

# FIGURATIONS



by Frédéric Chaudière

# FIGURATIONS : FORMS, SOUNDS AND MOVEMENTS

CREATED BY FRÉDÉRIC CHAUDIÈRE  
MUSIC BY KONSTANTIN BOYARSKY AND FREDERIC WHEELER  
CHOREOGRAPHY BY LUCY RIDLEY

with

Carolina Udoviko  
Marina Gilabert  
Omar Forte

Frédéric Wheeler  
William Sabatier  
Boyarsky string Quartet

*Violins have a strong impact on people whose culture is far removed from ours. In the same way, some of us are fascinated by the beauty of primitive art, although little is known of the men who produced it...*

*Could humans, whatever their cultural, ethnic or religious background, be susceptible to the same forms, the same sounds, the same compositions ?*

Frédéric Chaudière



# FIGURATIONS : A FUSION OF DIFFERENT ART FORMS



Figurations focuses on the fascination that humans from diverse cultural backgrounds, might experience when confronted with iconic objects.



Montpellier National Opera, February 9th, 2014

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# FIGURATIONS : MADE OF TWO PARTS

## 1. THE SHOW

70 minutes

Konstantin Boyarsky's music takes us on a journey through worlds of dreams supported by the art of sculpture, dance and drama. Moments of pure beauty and tranquility follow moments of agitation, darkness and despair like a kaleidoscope of human emotions.

Ten statues, representing human beings of diverse cultures, ethnic origins, and epochs, set the scene for Figurations.



Within this circle, whose axis is a slowly rotating violin, perform musicians and dancers from different backgrounds :

- The Boyarsky string Quartet
- Frédéric Wheeler, traditional instruments from Asia & Africa
- William Sabatier, bandoneon
- Carolina Udoviko, tango dancer
- Marina Gilabert, contemporary dancer
- Omar Forte, tango dancer

## 2. THE MILONGA

A milonga (argentinian tango bal) follows the show. During those precious moments, audience and performers can meet, talk and even dance together.



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# INTERVIEW WITH FRÉDÉRIC CHAUDIÈRE



How did the idea of creating Figurations come to you?

FC : *It has been a long process. Fifteen years ago, I realized that my sculptures had expectant ears and eyes, so I started to imagine what they would see and hear.*

Do the sculptures form the backdrop of the show? Or are they an integral part of it?

FC : *They are part of the show and of the audience... The play is performed for them too.*

What is the history of these sculptures? Do they have names?

FC : *Each one is different. They have diverse origins in time and space. Some come from ancient Egypt, others the steppes of Mongolia. Each has a name. The one with gold crown is Mansa a king of West Africa.*

What materials do you use to make these sculptures?

FC : *The heads are made of ceramic. They are modeled in clay and glazed at 1300 degrees. They are then painted with a varnish base that I make for my violins. The bodies are chainsaw-carved from very old oak sleepers from train lines.*

Figurations mixes sculpture, dance and music.

Why did you want to put world music and classical music in the same show?

FC : *So that the different audiences could meet.*

When we look at images from the rehearsals of figurations, we're overcome by feelings, we're carried away by the music, these sculptures and the ensuing ambience. You want Figurations to be an invitation to travel ? Why?

FC : *The idea is to get people to look at others differently.*

Figurations could be described as a sensual show. Do you agree?

FC : *Yes, it's part of the intention of each sculptor, luthier, dancer: to invite people to touch, hear, see...*

You are by trade a luthier. You make violins, violas and cellos. It's quite a « magical » trade. Do you think that your job as a luthier influenced the

« mysterious » atmosphere that emanates from the show? If so, In which way?

FC : *I think I chose this profession for its enigmas. To try to understand the fascination we have for violins. Music with sculptures and dancers, broadens the spectrum of the mystery.*



Figurations at Paul Hamlyn Hall of Covent Garden, London 2014

A milonga, or Argentinian tango has been organized for the public after the show. Why did you want to organize this milonga for the public?

FC : *It is a way of offering the public a chance to take part in the success of the evening. Public and artists sharing a dance is just a sublimation of the journey experienced during the show.*

And for those who can't dance?

FC : *They can sit down, have a drink. Watching tango dancers is wonderful too!*

You are a luthier, sculptor, painter, director and writer (your novels are published by Actes Sud). Isn't that too much for one man?

FC : *Every day, we laugh, we eat, think, dream, etc.. We all do lots of different things. I'm also sure that I make better violins because of my other interests in dance, cooking and literature...*



# FIGURATIONS : THE TEAM

## FRÉDÉRIC CHAUDIÈRE

After his training as a luthier in England, Frédéric H. Chaudière returned to Montpellier in 1986 to set up his studio. His instruments (violins, violas and cellos) are played throughout the world by leading musicians. His sculptures have been exhibited in New York, Salzburg, Paris... Published by Actes Sud, his books have been translated into several languages.

Expert in antique instruments, Frédéric writes articles for the British magazine *The Strad* and for Radio France programs. Since 2013, he makes shows and plays. *Figurations* was created at the Montpellier National Opera in february the 9th 2014.



## FRÉDÉRIC WHEELER



Guitarist and composer Frédéric Wheeler plays traditional instruments from Asia and elsewhere around the world... Having taken part in the Fethi Tabet Group world tours 2009-2011, as well as having toured Vietnam with Jil Caplan, he has also accompanied the readings of the Madeleine Attal for the « Printemps des Comédiens » (Montpellier). Frédéric Wheeler, with Frédéric Chaudière, are the composers of the music of *Figurations* show.

## CAROLINA UDOVIKO



Dancer, choreographer and teacher of Argentine tango, Carolina Udoviko opened the doors of her first studio in the Almagro district of Buenos Aires in 1998. Trained at the Panamericana School of Art, she works on creating shows which mix dance with multimedia, while concentrating on applying the male lead role to the woman. Today, she teaches throughout France and Brazil.

# FIGURATIONS : THE TEAM

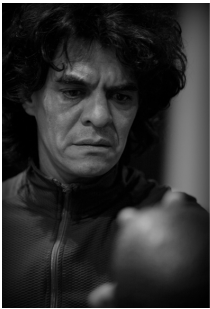
## MARINA GILABERT



Dancer of Argentinian folklore tango and contemporary dance, Marina Gilabert works for contemporary choreographers and also works on Argentine folklore tango creations. Her personal work focuses on combining these different disciplines.

She currently works for the companies, Es Leucade, Cuero a Cuero, and Tango B'aires.

## OMAR FORTE



Born in Argentina in 1969, Omar Forte is a graduate in economics, psychology and physical anatomy of the human body. From 1993 to 1998, he studied at the University of Buenos Aires Tango and took lessons in theatre. In 1998, he choreographed and directed dance (A Magia do Tango and Transnochando) and opened a school of Tango : Tango Baires - Milonga de São Paulo. From 2001 to 2004, he taught in various Tango São Paulo's schools, as well as across in Europe (Sweden, Germany, Denmark). In 2005, he performed with the prestigious choreographer, Carolina Udoviko, a workshop based on improvisation, expressiveness and «Workshop 5 Estrelas» art. Between 2004 and 2014, touring the lead in Latin America, in Asia and in Europe.

## WILLIAM SABATIER



Bandoneon player, William Sabatier is a specialist in the music of Astor Piazzolla. He's been invited all over the world to play with symphony and chamber orchestras.

Since 2010 he's been playing regularly with the Quatuor Terpsycordes.

## KONSTANTIN BOYARSKY



Konstantin Boyarsky is the principal violist of the Royal Opera House in London. Performing as a soloist, as well as a chamber musician, he collaborated with late Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Natalia Gutman, Lang Lang and many others. The conductors with whom he worked with include Lorin Maazel, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Antonio Pappano...

In 2010, Konstantin was named «UK's Best young Classical Composer» by the international web-magazine [www.suite101.com](http://www.suite101.com). His latest work - Dramatic Opera in two acts : «Pushkin and Tsar» is being worked on with the collaboration of the Royal Opera House under the guidance of ROH Music Director Sir Antonio Pappano.



Find more about 'Figurations' on [www.fchaudiere.fr](http://www.fchaudiere.fr)

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