ABOUT OLIVIER TARPAGA

Lester Horton Award-winning dancer–choreographer and musician Olivier Tarpaga is a dance lecturer at the Lewis Center for the Arts and a music lecturer at the Department of Music, Princeton University. Tarpaga is the founder and artistic director of the internationally acclaimed Dafra Drum and Dafra Kura Band and co-founder of Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project. He danced with David Rousseve/REALITY from 2006 to 2010 when he was also a State Department Art Envoy in South Africa, Botswana, Burkina Faso, and Sri Lanka. Commissions include: Wind of Nomads (2017) by Malaysia's internationally renowned HANDS percussion; MAYA dance theater of Singapore for RESIST, RESURGE: Traces of Hope (2015); the Ministry of Culture of Niger to train and mentor Abdallah Dance Company and serve as an artistic advisor during the making of Une pour trois for the Francophonie games in Nice, France (2013); the Temple of Fine Arts in Perth, Australia to create The way of sands (2012); and Zig Zag Ballet to choreograph Visage at the Rich Forum Stanford Center for the Arts in Connecticut (2008). Tarpaga has performed and recorded with celebrity rock star POE at Capitol Records in Hollywood. In 2008, he was invited to re-interpret Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with West African instruments for a sold-out concert with British singer Billy Bragg and numerous guests at the Broad Stage in Santa Monica, California. Tarpaga is a recipient of numerous major grants including the National Dance Project (NDP), the Suitcase Fund of New York Live Arts, Chime Mentorship Fellowship with David Rousseve as his mentor, the Durfee Foundation ARC, the Ohio Arts Council and the Flourish Foundation. He danced with David Rousseve/REALITY from 2006 – 2010. Tarpaga is the artistic director of Nomad Express International Multi-Arts Festival in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and has performed and taught dance in fifty countries throughout Africa, Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Oceania.
Declassified Memory Fragment

Declassified Memory Fragment is a 70-minute dance theater work with live music inspired by ideas and themes around memory, history and images of some of the political and cultural realities affecting the continent of Africa. The work was created as an open letter on African society—its lifestyles, cultures, beauty, complexities, and politics.

Declassified refers to living in a society where aspects of everyday life are subjected to restrictions and cultural expectations of secrecy and privacy, even within the family. The act of declassifying is a process of revealing, exposing what is hidden from view and obscured, not spoken.

Declassified Memory Fragment is inspired by and created as a response to political situations in different African countries (especially Kenya, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe and Burkina Faso), the unpredictable circulation of power and the resulting tension, destabilization and explosive climax that occurs, often without dismantling the illusion of democracy. The work both caustically and humorously stages a two-tier society where craving for power simultaneously creates and unravels friendships, but brotherhood prevails.

Directed & Choreographed: Olivier Tarpaga
Performance & Movement contribution: Ousséni Dabaré, Aziz Dermé, Jérôme Kaboré, Adonis Nébié, Olivier Tarpaga
Music Concept & Composition: Olivier Tarpaga in collaboration with Darfa Kura Band
Live Music & Performance: Flatié Dembelé, Boubacar Djiga, Daouda Guindo, Olivier Tarpaga
Lighting Design: Cyril Givort
Artistic Advisor & Dramaturg: Esther Baker-Tarpaga
Set Concept: Olivier Tarpaga, Sada Dao
Set Design: Face-O-Sceno
Props Design: Sahab Koanda
Costume Design: Olivier Tarpaga
Company Administrator (Burkina Faso): Francois Bouda

Production by Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project
Co-Production by Nomad Express International Multi-Arts Festival and Dialogue de Corps International Festival (Burkina Faso), Kelly Strayhorn Theatre, Denison University, Kenyon College, Harlem Stage, Grinnell College, Middlebury College, Princeton University and Philadelphia Fringe Arts.

This work was developed in residence and premiered at the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA

Additional residencies support: Vail series, Denison University, the department of dance, drama and film, Kenyon College, and the Center for Choreography Development “CDC La Termite” Burkina Faso.

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ABOUT THE COMPANY
Lester Horton Award-winning Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project is a transnational performance company founded in 2004 by Esther Baker-Tarpaga and Olivier Tarpaga. BTDP is currently based in Philadelphia, and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. BTDP are border-crossing, ethno-choreographers investigating the beauty and dissonance of the human condition. Their work has been presented at REDCAT, Highways, and John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in Los Angeles, Kelly Strayhorn Theater in Pittsburgh, BAAD in Bronx, Bali Spirit Festival, Dance Bridge International in Tokyo, VSA N4th in New Mexico, Cornell College, Denison University, Jacob’s Pillow Inside Out Festival in Massachusetts, Natanda International Dance Festival in Sri Lanka, In-Out Dance Festival in Bobo Dioulasso, Tamadi’Art Festival in France, Action Danse Festival in Morocco, Center Stage in Santa Barbara, The King Arts Complex in Ohio, Dialogue De Corps in Burkina Faso, The Maitisong Festival in Botswana, Abok I Ngoma Festival in Cameroon, and The French Cultural Center in Senegal.