

# Guillaume Diop on the cover of the first issue of *Mansa Magazine*

Guillaume Diop, a major Franco-Senegalese artistic figure and the first black danseur étoile at the Paris Opera, graces the cover of the debut issue of *Mansa Magazine*. This new biannual, bilingual (french/english) cultural publication by MansA – Maison des Mondes Africains will be available from April 3, 2026.

## ► An icon bridging cultures

Born to a Senegalese father and a French mother, Guillaume Diop carries within him the resonance of two worlds. A mixed identity that bends and unfolds, shaping his body, his dance, his style. Every gesture, every movement tells the story of an encounter – between origins and chosen paths.

In an intimate interview, he speaks about Senegal and the voices that have shaped him: his grandmother, the memory of shared meals, music, bursts of laughter – imprints that nourish his vision and his singular way of seeing the world.

This dual belonging is visible in everything he creates. Black identity is not merely an aesthetic – it is both political and poetic. It guides his steps on stage, his sartorial choices and his artistic dialogues.

Choosing Guillaume Diop for the cover of this inaugural issue is a powerful statement. Through him emerges the story of those who paved the way before him, and those who will follow – walking in his footsteps, dreaming, daring, creating, and shifting boundaries.

He belongs to a generation that brings heritage and innovation, memory and modernity into conversation, celebrating diversity in all its strength, complexity, and beauty.

## ► Rethinking “Home”, writing the future

This first issue of *Mansa Magazine*, curated by guest editor-in-chief Sébastien Thème, explores a house of African worlds where to inhabit means to name, to map, and to imagine the world. Rethinking home is about redrawing maps : Elodie Rama’s cartography becomes an act of reparation, while Maboula Soumahoro asserts the need to reclaim our own geographies.

With Guillaume Diop, the body itself becomes an intimate home, shaped by the stylistic vision of Kévin Lanoy, under the lens of Delali Ayivi. From the Franco-Caribbean design duo Dach & Zephir to photographer André Atangana, from Victory Chikwadoro’s culinary explorations to the remarkable story of Dona Fulô, memory becomes living material, forming a symbolic shelter that makes space for the unseen.

Writing the future means transforming this home into a laboratory of momentum and creation. The voices of Izudin Yusuf, Sikou Niakaté, Christelle Murhula and Brontez Purnell sketch out an archive of the present oriented toward tomorrow. From Michael Roch’s afrofuturist narratives to reflections developed with Joël Vacheron, imagination unfolds as a territory to reclaim. The energy of the Yardland festival, the legacy of the Nana Benz of Togo, and the commitment of Fondation H in Madagascar extend this movement, illuminated by the thought of philosopher Nadia Yala Kisukidi.

Rethinking home and writing the future ultimately become one and the same gesture: inhabiting the world with awareness and power.



## ► Magazine characteristics

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## ► About MansA

Mansa – Maison des Mondes Africains is a cultural institution based in Paris, dedicated to producing, documenting, and circulating contemporary African and Afro-diasporic cultures worldwide.

Both a space for creation, reflection, and debate, MansA brings together artists, intellectuals, and researchers through a multidisciplinary program that engages with the aesthetic, political, and social transformations of our time.

Through its work, the institution supports the emergence of new narratives, highlights often-overlooked heritages and contributes to shaping a critical field rooted in African worlds and their diasporas.

## ► Informations pratiques

Mansa is open to the public according to its program. Admission is free, subject to availability.

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