



HANI DANCE

MOVEMENT ART

BY SAEED HANI

ARTISTIC APPROACH

I am Saeed Hani, a Syrian-German choreographer and director of Hani Dance-Movement Art in Luxembourg. My artistic approach transcends traditional boundaries, rooted in the belief that movement art is a versatile medium capable of delving into the depths of human history. Drawing inspiration from various sources such as objects, painting, photography, environmental music, visual art, and human stories, I seamlessly integrate these elements to create moving images that resonate deeply with viewers.

Each image I craft is layered with meaning, inviting the audience to connect based on their own experiences. I enjoy orchestrating movement by situating dancers within specific environments and mindsets, observing how their bodies translate these elements into motion. It's crucial for my artists to understand that they are not merely part of an image, but its essence. Through my work, I aim to ignite the audience's imagination, encouraging exploration and reflection on the intricacies of the human condition in a visually impactful manner. Themes such as spirit, power, war, walls, and the psychology of man, along with nudity, serve as rich ground for my artistic exploration.

In the vulnerability of nudity, I find a profound connection to the essence of humanity—a timeless dance intertwined with our shared history. It transcends mere freedom from cloth, embodying strength, love, kindness, and tenderness authentically. Coming from an Aramaic family in Syria, our pre-Christian deity was Ishtar, a naked woman on a lion with eagle wings, symbolizing power, purity, beauty, fertility, sexuality, and love. Our cultural perspective once revered the body as sacred and divine. However, with the advent of Christianity, the covering of bodies and the association of shame with nudity emerged—a shift in human history worth examining.

For me, nude art is a means of defying societal norms and celebrating authenticity. As a queer Syrian artist, the inclusion of nudity represents a potent act of liberation and self-expression, reclaiming our ancient reverence for the human form.

THE COMPANY



The journey of Hani Dance commenced with their inaugural project, "ONE NIGHT STAND," in 2016, which garnered attention in Germany and earned recognition at the prestigious Full Moon Dance Festival in Finland in 2018.

Expanding on this success, Hani Dance presented their second project, "DEM MENSCHEN EIN WOLF," in 2018 in Germany. The pinnacle of their international acclaim, "DARK BIRD," made its debut at the "Hong Kong International Choreography Festival" in 2019, further solidifying their impact on the dance world.

Notably, their fourth project, "THE BLIND NARCISSIST," in 2020, premiered in Germany, Trier, and proudly became part of Luxembourg City's esteemed "HORS CIRCUIT" program at Trois C-L in 2022. Hani Dance has spellbound audiences on prestigious stages worldwide, from the TUFA Theater in Trier, Germany, to the Danza in Rete Festival in Vicenza, Italy, and the International Contemporary Dance Festival of Mexico City. Their performances have consistently garnered acclaim, leaving an enduring impression at esteemed venues and events, including the "CHANGMU INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL" at Arko Arts Grand Theater in Seoul, South Korea, "DIFFERENTI SENSAZIONI" at Officine CAOS in Turin, Italy, Divadlo XIO - Month of Francophonie 2023 in Prague, Czech Republic, Luxembourg Pride at the Kulturfabrik Cultural Centre, EAST POINT WEST Dance Festival and numerous others on the horizon.





A notable collaboration emerged with Italian-Luxembourgian choreographer Giovanni Zazzera for the mesmerizing piece "OUT OF RANGE," gracing the stages of Mierscher Kulturhaus in Mersch, Luxembourg, and Arena Trier in Germany in 2021.

Another remarkable project, "WIND IN THE OLIVE GROVE," was commissioned by Battery Dance in New York City, enthraling audiences in prestigious venues worldwide. In 2022, Saeed Hani was commissioned to create his evocative short piece "Wind in the Olive Grove" for the Battery Dance Company season in New York City. The piece premiered at Schimmel Center, New York City, USA, on the 19th and 20th of May 2022, embarking on a tour that traversed Palestine, Israel, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston, Texas, USA, and culminating at the 41st Annual BATTERY DANCE Festival in New York City, USA, in 2023. The piece also graced the stages of Metropol Theater in Bremen, Germany, the National Dance Institute in New York, USA, and Volkspark in Halle Saale, Germany.

As Hani Dance continues to push the boundaries of artistic expression, their seventh project, "INLET," underwent an intensive research phase in Berlin and was brought to life in Trier, Germany. This remarkable piece has already captured attention at Trois C-L's distinguished "HORS CIRCUIT" program and the Contemporary Dance International Festival Lila López in Mexico, with performances held at the Mariano Matamoros Theatre in Morelia, Mexico, and the Conjunto Santander de Artes Escénicas in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Elevating their artistic pursuits further, Hani Dance's latest masterpiece, "KHAOS" (2023), embarked on an awe-inspiring research journey at the Grand Theater Geneva in Switzerland. The highly anticipated premiere unfolded at Mierscher Kulturhaus in Luxembourg, followed by captivating performances at Messepark Trier in Germany. Notably, "KHAOS" has been invited to grace the international dance festival of Erfurt, Germany, in October 2024, promising to continue their legacy of innovation and artistic brilliance.

S A E E D H A N I



This world is not the place I wanted it to be. A world that I was brought to without being asked. A world of war, greed, lies, corrupt governments, human arrogance, a world ruled by skin color and the language you speak. A world in which mercy is worn like a fashion people uses to look elegant. To escape this painful reality I created my own world, a place in which I could live. A sanctuary filled with my own theatre play, painting, images, choreography, environment, and landscapes. My artwork is the only safe refuge I had for years.

Saeed Hani received his early training at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in Damascus. Following his graduation, he embarked on a remarkable journey, joining the esteemed Caracalla Dance Company in Beirut, Lebanon. His talents took him on captivating tours across Italy, Turkey, Oman, UAE, Jordan, Algeria, and China.

In 2015, Saeed relocated to Trier, Germany, where he continued to make his mark in the dance world. He collaborated as a dancer with companies like Theater Münster, Sommer Ulrickson Company (DE), Z-Art Company (LU), and Hannah Ma Dance Company (DE). His performances captivated audiences throughout Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Finland, and Germany.

In 2019, Saeed showcased his prowess as both a dancer and choreographer, creating a powerful solo piece titled "A Man by the Sea" with Battery Dance Company in New York, USA. He also crafted his solo "JERUSALEM" for the Full Moon Dance Festival in Finland, displaying his artistic vision on an international stage. Further, Saeed's talent as a choreographer was recognized when he was invited to create the short piece "FLOAT" for the DART DSP Professional Dance Program in Berlin, Germany in 2020.

PROJECTS SO FAR

2023
KHAOS

2022
INLET
WIND IN THE OLIVE GROVE

2021
OUT OF RANGE

2020
THE BLIND NARCISSIST

2018
DEM MENSCHEN EIN WOLF

2016
ONE NIGHT STAND

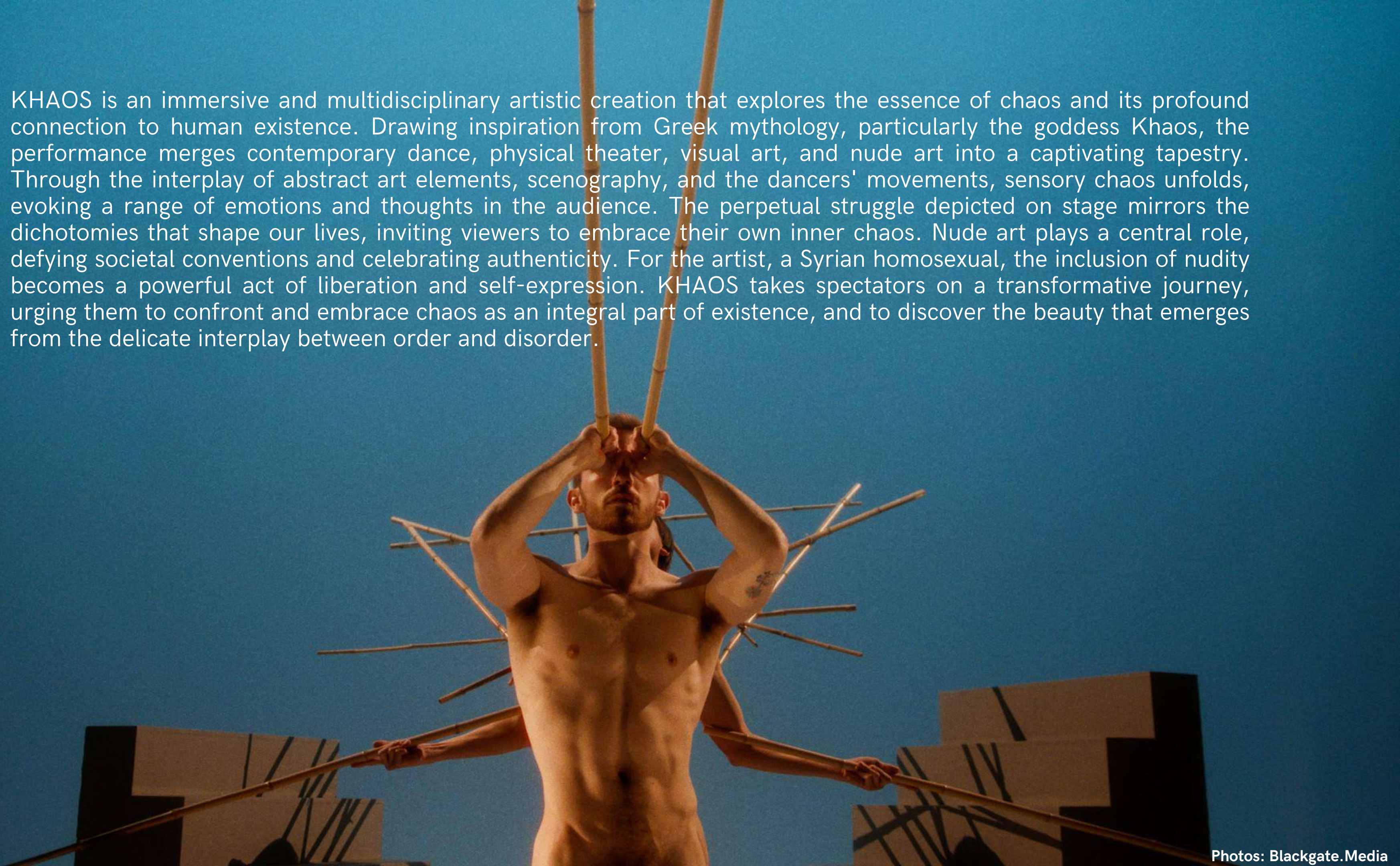


KHAOS

BY SAEED HANI



KHAOS is an immersive and multidisciplinary artistic creation that explores the essence of chaos and its profound connection to human existence. Drawing inspiration from Greek mythology, particularly the goddess Khaos, the performance merges contemporary dance, physical theater, visual art, and nude art into a captivating tapestry. Through the interplay of abstract art elements, scenography, and the dancers' movements, sensory chaos unfolds, evoking a range of emotions and thoughts in the audience. The perpetual struggle depicted on stage mirrors the dichotomies that shape our lives, inviting viewers to embrace their own inner chaos. Nude art plays a central role, defying societal conventions and celebrating authenticity. For the artist, a Syrian homosexual, the inclusion of nudity becomes a powerful act of liberation and self-expression. KHAOS takes spectators on a transformative journey, urging them to confront and embrace chaos as an integral part of existence, and to discover the beauty that emerges from the delicate interplay between order and disorder.





Fact Sheet

Title: "KHAOS"

Premiere Dates and Venues:

- Luxembourg Premiere: May 19th, 2023, at Mierscher Kulturhause, Mersch.
- German Premiere: June 8th, 2023, at Messehalle in Trier.

Duration: Approximately 68 minutes.

Conceived by: Saeed Hani.

Dancers: Esther Moreno Suarez, Gabriel Lawton, Ileana Orofino, Kenji Shinohe, Hector Ferrer, Ana Fernández Melero, Alberto Chianello

Scenography & Visual Art: Saeed Hani.

Light Designer: Marc Thein.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Costume Design: Christian Brand / Objekt.

Stage Construction: Julian Poma.

Video Production: Blackgate Media.

Production Management: Oliver Moeller.

Production: Mierscher Kulturhaus, Hani Dance & menschMITmensch e.V.

Partners:

- Ministère de la Culture Luxembourg
- Ministry for Family, Women, Culture and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate
- Amt für Stadtkultur und Denkmalschutz Trier
- Kulturstiftung Sparkasse Trier
- TROIS C-L
- Lotto Rheinland-Pfalz Stiftung
- Kulturstiftung Trier
- Kultur Lx
- Grand Théâtre de Genève



KHAOS Trailer

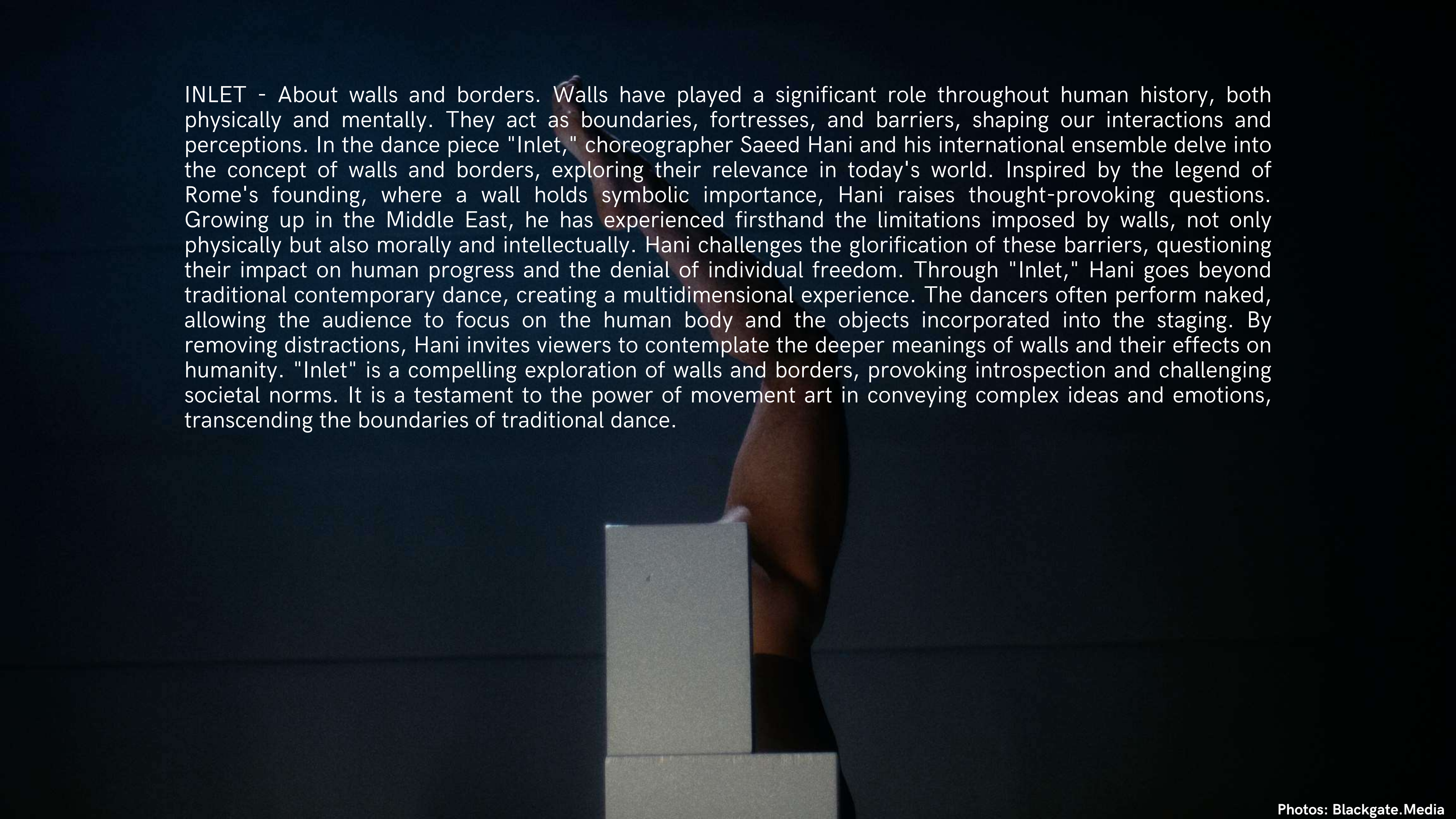


Photos: Blackgate.Media

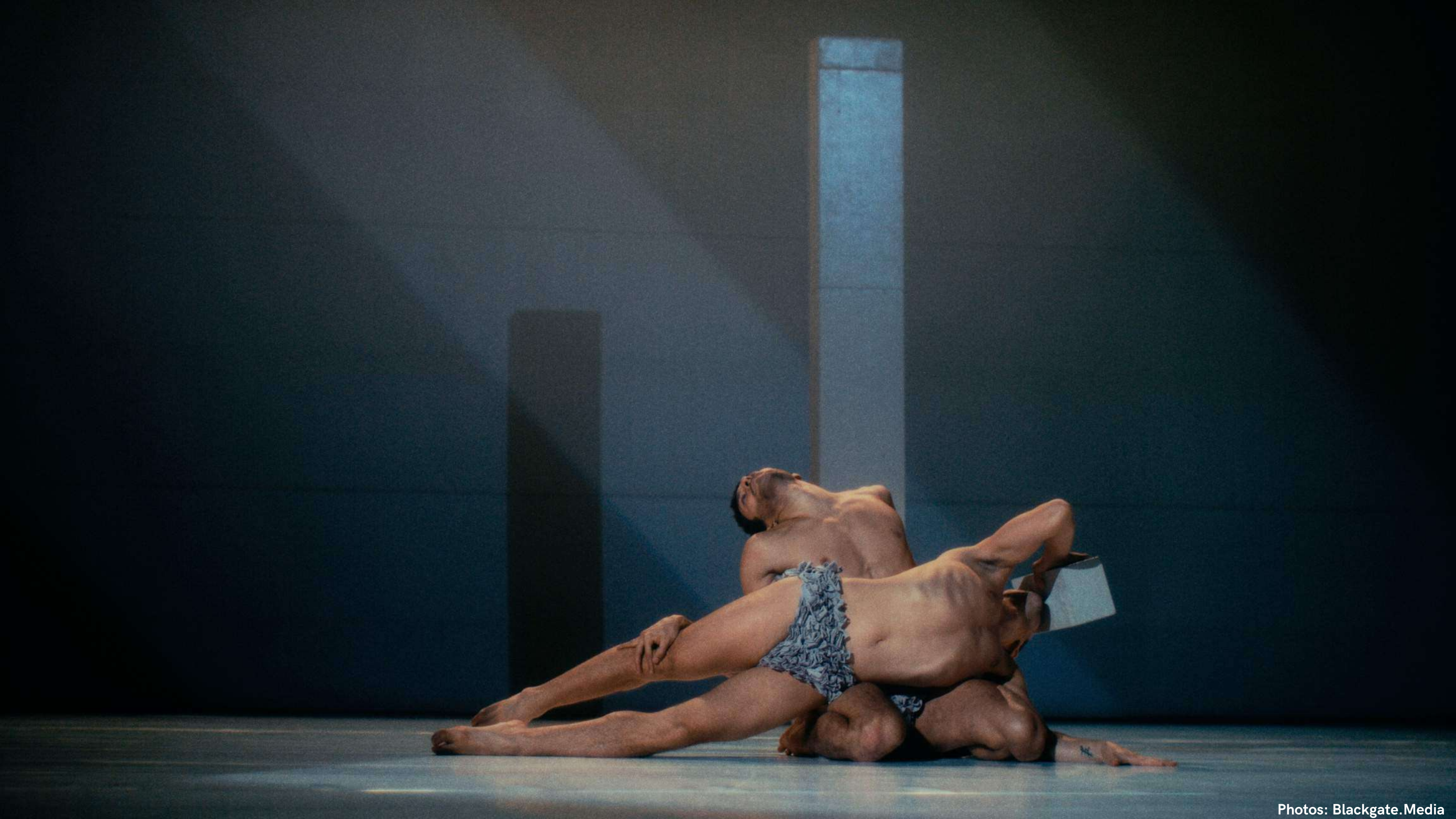
INLET

BY SAEED HANI





INLET - About walls and borders. Walls have played a significant role throughout human history, both physically and mentally. They act as boundaries, fortresses, and barriers, shaping our interactions and perceptions. In the dance piece "Inlet," choreographer Saeed Hani and his international ensemble delve into the concept of walls and borders, exploring their relevance in today's world. Inspired by the legend of Rome's founding, where a wall holds symbolic importance, Hani raises thought-provoking questions. Growing up in the Middle East, he has experienced firsthand the limitations imposed by walls, not only physically but also morally and intellectually. Hani challenges the glorification of these barriers, questioning their impact on human progress and the denial of individual freedom. Through "Inlet," Hani goes beyond traditional contemporary dance, creating a multidimensional experience. The dancers often perform naked, allowing the audience to focus on the human body and the objects incorporated into the staging. By removing distractions, Hani invites viewers to contemplate the deeper meanings of walls and their effects on humanity. "Inlet" is a compelling exploration of walls and borders, provoking introspection and challenging societal norms. It is a testament to the power of movement art in conveying complex ideas and emotions, transcending the boundaries of traditional dance.



Fact Sheet:

Title: "INLET"

Premiere Date and Venue:

October 13th at Messehalle in Trier, Germany.

Duration: Approximately 55 minutes.

Conceived by: Saeed Hani.

Dancers: Ana F. Melero, Michele Scappa, Francesco Ferrari & Hector Ferrer.

Costume Design: Carolin Schäfer.

Light Design: Marc Thein.

Stage Design: Saeed Hani.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Video Production: Blackgate Media.

Production Management: Oliver Moeller.

Production: Hani Dance & menschMITmensch e.V.

Partners:

- Amt für Stadtkultur und Denkmalschutz Trier
- Ministère de la Culture Luxembourg
- Kulturstiftung Sparkasse Trier
- TROIS C-L
- Lotto Rheinland-Pfalz Stiftung
- Kulturstiftung Trier
- Kultur Lx
- Uferstudios Berlin



INLET Trailer

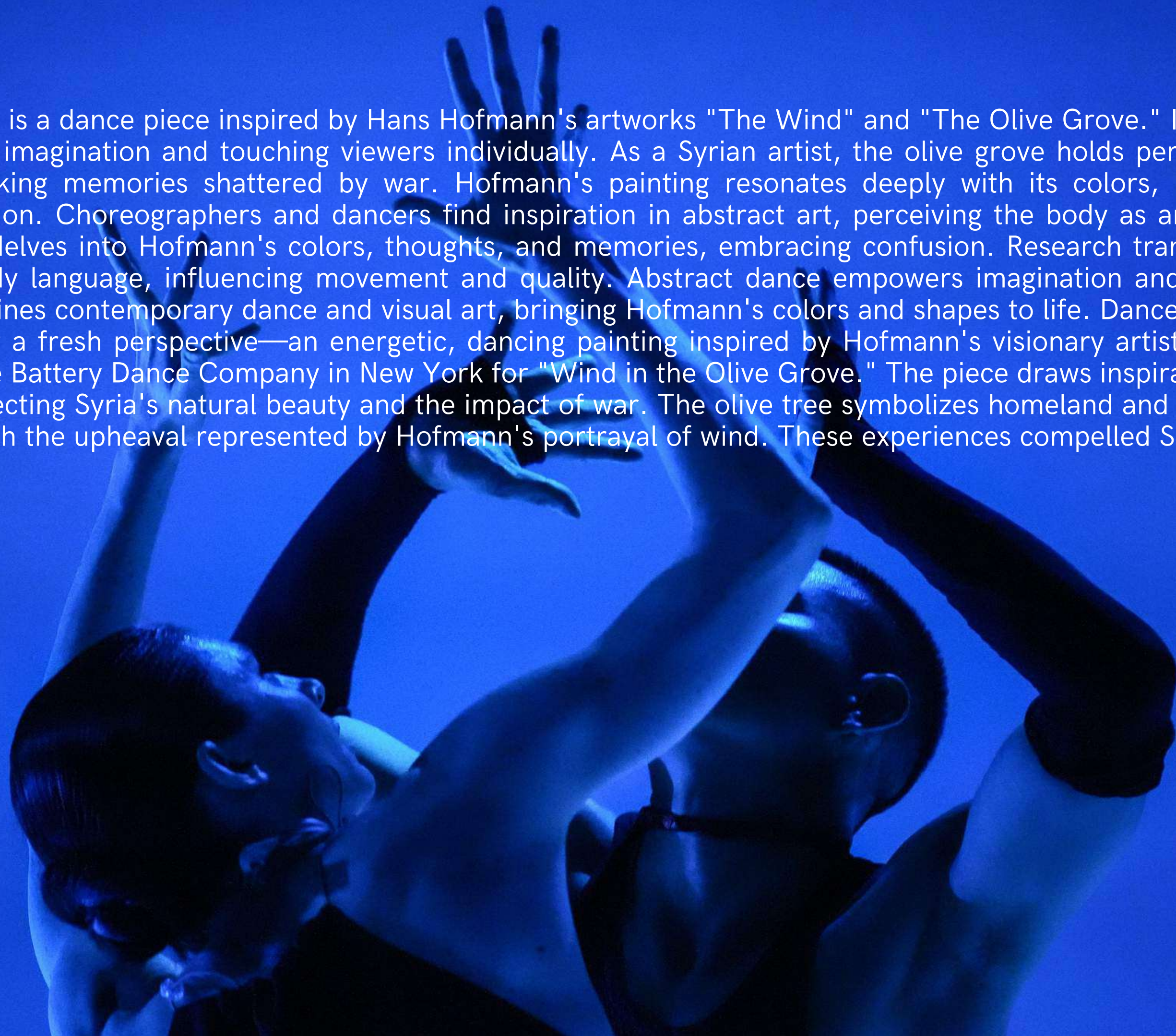
Photos: Blackgate.Media

"WIND IN THE OLIVE GROVE"

BY SAEED HANI



"Wind in the Olive Grove" is a dance piece inspired by Hans Hofmann's artworks "The Wind" and "The Olive Grove." It explores abstraction, transcending imagination and touching viewers individually. As a Syrian artist, the olive grove holds personal and cultural significance, evoking memories shattered by war. Hofmann's painting resonates deeply with its colors, lines, and textures, fueling imagination. Choreographers and dancers find inspiration in abstract art, perceiving the body as an abstract form. This performance delves into Hofmann's colors, thoughts, and memories, embracing confusion. Research translates his lines and shapes into body language, influencing movement and quality. Abstract dance empowers imagination and personal meaning. The piece combines contemporary dance and visual art, bringing Hofmann's colors and shapes to life. Dancers' bodies become a canvas, inviting a fresh perspective—an energetic, dancing painting inspired by Hofmann's visionary artistry. Saeed Hani collaborated with the Battery Dance Company in New York for "Wind in the Olive Grove." The piece draws inspiration from Hofmann's paintings, reflecting Syria's natural beauty and the impact of war. The olive tree symbolizes homeland and childhood innocence, contrasting with the upheaval represented by Hofmann's portrayal of wind. These experiences compelled Saeed Hani to leave his country.







Fact Sheet:

Title: "Wind in the Olive Grove"

Premiere Date and Venue: World premiere: May 19th, 2022, as part of Hofmann Dances at the Schimmel Center, New York, USA.

Duration: 20 minutes.

Choreography: Saeed Hani.

Dancers:

- Sarah Housepian
- Vivake Khamsingsavath
- Jillian Linkowski
- Sara Seger
- Randall Riley
- Razvan Stoian

Costume Design: Carolin Schäfer.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Photos: Steven Pisano.

Production: Battery Dance & Hani Dance.

Partners: The Renate, Hans, and Maria Hofmann Trust.



"OUT OF RANGE"

BY SAEED HANI & GIOVANNI ZAZZERA



"Out of Range" is a collaborative dance project by Saeed Hani and Giovanni Zazzera, delving into the captivating realm of diversity. Through their unique artistic approaches, these choreographers aim to create an impactful performance that explores the complexities of diversity through the language of movement. This project places diversity at the forefront, recognizing its vital role in our lives. Going beyond mere tolerance, Hani and Zazzera seek to celebrate the richness and depth of embracing individual differences. They invite audiences to question preconceived notions and deeply reflect on diversity's profound impact on our personal and societal experiences. "Out of Range" creates an immersive and inclusive environment, encouraging viewers to explore the effects of diversity, appreciate its inherent value, and confront the barriers that hinder its acceptance. The project also delves into the intersection of diversity with political debates, shedding light on the controversial nature of the topic. With a talented team of six dancers, the project traverses conceptual and physical pathways to illuminate the essence of diversity. By crafting unusual situations, the performance elicits authentic reactions from the dancers, fostering a genuine understanding of diversity within the group. Driven by the belief in the transformative power of art and dance, Saeed Hani and Giovanni Zazzera merge their perspectives and artistic differences to create an organic and thought-provoking piece. "Out of Range" challenges norms, ignites dialogue and ultimately nurtures a profound appreciation for the deep beauty of diversity





Fact Sheet:

Title: "OUT OF RANGE"

Premiere Dates and Venues:

- Luxembourg Premiere: June 4th, 2021, at Mierscher Kulturhause, Mersch.
- German Premiere: December 16th, 2021, at the Arena in Trier.

Duration: Approximately 55 minutes.

Choreography: Saeed Hani & Giovanni Zazzera.

Dancers: Esther Moreno Suarez, Juliette Tellier, Mario Gonzalez, Gabriel Lawton, Kenji Shinohe, Cesare Di Laghi

Producer: Hani Dance, menschMITmensch e.V., Mierscher Kulturhaus & Z-Art asbl.

Production Manager: Oliver Moeller.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Costumes: Carolin Schäfer.

Video Production & Photography: Black Gate Media.

Partners:

- TROIS C-L - Centre de Création Chorégraphique Luxembourgeois
- Ministère de la Culture Luxembourg
- Fondation Indépendance by BIL
- Ministry for Family, Women, Culture, and Integration Rhineland-Palatinate
- Amt für Stadtkultur und Denkmalschutz Trier
- Kulturstiftung Sparkasse Trier
- Lotto Rheinland-Pfalz Stiftung
- Kulturstiftung Trier

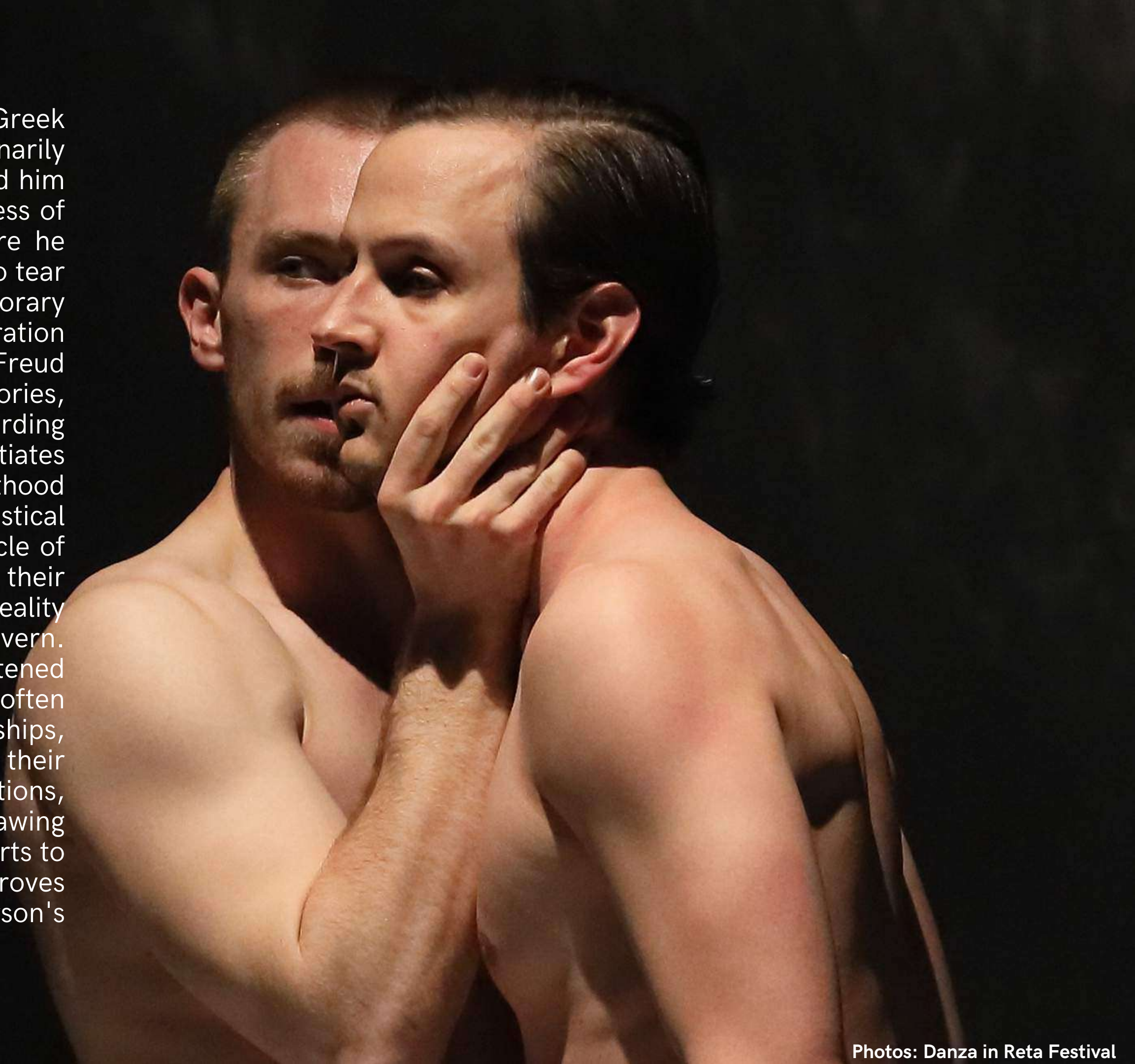


"THE BLIND NARCISSIST"

BY SAEED HANI



"The Blind Narcissist" is a tale rooted in Greek mythology, featuring Narcissus, an extraordinarily handsome young man who spurned those who loved him and rejected all advances. In retribution, the Goddess of Revenge, Nemesis, lured Narcissus to a lake where he became infatuated with his own reflection. Unable to tear himself away, he eventually perished. In contemporary language, narcissism refers to an exaggerated admiration of one's idealized self-perception. Sigmund Freud explored this phenomenon in his psychoanalytic theories, connecting it to human sexual development. According to Freud, a sense of self evolves as a child differentiates from their mother, but excessive narcissism in adulthood can manifest as a self-centered and egotistical personality. Many world leaders embody the pinnacle of narcissism, disregarding the concerns and voices of their people. They become detached, losing sight of reality and severing communication with those they govern. What if they chose a different path? What if they listened to criticism and demands? However, narcissists often struggle to form deep and lasting relationships, constantly seeking attention and admiration to fill their inner void. The narcissist manipulates emotions, particularly in the early stages of relationships, drawing unsuspecting individuals into their web. Despite efforts to change their narcissistic tendencies, it often proves futile. The realization dawns that altering a person's deep-rooted narcissism is a near-impossible task.





Fact Sheet:

Title: "The Blind Narcissist"

Premiere Date and Venue:

October 22nd, 2020, at Messehalle Trier, Germany.

Duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Choreographer: Saeed Hani.

Dancers: Robin Rohrman & Gabriel Lawton

Stage Design: Alexander Harry Morrison & Saeed Hani.

Light & Sound: Nils Röpke.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Video Production: Blackgate Media.

Partners:

- Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung & Kultur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Kulturamt Stadt Trier
- Kulturstiftung Sparkasse Trier
- Lotto-Stiftung Rheinland-Pfalz
- Kulturstiftung Trier



[The Blind Narcissist Trailer](#)

Photos: Changmu International Performing Arts Festival

"DEM MENSCHEN EIN WOLF"
BY SAEED HANI



The profound words of the Roman writer Titus Maccius Plautus, "Lupus est homo homini, non homo, quom qualis sit non novit," speak to the essence of our dance project, "Dem Menschen ein Wolf". With a team of six dancers, we delve into the central theme of these words, observing how humans interact with strangers who are misunderstood, and labeled with attributes such as cunning, greed, and predatory nature solely based on their differences.

This exploration uncovers the raw instincts that emerge when individuals prioritize self-interest, selfishness, and self-protection. Without a higher guiding force, these instincts can lead to a state of war, a dog-eat-dog mentality. As a Syrian refugee, I experienced immense kindness and compassion from the majority of German society upon my arrival in 2015. Can these humanitarian attitudes withstand a backdrop of growing egoism and societal divisions, both on an interpersonal and international scale? Beyond this inquiry, we seek to understand why so many individuals are drawn to demagogues who advocate for walls instead of bridges, using simplistic slogans. Why do people fear that solidarity within society means losing something for themselves? Is human egoism truly as limitless as Schopenhauer once claimed? Through our dance project, we aim to explore these motives and perspectives of human coexistence, questioning the very nature of our interconnectedness and the possibilities for unity amidst a world that seems increasingly divided.



Fact Sheet:

Title: "DEM MENSCHEN EIN WOLF"

Premiere Date and Venue:

November 29th, 2018, at TUFA Trier, Germany.

Duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Choreographer: Saeed Hani.

Dancers: Melanie López López, Itxasai Mediavilla, Anna Schneider, Edoardo Ramírez Ehlinger, Valentina Zappa & Saeed Hani

Stage Designer: Alexander Harry Morrison & Hochschule Trier.

Music: Jakob Schumo.

Costume Design: Saeed Hani.

Production: Hani Dance & menschMITmensch e.V.

Partners:

- Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung & Kultur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Kulturamt der Stadt Trier
- Kulturstiftung Trier
- Kulturstiftung der Sparkasse Trier
- Sparda-Bank
- Lions-Club Hochwald
- Berens & Cie. AG



"ONE NIGHT STAND"

BY SAEED HANI



In "One Night Stand," the focus lies on the different perceptions of sexuality in Arabic and European societies. Born and raised in a society influenced by traditional and conservative sexual morals, our goal is to shed light on various issues surrounding this topic. We aim to address aspects such as natural lust, desire, idealized virginity, chastity, double standards, body perception, and sexual stereotyping, while also promoting mutual understanding.

A particular area of concern within this context is the treatment of homosexuality, which continues to face severe punishment in many Arabic countries. Through our work, we strive to challenge societal norms and advocate for greater acceptance and tolerance. "One Night Stand" serves as a catalyst for thoughtful reflection and meaningful dialogue on these sensitive matters. It provides an opportunity to showcase our commitment to social change and our belief in the transformative power of art. By exploring sexuality and cultural dynamics, this project represents an important contribution to our portfolio, demonstrating our dedication to promoting understanding and fostering a more inclusive society.





Fact Sheet:

Title: "ONE NIGHT STAND"

Premiere Date and Venue:

June 24th, 2016, at TUFA Trier, Germany.

Duration: Approximately 50 minutes.

Choreographer: Saeed Hani.

Dancers: Baptiste Hilbert, Ranim Al Malat, Niel Medeiros, Maher Abdul Moaty, Catarina Barbosa & Saeed Hani

Stage Design: Saeed Hani.

Production: menschMITmensch e.V.

Partners:

- Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Weiterbildung & Kultur Rheinland-Pfalz
- Kulturrat der Stadt Trier
- Kulturstiftung Trier
- Kulturstiftung der Sparkasse Trier
- Mind Geek
- Sparda Bank



HANI DANCE asbl
www.hanidance.com

1, rue Michel Gehrend
L-1619 Luxembourg

President: Oliver Moeller
+49 178 334416
oliver@hanidande

Artistic Director:
Saeed Hani
+491624512116
saeed@hanidance.de

Instagram:
@Saeed.hanidance
@Saeedhani1

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/user73756356>



HANI))) DANCE