



MOUVOIR & École des Sables

UNTIL THE BEGINN INGS

BY ALESANDRA SEUTIN &
STEPHANIE THIRSCH

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.

Trailer:

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



Recording of world premiere (please contact 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 – Ensemblesnetzwerk 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

03.10.2025 – Fabbrica Europa, Florence

11.03.2026 – Tanzplattform, Dresden (opening)

12.03.2026 – Tanzplattform, Dresden



"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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touring Sarah Heinrich – +49 (0) 177 - 78 34 763 – production@mouvoir.de
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<http://www.ecoledessables.org>

www.mouvoir.de