



Paradox-Sal

QUEEN BLOOD

Created by Ousmane Sy (France)
23 & 24 May 2020, Sat & Sun, 8pm
SOTA Studio Theatre

Rating: Rating to be advised. Admission for audience age 6 years and above.

Synopsis

Playfully brash and in-your-face, *Queen Blood's* exploration of femininity showcases sharp house dance moves and a charismatic female squad.

With *Queen Blood*, French choreographer Ousmane Sy delivers a dance act every bit as energetic and entertaining as his earlier work, *Fighting Spirit*.

Steeped in a hybrid milieu of Afro house rhythms, hip hop, and dance battle, Sy's choreographic ethos mirrors both the freewheeling spirit of hip hop and the disciplined rigour of a corps de ballet.

Headlining *Queen Blood* is Paradox-Sal, a seven-piece female power squad who have spent years training in house dance with Sy. The result of this long-time collaboration is a stunningly eloquent vocabulary – shining through the group's technical mastery and confident performance.

From the struggle to achieve recognition from their peers in *Fighting Spirit*, *Queen Blood* continues to explore the journey of womanhood from intimacy

to emancipation. Each dancer reveals their singularly unique expression of femininity, nurtured by their personal experiences, cultural and artistic background.

Brimming with attitude, *Queen Blood* will fascinate you with its indomitable love of dance and fearless expression of what it means to be a woman today

Journey with SIFA



Choreographer Ousmane Sy shares: "With *Queen Blood*, you can rediscover the vibe of an underground club on level ground! This show presents a team of seven unexpected female dancers. Here, their individual identities serve the collective. If you can't go to the club, the club will come to you!"

Audrey Minko, a dancer with Paradox-Sal, adds: "I must say, personally, it's crazy to think that we will be part of the programming in Singapore. We are very fortunate to be able to travel so far and discover a new county and a new culture thanks to dance. The audience can expect to go on a journey with us, to experience and encounter us without any pretence".

"In 2019 I presented Sasha Waltz and juxtaposed it with Giselle Vienne's Crowd. In 2020, we have Crystal Pite's Revisor to which I have programmed *Queen Blood* as the perfect counterpoint," says Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani. He adds: "Paradox-Sal comprises seven young women who exhibit incredible precision and energy in their movement. The work is choreographed by Afro House visionary Ousmane Sy. One of the things I found most moving was as a dancer completed a solo, they were handed water and a towel by another dancer. It was these small gestures that show the humanity behind the art and how these dancers come together as a company".

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Interviews:

Ousmane Sy will be available for an email interview to share more on the following topics (proposed topics):

- What motivated him to create *Queen Blood* and initiate Paradox-Sal
- Inspiration behind *Queen Blood* and how it hopes to highlight female empowerment
- His experience staging an “Afro House Spirit”, a contemporary dance style marked by the heritage of traditional African and Caribbean dances

About Ousmane Sy and Paradox-Sal

Ambassador of the “French Touch” and Afro-house spirit on five continents, choreographer Ousmane Sy is a house dance specialist and winner of many international battles.

Created during the summer of 2012 at the initiative of Ousmane Sy, the Paradox-sal group is made up of 14 dancers from different countries (France, England, Russia, Netherlands, etc) but above all from cultures diversified.

The objective was indeed to bring together dancers capable of drawing on their past, both artistic and cultural to develop and give another dimension to their dance by the AFRO HOUSE SPIRIT which today represents the bridge between traditional music and ancestral of Africa and ELECTRO in full emergence and in constant evolution.

It is also in the dance styles represented by the group that we find the paradox (Locking, Jazz, Popping, Hype, Dancehall, Contemporary Dance, House, Waacking, Hip-Hop, and many more.)

This mixture has allowed Paradox-Sal to build an atypical identity allowing everyone to find their way around. Since then, the group has scoured numerous scenes, both prestigious and less known, promoting exchange and sharing.

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