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## **Brazilian hip-hop on a Flemish theatre stage**

Brazilian Bruno Beltrao is no longer unknown in Flanders. The choreographer and philosopher is one of these few artists who knows how to turn the energy and social significance of hip-hop into a classic theatre stage without abuse and without making art look funny.

His Grupo de Rua consists of street boys of Rio de Janeiro that are all tried and tested in the explosive and virile body culture of hip-hop. However, his ensemble is more than a dance company. It is also a social project. He wants his young dancers to emancipate themselves by giving them theoretical training.

In 2003, he went on stage at Klapstuk before being chosen by the Kunstenfestivaldesarts. In 2005, he created H2 in which he explores the relation between space and dance. If in classical dance this relation can be called the alpha and omega, in hip-hop it is not considered simply because hip-hop was born in the street, not the theatre. With 12 performers on stage, Beltrao proved how this research could fundamentally change the quality of dance.

In H3, Beltrao explores this research with nine dancers starting from a simple basic notion of hip-hop: lots of movements in this dance style arising low on the floor. Beltrao deconstructs these codes to reach a new working piece.

H3, 12-17/5, La Raffinerie, Manchesterstraat 21, B-1080 St-Jans-Molenbeek.