

Message from COLAS, sponsor of *DESH* and *Vertical Road*



a silhouette dancing against a familiar diamond-shaped form. Colas and Akram Khan Company have been paving the way forward, hand in hand, since 2008. First came the time of mutual discovery and understanding. Where did our roads cross? Where did our worlds overlap? As engineers and dancers, we both needed to get off the well-beaten paths traced by our professions.

In the end, we were able to see far beyond our own personal projects, to perceive what we shared: the desire for excellence, a forward-thinking focus, flexibility, humility, courage, the capacity to go further than our limits and confront the obstacles formed by our bodies and by matter, pride in what we have created, erecting strong, solid bridges between people. Even stronger, even more solid than preconceived ideas and resistance.

The partnership between Colas and Akram Khan Company tells the tale of an opening of minds, of mutual growth. Something strikes me today: as Akram Khan observed, our thoughts were always focused on ‘we’, never on just ‘I’. This is without a doubt how this story came to be, sparked by the desire to work together and by the instinct that we had both found the right partner.

Now, we have decided to continue to extend these bridges. It started with *Vertical Road*. Today, it’s *DESH*: more than a simple case of corporate patronage; it’s a genuine joint venture.

Hervé Le Bouc
Chairman and CEO of COLAS