

## PRESS INFORMATION

### Timbuktu Is Back!

#### Performing Arts from African Sahel

##### Dance, Performance, Film

**3 – 9 April 2019, HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin**

African Sahel has over a short period of time turned into an extremely complex region, where religion, political terrorism and the arts play a role. It presents an immense challenge to both heads of states and the populations, who advocated for democracy but now see their endeavours shrink due to this new scourge.

In Burkina Faso, Mali, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and other countries of this region, a whole generation of artists take on themes like freedom of speech, human rights, the fight against fundamentalism and the culture of peace. The Islamic movements, the widespread illegal trade and the unstable governments are therefore often focal points for choreographies and theatre plays.

Born after the independence and standing between Western education and their Islamic origin, these artists resist feeling caught in this state of affairs, rather they engage, through their art, in order to contribute to the development of their countries and their continent, and to offer a ambiguous, contemporary African culture. As activists their creations bring another form of expression, supporting political and civic maturation.

*Timbuktu Is Back!* is a project for artistic encounters that promotes the exchange of ideas between the Sahel countries and Germany. Focus is on the creative work of formative choreographers such as Salia Sanou, Nadia Beugré and Serge Aimé Coulibaly, working in countries where the integrity is threatened by terrorism. The festival is also a platform for reflexion on the creative process of these choreographers and playwrights, on the connection between creativity and social engagement, as well as identity building, social development and, ultimately, peacekeeping.

Curated by Alex Moussa Sawadogo

*Timbuktu Is Back! Performing Arts from African Sahel* is a project by Kulturbrauerei e.V. in cooperation with HAU Hebbel am Ufer.

Funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

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#### Program:

**03.04.19, 19:00 , HAU2**

**SALIA SANOU „Du désir d’horizons“/ „Desire of Horizons“ (Burkina Faso)**

With *Du Désir d’horizons*, Salia Sanou picks up on his favorite themes: loneliness and otherness of the individual, but also the question of territory, uprooting, exile, and borders. Here he processes his impressions from refugee camps in Burundi and Burkina Faso where he gave workshops as part of the project “Refugees on the Move”. Threatened by jihadist occupation and the fights in neighbouring Mali a lot of people have to get along in a confined space while trying to overcome their trauma.

*Du désir d'horizons* is not a show about refugee camps as such, but more a composition with a choreographic vocabulary, with room for understanding and reflection on the delicate situation facing refugees that echoes in us all. The horizon is the future, a vanishing line, an open space.

Duration: 65 min

Afterwards artist talk with Arlette-Louise Ndakoze

Production: Compagnie Mouvements perpétuels. Coproduction: Théâtre National de Chaillot / African Artists for Development / Bonlieu – Scène nationale d'Annecy et La Bâtie Festival de Genève dans le cadre du programme Interreg France – Suisse 2014-2020 / Tilder / La Filature - Scène nationale de Mulhouse / Viadanse Centre chorégraphique national de Franche-Comté à Belfort / Centre de développement chorégraphique de Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées. Supported by: Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication – DRAC Occitanie, Région Occitanie Pyrénées-Méditerranée, ADAMI.

Double-feature:

**05.+06.04.19, 19:00 , HAU3**

**ALIOUNE DIAGNE „Siki“ (Senegal) – German Premiere**

*Alioune Diagne brings to life the forgotten Senegalese boxing hero Battling Siki, the first African boxing world champion in 1922. On his way through Europe and the United States he did not only fight in the ring but also against the prevailing racism of the time. Made up of dance and boxing, "Siki" is a dialogue between then and now, Battling Siki and Alioune Diagne.*

Production: Compagnie Diagn'Art – Maaike Cotterink. Coproduction: Korzo, Ballet Preljocaj – Centre Chorégraphique National, Gemeente Den Haag, Pamoja. Program: ACP-Culture, funded by the European Union, realized of Studios Kabako.

**FATOUMATA BAGAYOKO „Fatou t'as tout fait“/ „Fatou, You Did It All“ (Mali) – German Premiere**

*In her solo Fatoumata Bagayoko from Mali deals with the topic of female circumcision – a practice that she personally fell victim to along with countless other girls and women. In the darkness of the stage she recaps the individual scenes of this cruel tradition: "I wanted to claim this pain. To show my society, my family, my country, my complete incomprehension and my deep disagreement with this practice, which has no place in contemporary society."*

Production: Compagnie Jiriladon / C'est Comment. Supported by: Ankata / Simply the Best & Eeg-Cowles-Stiftung.

**05.04.19, 20:30, HAU1**

**Gao, la résistance d'un peuple/ Gao, The Resistance Of A People (Film, Mali) – German Premiere**

*Early 2012: Northern Mali is occupied by various armed groups proclaiming the splitting of the country and the imposition of Sharia law. In Gao a resistance movement takes shape, made up of young people attempting to protect their families and liberate the city. For "Gao, la résistance d'un peuple" the filmmaker Kassim Sanogo met some of these fighters and shows their heroic resistance. At the same time he pays tribute to the*

engagement of the population of Gao and all the communities of northern Mali during the occupation..

**06.04.19, 20:30, HAU2**

**NADIA BEUGRÉ „Tapis rouge“ / „Red Carpet“ (Ivory Coast) – German Premiere**

*What lies beneath the red carpet that we roll out for the powerful and the mighty? Nadia Beugré, born in Côte d'Ivoire, illuminates the world "down below" and attempts to get to what lies hidden beneath this fabric. Influenced by an encounter with women and children sacrificing themselves in the mines of Burkina Faso, the choreographer speaks of the brutality to which seemingly invisible groups are often subjected.*

Production: Latitudes Prod. (Lille). Coproduction: Le Vivat, Scène Conventionnée danse et théâtre (Armentières), Musée de la danse, Centre Chorégraphique National de Rennes, Hessisches Staatsballett, Staatstheater Darmstadt/Wiesbaden, Festival d'Automne (Paris), Théâtre Garonne (Toulouse), BIT Teatergarasjen (Bergen), La Bâtie, Festival de Genève, Festival Montpellier Danse 2017, Le Parvis Scène Nationale (Tarbes). Supported by: DRAC Hauts-de-France; Région Hauts-de-France, Fonds Transfabrik – Deutsch-französischer Fonds für darstellende Künste.

**09.04.19, 19:00 , HAU2**

**SERGE AIMÉ COULIBALY / ROKIA TRAORÉ / FELWINE SARR „Kirina“ (Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal)**

*"Kirina" is the name for a 12th-century battle of the Mandinka people, which has great significance for western Africa. The piece, however, is not a re-enactment of this historic event but a narrative about Coulibaly's present, globalized reality. It is a performance by world citizens - a choreographer with and an artistic team of members both with and without African roots. Derived from these inspirations, Coulibaly created a performance about people on the move, the events that color and possibly direct these migrations and their influences on society.*

Production: Faso Danse Théâtre, Ruhrtriennale. Coproduction: Festival de Marseille, La Villette Paris, les ballets C de la B, Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles, Romaeuropa Festival, Kampnagel Hamburg, De Grote Post Oostende, Kunstencentrum Vooruit Gent, La Rose des Vents Villeneuve d'Ascq, ExtraPôle Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Executive Production: les ballets C de la B. Distribution: Frans Brood Productions. Supported by: Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Wallonie-Bruxelles International, Taxshelter Belgium.

More information: [www.hebbel-am-ufer.de](http://www.hebbel-am-ufer.de), [www.kulturbrauerei-verein.de](http://www.kulturbrauerei-verein.de)

Venue + Tickets:

HAU Hebbel am Ufer  
Stresemannstr. 29  
10963 Berlin  
Tel. +49 (0)30 259004 -0  
[www.hebbel-am-ufer.de](http://www.hebbel-am-ufer.de)

Venues:

HAU1 – Stresemannstr. 29, 10963 Berlin  
HAU2 – Hallesches Ufer 32, 10963 Berlin  
HAU3 – Tempelhofer Ufer 10, 10963 Berlin

Tickets:

- Du désir d'horizons: Category C (17 €/ 13 € (depending on row), reduced 10 €)
- Siki+Fatou t'as tout fait: Category D (13 €, reduced 8 €)
- Tapis rouge: Category C (17 €/ 13 € (depending on row), reduced 10 €)
- Kirina: Category B (22 €/ 17 €/13 €(depending on row), reduced 10 €)
- Gao (Film): 5 €

Kombi-Ticket: 3 events for 30 €, reduced. 20 € (free choice)

Tickets pre-sale:

HAU2, Hallesches Ufer 32, 10963 Berlin

Tel. +49 (0)30.259004 -27

[tickets@hebbel-am-ufer.de](mailto:tickets@hebbel-am-ufer.de)

Opening hours:

Monday to Saturday from 3pm to one hour before the event begins, on event free days until 7pm.

Closed on Sundays and holidays.

Box offices and individual venues:

One hour before the performance at the respective venues.

Press contacts:

Christiane Dramé

Fabrikpublik – Creative PR- & Project Management

Tel. +49. (0)30. 447 17 249

Mob. +49. (0)173. 874 19 39

[christiane.drame@fabrikpublik.de](mailto:christiane.drame@fabrikpublik.de)

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

HAU Hebbel am Ufer:

Annika Frahm

Director Communication/  
Press and Public Relations

Tel. +49. 30. 259 004-38

Fax +49. 30. 259 004-49

[a.frahm@hebbel-am-ufer.de](mailto:a.frahm@hebbel-am-ufer.de)

[www.hebbel-am-ufer.de](http://www.hebbel-am-ufer.de)