplished bass player, Jim has always had an interest in all aspects of performing arts. In 2000 he collaborated with dancer/performer/poet Benji Reid on the highly successful trilogy The Waiting Room. In February 2004, Jim completed the soundtrack to Lemn Sissay's one man play 'Something Dark' directed by John McGrath. Pursuing an academic career alongside his artistic practice, Jim completed his PhD in African Art and Aesthetics in 2021 at University of Central Lancashire.



Xumo Nunjo (Composer/Performer) is a singer, performer, film maker and multi-instrumentalist currently based in Olot, Catalonia. His work blends his Cameroonian origins with his European experiences. He met Jim when they were both living in Barcelona and has collaborated with him since 1997, and together as Nzi Dada they created and presented shows at indoor and outdoor festivals in UK and across Europe as well as multiple recordings.

Since 1997 Jim and Xumo have worked together as Nzi Dada; their work reflects a joint interest in ancient African tradition whilst at the same time being fashioned by modern practices. Their shows have appeared internationally including National Theatre London; Festival de Arte Contemporanea Madrid, Arts Festival Utrecht and many other locations.

Company Chameleon – Co-producers and associate artists

Kevin Edward Turner (Performance Director) is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Company Chameleon

Anthony Missen (Creative Director) was co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Company Chameleon and is now Creative Director and Chief Executive of Dance East

Josephe Cocles (Visual Artist) has been researching Nok civilization symbols, and has created the fabric banner designs. The visual look of the structure and the positioning of the fabrics is core to the piece and the designs are all inspired by African aesthetics.

Dr Olu Taiwo – Creative Consultant, expert in Ifa Divination. Senior Lecturer, University of Winchester, Department of Performing Arts and member of the University's Centre for the Arts as Wellbeing.

Words from the Audience

"it really was how I might describe an immersive experience. The feelings and emotions I felt, the sense of being an individual but also completely part of a grander participation"



"The performance with that heavenly music, the art, the fabric, the silence...what an amazing feeling that will resonate within me for a long time or maybe forever"



"The whole day took me on a journey I was not expecting. The depth of the conversation and presentation at the start took my mind to a different level. Then to follow up with such a communicative, heart felt, dance/voice workshop, sharing energy and experience with everyone was amazing"

XTRAX

Taking bookings for 2027 / 2028

For both indoor and outdoor shows

CONTACT US :

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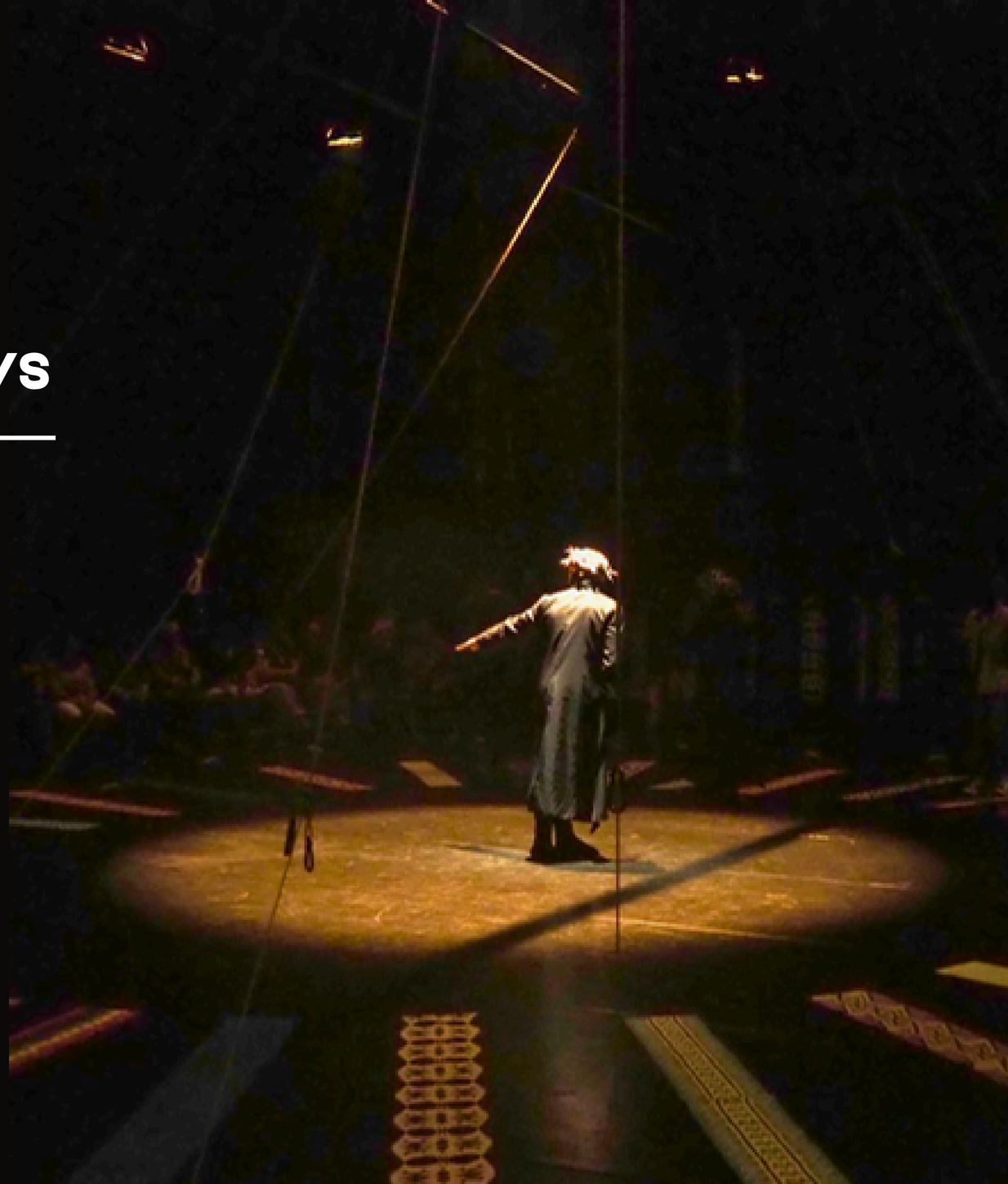

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