



Open Call “~~D~~ARKMATTER”

Tanz im August calls for workshop participants

Cherish Menzo is looking for participants for the Distorted Rap Choir, part of her work “~~D~~ARKMATTER” (inviting people from the African diaspora, 16+)

Performance artist Cherish Menzo works with electronic music, techniques from hip-hop music (‘chopped and screwed’) and rap.

For her new production “~~D~~ARKMATTER” she explores the use of movement and voice, as a tool to look more closely at how we perceive ourselves and others.

She looks at questions of the African diaspora and possible futures, apart from common western philosophy around ‘the human’.

If you also have affinity with these topics, then make sure to apply to be part of the Distorted Rap Choir, a project within the performance “~~D~~ARKMATTER”.

About Cherish and the Distorted Rap Choir

Cherish is a performance artist, based in Amsterdam and Brussels.

In her artistic work she is interested in the transformation of the body on stage and in the ‘embodiment’ of different physical images, while questioning the apparent norm.

She creates universes in which the black body stands central, floating between the nostalgia of the 90s and 2000s (hip-hop, rap lyrics, sci-fi, manga) and speculative futures to give shape and materialize uncanny, enigmatic forms and realities.

In “~~D~~ARKMATTER”, Cherish searches for strategies and ways to transform the body and bring physicality to matter. For this she researches dark matter, Afrofuturism and Post-humanism, and also looks at the frictions these concepts bring along.

She uses the ‘chopped and screwed’ methodology to shape a movement language specific to the “~~D~~ARKMATTER” universe.

This remixing technique 'chopped and screwed' originated in hip-hop music, slowing down the tempo considerably and creating rhythm changes. The song gets a new 'chopped' and 'screwed' version through scratch effects, pauses, repeats, remixes, and skipping beats. Cherish applies these tools and electronic music to movement, voice, and the body. Well-recognised sounds, images, and movements are sampled and shaken up, slowed down, and alienated on stage.

Having the desire to bring multiple voices to the audience, Cherish works with the Distorted Rap Choir: a locally formed choir of non-professional participants.

During two labo-workshop days you will get to know the 'chopped and screwed' methodology and learn a rap anthem by Cherish Menzo and vocal coach Daniel Bonsu.

At the end of two days the rap anthem will be audio recorded.

On the one hand, the audio recording will be integrated in the soundscape of the performance.

On the other hand, the recording and your picture will also be part of the website www.distortedrapchoir.com, that is visible for the audience of the performance "DARKMATTER" through a QR code in the evening program.

In each city a new locally formed Distorted Rap Choir of non-professionals is formed. Each recording of the rap anthem by the Distorted Rap Choir joins the previous ones. By layering the different local Distorted Rap Choir recordings the choir grows in number of voices during the tour.

Profile of the Distorted Rap Choir participants

As a part of the search of the project "DARKMATTER", the team looks into opening an ongoing dialogue about representation of the Black body in the performing arts with the local participants of the Distorted Rap Choirs.

Therefore we invite a variety of people from the African diaspora with different backgrounds and ages (16+) who are interested in joining the search for other stories and embodiments. We highly encourage for people without an artistic profession or background to apply.

When and where?

The labo-workshop days take place on:

21.8., 18:00–22:00 (HAU3, Houseclub, Tempelhofer Ufer 10, 10963 Berlin)

22.8., 19:30–22:00 (HAU3, Houseclub, Tempelhofer Ufer 10, 10963 Berlin)



The common language will be English.

We kindly ask you to be present on both indicated dates and times, as this is a requirement to participate.

Remuneration

For the recording of the rap anthem and the use of it in the performance and on the website you receive a lump sum of 100 EUR.

We provide snacks and water on both labo-workshop days.

You will receive two invitations for the "DARKMATTER" performances that take place at HAU2 (Hebbel am Ufer) on 24.-26.8., 9pm.

How to apply?

You can apply until the **9 July** by sending your name, age, a picture of yourself and a few sentences about your motivation to participate by mail to opencall@tanzimaugust.de.

We will get back to you the 16 July.

"DARKMATTER" is produced by GRIP and Frascati and in Berlin presented by Tanz im August. More info on Cherish Menzo can be found on <https://www.grip.house/maker/cherish-menzo/> + www.frascatiproducties.nl/Cherish-Menzo. info on the previous local Distorted Rap Choirs: www.distortedrapchoir.com