

# ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ



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## ROMÉO ET JULIETTE

« In an improbable Verona, fictitious rather than futuristic, passably dilapidated, housing a favored ruling class (Juliet's family) and a miserable and exploited population (Romeo's world), the meeting of two lovers is banned and outlawed; the omnipresent, muscled militia ordained by Juliet's family to maintain social order is not only a Shakespearian image of fatality, it's also the influence of power over one of the most essential individual freedoms: the freedom to love.

Even if they comply at times, Romeo and Juliet each refute their imposed way of life in their respective social classes, which are closed to all communication as dictated by the militia of collective consciousness, hence the scandal of this love. Both want to be elsewhere, both aspire to what the other has. The passionate shock will permit them to move forward, to dare to escape the fate that was traced for them. »

**Angelin Preljocaj**

Bearing the stamp of his Albanian origins and culture, Angelin Preljocaj chose to set this universal love story in the totalitarian regime of an East European country. It is not a question of a fight between clans as tradition would have it, but of a confrontation between the militia responsible for keeping social order and the « family » of the homeless.



## ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ

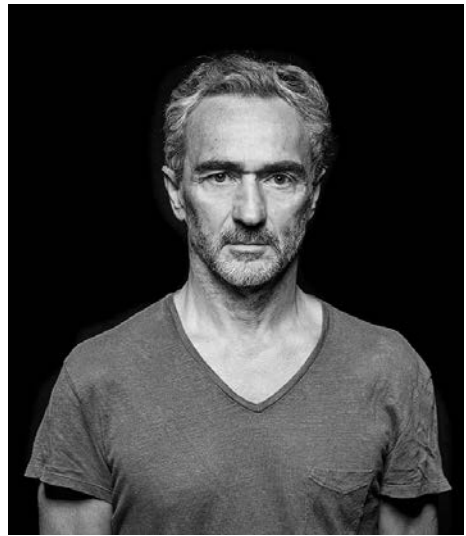
### CHOREOGRAPHER

Angelin Preljocaj was born in the Paris region, in France, and began studying classical ballet before turning to contemporary dance, which he studied with Karin Waehner.

In 1980, he went to New York to work with Zena Rommett and Merce Cunningham, after which he resumed his studies in France, there his teachers included the American choreographer Viola Farber and the French one Quentin Rouillier. He then joined Dominique Bagouet before founding his own company in December 1984.

Angelin Preljocaj collaborates regularly with other artists including Enki Bilal (*Roméo et Juliette*, 1990), Goran Vejvoda (*Paysage après la bataille*, 1997), Air (*Near Life Experience*, 2003), Granular Synthesis (*"N"*, 2004), Fabrice Hyber (*Les 4 saisons...*, 2005), Karlheinz Stockhausen (*Eldorado - Sonntags Abschied*, 2007), Jean Paul Gaultier (*Snow White*, 2008), Constance Guisset (*Le funambule*, 2009), Claude Lévêque (*Siddharta*, 2010) and Laurent Garnier and Subodh Gupta (*And then, one thousand years of peace*, 2010), Azzedine Alaïa and Natacha Atlas (*The Nights*, 2013)...

His productions are now part of the repertoire of many companies, many of which also commission original production from him, notably La Scala of Milan, the New York City Ballet and the Paris National Opera Ballet.



He has made short films (*Le postier*, *Idées noires* in 1991) and several full-length films, notably *Un trait d'union* and *Annonciation* (1992 and 2003), for which he was awarded the "Grand Prix du Film d'Art" in 2003, the "Vidéo-Danse" First Prize in 1992 and the Prague Video Festival Prize in 1993. In 2009, he directed *Snow White*, featuring his own piece, and in 2011 he signed, for Air France, the commercial *L'Envol*, based on the choreography of *Le Parc*.

Since then he has collaborated on several films of his own choreographic work: *Les Raboteurs* with Cyril Collard (based on the painting by Gustave Caillebotte) in 1988, *Pavillon Noir* with Pierre Coulibeuf in 2006 and *Eldorado / Preljocaj* with Olivier Assayas in 2007.

Several books have been written about his work, notably *Angelin Preljocaj* (2003), *Pavillon Noir* (2006), *Angelin Preljocaj, Topologie de l'invisible* (2008), *Angelin Preljocaj, de la création à la mémoire de la danse* (2011).

Throughout the course of his career, Angelin Preljocaj has received numerous awards, including the "Grand Prix National de la Danse" awarded by the French Ministry of Culture in 1992, the "Benois de la danse" for *Le Parc* in 1995, the "Bessie Award" for *Annonciation* in 1997, "Les Victoires de la musique" for *Roméo et Juliette* in 1997 and the "Globe de Cristal" for *Snow White* in 2009. He is an "Officier des Arts et des Lettres" and a "Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur" and he was appointed an "Officier de l'ordre du Mérite" in May 2006. He has received the Samuel H. Scripps/ American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2014.

Since October 2006, the Ballet Preljocaj and its 24 permanent dancers have resided at the Pavillon Noir in Aix-en-Provence, a building entirely dedicated to dance, with Angelin Preljocaj as its artistic director.

Made with Valérie Müller the first long film by Angelin Preljocaj, *Polina, danser sa vie*, adapted from the graphic novel by Bastien Vivès, came out in cinemas on November 2016.



# ROMEO et JULIETTE

Ballet Preljocaj

Chorégraphie Angelin Preljocaj 1996

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Letz

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