



SYLVIE KAY

choreographer, dancer

mail : contact@sylviekay.com

tel : 06 43 01 93 89

<https://www.sylviekay.com>

Sylvie KAY studied classical dance from the age of 10, then Tap with her mother Alice KAY, moving on to Paris to study Jazz with Matt MATTOX. From 1977 to 1983, she travelled to the USA every year to study with the best American teachers of Jazz, Dance and Tap: Al Gilbert, Luidgi, Phil Black, Henri le Tang, Tommy Walsh and Gus Giordano for whom she became assistant. In New York, in 1981, she gained a diploma from "Dance Educators Of America In Performing Arts" by the hands of Gregory Hines. In 1991, she was named Regional Director of the "American World Jazz Dance Congress » and danced with Savion Glover and all famous tap dancers for the « Tribute to Steve Condos ».

Sylvie Kay starts her career as an interpreter and choreographer throughout France and Europe. She realized many shows with Alice Kay and for TV shows. In 1985 She was chosen by J. Savary for the creation of "Cabaret" in Lyon with Ute Lemper and went on tour for two years .

But soon she felt the need to create her own choreographic style: drawing from jazz, tap and contemporary dance she welded together those influences to create an expression that is just hers.

In 1990, she founded her own company and worked mainly with the Maison de la Dance in Lyon.

In contact with musical theatre players, musicians and dancers from various horizons, she soon develops her own original style. She has made 16 creations in Opéra de Lyon, Maison de la Danse, Opéra Comique and is recognized as inventive choreographer, a tireless improviser, sharing passion with humor and lots of energy.

Reconsidering the disciplines that are dear to her, searching for creativity, and jostling the retro clichés, she opts for a multi disciplinary approach, a fusion of expressions. Far from conveniences, all is a good pretext to modernise and personalise her contemporary vision of TAP DANCE by giving importance to the variety of sounds created by a tap, thus giving it an instrumental value of its own. In addition to being an active choreographer, she's teaching and invited to head choreographic workshops and master classes for the National Opera of Lyon, the ENSATT, CNSMD , Alice Kay Dance Studios.

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« Specialised in a contemporary tap style, systematically accompanied by live music in her shows, Sylvie Kay's choreographies are pieces of bravery and harmony among singular artists. The concentration on the interpreter is at its maximum and the musicality of the dance is highlighted. »

Internet site DRAC Rhône- Alpes



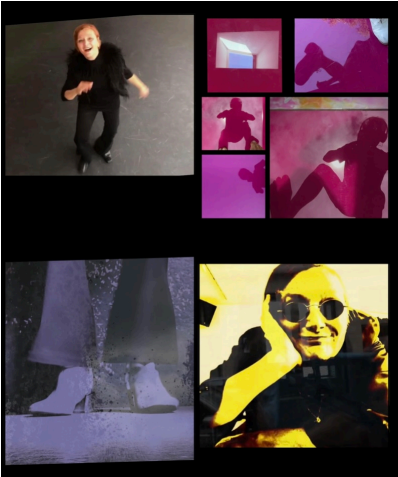
CREATIONS

Guy DARMET hosted the first performance, Transit, at the "Maison de la Danse" in 1991. From that production, the company opted for a multi-disciplinary ethic wherein there were no barriers to the enrichment and fusion of expression. After Vertigo Staccato (Espace Albert Camus, 1993), the company launched itself into the adventure of musical theatre with Les Contes de Banlieue (Tales of the suburbs) et La Fleur de l'Age (the best age to be – a co-production of the Opéra National de Lyon and the Théâtre de la Renaissance, 1994/1995) et Alice au Pays des Claquettes (Alice in Tap-land - Maison de la Danse, 1995). Moving on to more intimate performances. The duos Tap & Sax (Opéra National de Lyon, 1997) and A Deux Pas d'Ici (Just next door - Opéra National de Lyon, 1998) were supported by an arts grant and toured widely in France and abroad.

At this time the Company Sylvie Kay has a repertoire of 26 creations, among them:

- 1991 TRANSIT – co-production with Maison de la Danse de Lyon
- 1993 VERTIGO STACCATO – co-production Espace Albert Camus, Bron
- 1994 LAND, MIC MAC - creation, INSA Villeurbanne
- 1994 LES CONTES DE BANLIEUE, co-production Opéra National de Lyon
- 1995 ALICE AU PAYS DES CLAQUETTES, co-production Maison de la Danse
- 1995 LA FLEUR DE L'AGE, co-production Théâtre de la Renaissance/Opéra National Lyon
- 1996 BARBARA - creation for the Winter Festival of Sarajevo
- 1997 PASSAGES... UN DUO TAP & SAX – co-production Opéra National de Lyon
- 1998 A DEUX PAS D'ICI – co-production Opéra National de Lyon
- 2000 IEP CONCERTO & IMPROMPTU ! - Short performances, RAMDAM
- 2003 RYTHM ! - creation for Le Neutrino, Genas
- 2004 U. TAP ! - creation for l'Atrium de Tassin
- 2005 and: "20 ans de la Maison de la Danse "
- 2006 URBAN TAP - International Dance Festival : Biennale de la Danse, Opéra de Lyon
- 2010 FASCINATIN GERSHWIN tournée avec Philippe Khoury, Pierre Drevet, Frédérique Brun
- 2012 A NIGHT IN BROADWAY avec l'orchestre symphonique de Philippe Fournier
- 2016 CHRISTMAS WITH DUKE avec les musiciens de l'ONL
- 2018 FREE ! DUKE 2
- 2022 MIX ART

PRESS CUTTINGS



"That is the style of Sylvie Kay: her way of making the tap shoes whisper, allowing them to become transported by the classical, to invent a romantic space quite apart from the purely technical school (of dance) which beats only to one drum." Le Monde (world renowned opinion-leading French newspaper)

"Scene games, musical puns, gestural and vocal expression. Inventing a space where dance rhymes with gentleness – or violence, Sylvie Kay has a very personal way of making tap shoes whisper, alternating between lightness and gravitas, romanticism and pure technique".

Le Dauphiné Libéré (influential newspaper in South Eastern France)

"Sylvie Kay has penned a powerful choreography that allows tap-dance a previously unsuspected richness of expression. She subtly exploits the movements and sonorities of these magical pieces of iron and leather that make of simple shoes that which we have learned to call Tap".

Le Progrès (a leading French national newspaper)

"From acrobatic convolutions to more traditional tap-style, Sylvie amuses to the point of distraction with her unexpected to-ing and fro-ing. ... Each step is amplified and modified by electro-acoustic effects... Sylvie Kay intelligently exploits the noises and sounds. Clacking of feet, hammering of drums and sax keys, the open and mastered dialogue gives free expression to creativity. Everything becomes a pretext for modernisation, for personalising her contemporary vision of tap-dance – and giving us reason to be optimistic for her tomorrows...

Breaking with clichés, free as a tagger, Sylvie Kay is at once savage and gracious, surprising and different, she hammers, flips and wallops to the tips of her tap-shoes. She cultivates an air of mystery and insolence – to go just that bit further with tap-dance. ". Le Progrès

U. TAP ! an impassioned melange of choreography and music – a hymn to tap. In a marriage of contemporary and tradition, tap imposes itself at the crossroads of live performance. Sylvie Kay and her team offer a lively homage to the era of the musicawith the style and colour of the third millennium!

Lyon-based artiste and choreographer, Sylvie Kay draws on the essences of Jazz, Tap and Contemporary Dance to distill a creation that is her own. A whiff of nostalgia, but above all a blast of vibrant originality for this spellbinding performance of Tap Dance. A thousand snapshots of syncopating reality are woven into a patchwork of dance and tap, music and song and theatre. In a bubbling cauldron of artistic expression, contemporary tap-dance, jazz, hip-hop, rock and funk drive away the fears of "déjà vu". His work goes far beyond the frontiers of style with this brilliant performance.

"U.TAP is one of the most exciting performances from the imagination of Sylvie Kay: the choreographic sequences, tap shoes singing to the dancing rhythms, creating an ensemble of joy and extraordinary freedom. With their amazing energy the tap dancers of the "Compagnie Sylvie Kay" allow us to perceive the fabulous interweaving pleasures of modern music, the passion and allusion of the emerging wave of hip-hop. ... The knowing winks to Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers or Gene Kelly delight a public enchanted by the freshness and humour of the acts ... a captivating and original performance."

Le Progrès (a leading French newspaper)

