

Image: Steve Gunther @CalartsREDCAT



Studios Kabako | Democratic Republic of the Congo

# In Search of Dinozord

Created by  
**Faustin Linyekula**

Curated by  
**Lemi Ponifasio**

Thu 27 Feb – Sat 29 Feb, 7.30pm  
Soundings Theatre, Te Papa  
1hr 20mins

## Creative team

**Directed by**  
Faustin Linyekula

**Texts by**  
Richard Kabako and  
Antoine Vumilia Muhindo

## Producers

**Production**  
Studios Kabako / Virginie Dupray

**Coproduction**  
KVS Theater, Brussels  
*With support from the DRAC Ile-de-France / French Ministry  
of Culture and Communication and Culturgest Lisbon.*

## Cast

**Singer**  
Hlengiwe Madlala

**Dancers**  
Jean Kumbonyeki  
Yves Mwamba  
Faustin Linyekula  
Michel Kiyombo

**Actors**  
Papy Maurice Mbwiti  
Antoine Vumilia Muhindo

**Artist Talk**  
Post-show, Fri 28 Feb,  
Soundings Theatre  
Facilitated by Lemi Ponifasio

Event programmes supported by:

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**New Zealand  
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21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

## About Studios Kabako

Founded in 2001 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo by Faustin Linyekula, Studios Kabako is a space dedicated to dance and visual theatre, providing training programmes, as well as supporting research, creation and touring. In 2007, the organisation moved to Kisangani, embracing music, film and video.

In the city centre, Studios Kabako's venue includes a professional recording studio, a video postproduction room, rehearsal spaces for music, dance and theatre, as well as offices and storage spaces.

In Kisangani, Studios Kabako has also developed a special focus on the Lubunga district exploring ways to talk to Kisangani from its most fragile part. Since 2013 a series of surveys, workshops, debates and events have been implemented around drinking water, education and environment, while a group of twelve young people from Lubunga have been trained in film and production.

## Faustin Linyekula



Faustin Linyekula is a Congolese dancer, choreographer, theatre maker and storyteller. In his work he addresses the legacy of the troubled and violent history of his country. After studying literature and drama, Linyekula left Zaïre to settle in Nairobi, Kenya where he co-founded the first Kenyan company for contemporary dance, Gàara, in 1997. In 2001 he returned to Zaïre, by now the Democratic Republic of Congo, to found in Kinshasa the Studios Kabako, a creation and research space for performing arts.

Linyekula regularly tours and teaches in Africa, the United States and Europe, and joined William Kentridge as an associate artist of the 2019 Holland Festival. He won the 2019 Tällberg / Eliasson Global Leader Prize.

## Writer's Note

– Why are you called dinosaur?

– Because I'm the last of my kind.

The last, like the last cold bottle of beer in a town on the edge of civilisation.

The last of my kind, like the last laugh of a dying bank robber who takes the secrets of the safe with him to the grave. The last of my kind, like Molière's last tirade. Like Mozart's *Requiem*, his final flare of virtuosity.

The last of my kind, like the last mandarin clinging to the tree, the crippled tree, although drought has covered the tree in dust.

Like the last sperm before the onset of infertility.

Like the last king of a short dynasty, like the last secret of a mystery.

Like the last boat on a river, the last kiss, the last dream.

The last love.

The final plea at the feet of the final stance of the last apprentice-dictator.

– Which tribe are you from?

– From the tribe of the dogs.

– That's stupid.

– I meant to say: from the tribe of the royal dogs, the dogs that were the king's fools.

From the tribe of the poet-dogs, born with dancing legs and fiery eyes.

From the tribe of the poets and ballads, the hair-raising sopranos. Those who walk nude across the square without being at all ashamed ... so you can't tell if they're innocent or perverted.

I'm from the tribe of those sentenced to death for the rest of their lives.

Those, whose eyes are bound, noses plugged and faces turned away.

I'm the spittoon of the Republic.

*Antoine Vumilia Muhindo*