

Participants:

- Serge Aimé Coulibaly (Choreographer Faso Danse Théâtre)
 - Rafaele Giovanola (Choreographer/ Director CocoonDance Company)
 - Reinald Endrass (Dramaturgy/ Concept/ Director CocoonDance Company)
- (Luisa Funk Documentation)

How can Africa give directions to contemporary dance?

Thumbnail Sketch

Fact: Perspective from europe: the people there (in africa) took everything as the truth. It has changed though, there is more self-confidence now.

Fact: Perspective europe: there is a big shift in Mali.

Experience: An 18-year old wanted to move only to abstract sounds instead of common beat-based music.
More people doing contemporary dance.
Increasing number of new creators are coming.

Fact: Now there is better access to the world. facebook. whatsapp. connection.

Issue: When african people come to europe, they diminish, they often get dance-jobs because of single aspects. once you get attached to a certain way of moving (an african way) it is hard to get away from it. loss of variety. reduction instead of expansion.

Wish: To include a big variety of african dancers and choreograhers in the dance scene in europe.

Perspectives of looking at contemporay dance



Inspiring: Alain Platel, who discusses with his dancers a lot. Sharing. Exchange. Building perspectives.

Truth: Contemporary art is a way of working, a way of thinking. it cannot be ex- or imported.

Concern: Openness to research and projects.

Question and vision for the future:

Show stories of bodies. What can you get from the energy today?
Go inside instead of outside. There is a lot of potential around.

Question:

How to get new food?
How to nourish the bodies,
to be wider, more creative?

Experience: Extreme effort to dance in a neoclassical way as an african dancer. And: is this interesting?

Experience: Imposing ready-made ideas does not show real openness. French culture was imposed for many years in Africa. Already in school children are confronted with many aspects of the french culture.

Question: Can african dancer/choreographer live from the art. yes some can!

Question: How can African contemporary dance be influencing europe?

Built residencies.
Always be aware of where you come from.
Connection to the roots is important.
You have something to share!
Create new things.
Allow people to be.

Experience: Important influence from Africa towards Europe.
Openness.
Speed.
Generosity.
Curiosity.

Fact: The world is somehow, 'closed' in the field of art.

Question: What matters? **Challenge:** Go to the basics.