

## **The voice of the silenced**

### **Urban Dance as an engine of change.**

"Hip Hop is the most successful and consequential pop culture that the global cultural industry has produced," write cultural scientist and sociologist Gabriele Klein and journalist Malte Friedrich in their book "Is this real?"

Raphael Moussa Hillebrand, winner of the German Dance Award 2020 and co-founder of the anti-colonial and power-critical Hip Hop party "Die Urbane", takes us into the world of Urban Dance. We look at the history and flow of this form of empowerment from the 1970s until today.

Young people are usually inspired by the acrobatics or coolness of Hip Hop. This makes it easier than usual for us to get into dancing together. We can use this exchange as a basis for social discourses on class, racism and gender. It is important to counteract pressures from above. Hip hop is a pressure from below.

How can we use this pressure together and channel it into productive paths? How can we, as dance makers and dance mediators, be inspired by this movement and its energy of resistance and self-empowerment? How can we engage our colonial past and present, the fact of the oppression and exploitation of people and classes, and on this basis, reflect on our privileges and our artistic work? How can the spirit of the liberation struggle be transferred to our own biographical, dance and dance-pedagogical contexts and passed on? How can the philosophy, the empowering potential and the moves of hip hop integrate into our repertoires and thereby deepen and enrich our artistic practices?

This workshop is aimed at dance practitioners, project leaders and mediators in the fields of dance and theatre. We will look at examples, learn a common choreography and reflect on the connections between Urban Dance and political self-empowerment.

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No previous experience necessary. Please bring comfortable (training) clothes.

As accompanying material to this workshop, we recommend "Is this real" by Gabriele Klein and Malte Friedrich, as well as the Arte four-part documentary "Rottet die Bestien aus" by Raoul Peck:

<https://www.arte.tv/de/videos/095727-001-A/rottet-die-bestien-aus-1-4/>