



*Bambu
Bambai*

BAMBU BAMBÁ is a children's theater production created by the Brazilian art collective Bando de Brincantes and written by Viviane Juguero, who also directs alongside Jessé Oliveira. The play addresses the theme of diaspora through a universal, non-verbal language that can be understood by children from different countries, drawing on the logic of childhood play. The staging presents the story of the boy Bambá, played by Éder Rosa, a Black child who must leave his homeland and face a variety of situations and challenges, using bamboo in playful and functional ways throughout his journey. Rooted in his ancestry, Bambá is forced to leave his community and migrate to other places due to circumstances that evoke war and environmental disasters. Along the way, he draws strength from his cultural roots while learning new ways of being and living through contact with other cultures

Aesthetics

The play's aesthetic blends craftsmanship and technology to emphasize the integration of ancestry with new cultural references. It organically combines acting, acrobatic movements, projections, recordings, lighting and shadow play, and a live soundtrack performed by musician-performer Henrique Rosa Juguero, who plays accordion, percussion, and flutes, as well as a sampler to create a wide range of sounds.





Educational Approach

The production seeks to move, entertain, and empower immigrant children today, while offering the general audience perspectives that counter prejudice, xenophobia, and racism related to migration. It portrays these experiences without denying their challenges and hardships, but ultimately conveys a sense of triumph, hope, and appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures.

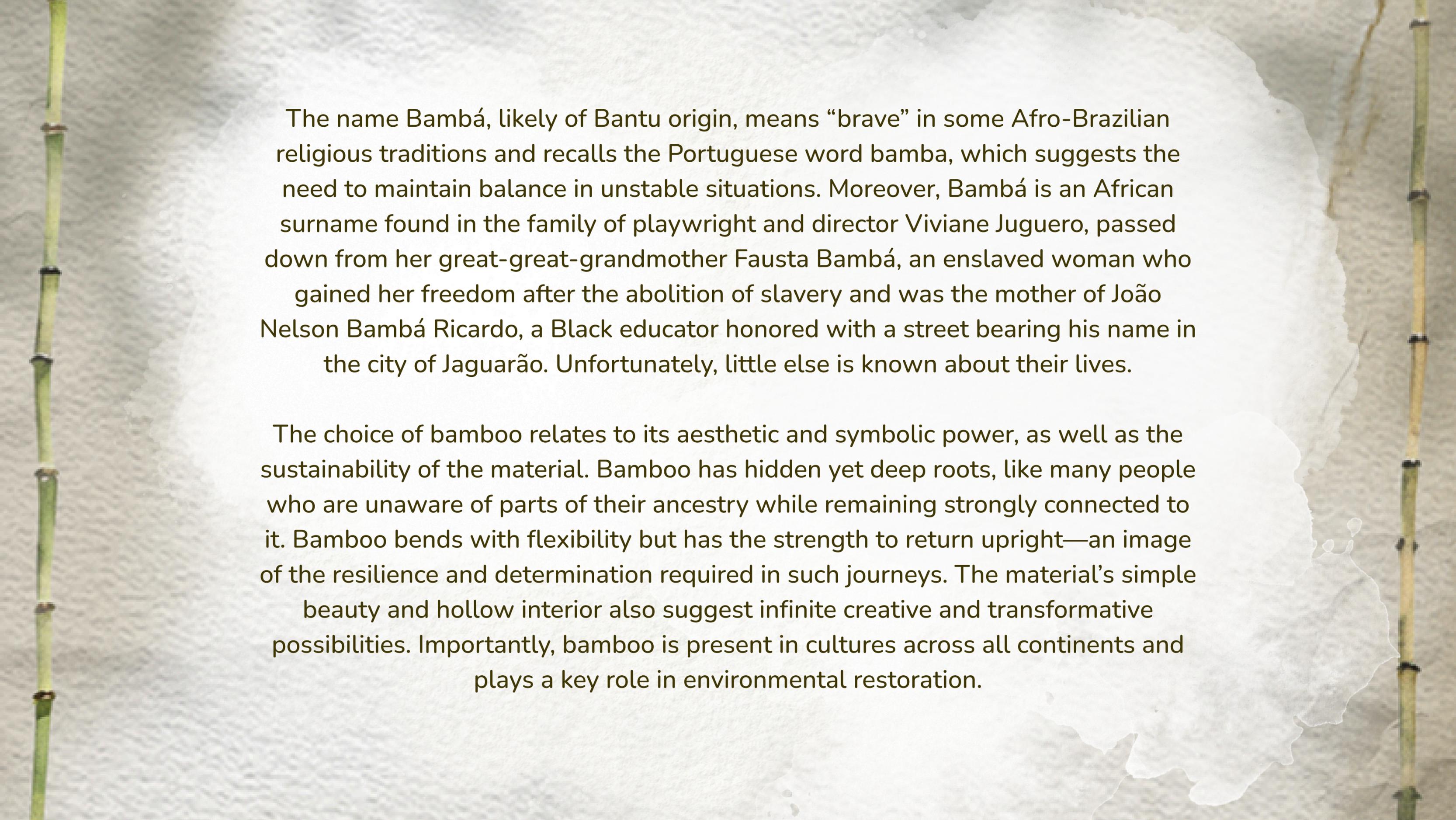
History

The work originated from an invitation by dramaturg Bárbara Kastner and was initially scheduled to premiere in Munich in 2020, but this was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project was then produced in Brazil in 2024 with funding from FUNARTE, and had its international premiere in Germany at the Theater Lünen in October 2025. This presentation is supported by the Aldir Blanc National Policy, through the Pró-Cultura Program of the Rio Grande do Sul State Department of Culture, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture of the Brazilian Federal Government. The same funding also supports performances of the play in Brazil in 2025, as part of the 20-year anniversary celebrations of the Bando de Brincantes.





Why Bambai and Bamboo?

The image features a central piece of white paper with a torn, irregular edge, set against a background of vertical bamboo stalks. The bamboo stalks are green and yellowish, with dark nodes. The white paper contains two paragraphs of text in a black, sans-serif font. The first paragraph discusses the name Bambá, its Bantu origin, and its meaning in Afro-Brazilian traditions. It also mentions a Portuguese word 'bamba' and an African surname found in the family of playwright Viviane Juguero, tracing it back to an enslaved woman named Fausta Bambá and her son João Nelson Bambá Ricardo. The second paragraph discusses the choice of bamboo as a material, highlighting its aesthetic and symbolic power, sustainability, and resilience, as well as its role in environmental restoration.

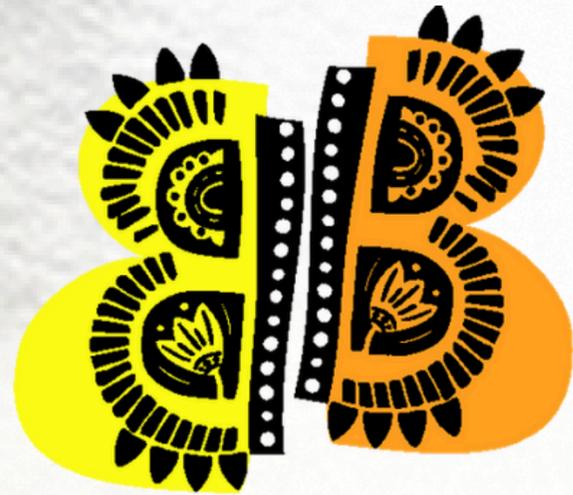
The name Bambá, likely of Bantu origin, means “brave” in some Afro-Brazilian religious traditions and recalls the Portuguese word bamba, which suggests the need to maintain balance in unstable situations. Moreover, Bambá is an African surname found in the family of playwright and director Viviane Juguero, passed down from her great-great-grandmother Fausta Bambá, an enslaved woman who gained her freedom after the abolition of slavery and was the mother of João Nelson Bambá Ricardo, a Black educator honored with a street bearing his name in the city of Jaguarão. Unfortunately, little else is known about their lives.

The choice of bamboo relates to its aesthetic and symbolic power, as well as the sustainability of the material. Bamboo has hidden yet deep roots, like many people who are unaware of parts of their ancestry while remaining strongly connected to it. Bamboo bends with flexibility but has the strength to return upright—an image of the resilience and determination required in such journeys. The material’s simple beauty and hollow interior also suggest infinite creative and transformative possibilities. Importantly, bamboo is present in cultures across all continents and plays a key role in environmental restoration.



About *Bando de Brincantes:*

Bando de Brincantes is an arts collective dedicated to creating artistic works for children and youth, with an aesthetic that celebrates Brazilian identity and cultural diversity. Composed mainly of Black and working-class artists, the group aims to empower children through representation and by highlighting the beauty of diversity with productions that are moving, entertaining, and thought-provoking.



BANDO DE BRINCANTES

In 2025, the collective celebrates 20 years of activity, during which it has created numerous plays, audiovisual works, books, CDs, and training courses—combining artistic practice with research in art, education, and childhood at the master’s, doctoral, and post-doctoral levels.

Bando de Brincantes has performed for thousands of children in a wide variety of social settings in Brazil and abroad, maintaining collaborative ties with many national and international networks and institutions.

Original Concept & Playwriting:

VIVIANE JUGUERO

Directors:

JESSÉ OLIVEIRA AND VIVIANE JUGUERO

Cast:

ÉDER ROSA (ACTOR)

Musician-Performer:

HENRIQUE ROSA JUGUERO

Video Performers:

GLAU BARROS AND JESSÉ OLIVEIRA

Musical Direction & Production:

EVERTON RODRIGUES

Original Soundtrack:

Instrumental accordion pieces:

HENRIQUE ROSA JUGUERO (ENDER'ELL, BUENA CACHORRADA, DA TORRE À MESQUITA)

Leitmotiv (recurring theme):

ÉDER ROSA

Canção do Bambá:

VIVIANE JUGUERO & HENRIQUE ROSA JUGUERO

Recorded arrangements:

EVERTON RODRIGUES

Scenic Design:

JESSÉ OLIVEIRA

Scenotechnician:

ADELEI INSTALAÇÕES E MANUTENÇÕES INDUSTRIAIS LTDA

Costumes:

ÉDER ROSA



VJ:

GABRIEL PONTES

Video Recording:

JANA CASTOLDI

Lighting Design:

KATHY PERKINS AND JESSÉ OLIVEIRA

Light Operation (Brazil):

ALÍCIA FROENER

Light Operation (Germany):

JESSÉ OLIVEIRA

Dramaturgical Collaborations:

AFEIF ISMAIL (SUDAN/AUSTRALIA), ÉDER ROSA (BRAZIL), JESSÉ OLIVEIRA (BRAZIL)

Dramaturgical Consultants:

BÁRBARA KASTNER (GERMANY), JERRY ADESEWO (NIGERIA), KATHY PERKINS (USA)

Production Assistant:

KELLY RODRIGUES

Graphic Design & Social Media Management:

JÉSSICA BARBOZA

Press Relations:

SIMONE LERSCH

Consultants for Poetic Audiotransposition:

JOSIANE FRANÇA AND PAULO FERNANDO SOARES



Partnerships:

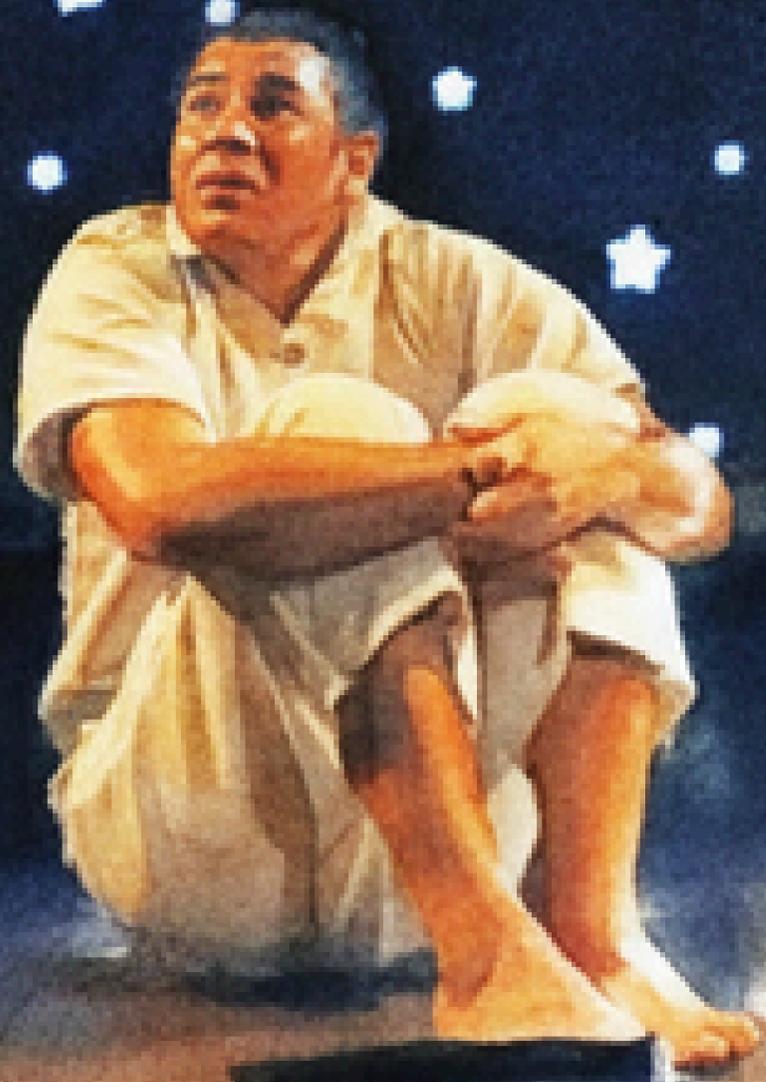
Hilpert Theater Lünen – Germany

CBTIJ – Brazilian Center for Theater for Children and Youth

ASSITEJ – International Association of Theatre for Children
and Young People

IIAN – International Inclusive Arts Network





**Click here for
more
information**



P R O J E C T

Bambu Bambá

Brincantes without Borders

Production:



Funding:



Execution:

MINISTÉRIO DA
CULTURA

