



# DESERT

ALBERT QUESADA

FRAMES PERCUSSION

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Desert is a project based on the piece Timber (2009) by the American composer Michael Gordon (1956-) which was premiered in 2016 by the ensemble FRAMES Percussion in Spain. Through a new dance performance staging by choreographer Albert Quesada and with an innovative sound design, a rereading of the piece is proposed with a uniquely immersive experience.

The show, designed for six musicians and three dancers, aims to emphasize the austerity and physicality of the sound's substance. The audience will be placed at the center of the sound. First, with a closeup dance (the spectator which will be located circularly around dancers and musicians) and, second, through an acoustic amplification that allows focus on the subtle and delicate changes of the music by Michael Gordon.

During the sixty minutes, it uses six wooden symmetries, cuts of exuberant sizes used in the liturgies of the Orthodox of Eastern Europe.

Timber is a piece of music that "evokes a journey through the desert", in the words of the composer himself. The notion of this journey will also be reflected in the staging, thanks to the exploration of imagery of romantic reminiscences. The distance and loneliness of the traveler are in contrast with the greatness of nature, which is at the same time inspiring and challenging.

Finally, through the aesthetic experience, this project aims to create a space for reflection where the viewer can extrapolate everything that emerges from the idea of desert, from a priori so distant and exotic, to a more everyday and intimate realm.

## ARTISTIC TEAM:

**Musicians:** FRAMES Percussion. Miquel Vich Vila, artistic director.

**Music by:** Michael Gordon.

**Choreography and direction:** Albert Quesada.

**Dance:** Albert Quesada, Katie Vickers, and a dancer to be determined.

These dancers have worked together on Flamingos and Slow Sports Kids, among other collaborations.

## PRODUCTION:

**Production:** Albert Quesada / FRAMES Percussion

**Co-production:** L'Auditori de Barcelona, Festival GREC de Barcelona, in dialogue with Festival Temporada Alta.

**Premiere:** 16+17/07/2022 within the cycle ESCENES in L'Auditori de Barcelona

**Residencies:** El Graner (Barcelona), Konvent (Berguedà, Catalonia), and in dialogue with L'Artesà (El Prat del Llobregat, Catalonia) and STUK (Leuven)

## FRAMES Percussion

FRAMES Percussion, a percussion ensemble dedicated to perform new music, represents the talent and commitment to the art of its time. Formed by a new generation of percussionists from Barcelona, the group aims to offer some of the most unique and innovative projects.

The impact of its presentation in 2014, with the performance of an ambitious program of American post minimalist music, has led the ensemble to quickly become one of the main references in the interpretation of new music in Spain and one of the ensembles with the greatest projection in Catalonia.

Linked in its beginnings to Joventuts Musicals de Catalunya and Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya, where they teach masterclasses and workshops regularly, the group maintains a close relationship with L'Auditori de Barcelona, has promoted the creation of OUT·SIDE, has participated in the Mixtur Festival, Festival GREC de Barcelona, in the concert series "Jóvenes Intérpretes" of the Juan March Foundation, VANG Músicas de Vanguardia in CentroCentro and the ENSEMS International Festival of Contemporary Music of Valencia among others.

## LINKS:

[www.framespercussion.com](http://www.framespercussion.com)

<http://acmearts.xyz>

<https://www.auditori.cat/ca/desert>

## Albert Quesada

Albert Quesada is a Spanish dancer and choreographer. He trained at MDT (Amsterdam) and PARTS (Brussels) after he studied philosophy and multimedia engineering in Barcelona. The exploration and translation of musical structures and compositions into choreography and the invitation of an audience to perceive and to listen to the proposed works stands at the heart of Quesada's choreographic work. Next to that, Albert is intrigued by group movement and dynamics, sparked by his collaboration with ZOO/Thomas Hauert.

He holds many artistic projects, both educational and for the stage. Together with Katie Vickers, he co-directs two educational programs in the USA: the theatre and dance summer program at Mercersburg Academy, and the Practicing Performance / International Dance Festival.

In 2005 Albert created Solo on Bach & Glenn and later Solos Bach & Gould (2010). This was followed by Trilogy (2011), created with Vera Tussing, an evening of three short pieces exploring musical structures. Albert then expanded into larger, group choreographies with the pieces Ensemble (2012), Slow Sports (2012) and Wagner & Ligeti (2014), an examination of our understanding of orchestral music, Slow Sports Outdoors (2014), Slow Sports Kids (2015), OneTwoThreeOneTwo (2015), a duet inspired by the world of flamenco, and VIVA (2016), where the amateur group De Genoten dances to Vivaldi's Four Seasons. It's time (2017) was a collaboration with Octavi Rumbau, Federica Porello and Zoltán Vakulya. And as an associated artist in Mercat de les Flors (Barcelona), he created his big format piece Flamingos (2019). He has also choreographed We Will Meet Again (2021) for AP University of Antwerp.