**Works**

**A place called Home (2024)**

As children we are a taught a concept of Home that is the four walls where we reside with our biological families. The space where our day starts and ends. Where our belongings have their individual resting spots and where we should find sanctuary. If that is all true, what happens to me as I leave that geographical place.

What is home to a population of people, that have left even their childhood country? Is home then just a memory we hold on to or do we then shift our perspectives and understanding of home?

In 2022, 23.8 million people with a migration background were living in Germany. For people on the run or people who have left their home country, there is a common need to define a new home. What is home if it is no longer the four walls of familiarity? "

Maybe Home is simply the pockets of life where we find love and understanding. Where we can truly be our authentic selves. Home doesn’t need to be perfect, but it makes us feel like the perfect puzzle piece as we fit in.

A place called Home" is a dance production that explores the idea of "home" and its political, social and emotional facets in terms of choreography and content. In a team consisting of five performers and an audio describer, who share the experience of migration, "A place called Home" combines movement, artistic audio description and music together intertwined with the biographies of the performers, to dances deeply into the emotional, multifaceted and physical experiences of home.

Credits

Concept, Choreography & performance: Monique Smith-McDowell

Co-Choreography & performance: Alessia Vinotto, Anam (Lukas) Lubisia, Isidora Soto Frias, Virendra Nishad

Artistic Audio description: Zwoisy Mears-Clarke

Audio description Dramaturgy: Fia/ Sophia Neises und Nicole Meyer

Audio descriptions advisory: Elyas Ahmadi und Jasmin Kahramen

Music: Mona Reichling

Light design: Joshua Paul

Costume: Mareike Alexander

Stage design: Leonard Schulz

Dramaturgy: Barbara Schmidt-Rohr und Su Jin Kim

Social Media: Kenneth Komlan Soussoukpo

Production management Sina Rundel und Uta Engel (LEAD Productions)

Production assistance: Leticia Rametsi

German Translation: Florence Freitag

Co-production with Kampnagel, Hamburg.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung.

**In the Black (2023)**

“Black means beautiful, Black means bold, Black means Courageous.

It means a past rooted in survival and the dreams and hopes of those who came before me.

Being black means at times being disregarded, belittled, hidden. Hidden in the Black, in the Black of my skin, in the Black of the space around me and in the Black of time. There is how I see myself and how society sees me. The two do not always align but I learnt to scream louder “in the Black” for the part of me that is misunderstood and sits anchored in the beauty of my black skin, my culture and my heritage.”

 Inspired by the experiences of choreographer Monique Smith-McDowell, "In the Black" is the account of a journey through life marked by negative connotations linked to skin colour. And the constant evolution of the need to justify, transform and shape one's place in society. At the same time, it is a search for inner beauty, a desire to rise above negativity. The voices on the outside are silenced and the community on the inside is listened to. We remember who we are and what we represent.

an animalistic body with a contemporary flair moves through space, depicting emotions felt by members of the black community as they grow and develop into adults. A journey through different stages of life - the Majestic Being, the Beast and the Butterfly - combines music, poetic audio description and choreography into a rollercoaster of emotions.

Credits

Choreography: Monique Smith-McDowell

Dance and Co-choreography: Anam (Lukas Lubisia)

Premiere performance: Samuel Govindin

Artistic audio description: Zwoisy Mears-Clarke

Audio description dramaturgy: Naomi Sanfo

Music: Mona M.

Light design: Joshua Paul

Dramaturgy: Regina Rossi

Co-production with K3 - [Zentrum für Choreographie](https://www.k3-hamburg.de/), Hamburg.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the Hamburgische Kulturstiftung.

**Residuals (2021)**

**RESIDUALS – Bugs, A Clown and The Prey** is a choreographic work by the Sticky Trace Company. In collaboration with students from the Contemporary Dance School, three solos were developed that explore different perspectives on "survival."

In a preceding research phase, the dancers engaged deeply with their personal understanding of survival, survival strategies, and defining moments. Together with the Sticky Trace Company, they found ways to translate these reflections into movement. The three solos were interwoven and utilise a focus on visualizing emotional states through formalized body movements based on the concept of embodiment.

Funded by DIEHL+RITTER/TANZPAKT RECONNECT

Performances: 20.08.2021 (EDEKA, Flensburg), 27.08. (DIE PUMPE, Kiel), 04.09. (JENFELD HAUS, Hamburg), 30.09. (NORDKELLEG, Rendsburg), 04.10. (Bad Oldesloe)

Credits  
Concept & Choreography: Uta Engel, Ane Iselin Borgeland, Monique Smith McDowell (Sticky Trace Company)  
Co-Choreography & Performance: Gloria Carobini, Lourdes Maldonado, Olivia Shoesmith  
Music: Johann Sundermeier

**FRENZY (2021)**

Frenzy is a choreographic work by Uta Engel and Sticky Trace Company artists Monique Smith-McDowell and Sina Rundel, created for the first-year students of the Contemporary Dance School Hamburg.

FRENZY explores the emotional state of frenzy—whether individual or collective—from both a physical and conceptual perspective.

Digital Work-in-Progress Premiere: March 26, 2021  
Official Premiere as part of the CDSH graduation projects: 18.03. 2021

Credits  
Artistic Direction: Uta Engel  
Concept & Choreography: Monique Smith-McDowell, Sina Rundel, and Uta Engel  
Dance & Co-Choreography: Ana Ruth, Salcido Roa, Aurora Neri, Christina Streich, Francesca Berno, Gloria Carobini, Henriette Charlotte Bethge, Isabela Abad, Isidora Soto Frías, Lourdes Maldonado Torres, Malina Pepita Oceane Freidig, Nuna Valls Bayot, Olivia Shoesmith, Paula Planas, Sahra Maria Abbassi