

# WE ARE MONCHICHI

Wang Ramirez

With support from



The *Refuge* series is supported by  
**British Council, Edinburgh Futures Institute  
at the University of Edinburgh and  
Claire and Mark Urquhart**

Made possible through the  
**PLACE Programme**  
In collaboration with  
**Scottish Refugee Council**

Friday 19 August 6pm

Saturday 20 August &  
Sunday 21 August 2pm

## THE STUDIO

The performance lasts approximately  
55 minutes with no interval.

Please ensure that all mobile phones  
and electronic devices are switched off  
or put on silent.



# REFUGE

**A celebration of the profound contribution to arts and culture  
given by the movement of people across the globe**

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Artists are often the vanguards of community life and social justice. This is why they play such an important role in illuminating the commonalities and the complexities of humanity, wherever they find themselves rooted or uprooted in the world. Yet they are especially at risk of censorship, harassment, criminalisation and persecution when their work gives voice to ideas, imagination and freedom of expression, and when they inspire others to do so too.

*Refuge* invites and weaves together the perspectives of artists who have taken different journeys. Perspectives and journeys that remind us that people are often carrying more than we can see or know. They are always listening, attuning, questioning and making: these are exceptional minds. This series is a rich tapestry of experiences, stories, poetry, performance, challenges and resistance.

**Soizig Carey**  
**Arts and Cultural Development Officer**  
**Scottish Refugee Council**

Scottish Refugee Council is honoured to collaborate with the Edinburgh International Festival and mark this very special anniversary year. This has been a year of terrible stories. War in Ukraine, unrest in Afghanistan, families stranded and separated by bureaucracy, Rwandan detention centres and people left with no option but to risk their lives on dangerous journeys in a desperate bid to reach a place of safety. In this relentless fight for human rights and freedoms, we must not forget to reflect on hard-won triumphs as well. Had Rudolf Bing not sought and been granted refugee protection here 75 years ago, this world-class festival may not exist. The cultural fabric of Scotland would be very different. We are in awe of his legacy, and of the exceptional artists performing as part of *Refuge*.

**Sabir Zazai**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Scottish Refugee Council**

# SCOTTISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

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Scottish Refugee Council is Scotland's leading independent charity dedicated to supporting people in need of refugee protection. Since 1985, it has supported refugee integration and inclusion through provision of specialist advice and advocacy to people seeking protection in Scotland.

The people it works with have fled horrific situations around the world and come from countries where conflict is rife and human rights abuses common. When people arrive in Scotland, a new journey begins. The UK's asylum system is tough and takes its toll on individuals and families. Settling into a foreign country and a whole new system can be disorientating and challenging.

Through its direct services it provides practical support, advice and a listening ear to help people rebuild their lives in a sustainable and meaningful way. It speaks out against an unjust asylum system and campaigns for changes that make a positive difference to people's lives. To date it has supported more than 25,000 refugees arriving and living in Scotland.

Find out more about its work:  
[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

# WE ARE MONCHICHI

**WANG RAMIREZ**  
**MARCO DI NARDO**  
**SHIHYA PENG**

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Artistic Direction,  
Conception, Choreography

With  
Text Adaptation, Actor Direction  
Original Dramaturgy  
Lighting Designer  
Set Designer  
Costumes  
Composition  
Additional Music

Arrangements  
Voice Recording  
and Sound Arrangements  
Technical Manager  
Executive Production

**Honji Wang**  
**Sébastien Ramirez**  
**Marco Di Nardo and Shihya Peng**  
**Fabrice Melquiot**  
**Vincent Rafis**  
**Cyril Mulon**  
**Ida Raven**  
**Honji Wang**  
**Ilia Koutchoukov aka Everydayz / +∞**  
**Bachar Mar-Khalifé / Balcoon**  
**Carlos Gardel**  
**Alva Noto**  
**Nick Cave**  
**Warren Ellis**  
**Fabien Biron**  
  
**Clément Aubry**  
**Guillaume Giraudo**  
**Company Wang Ramirez**  
**Clash66**

*We Are Monchichi* is based on *Monchichi* (2011), the bedrock piece by duo Wang Ramirez. It was a nominee for the 2017 New York Bessie Award for Outstanding Production and the success of the piece led to the creation of *We Are Monchichi* for all audiences aged 7+ with two new performers.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez' story is universal; it's based on human encounters, the differences, origins, family... It's also about the necessary intercultural fine-tuning that is at times complex, but often joyful.

A new couple of young dancers will share their story with the support of Wang Ramirez' aesthetic and choreography. New lives, new journeys, new faces telling us the same story, the only story that really matters for all of us: the story of love.

I have custom-created the texts and dramaturgy for this new production, based on the personality of the new dancers.

Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez' choreographic writing is an evolving sketch of a limitless country. They imagine it, erase it and reinvent it with every movement. They live in this stirring country with the profound naivety of children fascinated by the interplay of their bodies in the mirror. They observe each other, brush past each other, avoid each other, throw themselves at one another, hurt each other, work it out, reject each other, get back together... just like grown-up couples, just like kids in the schoolyard.

*Monchichi* is the story of people who ask the endless question about converging identities, where each individual is depositary (personal identity, social identity, geographic identity, borrowed identity, poetic identity) so in the end, there's no more need to ask it.

*We are Monchichi* will tell children, adolescents, adults, all audiences that the 21st century is, and will be, an 'unfolding of self' in the self of others, an absence of borders, an intermingling of languages, an enriching time.

This work is a 'poelitical' performance that lies between dance and theatre, poetry and politics, where thoughts summon movements, where humour surpasses grace, where roots attach themselves to other roots, all in order to create a sensual and diversely blended text. A text that transports situations, anecdotes, stories, our stories, whether we are seven or seventy years old.

The question of community, of integrating a new group, of offering friendship, of budding love, of learning about class, of supporting neighbours already begins with two. We all exist in this couple. Virtuositic and childlike.

© Fabrice Melquiot

# WANG RAMIREZ COMPANY

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Under the direction of the choreographers Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez, Wang Ramirez Company produces dance-theatre work that fuses genres as diverse as hip-hop, ballet, contemporary dance and martial arts. Its numerous awards include two Bessie Awards and First Prize and the Special Audience Award at the Hanover International Contemporary Dance Competition. The Company regularly collaborates with some of the most renowned artists in the worlds of dance, visual arts and music, including Akram Khan, Rocio Molina, New York City Ballet's prima ballerina Sara Mearns, Constance Guisset, Os Gêmeos, Andy Serkis, Hussein Chalayan, Madonna and Nitin Sawhney. Its acclaimed works, which include *Monchichi* (2011), *Borderline* (2013), *Everyness* (2016), *N° 1* (2017) and *We Are Monchichi* (2018), have been performed throughout Europe, Asia and America. The Company's most recent creations both premiered last September: *Parts* was presented at the Torinodanza festival (Turin), and *Youme*, a piece for young audiences, was presented at the Oriente Occidente Festival (Rovereto). In addition to their work with Wang Ramirez Company, Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez are regularly commissioned by other companies and venues. Their commissions include *Dystopian Dream*, a hybrid piece of musical dance-theatre based on the album by Nitin Sawhney for Sadler's Wells, London; and *Au Revoir* for the contemporary dance company of the Göteborg Opera; a piece based on *L'après-midi d'un faune* for the Ballet du Capitole, Toulouse.