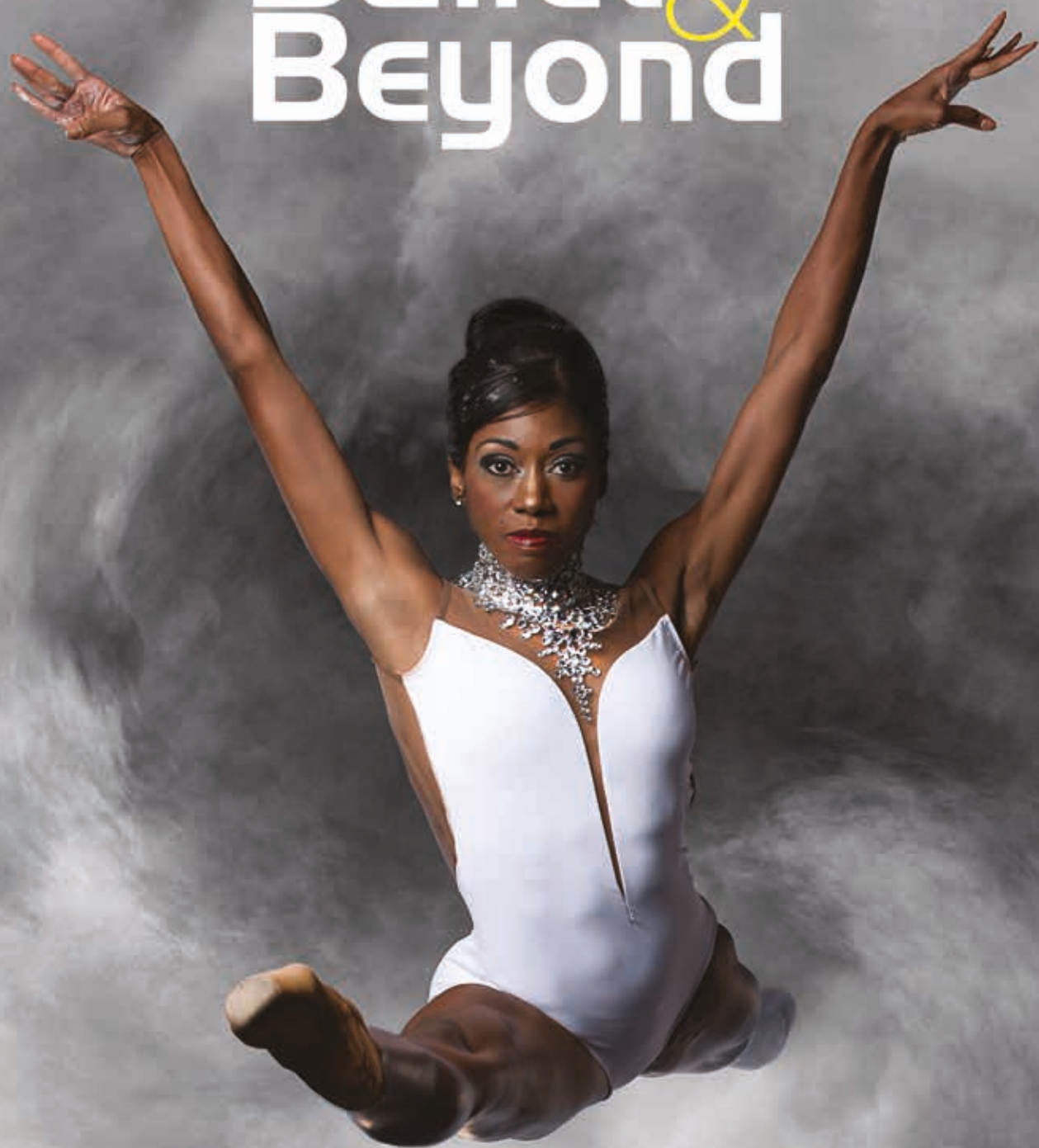


# Ballet & Beyond



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We look forward to a future  
with more extraordinary ballet  
than ever before

# Ballet & Beyond

Joburg Ballet  
*Laurencia*  
*The Silent Wanderer*  
*I Am Woman*  
Grey

The Mandela at  
Joburg Theatre  
9, 10, 11 April at 15:00  
9 April at 19:30  
10, 11 April at 11:00 | 2021

Cover: Claudia Monja in *I Am Woman*  
This page: Mahlatse Sachane in *The Silent Wanderer*  
Programme photographs by Lauge Sorensen

Joburg Ballet in partnership with the Joburg Theatre will observe the prevailing COVID-19 regulations during the season of Ballet and Beyond.





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the mandela at  
**JOBURG THEATRE**





### From Esther Nasser | CEO

While Joburg Ballet has made limited appearances in the past year at non-traditional venues such as the Festival of Lights at the Johannesburg Zoo and at shopping malls and hotels, returning to the main stage of the Joburg Theatre marks an important step forward for the ballet company in a world severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Coming back to perform at the Joburg Theatre marks a home-coming for us after more than a year. It has been a year of uncertainty and we are by no means out of the woods yet but this six-performance season is one of Joburg Ballet's most important as the company celebrates both a new beginning as well as the 20th anniversary year of its establishment in 2001.



### From Iain MacDonald | Artistic Director

We are all acutely aware of the chaos the pandemic has caused but rising above this, Joburg Ballet is thrilled to be able to return to the stage at the Joburg Theatre for our first season of 2021. We have taken this opportunity to provide a platform for new and diverse works, giving opportunities to aspiring choreographers to showcase the versatility of Joburg Ballet. Internationally acclaimed choreographer Corey Baker spent a generous amount of time creating *Grey*, allowing the dancers to explore a different avenue of expression. I thank him for his willingness to continue under inhibiting and trying circumstances. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the choreographers – Bruno Miranda (*Laurencia*), Mario Gaglione (*The Silent Wanderer*), Craig Pedro (*I Am Woman*) and Corey Baker – for their works and for allowing us, the audience, insight into their creative gifts. I would like to thank Lauren Slade for her commitment to ensuring Joburg Ballet is always represented professionally and for going above and beyond the call of duty. For the dancers of Joburg Ballet the past year has allowed us an opportunity to reflect and re-assess our lives. Perhaps not being able to do what we love so freely has awakened in us the urge to embrace anew what it is we are so passionate about. Thank you to each and every person who ensures Joburg ballet continues to be an ambassador for the City of Johannesburg and all the good our art form provides.

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## Laurencia (Excerpts from Act II)

Choreography by Vakhtang Chabukiani (1910-92)

Music by Alexander Krein (1883-1951)

Choreography adapted by Bruno Miranda

Staged by Bruno Miranda, Lauren Slade and Iain MacDonald

Costumes co-ordinated by Lauren Slade and Yolanda Roos\*

\*Joburg Ballet thanks Cape Town City Ballet and the National School of the Arts for assistance in costuming *Laurencia*.

### The Cast

Laurencia	Shana Dewey / Claudia Monja / Nicole Ferreira-Dill
Fronoso	Ruan Galdino / Revil Yon / Armando Barros
Pascuala	Chloé Blair / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Monike Cristina
Jacinta	Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Claudia Monja
Pascuala's Cavalier	Mario Gaglione / Armando Barros / Ruan Galdino / Tumelo Lekana
Jacinta's Cavalier	Revil Yon / Gabriel Fernandes
Ladies	Shana Dewey / Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Alice le Roux / Sarah Miller / Cristina Nakos / Nina Simpson / Erica Vadelka
Flamenco Dancers	Monike Cristina / Savannah Ireland / Claudia Monja Chloé Blair / Jaime Bowring / Alice le Roux / Sarah Miller / Cristina Nakos / Josie Ridgway / Nina Simpson / Erica Vadelka Armando Barros / Ivan Domiciano / Gabriel Fernandes / Mario Gaglione / Ruan Galdino / Thabang Mabaso / Conrad Nusser / Craig Pedro / Mahlatse Sachane

*Laurencia* is a two-act ballet made for the Kirov Ballet in Leningrad in 1939 by Vakhtang Chabukiani, based on Spanish writer Lope de Vega's 1619 play, *Fuente Ovejuna*. Created at a time when 'choreodrama' was considered in the Soviet Union the only acceptable form of contemporary ballet, it harks back to a drama wherein movement was a vehicle for meaning and dance could serve as divertissement as well as dramatic purpose. At the same time, the story of a peasant revolution was obviously the ideal subject for a Soviet ballet. Chabukiani was one of the first to create a new choreographic language by means of his own particular blend of folk and classical dance. He asserted the importance of the male dancer, furthering the notion of 'heroic' male dance.

**Interlude I**                      **Rocco de Villiers (piano):** 9, 10, 11 April at 15:00 | 10, 11 April at 11:00 | 2021  
**Wian Visser (piano):** 9 April at 19:30 | 2021

## The Silent Wanderer

Choreography by Mario Gaglione

Music by Frédéric Chopin: Funeral March; Silent Partner: *Busy Beat*; Mario Gaglione: *A Last Breath*

Costumes co-ordinated by Mario Gaglione and Yolanda Roos

### The Cast

Solo	Mahlatse Sachane / Claudia Monja
Duet	Revil Yon / Gabriel Fernandes and Erica Vadelka / Chloé Blair
Company	Armando Barros / Chloé Blair / Monike Cristina / Shana Dewey / Ivan Domiciano / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Gabriel Fernandes / Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Tumelo Lekana / Alice le Roux / Mbongeni Moyake / Cristina Nakos / Craig Pedro / Nina Simpson / Erica Vadelka / Revil Yon



At the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world faces one of the greatest threats of the first quarter of the century. While death spreads, economies collapse and people isolate from one another, we stand and witness something so lifeless magnifying all existing inequities in our society and yet making no distinction between one life or another. It moves quietly and knows no borders. Who and what is the real virus? – Mario Gaglione

## INTERVAL

### I Am Woman

Choreography by Craig Pedro

Music by Frédéric Chopin: Nocturne in E-flat major, Op. 9, No. 2; Audionautix: *Opus One*

Poem by Shameelah Khan

Costumes co-ordinated by Craig Pedro and Yolanda Roos

#### The Cast

Chloé Blair / Monike Cristina / Shana Dewey / Nicole Ferreira-Dill / Shannon Glover / Darragh Hourrides / Savannah Ireland / Sarah Miller / Claudia Monja / Cristina Nakos / Nina Simpson / Erica Vadelka

I wanted to create an all-female ballet that shows off their beauty, sensitivity and how powerful and fearless they all are in their own way. With the reality of gender-based violence, I wanted to celebrate women. Having been influenced by so many women in my life – and, of course, my most powerful influencer and pillar of strength, my mother – I had all their unique and different qualities in mind throughout this process. – Craig Pedro

#### Interlude II

**Rocco de Villiers (piano):** 9, 10, 11 April at 15:00 | 10, 11 April at 11:00 | 2021

**Wian Visser (piano):** 9 April at 19:30 | 2021

### Grey

Choreography by Corey Baker

Music composed by Duncan Grimley

Costumes designed by Yolanda Roos

Ballet master: Lauren Slade

Movement collaborators: Revil Yon and Aña Paulino

#### The Cast

Revil Yon Armando Barros Monike Cristina Gabriel Fernandes Mario Gaglione Ruan Galdino  
Shannon Glover Darragh Hourrides Tumelo Lekana Claudia Monja Mbongeni Moyake Cristina Nakos  
Craig Pedro Mahlatse Sachane Erica Vadelka

Grey is a new work by Corey Baker that was built on the idea of breaking from repressions, boundaries, societal and political structures and race.

## The Choreographers



### Corey Baker

Corey Baker is an award-winning choreographer and filmmaker, celebrated for innovation in making dance accessible. With a passion that dance is for everyone, Baker has taken dance out of traditional settings and put it into parks, playgrounds, stadiums, shopping centres, rugby fields, on TV & film and even Antarctica. Baker is renowned for inventive and relevant contemporary dance and ballet. Born in New Zealand, he trained as a classical dancer in Christchurch and Sydney before moving to Switzerland to dance with the Basel Ballet and he moved to the UK in 2008. Baker started Corey Baker Dance in 2010 to create and produce his own work. In 2018, Baker captured the imagination of a global audience with his dance film *Antarctica: The First Dance*. This was the first ever dance work created in Antarctica and its development continued with *The Last Dance*, a new one-act ballet by the Royal New Zealand Ballet in the same year, highlighting the impact of climate change. In 2020, with the world in lockdown, Baker won international attention with his online *Swan Lake Bath Ballet* in which dancers from around the world performed to Tchaikovsky's famous music in their bathtubs. Among the 27 dancers involved in this project was Joburg Ballet's Claudia Monja.



### Vakhtang Chabukiani

Vakhtang Chabukiani (1910-92) was a Georgian ballet dancer, choreographer and teacher highly regarded in his native country and abroad. He is considered one of the most influential male ballet dancers in history and is noted for creating much of the choreography of the male variations in the classical repertory. The legendary dancer, a star of the Kirov Ballet, embodied the new Soviet hero in the ballet of the 1930s, combining virtuoso technique with athleticism and a powerful, vivid stage presence. He originated lead roles in several signature Soviet ballets, among them *Flames of Paris* and *The Fountain of Bakhchisarai*. In 1934, he and Tatyana Vecheslova became the first Soviet dancers to tour the USA.



### Mario Gaglione

Mario Gaglione was born in Italy and studied at the ballet school of Teatro San Carlo, Naples, continuing his training at the English National Ballet School under Alen Bottaini and Sarah McLroy. He attended international masterclasses in Prague with Daria Klimentova, Vadim Muntagirov, Alicia Amatriain, Angel Corella, Yoel Carreno, Nadia Saidakova, Tamas Solymosi, Natasa Navotna, Vaclav Kunes, Vaclav Janacek and Jiri Horak, and took part in Aspire, a mentoring scheme where he was mentored by Royal Ballet soloist Valentino Zucchetti. As a student he took part in school and company performances of Teatro San Carlo and the English National Ballet. In 2015 he joined Tulsa Ballet, USA, where he danced works by Marcello Angelini, John Cranko, Edwaard Liang, Derek Deane and Ben Stevenson among other choreographers. In 2018 he joined Ballet Ireland, dancing the role of Albrecht in *Giselle* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Prince in *The Nutcracker* on Ballet Ireland's National Tour. Also in 2018 he danced at the Biennale di Venezia. He joined Joburg Ballet as a soloist in 2020 and made his debut with the company as Basilio in *Don Quixote* in March 2020.



## The Choreographers



### Bruno Miranda

Bruno Miranda was born in Joinville, Brazil. He began his studies at the age of nine at the Bolshoi Theatre School, Brazil, in 2001. In 2009 he won his first professional contract and joined Cia Jovem ETBB where he remained for almost three years. In addition to his experience as a dancer, he participated in competitions and was a judge at festivals. In 2011 he moved to Rio de Janeiro to work with choreographer Deborah Colker and her company, touring in and beyond Brazil. In 2013 he moved to Belo Horizonte where he worked at Cia Sesc de Dança. During the next four years he had contact with national and international choreographers, gaining experience in different classical and contemporary techniques and also exploring his talent as a choreographer. In August 2017 he joined Joburg Ballet where he danced leading roles in *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, *The Nutcracker*, *Raymonda* and solo roles in *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Carmen* and *Giselle*. He left Joburg Ballet to return to Brazil at the beginning of 2021.



### Craig Pedro

Craig Pedro was born in South Africa. He joined Joburg Ballet (then The South African Ballet Theatre) as an aspirant dancer in 2009 and the following year joined Cape Town City Ballet where he was promoted to soloist in 2015. With Cape Town City Ballet he danced the Jester in *Swan Lake* (production by Atillio Labis), Robert in *Raymonda* (production by Norman Furber), Peter Pan and Tinkerbell in *Peter Pan* (production by Robin van Wyk), Frans in *Coppélia* (production by David Poole), Bluebird and Pas de Trois in *The Sleeping Beauty*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* (production by Robin van Wyk) and the leading male role in Ashley Killar's *Sarabande*. In 2017 he danced as a guest artist in Joburg Ballet's production of *La Traviata*. In 2020 he joined Joburg Ballet where he holds the rank of soloist.



### Rocco de Villiers

South African pianist, entertainer, writer and composer Rocco de Villiers has released thirteen instrumental CDs, three Best Of Collections albums of his work over the last twenty-two years, two cocktail books, a live DVD, three live online concerts and has written and produced thirty-five instrumental stage productions. His most recent album release was in 2020, Rocco Speel Jim Muller. His previous albums – Beautiful Beautiful Piano, More Beautiful Piano, Stunning, Beautiful Beautiful Hymns – all reached either gold or platinum status. In 2014 Rocco released sheet music, Rocco de Villiers Bladmusiek vir Klavier Volume 1, of his own compositions. Volume 2 is due for release in 2021. Rocco's projects for 2021/2022 include a new album of original music and a poetry collection. Rocco has been nominated and awarded a Huisgenoot Tempo, Ghoema, Vonk, Sama, Kanna, Woord-Trofee, Cape Theatre Award and more recently, an Aitsa. Rocco has recently written the score to an American film, *Brewsie and Willie*, composed the theme music for nine television series and has produced two television series and two documentaries for M-NET on the history of South African music. He was also a presenter of two series on kykNET, Kook en Klavier en Rocco and Klop die Klawers, and more recently series three of a music game show on SABC 2, Beter assie Bure. Rocco does more than a hundred performances yearly, appears on television regularly and does MC work. Rocco runs his own charity, Touch, which involves visits to old age homes and retirement villages to entertain the immobile elderly. He has now visited more than 160 institutions. Rocco is a collector of single malts, loves baked puddings and trains five times weekly.



Chloé Blair LAURENCIA





Tumelo Lekana THE SILENT WANDERER



Cristina Nakos I AM WOMAN





Claudia Monja GREY

## PRINCIPALS



Nicole Ferreira-Dill



Shannon Glover



Claudia Monja



Monike Cristina



Shana Dewey



Ruan Galdino

## SENIOR SOLOISTS

## SOLOISTS



Revil Yon



Ivan Domiciano



Mario Gaglione



Thabang Mabaso



Craig Pedro



Armando Barros

## SENIOR CORPS DE BALLET



Gabriel Fernandes



Savannah Ireland



Tumelo Lekana



Alice le Roux



Cristina Nakos



Conrad Nusser

## CORPS DE BALLET



Mahlatse Sachane



Chloé Blair



Darragh Hourrides



Sarah Miller



Donavin Ciatello



Mbongeni Moyake

## JUNIOR CORPS DE BALLET

## ASPIRANT DANCERS



Nina Simpson



Erica Vadelka



Jaime Bowring



Mvumelwano Matyana



Josie Ridgway



Anke van Rooyen



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Company Manager



Keke Chele  
Publicity & PR



Jonathan Hurwitz  
Marketing &  
Publications Administrator



Kabelo Modiga  
General Manager



Lauren Slade  
Ballet Mistress



Marina Korkie  
Financial Accountant

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Assistant Stage Manager  
& Company Assistant



Kenny Mbele  
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Nozipho Mhlambi  
School Co-ordinator & PA to  
CEO & Artistic Director



Edgar Moagi  
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Mishack Phaladi  
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Yolanda Roos  
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Thabang Mabaso  
Teacher



Tshego Masoabi  
Teacher



Carmen Patterson  
Teacher



Jo-Anne Wyngaard  
Co-ordinator & Teacher

## COVID-19

- Joburg Ballet in partnership with the Joburg Theatre observes the prevailing COVID-19 regulations.
- The audience for each performance is restricted in line with the prevailing COVID-19 regulations.
- Tickets are sold as unreserved seating and patrons are seated on arrival at the theatre by the ushers in accordance with social distancing protocols.
- A COVID-19 compliance officer is in attendance.
- The theatre is sanitized before each performance.
- Sanitizer for patrons is provided.
- Joburg City Theatres operates a strict No Mask, No Entry policy and patrons are required to wear masks at all times.
- Please allow time to fill in the COVID visitor register on arrival and to have your temperature taken.
- Apart from *The Silent Wanderer*, in which masks form part of the costumes, the dancers will also be masked in Grey and in sections of *Laurencia*.

## JOBURG BALLET

Joburg Theatre, Hoofd Street, Braamfontein / PO Box 291990, Melville 2109, South Africa

Tel 011-877 6898, Fax 011-877 6864; info@joburgballet.com; www.joburgballet.com

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Programme compiled by Jonathan Hurwitz

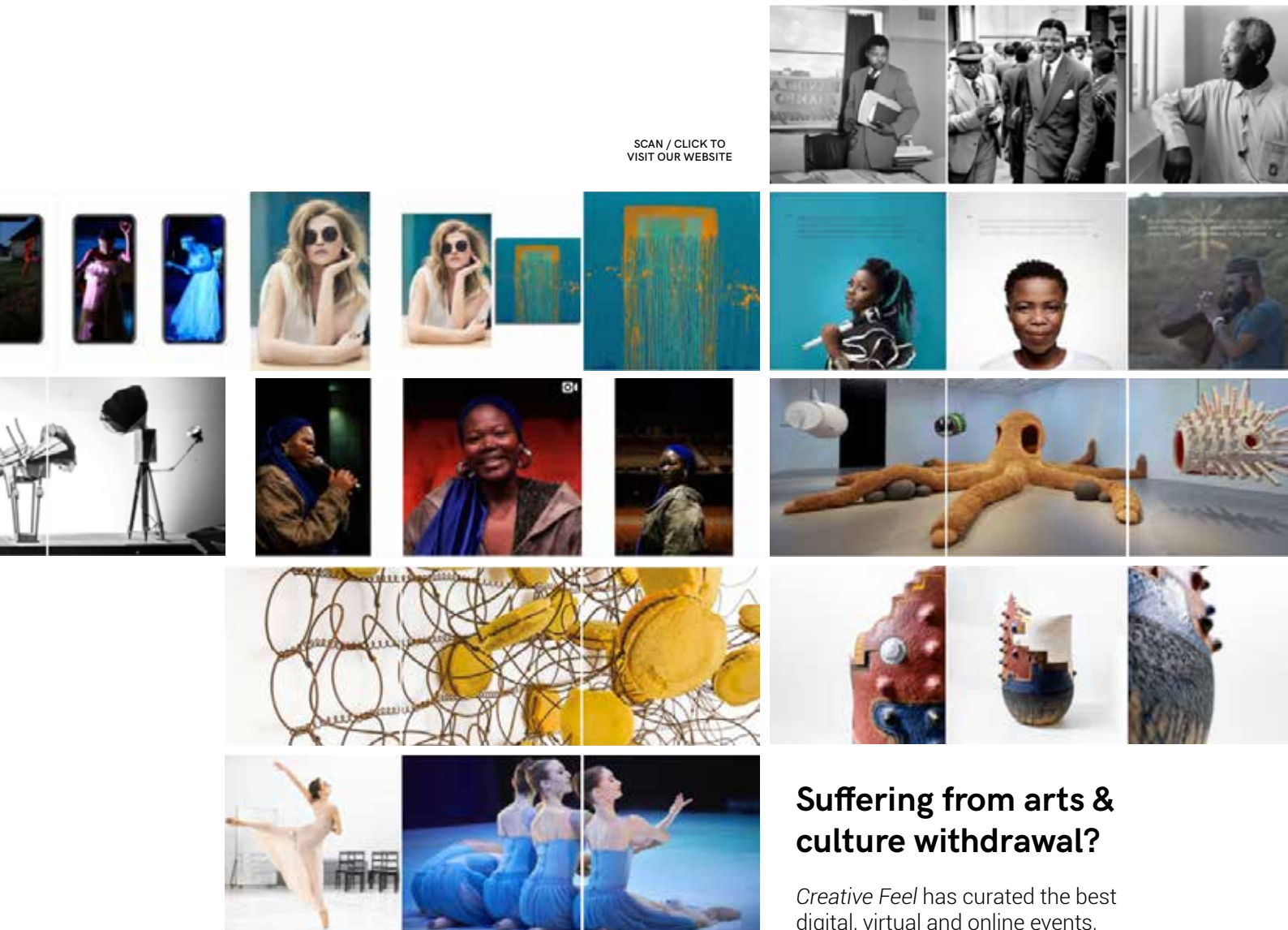
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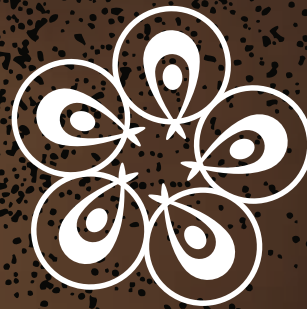
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