

# ORÍzontes 2027 - Bahia BR

Dances, bodies, perspectives  
between Benin and Bahia  
through the lens of the Axis Syllabus  
>> 02/17 january 2027

Scarabeo Produções  
in collaboration with  
Axis Syllabus International Mashwork  
Associação Sonagnon (Benin)

Barracao d'Angola (BR)  
Hosted from Espaço Scarabeo (BR)

*"Each one sees a whole,  
everyone sees something unique.  
between Bahia and Benin,  
horizons in dialogue,  
an invisible bridge over a sea of truths."*

*Sara Parisi*

An intensive study encounter on dance, music, cultural and spiritual philosophy of Benin, and the multiple dialogues with the tradition of Bahia.

Over 16 days, we will bring together dance, music, body research, philosophy, speeches about cultural and spiritual knowledge of Benin, exploring its many dialogues with the Afro-Brazilian traditions of Bahia.

The Axis Syllabus will be one of the main tools of this gathering: an approach to movement research that integrates anatomy, biomechanics, physics, perception, and bodily experience, offering tools to observe, question, and expand our awareness of the body in movement.

Witness a meeting and be part of the experience!

## Masters and Facilitators:

- **Eric Acakpo:** Hounongan (Spiritual leader) Voudou and Babalao, music and dance artist, cultural director and actor in Ouidah, Benin.
- **Frey Faust:** Dance artist, creator of the Axis Syllabus, pedagogue, writer, artisan, USA.
- **Francesca Pedullà:** Dance artist, researcher and cultural mediator, Hounon (Voudou Priestess), AS Trainer, pedagogue, Italy/Benin.
- **Aliou Guessere:** Musician of the National Ballet of Benin and the Tambour Orchestra of Benin.
- **Rosângela Silvestre** — Dancer, choreographer, creator of Silvestre Technique and researcher of Afro-descendant dances.
- **Mestre Cabello:** Reference in Capoeira Angola, musician, researcher of Afro-Brazilian culture, director of Barracão d'Angola, Bahia, Brazil.
- **Sara Parisi:** Dance artist, researcher, cultural mediator, Tassinon (priest's assistant), AS teacher, artistic director of Espaço Scarabeo and the ORizontes Bahia Italia project.

The gathering is organized in collaboration with Axis Syllabus International Mashwork and Associação Sonagnon (Benin), with activities at Espaço Scarabeo and Barracão d'Angola, in Serra Grande, Urucuá, Bahia.

## A COMMON HISTORY, BODIES IN DIALOGUE

Bahia and Benin share a history marked by the diaspora, the circulation of people, knowledge, spiritualities, music, and dances across the Atlantic. African traditions found new contexts of continuity and transformation in Bahia, while in Benin they remained rooted in their territories and practices of origin. The dances of yesterday and today carry this common history, but also reveal different paths, built in distinct social, cultural, and political contexts. ORizontes is born from the desire to bring these territories closer together through bodies, dances, and knowledge, placing tradition, research, and contemporary creation in dialogue.

## BENIN — SONAGNON AND AXIS SYLLABUS

For over two decades, Francesca Pedullà and Eric Acakpo have been developing training, research, and artistic creation projects in Benin. Since 2012, in Cotonou and Ouidah, the *Traces Axis Syllabus Benin* course has offered free training and residency in Axis Syllabus for local dancers and artists. With Frey Faust, the creator of AS, Sara Parisi as pedagogical assistant and production support, Aliou Guessere as musician, and other artists, the project provides tools for biomechanical analysis of movement and methodologies for choreographic composition.

The preservation of dances starting from the preservation of the dancing bodies. Understanding how movement is organized, what forces it involves, and how it can be executed in an efficient and moderate manner allows taking care of the continuity of practices without separating the dance from the person performing it. At the same time, paths open up for artistic creation and elaboration, allowing dances to be transformed and recreated without losing their cultural foundations and maintaining a dialogue with the essence of Beninese traditions and their links to the local religion, Voudou.

The Sonagnon Association, directed by Eric Acakpo, works in the enhancement of arts, culture, and local knowledge, strengthening relations between artists, communities, and institutions.

In Bahia, artists and masters like Mestre Cabello and Rosângela Silvestre have been developing paths for decades dedicated to the study, transmission, and creation based on Afro-Brazilian traditions. Experiences built in different territories and crossed by a common principle: deepening the knowledge of traditions so that they remain alive in bodies and can continue to evolve with humanity.

## TWO SHORES MEET

ORÍzontes brings these experiences into relationship. It is not just about presenting two cultures, but about reconnecting practices, people, and knowledge that are part of a common history, creating a space for exchange between Bahia and Benin. A meeting between memory and creation, tradition and contemporaneity, ancestry and research.

## PARTICIPATION FEES

### FULL PARTICIPATION— 16 DAYS

 €900 — EARLY BIRD  
Registration until October 2026.

 €1,000 — REGULAR PRICE  
Registration between November and December 2026.

1 week: €490  
Weekend: €190

 Important: the €900 fee is a special Early Bird one rate and is available only until October 2026.

Travel, accommodation, meals and transportation are not included in the participation fees.

## REGISTRATION

To confirm your participation with the regular price, the following payment is required:

- 50% of the total workshop fee;
- 10% of the accommodation fee.

The remaining balance must be paid by December 20, 2026.

Late payments may result in cancellation of the registration.

In case of cancellation after payment of the 50% deposit, the organization will refund 25% of the amount paid.

For further information and registration:

[scarabeobahia@gmail.com](mailto:scarabeobahia@gmail.com)  
[www.saraparisi.org/orizontes](http://www.saraparisi.org/orizontes)

We look forward to sharing these days of research, dance, listening and encounters between two territories, two oceans and many forms of knowledge!

# HOW TO GET TO SERRA GRANDE

## OPTION 1 — FLIGHT TO SALVADOR + ILHÉUS + SERRA GRANDE

- Arrival at Salvador Airport (SSA)
- Bus Salvador → Ilhéus
- Bus or taxi Ilhéus → Serra Grande

## OPTION 2 — FLIGHT TO ILHÉUS

- Flight to Ilhéus Airport (IOS)
- Bus or taxi Ilhéus → Serra Grande

## OPTION 3 — SALVADOR + BUS AND FERRYBOAT

- Bus Salvador → Itaparica
- Bus Itaparica → Itacaré
- Bus or taxi Itacaré → Serra Grande

## FLIGHTS

We recommend searching and comparing prices through Skyscanner.

Suggested airlines:

- TAP Portugal
- Air Europa
- Lufthansa

Also check other airlines and flight options before purchasing.

We recommend avoiding Kiwi when purchasing flights.

## BUS TICKETS

To purchase bus tickets online, you may need a **Brazilian CPF number**.

If you have difficulties making the purchase, please contact the organization. We can help you purchase your ticket.

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