



dunaPart4
Platform of Hungarian Contemporary Performing Arts
29 Nov - 2 Dec 2017, Budapest

The artist/company	
<i>Name of company/director/choreographer</i>	Valencia James
<i>Website:</i>	valenciajames.com
<i>Facebook page:</i>	https://www.facebook.com/valenciajamesdance/
<i>Vimeo/youtube channel:</i>	https://vimeo.com/valenciajames
<i>Introduction of company/director/choreographer, artistic statement:</i>	
<p>Valencia James is a Barbadian freelance performer, maker and researcher interested in the intersection between dance, theatre, technology and activism. She believes in the responsibility of artists to reflect socio-political issues and in the power of the arts to inspire change. She holds a BA in Modern Dance from the Hungarian Dance Academy and has worked with choreographers such as Ian Douglas, Yvette Bozsik, Kata Juhász, Zoltán Grecsó, Rita Gobi, Réka Szabó and Nina Kov. In 2012 Valencia was invited by Wim Vandekeybus to participate in his research program at the world-renowned Ultima Vez Dance Company in Brussels. Valencia won the 2014 Viktor Fülöp and danceWEB Scholarships, with which she was able to study at the ImpulsTanz Festival in Vienna that year. Valencia has performed widely in Hungary, Romania, France, Israel, Sweden, Argentina, and Canada.</p> <p>Since 2013 Valencia has been researching how artificial intelligence can be applied to dance and performing arts. She also co-founded the AI_am project.</p>	

Production in the dunaPart selection:	
<i>Title of production:</i>	Between the World and Me
<i>Year and place of premiere:</i>	2016, MU Theatre, Budapest
<i>Length:</i>	20 mins



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<i>Cast, creative team:</i>	Choreography, performance: Valencia James Music, sound design: Ádám Márton Horváth Lighting Design: Zoltán Grecsó
<i>Link to the trailer:</i>	https://vimeo.com/204371583
<i>Link to the full length recording– with password if applicable:</i>	https://vimeo.com/233292721 BtWaM
<i>Coproducers:</i>	
<i>Supporters:</i>	L1 Association, Workshop Foundation
<i>Past international tours and festival presentations (venue/festival, city)</i>	2016 Hungarian Contemporary Dance Festival, Dock 11, Berlin 2017 Next Fest, Trafó House of Contemporary Arts, Budapest 2017 Mala Inventura Festival, Prague
<i>Number of performers:</i>	1
<i>Total number of people on tour:</i>	1
Basic technical requirements	
<i>Size of stage (width x depth x height)</i>	min. 10m x 8m x 4m
<i>Scale of venue (small/medium/large)</i>	Small-medium
<i>Length of setup and strike:</i>	Specials set up:1-1.5 hrs, (provided general lighting already in place!)
<i>Any particular technical requirement:</i>	-



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Synopsis/Description of performance:

Nine years ago I moved to Hungary and suddenly I went from being Valencia, a passionate dancer and proud Barbadian to a negro girl, a walking chocolate bar, a black Jezebel. *Between the World and Me* is a reflection on living in a pre-dominantly white Central European society as a woman of Afro-Caribbean origin, the awkward encounters and complex questions of identity. Adopting its title and starting point from the award-winning bestseller of African American writer, Ta-Nehisi Coates, the piece explores the dehumanising violence of stereotypes.

Future productions:

<i>(Working) title of production:</i>	AI_am here
<i>Planned time and place of premiere:</i>	October 10, 2017, Trafó House of Contemporary Arts
<i>Coproducers:</i>	Scene 44, n+n corsino Marseille, 3:e Vaningen Gothenburg



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Synopsis/description of the production:

Can machines be creative? Can they inspire us to explore new artistic pathways? Could the interaction with other forms of intelligence take us beyond our creative limitations and reveal to us more about what it is to be human?

We teach machines to identify faces, understand speech and drive cars, but could they also teach us something new about ourselves? AI am here is a multimedia dance performance which explores an encounter between human and another form of intelligence. Through their interaction machine and human go through a creative learning process where they mutually inspire each other. Imagine our exchanges with machines going beyond 'user' and 'system'. What if they could connect us to our past and our future? What if we humans think of machines as equal creative partners?

The international collaboration AI_am investigates the potential of the artistic interaction between human and machine through contemporary dance. Founded in 2013 the project brings together experts from the fields of dance, cognitive science, graphics and coding. AI_am raises questions about artificial intelligence (AI), performing arts and their place in our modern society through art-science experiments, public presentations and workshops.

Basic technical requirements

<i>Size of stage (width x depth x height)</i>	12m x 12m x 6m
<i>Scale of venue (small/medium/large)</i>	Medium- large
<i>Any particular technical requirement:</i>	Tbc

If foreseen basic technical requirements of the production (size of stage, total number of people on tour) 6 people