

A photograph of four dancers in a studio setting. They are wearing light purple long-sleeved tops and light-colored shorts. The dancer in the center is in the foreground, looking towards the camera with her hands raised in a gesture. The other three dancers are in the background, also in similar poses. The background is dark with some stage lights visible.

of curious nature

**TOURING
INFORMATION**



Foto: Ursula Kaufmann

THE COMPANY

Dance excellence and bringing dance to a wide audience

Artistic excellence and making contemporary dance accessible to diverse audiences are at the heart of **Of Curious Nature (OCN)**, the contemporary dance company under the artistic direction of **Helge Letonja (Germany/Austria)**.

The company's international dancers bring together their diverse artistic backgrounds and personal histories to create a distinctive, inspiring artistic identity. Their movement language is deeply rooted in contemporary culture—intense, emotionally rich, and constantly shifting between intimate subtlety and compelling physical energy.

Drawing inspiration from the realities and impulses of contemporary life, OCN combines artistic precision with emotional authenticity, creating meaningful points of connection for audiences of all backgrounds. Their productions are often surprising, always relevant, and offer an honest reflection of today's world.

Since its foundation in 2019, **Of Curious Nature** has been producing and touring nationally and internationally, establishing itself as one of Germany's most inspiring contemporary dance companies. The repertoire includes more than twenty works by founder **Helge Letonja**, who has played a key role in shaping Bremen's dance landscape, alongside creations by internationally acclaimed guest choreographers and emerging artists who continuously enrich the company's artistic profile.

OCN performs in theatres, outdoor venues and immersive virtual reality environments, reaching both dedicated dance audiences and people discovering contemporary dance for the very first time.

Beyond its stage productions, OCN develops innovative artistic formats that bring contemporary dance into society while engaging with urgent social issues. Through movement, the company transforms theatre into a place of encounter, dialogue and shared experience.

Whether through workshops, school performances, open rehearsals, virtual reality projects or audience discussions, OCN offers unique opportunities to experience the creative process up close and discover the expressive power of dance.

Behind OCN stands **TanzRAUM Nord**, based at **Schwankhalle Bremen**. The company is produced by **steptext dance project**, providing continuous rehearsal and performance facilities as well as the professional infrastructure required to create original productions and host international touring performances.



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TOURING - REPERTOIRE



Foto: Mariann Menke

BODILY ME - Bodily US

World Premiere: 23 June 2026, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 45 min + Break + 45 min

Cast: 10 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/1205891042>

Password: Letonja2026OCN28201#!

Who has never experienced tension between self-perception and the social gaze? Feeling as if in the “wrong body” becomes, as a shared human experience, the starting point for artistic inquiry. The friction between the perceived body and social images of the body—which often causes suffering—becomes here a spark of creativity and a search for healing.

Following the production *Skin Deep* by Helge Letonja and Tù Hoang, OCN deepens its exploration of bodily experience. Here, the immediate experiences and physical memories of one's own body are set against social judgments and attributions that often restrict and divide. The “self” as an individual in confrontation with the group, with society—a pair of opposites, a field of tension, two entities that influence one another, one constantly in danger of losing itself in the other. Bodily me—bodily us. How do we relate to traditional views of the world and humanity?

Choreography: Helge Letonja | **Lighting Design:** Carlos Heydt



Foto: Médoune Seck

WHERE WE STAND

World Premiere: 12.03.2026, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 35 min

Cast: 9 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1172090922>

Available as a standalone performance or as a double bill with EZAN-KÉLÉ.

Then suddenly, right in front of you: alarm signals in the bodies of others. Freezing. No one moves. What are they staring at? Can you see anything? The ensemble Of Curious Nature is deeply concerned with cohesion in today's society. Guest choreographer Fay van Baar's new work takes the so-called "bystander effect" as its starting point, according to which people in groups behave more passively towards strangers in need. Together with the dancers of Of Curious Nature, van Baar explores the influence of internalized images on such behavior. What assessments, constellations, and body signals encourage or prevent the decision to help?

A black square in a white room catches the eye. It almost looks like a black hole, inevitably drawing the gaze and dance movements toward it. Something is happening here. But what exactly? How should we react? We sense what we cannot see; our own imagination fills in the gaps that open up. What behaviors determine our reactions in uncertain situations? In this new production, OCN explores the question of moral courage. Fay van Baar and the dancers jointly explore what prevents a group from acting and allow the desire for solidarity to resonate.

Choreography: Fay van Baar | **Lighting Design:** Carlos Heydt



Foto: Médoune Seck

ARCADIA

World Premiere: 31.10.2025, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 35 min

Cast: 8 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/1140315513>

Password: RobinsonOCN2025#!

Available as a standalone performance or as a double bill with BLACK RAIN.

With the title Arcadia, choreographer Matthew William Robinson refers to a place of longing that everyone strives for, but whose fulfilment remains unattainable. He relates this to the artificially generated images of perfection in a digital present—today's ideals that drive us. Together with Of Curious Nature, he looks at the human, narcissistic circling around one's own image, reproduced a thousand times on social media.

The Choreographic images refer to the obsessive scrolling through the constructed worlds of digital self-staging. Arcadia thus examines the media-amplified variant of an age-old human dilemma: wishing for a beautiful, ideal new world and losing touch with the present.

Choreography: Matthew William Robinson | Choreographic Assistance: Mario Manara, Mariko Koh | Lighting Design: Carlos Heydt



Foto: Marianne Menke



Foto: Marianne Menke

BLACK RAIN

World Premiere: 31.10.2025, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 45 min

Cast: 10 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/1140323400>

Password: LetonjaOCN2025#!

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

Available as a standalone performance or as a double bill with ARCADIA.

Water runs down oversized windows and feeds the agonizing longing for torrent rain to break the ongoing paralysis. In a silent film-like setting, Of Curious Nature plunges into a melancholic daydream whose images take on a surrealistic life of their own. The difference between outside and inside gets blurred. People seem to be stuck, their actions come to nothing, disturbing and touching in their absurdity. A hint of nostalgia and regret is in the air. And above all hovers the question: What loss is actually being lamented here, if nothing can be retained anyway?

Choreography: Helge Letonja | Choreographic Assistance: Mariko Koh | Lighting Design: Carlos Heydt

SKIN DEEP

World Premiere: 09.05.2025, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 35 min + break + 50 min

Cast: 7 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1079343807>

Helge Letonja asks in return, should we embrace one another more often in order not to lose our humanity?

Helge Letonja and his ensemble move the sense of skin in its often unconscious facets. Of Curious Nature senses the richness of skin perception, the stimuli of a touch, the skin's longing for exchange. At the same time arises a turning away from too much that cannot be grasped, including the feeling of loss and frustration.

Without nourishing their sense of trust, the bodies balance on the narrow ridge of instinctive defense mechanisms.

Double Bill:

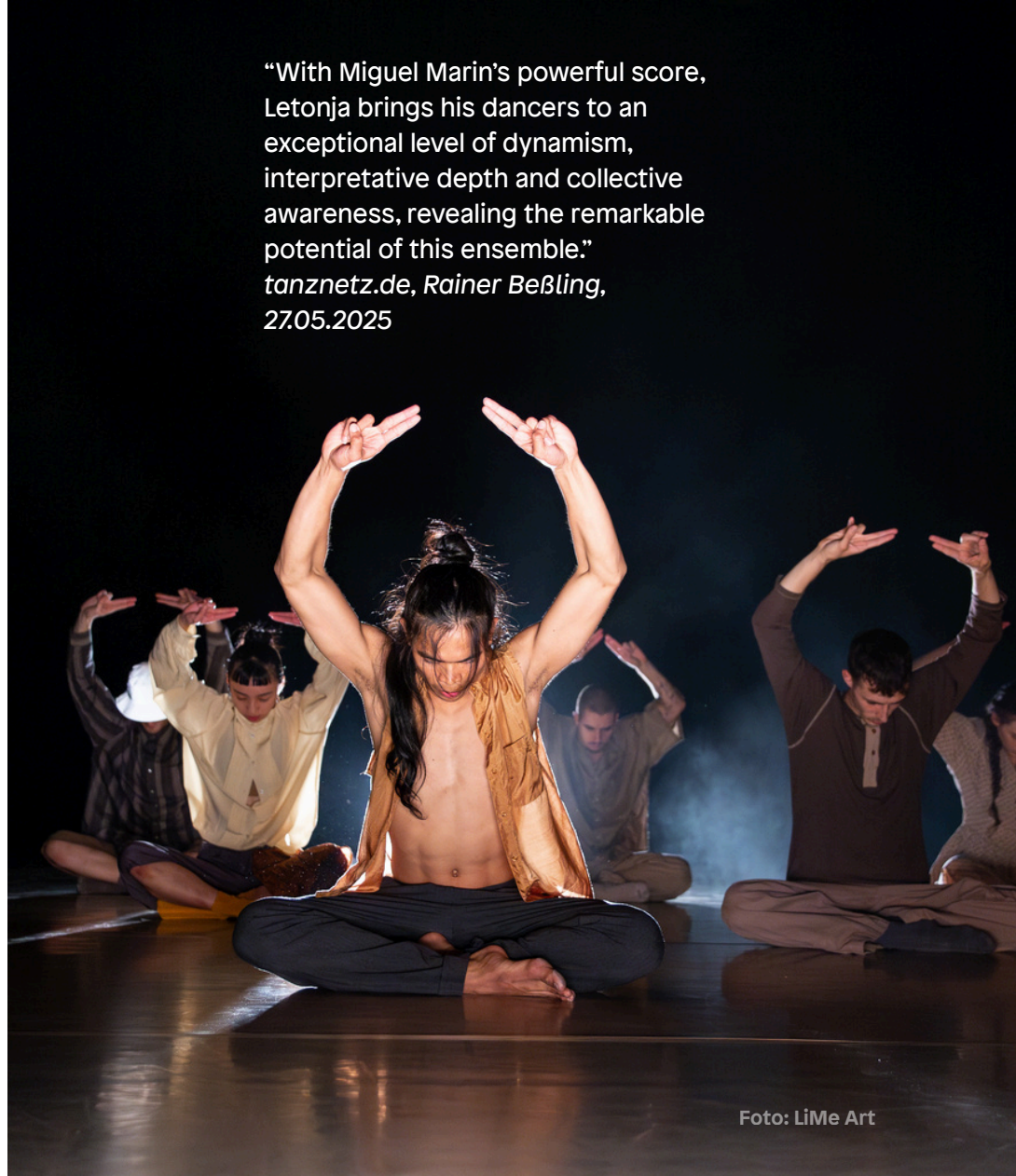
A thousand steps to silence:

Choreography: Tú Hoàng | **Music:** Clara Cozzolino, Jake Perry | **Costume Design:** Astah Camara

Skin Deep:

Choreography: Helge Letonja | **Music:** Miguel Marin | **Costume Design:** Csenge Vass

“With Miguel Marin’s powerful score, Letonja brings his dancers to an exceptional level of dynamism, interpretative depth and collective awareness, revealing the remarkable potential of this ensemble.”
tanznetz.de, Rainer Beßling,
27.05.2025



“Dance enthusiasts will be richly rewarded. In the choreographies by Hannah Ma and Samir Calixto, Of Curious Nature demonstrates the full breadth of its artistic excellence.”

*tanznetz, Martina Burandt,
05.03.2025*

Foto: Marianne Menke

RESISTING BODIES

World Premiere: 24.01.2025, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 30 min + Pause + 45 min

Cast: 7 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/1053699932>

Password: OCN2025SSamHan28201#!

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

Choreographer Samir Calixto and the dancers of Of Curious Nature explore the resilience that emerges in times of adversity. Fulgence transforms a harsh reality into an act of liberation, where explosive energy, perseverance, and rebellion become forces of resistance. Through their radiant, feverish movements, the dancers illuminate the darkness of human existence with inner light.

In Who Brings the Bird, choreographer Hannah Ma explores the body as a political landscape shaped by vulnerability and tenderness. Responding to ecological, social, and spiritual crises, the work celebrates the collective as a source of freedom and connection. Set to The Bird of a Thousand Voices by Tigran Hamasyan, the dancers weave a shared landscape of movement, asking whether a common voice can emerge from their diverse energies.

Double Bill:

Fulgence:

Choreography, Light & Costume design: Samir Calixto

Who brings the bird:

Choreography & Costume design: Hannah Ma | Music: Tigran Hamasyan

NOMADA

World Premiere: 27.09.24, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 75 min

Cast: 7 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/1017094709>

Password: OCN2024Trn28201#!

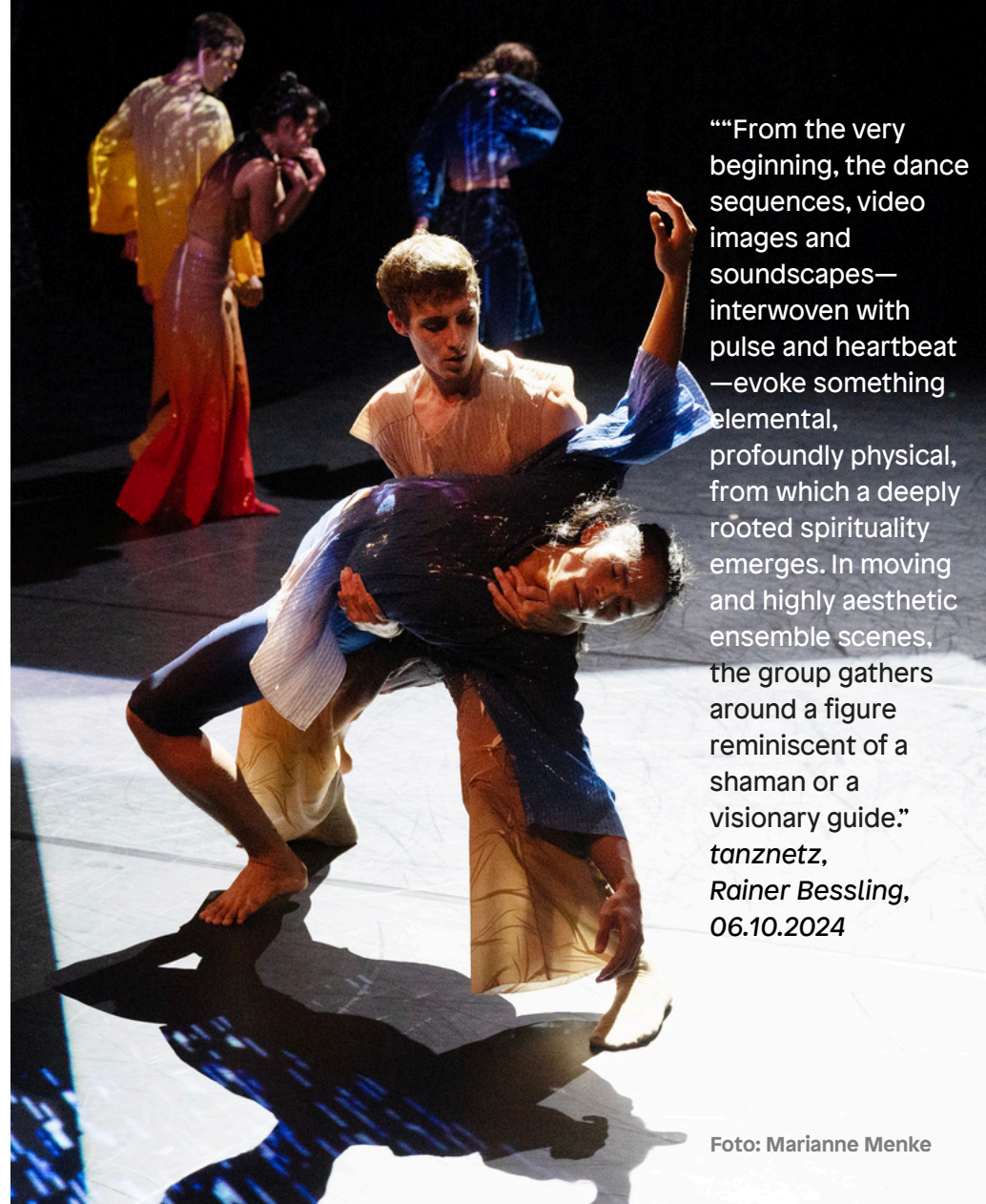
Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

Nomada is the elusive one. She has long since folded her tent and moved on. She travels along winding paths, at once an archaic, walking body and a disembodied presence in the digital world, moving effortlessly between different environments.

Nomada unfolds between dancing bodies, ancient myths and videographic imagery, bringing together opposites that appear irreconcilable.

In collaboration with filmmaker Isabel Robson and composer Miguel Marin, choreographer Helge Letonja and the dancers of Of Curious Nature explore the ways of life and systems of thought of nomadic peoples. Shaped by their profound relationship with the landscapes they inhabit, these forms of existence reveal connections that resonate strongly with contemporary society while simultaneously exposing collective blind spots.

Choreography: Helge Letonja | **Costume Design:** Csenge Vass | **Light:** Laurent Schneegans | **Music:** Miguel Marin | **Video Art:** Isabel Robson



““From the very beginning, the dance sequences, video images and soundscapes—interwoven with pulse and heartbeat—evoke something elemental, profoundly physical, from which a deeply rooted spirituality emerges. In moving and highly aesthetic ensemble scenes, the group gathers around a figure reminiscent of a shaman or a visionary guide.”
tanznetz,
Rainer Bessling,
06.10.2024

Foto: Marianne Menke



"At a time when the tragedies unfolding along migration routes across the sea are increasingly overshadowed by the constant flow of media headlines, Helge Letonja, Kossi Sébastien Aholou-Wokawui, Médoune Seck and Ela Fischer bring the subject back into focus. Through a choreography of remarkable immediacy, formal precision and emotional intensity, they reveal the deeply personal human drama behind the political debate."

tanznetz, Rainer Beßling, 20.05.2024

Foto: Marianne Menke

LA MER EN MOI

World Premiere 11.05.2024, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 60 min

Cast: 2 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full video: <https://vimeo.com/956050883>

Password: Letonja2024Aholou!!#

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

Many people cross the Mediterranean Sea in search of refuge in Europe, experiencing moments of profound trauma, but sometimes also acts of solidarity at sea.

How do those who arrive process what they have lived through?
What remains of the crossing, of the memory of the odyssey?
What does it mean to face the forces of nature alongside strangers, sustained by the hope of reaching safety, by the possibility of rescue, and by the fear of being forced back?

With *La mer en moi* (The Sea Within Me), choreographer Helge Letonja and Togolese dancer Kossi S. Aholou-Wokawui embark on an artistic exploration of these questions. Joined by Médoune Seck and the powerful texts of Ela Fischer, they give physical form and voice to experiences that often remain unspoken.

Choreography: Helge Letonja & Kossi Aholou-Wokawui | **Texts:** Ela Fischer |
Music: Volker Klein | **Stage Concept:** Helge Letonja

A LATE SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

World Premiere: 28.10.2023, Parktheater Iserlohn

Running Time: 45 min

(Can be presented together with EZAN-KÉLÉ as a full evening programme.)

Cast: 8 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/889171942>

Password: Letonja2023OCN28201ALSND!#

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

With A Late Summer Night's Dream, Helge Letonja creates a choreographic metaphor that reflects the urgent human longing for connection and physical closeness through his finely detailed and emotionally expressive movement language.

A group of young people gathers in a forest.

Drawn towards its mysterious world, they long to lose themselves within it. Their desire unleashes an intoxicating web of encounters and entanglements.

In their search for touch and surrender, the group immerses itself in the vibrant atmosphere of a late summer night. Individual lives intertwine. Moments of stillness alternate with dreamlike and nightmarish states until dawn approaches and the brief window into this seductive dream world slowly closes once again.

Choreography: Helge Letonja | **Music:** Miguel Marin | **Light design:** Laurent Schneegans | **Costume:** Nicole Reiher

"Miguel Marin's music drives the performance forward, then pauses, creating tension and atmosphere. Through the interplay of music, light and movement, magical symbioses emerge within an increasingly placeless dream world."
tanznetz, Martina Burandt,
05.03.2025

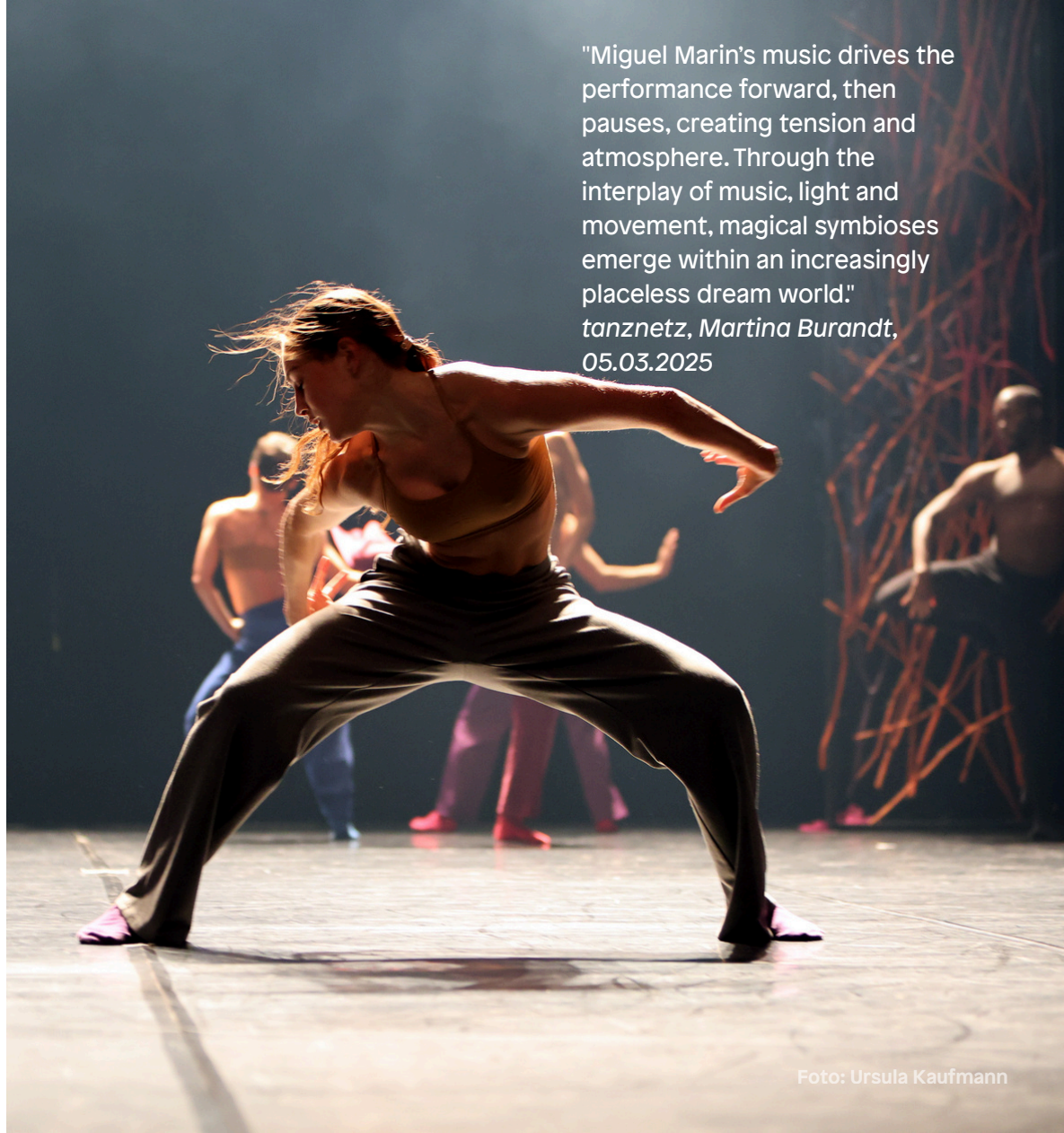


Foto: Ursula Kaufmann

„Choreographer Kossi Sébastien Aholou-Wokawui finds a compelling balance between contemporary dance and African dance traditions. To hypnotic music, Of Curious Nature moves as though time itself had come to a standstill.”

Remscheider Generalanzeiger, 27.02.2023



Foto: Ursula Kaufmann

EZAN-KÉLÉ

World Premiere: 25.02.2023, Teo-Otto Theater Remscheid

Running Time: 20 min

Cast: 4 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

(Can be presented together with A LATE SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM or UN-ZEIT.)

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/805137635>

Password: OCN2023SteptextMoveMount!#

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

In Ezan-Kélé, Kossi S. Aholou-Wokawui explores dawn as a transitional state in which the unconscious remnants of the night continue to resonate beneath the surface, where the unexpected rises with an unpredictable, lava-like force.

“‘Ezan-Kélé’—which means ‘dawn’ in the Ewe language—has its creative roots in my memories of people’s movements during the night and the early hours of the morning in rural Togo: a threshold between dreaming and waking, a state of half-sleep in which one encounters others—and oneself—within the darkness.”

Aholou-Wokawui’s movement language, developed in his native Togo, merges with the contemporary European dance practice he has cultivated over many years, giving rise to new and dynamic artistic connections.

Choreography: Kossi S. Aholou-Wokawui | **Costume:** Koami Vignon

UN-ZEIT

World Premiere: 27.05.2022, Schwankhalle Bremen

Running Time: 35 min

Cast: 8 dancers

Stage: approx. 12 × 12 m

(Can be presented together with EZAN-KÉLÉ.)

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/768947359>

Password: Letonja2022OCNStextext#!

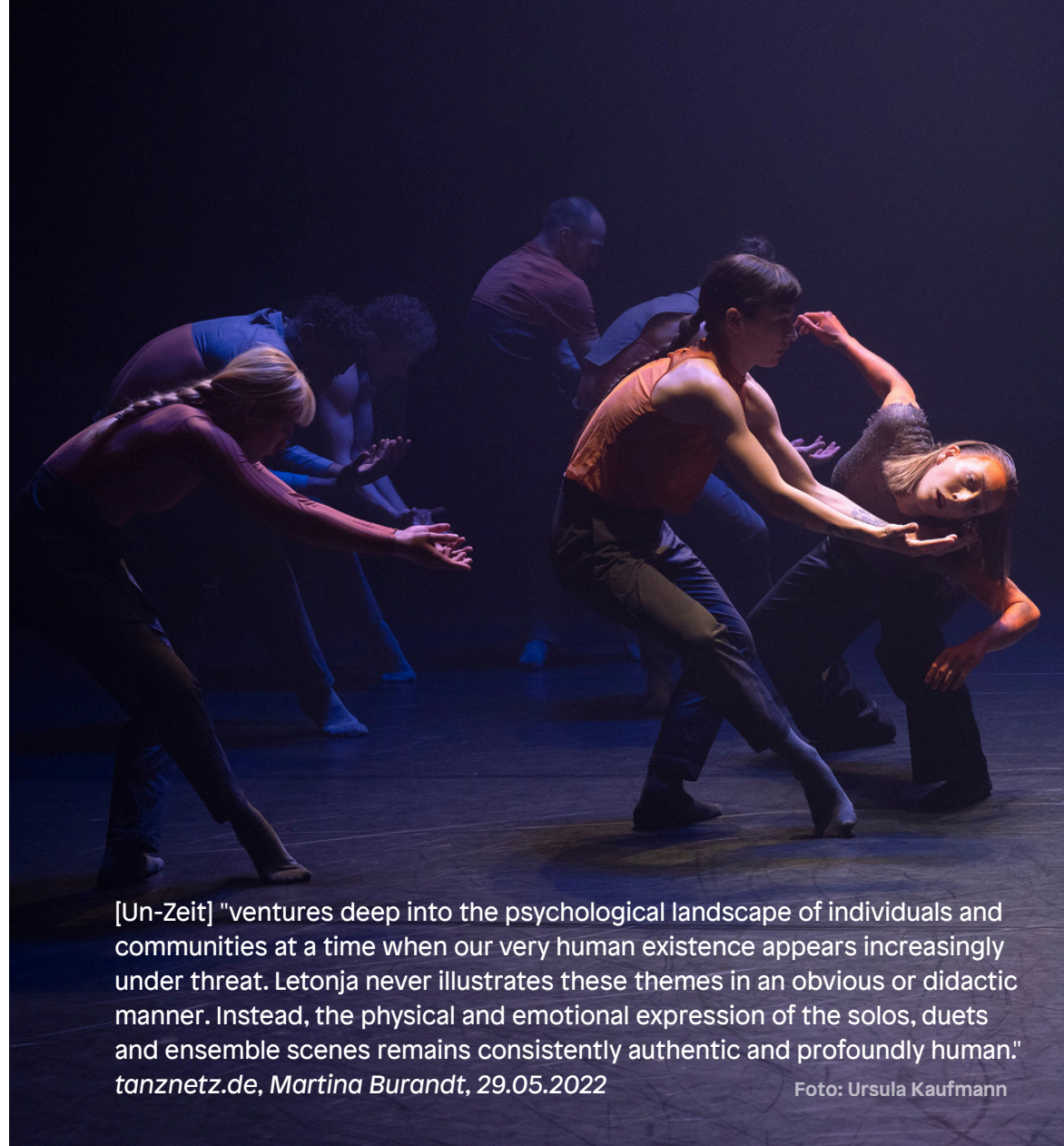
Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

UN-ZEIT creates hypnotic images within a space filled with mist. The perception of time begins to fragment. Movements that had seemed ordered and coherent lose their linearity. Individuals break away from the group, moving radically and without orientation.

Movement itself slips out of familiar forms, searching through intimate encounters for stability, trust and support.

Henryk Mikołaj Górecki's Symphony No. 4, with its powerful contrasts and dramatic accents, forms the musical foundation for Helge Letonja's dynamic contemporary choreography for ensemble.

Choreography: Helge Letonja | **Music:** Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, Symphonie Nr.4, Tansman Episodes | **Light:** Laurent Schneegans | **Costume:** Rike Schimitschek



[Un-Zeit] "ventures deep into the psychological landscape of individuals and communities at a time when our very human existence appears increasingly under threat. Letonja never illustrates these themes in an obvious or didactic manner. Instead, the physical and emotional expression of the solos, duets and ensemble scenes remains consistently authentic and profoundly human." *tanznetz.de, Martina Burandt, 29.05.2022*

Foto: Ursula Kaufmann

OUTDOOR & SITE-SPECIFIC

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“Instead of dry historical dates
or anecdotes from the
Hanseatic era, the city is
experienced here through
movement, body and space.”
BREMER, Mika Dunkel,
03.07.2025



Foto: Marianne Menke

BREMEN TANZT!

World Premiere: 06.06.2025, Bremen

Running Time: approx. 90 min

Cast: 7 dancers performing across various indoor and outdoor locations

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/1193305773>

Password: OCN28201TRN2026!#

Videobeitrag Radio Bremen: <https://www.butenunbinnen.de/videos/erste-stadtfuehrung-getanzt-teerhof-100.html>

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

Adaptable to any city or urban environment.

Dance enters into dialogue with the city, bringing urban spaces vividly to life. At carefully selected locations throughout the city centre, seven dancers from Of Curious Nature create powerful choreographic interventions that transform familiar places into extraordinary artistic experiences. The dancers compose poetic images that connect body and architecture while opening up new perspectives on the city and imagining its future.

In a unique atmosphere, familiar urban vistas are reinterpreted through dance, inviting audiences to rediscover places they thought they already knew. This choreographed city walk is designed equally for visitors and local residents. It offers an exceptional way of exploring the city while encouraging reflection on the transformation of urban centres into places centred on people, social interaction, cultural diversity and lived tolerance.

Choreography: Mariko Koh with the dancers of Of Curious Nature | **Concept:** Anke Euler

BODIES OF NATURE

World Premiere: 02.08.2024, Wallanlagen Bremen

Running Time: 50 min

Cast: 5 dancers

Full Video: <https://vimeo.com/1110328789>

Password: OcnLetonja2024#!28201!

Photos: <https://www.of-curious-nature.de/presse/>

The dancers of Of Curious Nature become part of the botanical world of a garden or park, inviting audiences to share this unique perspective and rediscover the site through movement.

Within a dialogue between nature, dance and music—experienced through wireless headphones—the garden becomes a resonant landscape, awakening the nature that exists within each of us.

Electronic fusion soundscapes and danceable rhythms, transmitted directly through a silent-disco headphone system, accompany audiences as the summer evening unfolds, encouraging everyone to continue the journey in their own rhythm.

Choreography: Mariko Koh, Helge Letonja with the dancers of Of Curious Nature



Foto: Marianne Menke

ON THE ROAD

Foto: Marianne Menke



Of Curious Nature tours with a compact and efficient team.

Our touring party usually consists of 10–11 people.

Touring Costs

Our touring budget includes:

- Accommodation in 3-star hotels or above
- Single rooms for the management team
- Shared or single rooms for the dancers (holiday apartments are also possible)
- Daily allowances in accordance with the German Federal Travel Expenses Act
- Travel and visa costs
- Freight and excess baggage costs

Local Technical Requirements

The presenter is asked to provide:

- 1 Lighting Technician
- 1 Sound Technician (for set-up)

Stage Requirements

- Minimum performance area: 10 × 10 metres

Schedule

(Can be adapted, particularly for festivals.)

- Day 1: Set-up
- Day 2: Rehearsal and performance

For outdoor productions, one additional set-up day is required.

The company also requires:

- Dressing rooms | Drinking water | Coffee and tea

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Helge Letonja, choreographer and Artistic Director of steptext dance project and Of Curious Nature, has created more than fifty dance works that have been presented internationally. Many of these productions have emerged from interdisciplinary and transcultural collaborations.

In his recent creations for Of Curious Nature, Letonja has focused increasingly on somatic movement research, deepening the artistic language of the ensemble in order to explore the complexity of contemporary human experience. His choreographic repertoire ranges from powerful, highly dynamic ensemble works to subtle, poetic creations rich in symbolic meaning.

Alongside his work with his own company, Letonja creates choreography for dance companies and opera productions worldwide, including the Salzburg Festival, Zurich Opera House, Berlin State Opera, New National Theatre Tokyo, and the Semperoper Dresden.

Both in his adopted home of Bremen and throughout Germany, Letonja is a committed advocate for dance. As an experienced artistic initiator and board member of the German Dance Association (Dachverband Tanz Deutschland), he actively promotes dance through numerous collaborations that strengthen artistic creation, cultural participation and public engagement.

His work consistently positions dance as a powerful medium for cultural diversity, social participation, interdisciplinary artistic practice and research.

Born in Leoben, Austria, Helge Letonja studied classical ballet in Graz and Amsterdam, before continuing his training in modern dance with Alvin Ailey and Erick Hawkins in New York.

His performing career has embraced an exceptional range of styles, from ballet at Graz Opera, to collaborations with Jan Fabre, Montréal Danse, and Tanztheater Bremen under the direction of Susanne Linke, among many others.

It was at Tanztheater Bremen that Letonja began creating his own choreographic works in 1995.



Foto: Mariann Menke

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