

## Online Conference

### How Can We Move?

Creating Equitable Spaces in Contemporary Dance

22 November 2023, 10:00-13:30 CET, on Zoom

10:00 CET

#### Opening Moves

**Tobi Balogun**, multidisciplinary movement artist (Ireland)

Untethered is the bounce as a mode of movement, a method of emotional release. Understanding the relation that proximity to, or being on the 'periphery' of, have on our vessel. Using the repetition and rhythms of Hip-hop foundations as a means of self discovery and body activation.

10:08 CET

#### Opening Words

EDN Co-Presidents; **Kerstin Evert**, artistic director, K3 Tanzplan Hamburg (Germany) & **Laurent Meheust**, director, Le Gymnase CDCN (France)

10:15 CET

#### Keynote Speech "Holding Space"

**Aminata Cairo**, anthropologist, psychologist, educator, storyteller, "love- worker" (Netherlands/USA)

As the world has become more aware of patterns of inequity and inequality that cover our landscape, there has been a pursuit to correct what has been askew for a long time. From the streets to the halls of education there is a call for something else, something more. Aminata Cairo uses the concept of stories and sees the pursuit of inclusive education as the pursuit to expand our collective story. Although many believe this to be a noble cause, actually changing how we do things remains difficult. In her presentation Dr. Cairo will take the audience on a journey to explore what makes the pursuit of inclusion so challenging and will challenge the audience to think about what it really requires.

10:35 CET

## Participatory Reflection “What does this have to do with me?”

**Monica Gillette**, dance dramaturg and facilitator (Germany)

“What does this have to do with me?” asks you to take a position. It is a brief offering of questions and movements, designed to trigger internal reflection. It is interested in revealing opinions, beliefs, doubts, responsibilities and discomforts on the topic of equity in various contexts. It was first shared during the EDN Atelier at La Briqueterie, titled “Equity in dance: what challenges?”, and will be reprised in digital form for this session.

10:45 CET

## Q&A “Access to Culture / Access to Health

**Barbara Stacher & Monica Urian**, policy officers at the European Commission (Belgium)

We are thrilled to announce a Q&A session with Barbara Stacher & Monica Urian, policy officers at the European Commission, whose work focuses on cultural and creative professionals’ working conditions and health. This is a unique opportunity to engage with experts who are at the forefront of shaping policies related to culture in Europe. We invite you to prepare your questions related to EU cultural policies and share them in the chat during this session. We will try to have as many questions answered as possible, providing valuable insights into policy work.

11:00 CET

## Lecture “What Makes a Good Ally”

**Stefania Di Paolo**, research scholar, disability activist and cultural curator (Italy)

In the ongoing structural transformation of numerous dance institutions aimed at facilitating access for disabled artists and disabled audiences, what does make a genuine ally? How can artists with disabilities nurture meaningful and effective engagements with institutional allies? What potential risks are hidden behind the integration of the disability rights movement into artistic institutional frameworks? The lecture aims to offer a toolkit of key strategies to navigate the intricate landscape of insider/outsider disability activism within the field of dance.

11:15 CET

## Good Practice “A Path of Accessibility for Cultural Spaces”

**Francesca Cortese**, audience and accessibility manager (Italy)

How to make cultural spaces and artistic contents accessible? With the artistic direction by Bersani+Traversi, Spazio Kor has developed an experimental path in Italy to make already existing shows available for audiences with physical, sensory and neurodivergence disabilities. Step by step, through teamwork with the association Al.di.Qua Artists and the guest artists and thanks to the dialogue with the spectators, a model was built to make the performances accessible to different types of audiences. The model has led to the consolidation of practices for public access and the creation of tools and methodologies exportable for artists.

11:30 CET

## Break

11:35 CET

## Conversation “Access, Care & Curatorial Practices”

**Francesca Cortese, Stefania Di Paolo, Chiara Organtini**, curator and project creator (Italy)

How do measures of care and accessibility influence curatorial practices? What changes when an organisation tries to meet the access needs of audiences, artists and staff? Stefania Di Paolo will discuss these questions with Francesca Cortese from Spazio Kor and Chiara Organtini from Lavanderia a Vapore, taking into account shared work experiences.

11:55 CET

## Participatory Practice ”Thinking/Feeling Through: From Equity to...”

**Joy Mariama Smith**, performance/installation/movement artist, activist, facilitator, curator, researcher, dramaturg and architectural designer (Netherlands)

Joy Mariama Smith facilitates a virtual participatory practice around equity. Smith will invite participants to think/feel through notions of equity as it relates to access, dis/comfort, empathy and agency. Participants are encouraged to reflect on their own positionality and how it can shift depending on the context.

Within the context of EDN can we practise equity and think/feel through actions that can support, transform and catalyse equitable practices within the field of dance and performance.

Resources:

<https://queercrisis.tumblr.com/>

<https://surj.org/resources/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics/>

12:05 CET

## EDN Research Publication Presentation “5 comments on responsibilities, methods and hopes”

**Alexandra Baybutt**, postdoctoral researcher, somatic movement educator and artist (UK)

Alexandra Baybutt will share comments about the new publication, her hopes for how it might be useful now and in the future, and how it reflects the voices and perspectives of EDN members and independent artists more widely.

12:15 CET

## Dance Film “CRNI TITO - Blaq Tito addressing the Parliament of Ghosts”

**Christian Guerematchi**, choreographer and performer (Netherlands)

CRNI TITO is an artistic interaction between the solo-performance NAM - Non Aligned Movement by Christian Guerematchi with the Parliament of Ghosts - the artistic work by Ibrahim Mahama in Tamale, Ghana. Both works talk about forgotten histories and their interaction acknowledges the contemporary echoes of the cultural connections from the time of the Non-Aligned Movement between Ghana and Yugoslavia - Nkrumah and Tito. The persona of the Blaq Tito is inspired by Guerematchi's childhood in Yugoslavia, where Tito was famous for his travels and collaborations with countless African countries. The story of the Non Aligned Movement is the story of Guerematchi's father who studied in Slovenia (back then Yugoslavia) and was part of an almost utopian migration story from the time of the Cold War. The Red Clay Studio art space where the Parliament of Ghosts is situated, creates the perfect backdrop with its forgotten airplanes and its artistic architecture. Blaq Tito - himself a ghost from a forgotten past addresses the parliament of memories with an epic monologue in which past and present as well as Africa and Europe become one.



European  
Dance Development  
Network

12:25 CET

## Artists' Perspectives "Equity as Motivation & Content"

**Alexandra Baybutt, Monica Gillette** (moderator), **Christian Guerematchi & Joy Mariama Smith**

Christian Guerematchi and Joy Mariama Smith will talk about their artistic practices and their relations to notions of equity in conversation with dramaturg Monica Gillette. They will be joined by researcher Alexandra Baybutt who has followed all of EDN's activities in 2024.

12:50 CET

## Ending Words

**Kristin de Groot**, independent consultant, fundraiser/writer and confidential counsellor (Netherlands)

12:55 CET

## Ending Moves

**Tobi Balogun**, multidisciplinary movement artist (Ireland)

13:00-13:30 CET

## Online Foyer

breakout rooms for informal exchange