A PEBBLE
FALLING
ON A SILENT
LAKE
VAYA
ART OF HUMAN MOVEMENT

A PEBBLE FALLING ON A SILENT LAKE

»A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake« is a contemporary dance production of the company VAYA, asking the philosophical question about cause and effect. Three dancers explore vertical space to the music of Iskander Yerimbetov. They test bodily limitations and experiment with gravity.

Watching the performance on stage, the audience is invited to a visual and auditory discovery journey in which the gradual transformations have an almost hypnotising effect. The bodies of the performers interweave in a more and more complex way, seem to become one at times, intertwine in a cog-like fashion to dissolve again in the end. The Badische Zeitung newspaper reviewed the piece as follows: »There are cascades of acrobatic movement loops around gravity and centrifugal forces; as a spectator you watch yourself dizzy and cannot stop being astonished… Action and reaction combine into an exploding chain reaction inside an imaginary petri dish… incredibly powerful, present, exact and yet with great ease and suppleness, the three dance their endless cycle of encounters and contact in vertical space, they jump and throw themselves into ever new collective actions, in a flash they mutate into multiple-limbed beings and cephalopods, into a flying Laocoon group… There is a great perfection in the movements, a sense of being adapted to each other, particularly as the three are in frequent eye contact and thus form a living organism in constant movement.«

SYNOPSIS

The borders between individual and collective, cause and effect dissolve, become multilayered and intransparent. As in a kaleidoscope, new images are caused by smallest movements.

The dialogue with gravity has a meditative effect on the audience. Surrendering to the moment, being present, is the intention of »A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake«. Without stories we may arrive where we have always been: in the present.

Tina Halford	choreography, concept, dance
Raúl Martínez	choreographic assistance
Matilde Casini	dance, creation
Alexander de Vries	dance, creation
Miguel Arevalo	creation
Iskander Yerimbetov	musical composition
Steffen Melch	light design, stage design
Bianka Heck	costume
Eva Honings	dramaturgical assistance
Anastasia Kuznetsova	graphic design
Silke Pohl	texts
Marcela Centenero	production assistance
Christine Eyssel	press work
Simone Schuldis	photography

Vielarm-Wesen und Kopffüßler

„A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake“ heißt die aktuelle Tanzproduktion der Freiburger Kompanie Vaya. Im E-[illegible] kommt man dabei au[illegible] Staunen kaum herau[illegible]

Von Marion Klötzer

Die Bühne im fast ausverka[illegible] ger E-Werk-Saal präsentiert sich wie ein futuristisches Labor: Bis zur Decke mit weißen Tanzbodenbahnen ausgekleidet, in kaltes Licht gegossen, ein Spot von oben kreiert im Zentrum erst einen wachsenden Kreis, dann einen leuchtenden Ring (Bühnenbild, Lichtdesign: Steffen Melch). Zu bombastischem Elektrosound wirbelt ein Tänzer mit kraftvollen Breakdance-Figuren a[illegible] Kante entlang, Hose und Her[illegible] Ein starkes In[illegible] geförderte [illegible] Kompanie V[illegible] um Choreog[illegible] Falling on a[illegible] fällt in eine[illegible] matische Tit[illegible]

Energetisch [illegible] Stück dann leider erst mal ab[illegible] rückwärts gehen Alexander de Vries, Matilde Casini und Tina Halford mit viel Augenkontakt im Kreis, trudeln bei ihrem synchronen, selbstvergessenen Reigen um eine imaginäre Achse. Der junge Komponist Iskander Yerimbetov aus Kasachstan untermalt mit einem poetischen Klassik-Mix. Doch dann geht's mächtig los: Es sind Kaskaden von akrobatischen Bewegungsloops um Flieh- und Schwerkraft, man guckt sich schwindelig und kommt aus dem Staunen nicht mehr he[illegible] Armen als rasante Windmühlen, schaukeln abwechselnd an Händen und Füßen in zahnradartigen Verflechtungen. Fantastisch. Und dabei nicht ungefährlich.

Aktion und Reaktion verquicken sich so zu einer explodierenden Kettenreaktion in imaginärer Petri-Schale. Das Licht wechselt immer wieder von weiß zu blau oder rosa-gelb, markiert zusammen mit der Musik ganz unterschiedliche Stimmungen und Dynamiken. Dabei kreiert [illegible] Goethe-Institut geförderte [illegible] zauberhafte Berührung im [illegible] und werfen sich in immer neue [illegible] Aktionen, mutieren blitzschnell zum Vielarm-Wesen und Kopffüßler, zur fliegenden Laokoon-Gruppe. Standing Ovations für eine großartige Leistung und Choreografie.

“Standing Ovations für eine großartige Leistung und Choreographie.”

whole article in English click here

“There are cascades of acrobatic movement loops around gravity and centrifugal forces; as a spectator you watch yourself dizzy and cannot stop being astonished.”

Akrobatisch: Szene aus „A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake“

Badische Zeitung 30.05.23

“You cannot stop marvelling. What Tina Halford, Matilde Casini, and Alexander de Vries achieve in this hour is truly remarkable.”

Kultur Joker 01.07.23

Weite Kreise

„A peeble falling on a silent lake“ von Vaya Art of Human Movement im E-Werk

Alexander de Vries, Matilde Casini, Tina Halford (v.l.)
Foto: Simone Schuldis

Die Bühne des Freiburger E-Werks sieht ein bisschen so aus als endeten hier zahllose Hohlkehlen. Jeweils vier weiße Bahnen Tanzboden sind im großen Schwung von der Decke über den Boden geführt und farblich derart neutral sind auch die Kostüme in Tina Halfords Choreografie „A peeble falling on a silent lake“. Möglicherweise weil, laut Ankündigungstext, die Produktion völlig unerzählerisch sein soll. „Ohne Geschichten kommen wir vielleicht da an, wo wir ohnehin immer sind: Im Jetzt“, heißt es im Text.

Dabei ist der Titel [illegible] Abends von Va[illegible] man M[illegible]

reits letzten Sommer zu sehen. Nun ist das Trio ausgereift und beginnt damit, dass Tina Halford, Matilde Casini und Alexander de Vries den Lichtspot ablaufen, aus dem bald ein Kreis und dann ein Ring wird. Es wird immer drängender und schneller, das Licht verändert sich.

Und nur wenig später treffen sich die beiden Tänzerinnen und der Tänzer auf einer Linie, sie bewegen sich vor- und rückwärts. Zur Komposi[illegible] von Iksander Yeri[illegible] sen sie di[illegible]

[illegible] sind. Denn [illegible] falling on a silent [illegible] erscheint wie eine nicht enden wollende Abfolge von Bewegungen. Die Company kommt kaum zum Durchat-

men. Tina Halford [illegible] sichtlich von der C[illegible] provisation ausgegan[illegible] hat das Material überar[illegible] und verstetigt. Schier pausenlos bewegt sich diese Chore-

[illegible] sportlich und nicht minder akrobatisch. Denn da wirbelt Alexander de Vries Tina Halford an Arm und Fuß haltend in Bodennähe um sich herum. Und immer wieder sind sehr flüssige Hebefiguren, die wie ein Perpetuum mobile wirken, zu sehen. Immer wieder wird einer hochgestemmt und kommt kurz auf der Schulter zu ruhen bis es dann in eine andere Bewegung übergeht. Immer wieder sind Überschläge zu sehen, Räder. Man kann nur staunen. Was Tina Halford, Matilde Casini und Alexander de Vries zusammen in dieser guten Stunde erreichen, ist höchst bemerkenswert. Da ist eine große Perfektion der Figuren, ein [illegible]

[illegible] Ende fügt sich wieder alles so wie es am Anfang war. Das Publikum aber ist um eine Seherfahrung reicher.

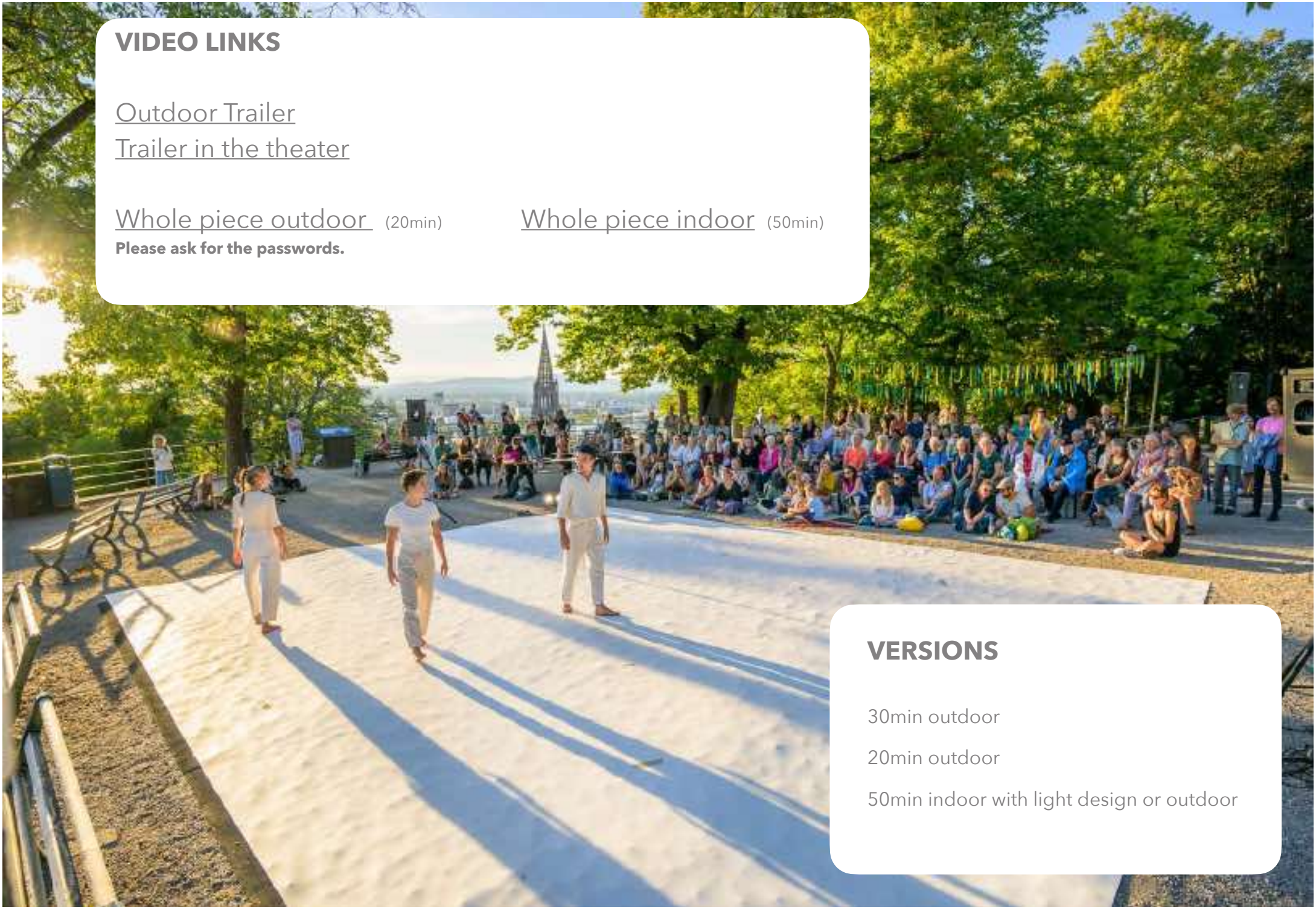
Annette Hoffmann

“It is amazing what variations of lifting figures are even possible.”

“Fantastic and not without danger.”

PERFORMANCES

Sep. 2022	work-in-progress NEXO Festival Freiburg, Germany (6 performances)
26.05.23	Premiere in E-WERK, Freiburg, Germany
27.05.23	E-WERK, Freiburg, Germany
28.05.23	E-WERK, Freiburg, Germany
08.10.23	International Dance Festival To the Møn, Denmark
13.04.23	International Festival City of Wings Ypres, Belgium
14.04.23	International Festival City of Wings Ypres, Belgium
28.06.24	E-WERK, Freiburg, Germany
29.06.24	E-WERK, Freiburg, Germany
09.07. - 28.07.24	36 performances at Festival Kleines Fest im großen Garten, Hannover, Germany
19.10.24	2x Guadalajara hosted by the Goethe Institut, Mexico
23.10.24	Auditorio Civico Municipal Fray I. Toneck, Guaymas, Mexico
29.10.24	Palac. de Bellas Artes, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
05.11.24	Palacio Nacional de la Cultura, Guatemala City, hosted by the Goethe Institut, Guatemala
09.11.24	FIA - Festival International de las Artes
13.11.24	Teatro Ruben Dario, Managua, hosted by the German Embassy, Nicaragua
16.11.24	Festival International de las Artes Vivas Loja,
17.11.24	Festival International de las Artes Vivas Loja, hosted by the German Embassy, Ecuador
25.09.26	Extract at Südufer Freiburg, Germany
07.11.26	Performance hosted by Con Dance Bamberg, Germany



VIDEO LINKS

Outdoor Trailer
Trailer in the theater

Whole piece outdoor (20min)
Please ask for the passwords.

Whole piece indoor (50min)

VERSIONS

30min outdoor

20min outdoor

50min indoor with light design or outdoor

VAYA Art of Human Movement

VAYA Art of Human Movement is an independent contemporary dance company directed by Tina Halford. The company was founded in 2017 and invites other artists for specific projects.

The company produces, creates and tours their own pieces for theatres and outdoor festivals. Furthermore, they give workshops for amateurs and professional dancers and are involved in the production of cultural events such as the NEXO festival (Freiburg). VAYA is based in Freiburg with close ties to Central America. For instance, Tina Halford was invited by the National Company El Salvador as guest choreographer and to creation residencies in Guatemala by the Goethe Institute. In 2024, the company received support from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the Goethe-Institut for an international tour with the production “A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake.” The tour spanned Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Nicaragua.

It is one of the company’s key objectives, to also reach out to a younger and inexperienced audience. VAYA’s choreographies are innovative and accessible and understandable at the same time. They create vivid images which grip the audience emotionally.

Together with choreographer Nadine Gerspacher, Tina Halford has created Nexo e.V. The association aims at developing structures and a good framework for creating and touring dance pieces with national and international visibility, for offering workshops for professional and amateur dancers, and for organising dance events, also for other choreographers and dancers. Such events are meant to be performed not only on stages and in theatres but also in alternative and public places as well as in institutions, residences and schools.

VAYA
ART OF HUMAN MOVEMENT

TINA HALFORD – artistic director VAYA | concept | choreography | dance

Tina Halford (*1989, Germany) is the artistic director of the company VAYA, with which she produces her own works and tours internationally. In recent years, she has also developed various cultural projects in Central America that have created a bridge of exchange between Europe and Latin America.She completed her studies at the dance school Varium in Barcelona (graduating in 2010) and at the Amsterdam University of the Arts in the Netherlands (graduating in 2014). Since then, she has worked both as a choreographer of her own pieces and as a dancer and performer with renowned companies and choreographers worldwide, including Guy Nader/Maria Campos, Anton Lachky (The Slovaks), Cia Vero Cendoya, Quan Bui Ngoc (Ballet B de la C), among others.Together with choreographer Nadine Gerspacher, she also holds the artistic direction of the NEXO Festival.

RAÚL MARTÍNEZ – choreographic assistance

Raúl Martínez (*1987, El Salvador) completed his studies at Taller Nacional de Danza - Conservatorio El Barco in Costa Rica and graduated as a dancer, performer, and choreographer in 2009. He is the founder of the dance festivals "La Machine" in Costa Rica and "Nómada" in El Salvador and the company VAYA. As a dancer he has worked in many projects such as the National Company of Costa Rica, the ADN Dialect Company in Switzerland. Since 2014 he has been active as a choreographer. He produces his own pieces in Germany and Costa Rica, for which he has received creative residencies in Spain (L´Struch Le petit Mon de Sabadell), Brazil (Primera Residencia Nucleo Vila Dança, Salvador de Bahia), Mexico and Russia (Zil Cultural Center). He has won several awards, including the “Best Dancer of the Year” award from the Costa Rican Cultural Office in 2011.

ISKANDER YERIMBETOV – musical composition | sound design

Iskander Yerimbetov (*1987, Kasachstan/Russland) lives in Moscow. He is musician and composer, plays several instruments, and creates sound designs. Yerimbetov composes music for video, film and dance productions. He also produces records for several Indie bands in Russia. Tina Halford and Raúl Martinez met Iskander Yerimbetov during a project in Moscow where they were guest choreographers. The collaboration with Iskander Yerimbetov for »A Pebble Falling on a Silent Lake« was financed by the Goethe Institute.

MATILDE CASINI – dance | creation

Matilde Casini (*1998, Italy) studied at the Liceu Coreútico Niccoli Palli di Livorno in Italy. She has worked there with the company Le Crisalidi under the artistic direction of Giorgia Macchi. 2018-2019 she studied contemporary dance at the Contemporary Dance School in Copenhagen. 2019-2021 participated in the post-graduation programm Fre3Bodies in Barcelona and worked there with choreographers like Nadine Gerspacher, Nicolás Ricchini, Jos Baker, Jorge Crecis and Marion Castaillet. Since 2021 she has been a dancer in the company VAYA.

ALEXANDER DE VRIES – dance | creation

Alexander de Vries (*1994, Thailand) is half Italian and half Dutch, but was born and raised in Bangkok, Thailand. He attended Codarts University, where he studied ballet, modern and contemporary techniques in the Netherlands. Additionally, he began developing his own taste as a creator, teacher, and performer, pursuing interest in improvisation, conceptual acrobatics, and contact work. The Codarts studies culminated in an internship at Tanz Mainz Staatstheater in Germany, working with GNMC, Rui Horta, Koen Augustijnen and Rosalba Torres Guerrero. After graduating, Alexander worked for freelance artists in Europe and began creating his own pieces while collaborating with Darling Buds, a multicultural, multidisciplinary arts collective. He is currently engaged in multiple ongoing pieces with Serena Malacco of Cie. Jukebox, Guy Nader and Maria Campos of GNMC, and the company VAYA of Tina Halford.

STEFFEN MELCH – stage design | light design (indoor version)

Steffen Melch (*1994, Deutschland) began to discover his calling as light jockey for electronic music. Through his training as specialist for event engineering Melch developed a passion for light design in dance and music. During his training at E-Werk in Freiburg Steffen Melch began to create and produce light designs for contemporary dance. He has been freelancing ever since within and beyond the dance scene. Beyond the realisation of technical planning, he aims at multimedia concepts for the production of contemporary art.

www.vayamovement.com

A coproduction with the E-WERK Freiburg.
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