

TALMA

AN OUTSTANDING TRADITION

"On December 5th, the Theatre of Snart in Lieusaint hosted South African artists from the 'Via Katlehong' troupe. Mr. Barrios and Mrs. Marin took their 1st-year highschool students to witness the show 'Via Injabulo' to explore traditional South African dances rooted in history, full of meaning and utility."



Studying colonization and global cultural identification in class, Mr. Barrios and Mrs. Marin aimed at illustrating the enduring impact of colonization on the cultural identity of colonized populations. Through dances like 'Pantsula,' 'gumboot,' and 'tap dance', in 'Via Injabulo,' the artists, convey a nuanced message about South Africa's colonization, letting us see how their culture has been impacted by this colonization.

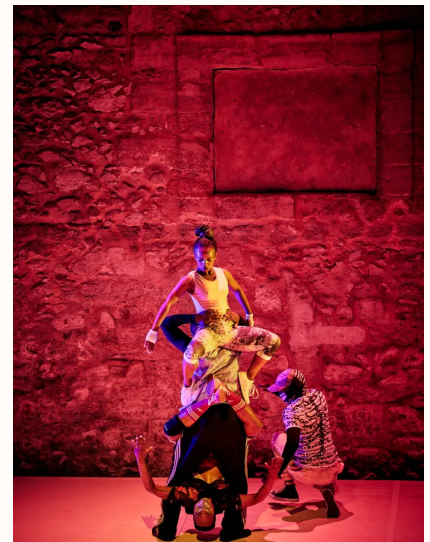


THE GUMBOOT

The gumboot is the second dance to be seen on stage. Born in South African gold mines, it became a form of communication among workers of diverse languages and cultures. For instance, the show refers to mining work with Gumboot, but also symbolizes solidarity and reflects the history of black workers' resilience in South African mines who communicated through dance, not to be understood by whites

THE TAP DANCE

In the show, we also saw tap dancing. Although, tap dance originated in the USA, it played and still plays an important role in South African culture. This was evident in the dance company performance since Abel, one of the dancers in the troupe, demonstrated tap dancing in full view of the other dancers, probably illustrating moments from their childhood, when they were learning to dance in the streets of their township.



FROM RESILIENCE TO LEGACY

In short, these dances, which appeared mainly during apartheid, were a means of protest and communication, fostering the resilience of South African communities. Gradually, they found their place in South African culture as they were passed down from generation to generation. Today, it's seen as an art because it's a form of dance which might somehow be difficult for them to perform because these dances come from and refers to a dark era.



THE PANTSULA

The first dance we recognize is Pantsula, originated as an urban dance in Katlehong township during apartheid, it's also a protest dance because it expressed social resistance during Apartheid through body movements. Furthermore, it played a significant role in the political struggle. Specialized in Pantsula, the company emphasized its cultural importance in their lives and in south african townships.