

GRUPO CORPO

primavera

choreography: Rodrigo Pederneiras
music: Palavra Cantada
set design: Paulo Pederneiras
costume design: Freusa Zechmeister
light design: Paulo Pederneiras and Gabriel Pederneiras

GRUPO CORPO presents *Primavera*, created in 2021 based on a sequence of musical pieces by Paulo Tatit and Sandra Peres - the duo Palavra Cantada, from São Paulo - specially selected and adapted for the company

Extraordinary times - those of the pandemic - called for new approaches. The contemporary Brazilian dance company GRUPO CORPO, in the diapason of renewal and delicacy, premiered in 2021 *Primavera (Springtime)*, Rodrigo Pederneiras' choreography upon 14 songs of the duo Palavra Cantada (Paulo Tatit and Sandra Peres), specialized in music for children, adapted for an instrumental track. It was the time to start again in the sowing inspiration, when a new cycle presents itself. It was the company's reunion with the live audience, in the spirit of the season, wrapped in color and lightness.

"We were stuck in our homes" says Rodrigo Pederneiras, "without being able to rehearse, bring the group together, schedule a show, plan a season, with the dancers having remote classes.". There was, of course, the horizon of live broadcastings through digital platforms; the group released ballet recordings and held events on digital platforms. In this digital angle, in December 2020, the choreographer thought of creating short pieces for the internet and reached out to his friend, composer Paulo Tatit.

"We came up with the idea of selecting and adapting playbacks from Palavra Cantada," "Sandra and I sent dozens of playbacks from our 27-year career. Rodrigo selected 14 of them and we started working," says Tatit.

The ensemble gained a feature, translated into modules that flowed - or blossomed, so to speak. The voices came out, the melodies practically disappeared, and new instruments came in. A continuity emerged. "*Preludios*, from 1985, started from an idea like this: loose pieces united by choreography," adds Rodrigo. This time, the romantic Chopin gave way to the popular - and sophisticated - sound of Tatit and Peres' work for children. "I would say they are *divertissements*," proposes artistic director Paulo Pederneiras, referring to the genre that defines small pieces of music or dance, approached by great creators. Again, it was the necessary lightness in such difficult times.

With the adaptations, remixes and some additions, the track strings together a range of sometimes very contrasting musical styles, from light jazz to Afro percussion in its 36-minute duration. "We built a different, unique ballet with the high-quality music of Palavra Cantada," says Rodrigo. "Different also because it is, like a spring, an anticipation of better days. We are conjuring up a milder and, why not?, happier future.

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THREE PAS-DE-DEUX AND DISTANCING

Thus, born in the pandemic, the ballet embodied - and, in a way, embraced -the limitations of the moment. "There are only three pas-de-deux," Rodrigo Pederneiras comments. "Only dancers who are couples, living together, are touched"- Agatha and Lucas, Mariana and Elias, Karen and Rafael. "The rest of the show develops in duos, trios, and quartets, and everyone keeps their distance from each other; there is only one scene with eight dancers.

Despite the physical distance between the dancers, curiously the sense of closeness became more intense - and the individual highlights, more constant. "In *Primavera*, we have the chance to see each element of the company in a more focused, more intimate way," Rodrigo points out.

TRAILING

"It is simply a great privilege, it is moving to see our work vibrating, physically, in the ballet of Grupo Corpo. where we get to see the music; it materializes," said Sandra Peres at the *Primavera* premiere in October 2021. "Taking our music to the adult universe, with another approach, has been a fabulous experience. For 27 years, the Palavra Cantada - Sandra Peres and Paulo Tatit - has been bringing to children music of unquestionable quality ("we think of this quality as the best possible artistic nutrition, in the same way that food for children needs to be very nutritious," she adds) and instigating artistic proposals.

The childish character of the original songs is diluted in the re-creation. "With the suppression of the lyrics, the singing voice and a good part of the melodic lines, we inserted piano lines, guitar, bass and some vocalizations," explains Paulo Tatit. "The instrumental base is very open and the result, very sophisticated," he adds.

On the *Primavera* track, therefore, 14 of Paulo Tatit and Sandra Peres' songs - composed and recorded between 1999 and 2017 (complete list at the end of the text) - are remixed and reworked. Producer, musician, and sound engineer Ricardo Mosca played a fundamental role in balancing and standardizing the sound of the playback, recorded in different studios, with varied resources. "A lot of things were rethought to make the music more pulsating," says Mosca, "with excellence in sound".

PROJECTIONS AND COLOR

In the construction of the scenic language of *Primavera*, the initial idea - to create smaller pieces for the internet - stayed in the back of the mind for Paulo Pederneiras, artistic director and set designer for GRUPO CORPO. "When we saw that there was an arc, a concept, a whole show, I was already testing the use of cameras and decided to take advantage of that idea", he explains. "In the show, we positioned two tiny cameras in front of the stage, operated from the wings, and we worked the dancers' projections in real time, projected in a screen of black tulle, in the back of the scene.". It's the first time that the company uses that kind of resources in its performances.

In contrast with the black scenic box, the costumes created by Freusa Zechmeister for the dancers are monochromatic, in strong colors - shades of yellow, orange, red and green - with crumpled muslin skirts that fly, embroidering the air, over leotards. The male dancers, on the other hand, wear more classic costumes: black neoprene pants, with a more formal cut, with tight, off-white, cotton mesh T-shirts.

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Soundtrack of PRIMAVERA

by Sandra Peres and Paulo Tatit – Palavra Cantada /
Production and remixing: Ricardo Mosca

- 1) Pé com pé (Sandra Peres e Paulo Tatit) from the album Pé com Pé (2006)
- 2) O Explorador (Sandra Peres/ Zé Tatit) YouTube Version
- 3) Oiá (Sandra Peres / Arnaldo Antunes) from the album Pé com Pé (2006)
- 4) Bolinha de sabão (Paulo Tatit) from the album Um Minutiinho! (2012)
- 5) O camaleão (Paulo Tatit/ Zé Tatit) from the album Mil Pássaros (1999)
- 6) Bruxa feia (Paulo Tatit/ Zé Tatit) from the album Um Minutiinho! (2012)
- 7) Olha o nenê (Paulo Tatit) from the album Um Minutiinho! (2012)
- 8) Passeio do bebê (Paulo Tatit/ Zé Tatit) from the album Bafafá (2017)
- 9) Então tá combinado (Paulo Tatit/ Zé Tatit) from the album Um Minutiinho! (2012)
- 10) África (Sandra Peres, Paulo Tatit/Arnaldo Antunes) from the album Pé com Pé (2006)
- 11) Bolacha de água e sal (Sandra Peres/Paulo Tatit) from the album Pé com Pé (2006)
- 12) Menina moleca (Paulo Tatit/Zé Tatit) from the album Pé com Pé (2006)
- 13) Canção dos alienígenas (Sandra Peres/Zé Tatit) from the album Bafafá (2017)
- 14) Meu lugar (Sandra Peres / Luiz Tatit) YouTube Version