

1GUH WATCH

by DYNAMIC LEGENDS, MISS ROSE, DJ PAPPI, eye juice,
TAMARA ALEGRE & GUESTS

CREATION 2024 — DURATION : 45 MIN + after vibes.



1GUH WATCH IS A CHOREOGRAPHIC GESTURE THAT INVITES DANCEHALL INTO THE CONTEMPORARY DANCE SPACE.

BY PROPOSING AND FACILITATING JAMAICAN DANCERS A STAGE FOR SPONTANEITY, FOCUS IS PLACED NOT ONLY IN DANCEHALL'S RICH, DETAILED, AND EXTENSIVE CHOREOGRAPHIC VOCABULARY BUT EVEN MORE SO ON ITS PLAYFULNESS. ACTING AND REACTING OFF OF EACH OTHER, THE WORK EXPLORES WHAT CAN UNFOLD WITHIN THE DANCERS IMPROMPTU EMBODIED LANGUAGE AS WELL AS DETAILED CRAFTED CHOREOGRAPHIC WORK ON MUSICALITY AND LYRICS. THIS POSITIONING OF DANCEHALL WITHIN A CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE SPACE BRINGS FORTH THEMES OF AUTHENTICITY, COLLECTIVITY, CONTEMPORANEITY AND INSTITUTIONALITY. THROUGH THE DISCREPANCIES THAT ARISE FROM THIS GESTURE, THE INTENTION IS TO PRESENT DANCEHALL IN ITS RAW ESSENCE THROUGH ITS CREATORS AND HIGHLIGHT THE POWERFUL CREATIVITY, UNITY AND VIBES THAT CHARACTERISE THE EVERYDAY EMOTIONS, STRUGGLES, AND TRIUMPHS WITHIN DANCEHALL EXPRESSION.

DEPARTING FROM THIS PROPOSAL BY SWITZERLAND-BASED SPANISH CHOREOGRAPHER TAMARA ALEGRE, A TEAM OF CO-CREATION IS FORMED WITH JAMAICAN DANCE ARTISTS DYNAMIC LEGENDS, MISS ROSE, SHANKY EQUANOXX, DJ PAPPI AND GUESTS, ALONG WITH FINNISH PHOTOGRAPHER EYE JUICE.

THE WORK REFLECTS STRUCTURALLY ON HOW SUCH A PROJECT CAN MATERIALISE, WITH WHO AND FOR WHO, AS WELL AS ON TOPICS SUCH AS THE PLACE OF BLACK SOCIAL DANCES IN WHITE WESTERN INSTITUTIONS, THE PROBLEMATICS OF CREATING FROM A PRIVILEGED POSITION WITH A CULTURE THAT COMES FROM THE MARGINS AND GHETTO OF JAMAICA, THE INHERENT DIVISIONS BETWEEN WHAT IS CONSIDERED ART OR CULTURE AND THE EDUCATIONAL ASPECT AND OUTREACH OF DANCEHALL.

SPECIFICITIES

The show has an open format that ensures that each show will be unique and, secondly, allows Jamaican dancers on tour or based in Europe to easily join in as guests. The work will be presented concurrently with dance workshops in each location, allowing for local and international dancehall community building. For this reason, the show is best scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, making it more accessible for people to attend the workshops during the day.

CONTEXT

Dancehall, originating from Jamaica's underprivileged neighborhoods, is much more than just a dance or musical genre. It embodies a culture, a way of life, and a social movement. As Stanley Niaah highlights, it is a space of expression, a mirror of the struggles and victories of marginalized communities. By nature, Dancehall is anti-colonial and anti-class, offering liberation from the hardships faced by subordinated Jamaicans. It reflects the emotions and resistance of a community on the fringes of the elites, while also serving as an economic tool and a means of identity recognition.

CREDITS

Concept & proposal: Tamara Alegre

Choreography : Dynamic Legends, Shanky Equanoxx, Miss Rose, eye juice, Tamara Alegre

Dance: Dynamic Legends, Miss Rose and guests

Music: Dj Pappi

Visuals and assistance: eye juice

External eye: Jeremy Need

Production: Dylan Huido / FUEGO CONTIGO

Co-production: Arsenic, Lausanne, Points communs – Nouvelle Scène nationale de Cergy-Pontoise / Val d'Oise, Cergy.

Partners: Loterie Romande, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, SSA, Pro Helvetia, SIS

WORKSHOPS

Organising workshops before the performances not only draws in both Dancehall enthusiasts and a broader audience, but it also encourages participants to stay and engage in the final vibes after the show. Having Dancehall enthusiasts in the audience contributes to a different, more vibrant atmosphere, infusing the performance with an energy that elevates the entire experience.

Tamara Alegre is committed to making the creative process more accessible through these workshops, fostering a deeper connection to the work and expanding its reach to a wider audience.



ARTIST TALK

Tamara Alegre, DL, Miss Rose, and eye juice are keen to open discussions around the intersection of Dancehall and contemporary dance. These conversations can delve into key themes from the project, including the creative process, the dynamics of cultural appropriation, and the challenges of bringing social dances into contemporary dance spaces. The talks can explore the broader context of black social dances within predominantly white, Western institutions, reflecting on how art from marginalised communities can be represented authentically without losing its essence. These discussions aim to create a platform for critical engagement with questions surrounding the boundaries between art, culture, and education in Dancehall.



TOUR DATES

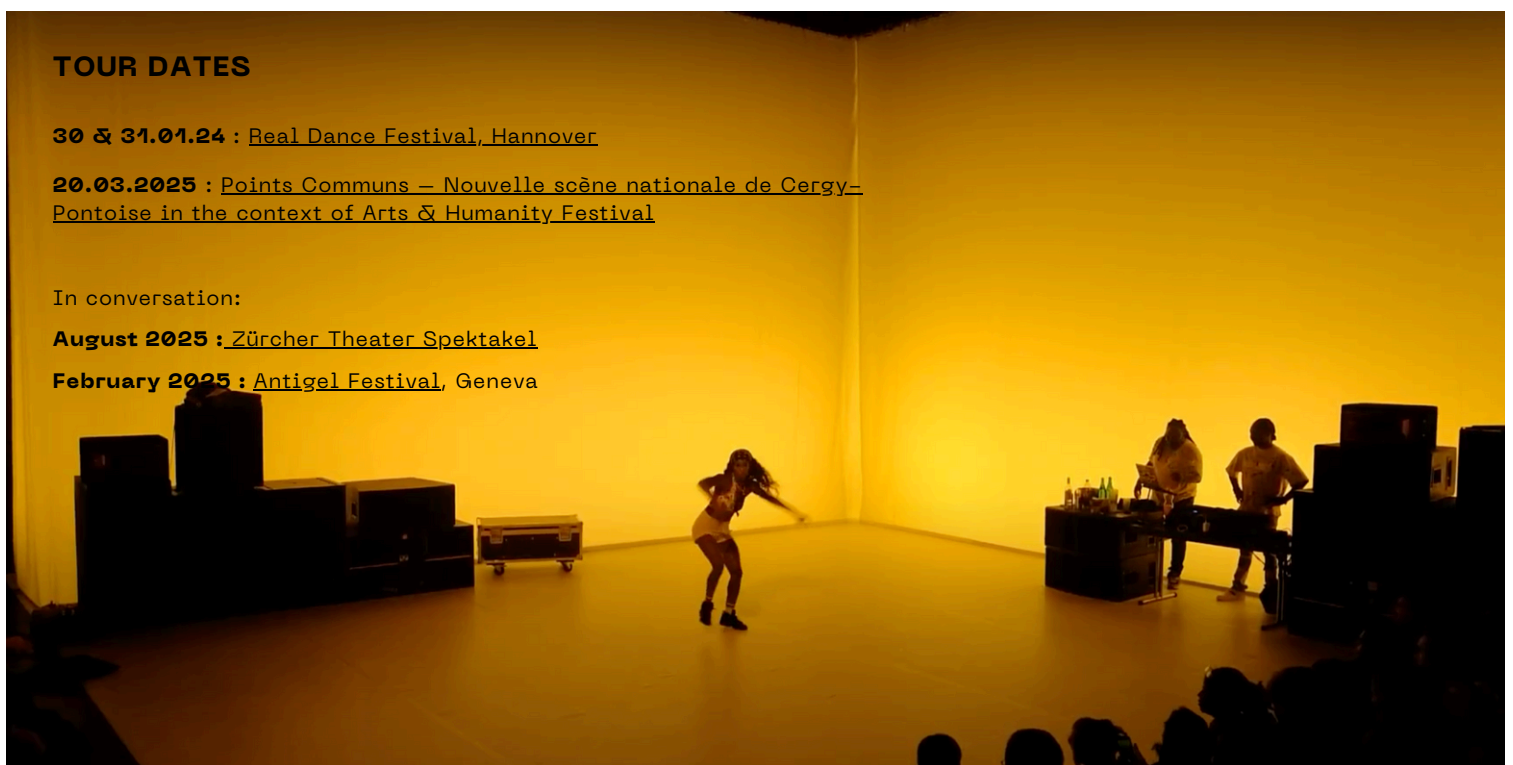
30 & 31.01.24 : Real Dance Festival, Hannover

20.03.2025 : Points Communs – Nouvelle scène nationale de Cergy–Pontoise in the context of Arts & Humanity Festival

In conversation:

August 2025 : Zürcher Theater Spektakel

February 2025 : Antigel Festival, Geneva



BIOGRAPHIES

DYNAMIC LEGENDS / D-Legends (Dynamic Legends) is a dance crew that started in 2019 and has three members: Fancy, Devy and Blazer. Our main style of dance, Dancehall, is a part of our culture and our main style of dance.

Members of the group have had over 16 years of professional experience in the industry. We have taught many Dancehall workshops across North America, Europe and have been on tour in Colombia. We have performed in music videos such as Buju Banton's video, Trust, and many more. D- Legends is a unique Dancehall crew whose style, dance moves and choreography is considered different from the norm. We have created popular steps such as Twitch and Guzu bounce, krutch with many more in our catalog. We have a saying, "First come the passion, and then we show our talent."

MISS ROSE / Miss Rose is a dancer from London who has spent the last 9 years perfecting her art of Dancehall. Originally from a Caribbean background, she has danced to Dancehall rhythms since the age of 5. Her goal is to unify the community, bring more understanding of Dancehall and preserve this culture. She has performed on numerous stages, festivals and carnivals such as Indigo Greenwich, Manchester Carnival and others, collaborating with artists such as Skillibeng, Stormzy, Chi Ching Ching, La Lee, Popcaan and Shenseea among others.

UNRULY PYROTECH / Born in Constant Spring, located in Kingston, Jamaica, Unruly was forced to migrate to the US at the age of five. Growing up in a Caribbean household and community, reggae and dancehall culture have always been an integral part of his life due to their extreme prevalence in the NYC area. He was constantly surrounded by kids who danced, and it began to capture his interest. Unruly began partying around the age of 16, where he started to learn about the dancehall street culture. Before his current crew PyroTechs, Unruly was a part of a few previous dance groups such as Divine Dancers and DIVETTA.

At the age of 21, while dropping out of school, Unruly lost his last full-time job and decided to completely pursue his dream of being a professional dancer. Since then, he has been regularly teaching dancehall workshops both locally and internationally. His classes are fun and high energy, while highly informative and empowering. He's also worked with artists such as Cardi B, Hood Celebrityyy, Mr. Vegas, Kranium, and Rotimi.

eye juice / Lumi Pulkkinen is a Finnish photographer and dancehall dancer with a background in cultural analysis and visual communication. Their academic thought is primarily grounded in critical theory, phenomenology and embodiment. In practice, they explore dance and dancehall through creative and conceptual projects, often working with media such as photography, videography, graphic design and more. Pulkkinen is recognized in the international dancehall community under the pseudonym 'eye juice' as an enthusiastic student of Jamaican culture and as the filmmaker behind FREE FREE AT LAST (2023), an experimental documentary highlighting the spiritual embodiment of street dancers and artists in Jamaica.

DJ PAPPY / Dj Pappi is a Selecta from Kingston Jamaica and now living in Paris in France, he is the CEO and founder of Young Vybz Sound that based in Jamaica and France and America, he is in the entertainment industry for more than a decade now and he was a dancer before he became a dj.

ROLLX / Rasheed Whyte (also known as Rollx) was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, is a professional Dancehall Dancer and Choreographer, leader of the world famous Hectic Dymondz formed in 2012. Self-taught dancer, Rollx started training during his high school years, inspired by the popular dancehall music videos of that time. Since 2012 the group Hectic Dymondz has gained popularity locally and internationally. Their work was featured in many music videos of artists like Wayne Wonder, Spice, Tia, Fredo, Popcaan, Tory Lanes, Yemi Alade, RDX, Voicemail, Razorb, Konshens, JahCure, Mya, Iaa lee, Buju banton & Victoria Monet.

TAMARA ALEGRE / Tamara works in the field of dance and choreography. Born in Gran Canaria, she studied European Business and Psychology and worked as an underground music curator, DJ and tour manager until 2016. In 2018, she completed a master's degree in choreography at DOCH, Stockholm, and presented FIEBRE, co-signed since 2019 with Lydia Ö Diakité, Marie Ursin, Nunu Flashdem and Célia Lutangu. The work has been presented in several venues in Europe and won the Young Choreographer's Award in 2021. Their research revolves around sensual embodiments, fictions of sexuality/sexual organs and liminal physical states as choreographic tools. Her work is embodied and charged with resistance, intensity, self-pleasure and the power of dancing together.

Tamara has a growing passion for Dancehall and questions how to position herself as a white person with access to black culture, as well as the navigation between her work and Dancehall.

She is currently resident artist at the Arsenic, Lausanne, where they has created and presented NX FUIMO with Elie Autin, Marga Alfeirão and Cuba en 2022.

Recently, she has been concentrating on teaching, notably at La Manufacture, Lausanne, and Impulstanz, Vienna, while organising different types of workshops in collaboration with her collaborators, associations such as Rainbow Spot and CHO in Lausanne, and also with Jamaican artists.

The combination of working as a dancer, creating works, running workshops and taking part in collaborative practices is essential to her.