

MOUVOIR & École des Sables

# UNTIL THE BEGINN INGS

BY ALESANDRA SEUTIN &  
STEPHANIE THIERSCH



In a poem, there's no end,  
Just a place where the page  
Glow wide & waiting,  
Like a lifted hand,  
Poised & paused.

from "Closure" by Amanda Gorman

# ABOUT

A captivating and visionary performance staged by two leading choreographers from different continents: UNTIL THE BEGINNINGS is carried by global rhythms and brings together an international team of eight dancers from Senegal, Germany and France along with musicians from the fields of percussion and spoken word. Together they create a moving dialogue about the nature of hospitality.

Giving and taking. Embracing, releasing and experiencing boundaries. The artists embark on a journey to deconstruct the concept of "at home" in an alternation of encounters, ruptures and new beginnings. In this mesh of transcultural movement they explore the possibilities of a shared groove.

Current political enfoldings of the criminalisation of hospitality in many parts of the world as well as thoughts on unconditional hospitality of Jacques Derrida and Anne Dufourmantelle found their way into the project.

Directors Alesandra Seutin (Artistic Director École des Sables, Senegal) and Stephanie Thiersch (Artistic Director MOUVOIR, Germany), both from different artistic and cultural realms, weave a choreographic tapestry that poses questions, shakes things up and challenges. This is melancholic at the same time carefully plants the seed of hope and joy.

The creation of UNTIL THE BEGINNINGS has been accompanied by MOUVOIR's online magazine SYBL. The interactive platform encourages participating and non-participating artists, friends and interested humans to contribute their own ideas on the topic of hosting and thus take part in the creative process of the production. Being part of it is easy: Try [www.sybl.de](http://www.sybl.de).

Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/mouvoir/utbtrailer>



Recording of world premiere (please contact [management@mouvoir.de](mailto:management@mouvoir.de) for password):

<https://vimeo.com/mouvoir/utbrecording>

\* Please note: only one floor microphone recorded, which delivers sound unproportionally.  
So watch with imagination!\*



"captivating and energetic, drawing on the wealth of cultural diversity and celebrating hospitality."

*WDR Westart*

"iconic still images that go right through you."

*Kölner Stadt Anzeiger*

"a wild mashup of associations and styles, an energetic plea for more diversity in the community. Innocent and thrilling despite seemingly omnipresent narratives of demarcation."

*Deutschlandfunk*

"Thiersch and Seutin manage to balance between captivating, energetic dance performances and global rhythms."

*Rheinische Post*

"The performance skilfully delivers a wild mix of contemporary and traditional dances, accompanied by percussion, kora, spoken word and electronic sounds."

"UNTIL THE BEGINNINGS endeavours to develop a common groove that celebrates togetherness and allows for coexistence. It's about offering, accepting and "a strong plea for welcoming culture and hospitality"

*WDR Cosmo*

CREDITS



**choreography:**

Stephanie Thiersch with Alesandra Seutin and the ensemble

**with:** Latif Arafan Wa-hab Diedhiou, Nadia Gabrieli Kalati,  
Cola Lok Yee Ho, Kezia Jonah, Margaux Marielle-Tréhoüart,  
Alexandre Nodari, Joel Suárez Gómez, Christ Zié

**music:** Tarang Cissokho, Shelly Quest

**stage:** Stephanie Thiersch, Alesandra Seutin

**costumes:** Lauren Steel

**lighting design:** Begoña Garcia Navas/Ansgar Kluge

**sound:** Thomas Wegner

**arrangements/musical advisor:** Yvan Talbot

**management:** Josefine Sautier (MOUVOIR)

**production:** Sarah Heinrich (MOUVOIR) & Hervé Breuil,  
Paul Sagne (École des Sables)

**financing:** Béla Bisom, transmissions

**pr, social media:** Nina Lobinger

**press:** neurohr & andrä

**produced by:** MOUVOIR e.V. and Freihandelszone –  
Ensemblenetzwerk Köln, École des Sables Senegal

**coproduction:** tanzhaus nrw, Sommerblut Kulturfestival

There is no rest for the weary  
Only trauma and stress  
Only a few be eating good  
We gotta fight for the rest  
And we know that it's wrong.  
And I know that you feel it  
Cus it's darkening the hearts  
And it's tearing the spirits  
We need to be Free.

from "Borders" by Shelly Quest for MOUVOIR

# TOURING

## INFORMATION

70 min, no intermission

people on tour: 15

(8 dancers, 2 musicians, 1 sound engineer,  
1 light, 1 costume, 1 production, 1 director)

stage width: min 14 m

stage depth: min 12 m

Blackbox

## DATES

### **pre-premiere**

04.05.2024 – Schauspiel Köln, Cologne

Opening of Sommerblut Kulturfestival

### **world premiere**

16.05.2024 – tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf

### **tour**

17.05.2024 – tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf

18.05.2024 – tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf

22.06.2024 – TANZIMODERNEITANZ, Chemnitz



"a performance that captivates with its choreographic and musical quality and poses profound questions about hospitality and cultural exchange."

*tanznetz*

"a wild ride of urban contemporary and traditional dance styles"

*Kölnische Rundschau*

Distance and closeness, friendship and foreignness – the evening revolves around these poles. Hip-hop and artistry meet the African street dance krump. Last but not least, the evening is also a magnificent concert and poetic spoken word performance, a lament about migration and displacement."

*Deutschlandfunk*

photos: © Martin Rottenkolber





The heat rises  
Needles piercing  
Garbage in flames  
The city cries  
The veil is becoming thin.  
Ashes  
WE.

from "Implosion" by Shelly Quest for MOUVOIR

# CONTACT

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<http://www.ecoledessables.org>

RheinEnergie  
Stiftung | Kultur

[www.mouvoir.de](http://www.mouvoir.de)