

suíte branca

[White Suíte]

[2015]

choreography: **Cassi Abranches**

music: **Samuel Rosa**

scenography: **Paulo Pederneiras**

costumes: **Freusa Zechmeister**

lighting: **Paulo Pederneiras and Gabriel Pederneiras**

Length: 32 minutes

When the first guitar chords are struck and the silhouette of a ballerina dances through the air, a hint of mystery enters the scene. The aridity of an eerily white landscape underlines the enigmatic atmosphere.

Dressed in white from start to finish, moving across the milky linoleum against the backdrop panel that gradually reveals the peaks and valleys of a structure that resembles a giant glacier, GRUPO CORPO dancers dedicate themselves to a choreography handwritten especially for them. Conceived as a brand new piece to connect the duet program for GRUPO CORPO's 40th anniversary celebrations, the *Suíte Branca* features signature scenography by Paulo Pederneiras, costumes by Freusa Zechmeister and lighting by Paulo and Gabriel Pederneiras. It also marks the debut of two new professionals with the company: young choreographer Cassi Abranches from São Paulo, and musician Samuel Rosa from Minas Gerais.

The *Suíte Branca's* 100% instrumental score was written by Samuel Rosa, vocalist, guitarist, composer and leader of Skank – one of Brazil's best-known pop rock bands. He wrote the score alongside his band colleagues of 20 years and it was his first major work that took him beyond the band's style. For over 30 minutes, Rosa and his Skank bandmates mix psychedelia and circus elements, Jamaica and Minas Gerais, with a hint of

mantra in a waltz rhythm and with caustic guitar distortion, making discreet allusions to the legendary 60s and 70s bands that influenced the band's music, such as the Beatles and the Clube da Esquina.

With her own choreographic style, Cassi Abranches was a GRUPO CORPO dancer from 2001 to 2013, and she knows the potential and idiosyncrasies of her former stage colleagues better than anyone. After collaborating with the São Paulo Dance Company (*GEN*, 2015), the Brazilian Youth Bolshoi Company from Joinville (*Ariana*, 2015), the SESC Dance Company (*Oblivion* and *Plan*, 2015) and the Palace of Arts Youth Ballet (*Back cover*, 2009), the later two being from Belo Horizonte, and receiving the honorable task of creating the *Suíte Branca*, she became the second person to choreograph for GRUPO CORPO since Rodrigo Pederneiras took residence in 1981*. She embodies the commitment of the Minas dance company to a new generation.

Among undulating arms and hips, pendular movements, suspensions, and considerable floorwork, the score brought to life by Cassi suggests an interaction with the law of gravity, where it is possible to see the distinctive traits of GRUPO CORPO that for so long have inhabited our imagination, and at the same time, to glimpse the strength of an unequivocal otherness.