



## Alexandra David-Néel

Died at the age of 101 on September 8, 1969 in Dignes les bains, she was an orientalist, tibetologist, opera singer, journalist, writer, freemason, explorer, feminist and Buddhist. In 1924, she was the first woman of European origin to stay in Lassa, Tibet. She is also the one who brought Buddhism into Europe, and through her extraordinary life has certainly helped to open the way for the liberation of women.

Her writings that inspired this play:

*My Journey to Lhasa*

*With Mystics and Magicians in Tibet*

*The Secret Oral Teachings in Tibetan Buddhist Sects*

*Tibet, Land of Gentleman Brigands*

*Buddhism: Its Doctrines and Its Methods*

*Immortality and Reincarnation*

**« All things are aggregations of atoms that dance  
& by their movement produce sound.  
When the rhythm of the dance changes,  
the sound it produces also changes...  
Each atom perpetually sings its song,  
and the sound at every moment creates dense subtle forms. »**  
*Alexandra*

Duration: 1h20 - Audience: Adults and teenagers

No set, minimum stage size: 3m x 4m

If it is an equipped theatrical space, a lighting plan is provided.

This show can be adapted to any experimental or unexpected space, church, barn, open air etc....,

Press release, Press kit and Touring Pack:

<http://dna-alexandra-david-neel.com>

French press kit: <http://adn-alexandra-david-neel.com>

For information, booking, photos, interviews or media contact :

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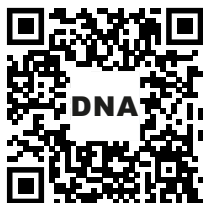
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**"If thought creates our reality,  
then let's educate our thought"**

# DNA

## Alexandra David-Néel

**A daring vision  
Mariane Zahar**

**WebTheatre**



**Le MAG**



**Le Dauphiné**



**Republicain**



**La Vie**



**One of the biggest explorers  
of the 20th century was a French woman**



**The mutation is printed in each of us**

Performing more than Three years all over FRANCE and PARIS

300+ performances

7000+ spectators

Over 40, five-star press articles

Festival d'Avignon 2016 - 2017

2018 Edinburgh Festival Fringe

<http://dna-alexandra-david-neel.com>





This creation responded to a need, an obvious necessity for me, a western woman of the 21st century, bathed in a civilization that sees its limits and is colliding with the artificiality of each thing and discovering that even humanity is only a concept. And what is felt so strongly in the play is often shared by the greatest number of spectators. This is probably why this creation, which was presented for the first time in July 2014 at the "Le moulin à paroles" festival in Orléans, aroused so many emotions. Against all odds, this play

was instantaneously a necessity for the audience who, from representation to representation, was passing the word to others to attend. A dice? A knock? Well, maybe. From my point of view, I just felt as if I had listened to the deepest part of myself and looked for an answer, or at least an opening. I am not Buddhist, I am nothing at all, but like many of us, I feel that this hyper-rationalism and cynicism, so typical of the West, breaks my heart and is worth nothing to me! So I dared because I have nothing to lose but everything to gain! For me, like you and many others, by going out to conquer ourselves, we believe we are acting to create a better world and we each express it in our own way. For me, it's by doing what I think I do best: Theatre.

*Mariane Zahar*



## About

DNA is an adaptation of several books by Alexandra David-Néel associated with various scientific and philosophical documents.

This play is about the life of the great explorer, Alexandra David-Néel, while drawing a parallel between her precious testimonies dated 1916/1923 and our knowledge of the 21st century.

The action takes place in August 1916, when Alexandra David-Néel has been in her hermitage cavern in the Himalayas for two and a half years, following the teachings of her guru, "Lama Gonchen from Lachen".

She comes to us to make an incredible revelation and to take us to the heart of her initiatory journey.

So, in a crazy race where she subtly knits particle sciences, personal experiences and the secret doctrine of Tibetan Buddhism, the spectator is invited to become an accomplice of a formidable and troubling questioning.



"Alone on stage, she takes us to the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas, leads us to the gates of our deep self, speaks of quantum physics, particles and molecules, perpetual movements, energy vibrations and draws a parallel between Buddhist philosophy and its teachings. And she does all this without ever imposing anything on us, simply to make us realize that we can rethink the world differently and apprehend realities not as one and indivisible but as a multitude of possibilities generated by the creative force of our imagination. It is a demanding journey into the interior of oneself that DNA intends and that the magnificent, magnetic actress, Mariane Zahar, simply allows us to contemplate in all serenity."

*BilletReduc*

"We would never have imagined being swept into such extreme universes and finally immersed so close to ourselves. While we thought we were attending a traditional show about the life of this great character, the actress, through her skillfully written text, put us outside this illusory world in which we believe we live, to reveal that the only reality is love. Just like us, the spectators were moved and made different."

*Le Dauphiné*

"DNA offers you the opportunity to rediscover the matter and energy that make up your life and everything around us.

This monologue, wonderfully carried by the actress, Mariane Zahar, invites us to reflect deeply on our time and our lives."

*INREES*