

Choreography:
Hannah Ma

Concept:
Hannah Ma, Sebastian M. Purfürst

Production:
Hannah Ma

Production Assistance:
Dirk Seifert, Lena Naske

Digital Development, Music, Photos, and Videart:
Sebastian M. Purfürst

LEM Studios Berlin

Costume:
Eli Bleffert, Hannah Ma

Make Up and Hair:
Emanuelle Simone

Lighting Design:
Nico Tremblay, Hannah Ma, Sebastian M. Purfürst

Dramaturgy:
Hannah Ma, Marc-Bernhard Gleißner, Sebastian M. Purfürst

Choreographic Assistance, Rehearsal Director:
Christin Reinartz, Sergio Mel

Translation: Lena Naske

Videos:
Sebastian M. Purfürst, Alexander Outh, Delmar Mavignier

Graphic Design:
Annick Kieffer, Sara Giubelli, Simão Palanta

Technical Services:
Tharston Müller, TM Eventservice

Co-Creation:
Ritsuko Matsuoka, Sergio Mel, Maher Abdul Moaty, Christin Reinartz, Valentina Zappa

Performance:
Hannah Ma, Ritsuko Matsuoka, Sergio Mel, Maher Abdul Moaty, Sebastian M. Purfürst, Christin Reinartz, Valentina Zappa

Production:
The People United (LUX), hannahma dance, Tuffa Time (LUX, GER)

Coproduction:
Theatre National du Luxembourg (LUX)

With the support of:
Trois C-L Centre de Création Chorégraphique Luxembourgais, Ministry of Culture Rheinland-Phosphorite, Arts Foundation Sparkasse Trier, Uferstudios Berlin, Tschafarik Trier, UFR Arts & Culture University of Johannesburg, Shibak Sharqi, Uferstudios

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Tour 2021:
Uferstudios Berlin (GER), August 20th | 19h - 22nd and 23rd | Europäische Kunstakademie Trier (GER), November 2021 (dates to be defined) Jomilal Festival, Durban (ZA), September 3rd

How do we define the "non-reproducible magical soul", the aura, the prehistoric part in every individual, the meaning of love in this modern, digitalized and globalized society? How can we deal with our hidden desires and our deepest fears in times of a pandemic and in the isolation of confinement? ONDA is an emotional road trip into the abysses of ourselves and the abysses of the oceans that remain assilent witnesses of global colonial structures. ONDA explores the relationships of the performers since their collective trip to South Africa back in 2019 until today and how they deal with confinement and the cold, technical world. The team asks itself how they can become and build an identity in the stress field of the digital and analog world by analyzing the mythology and hybridity of mermaids in our contemporary narratives.

ONDA ISLANDS 2021
ONDA | live performance
ONDA | video and sound installation with performers
ONDA | music album
ONDA | digital performance

HANNAH MA | THE PEOPLE UNITED

ONDA INTO THE UNKNOWN

DANCE PERFORMANCE | VIDEO | SOUND INSTALLATION

The artistic research focuses on elements of dance, physical acting, audiovisual compositions and immersive digital arts which are woven into transmedia storytelling – experienced through live performances, installations, online presentations and new media formats.

UFERSTUDIOS BERLIN
August 20th | 19h



"Hinter der Maske verbirgt sich ein ungezügelter Geist."



Christin Reinartz | GERMANY
works with Hannah Ma Dance since 2016



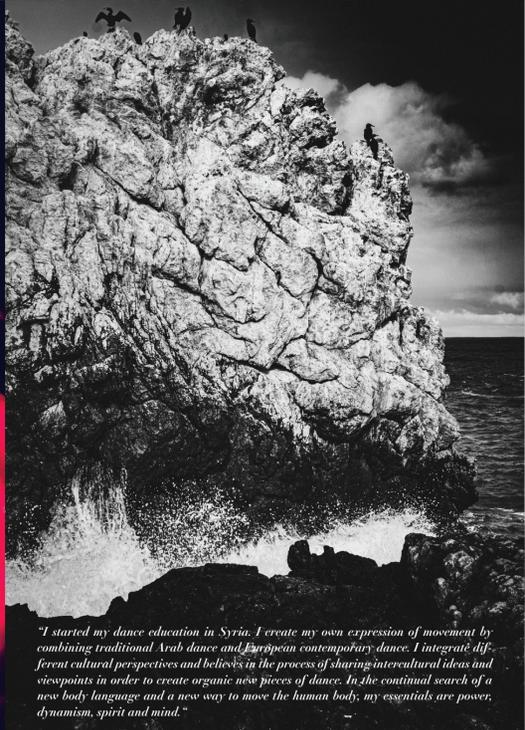
"Be true to myself, to my body, to my soul. How much do we manage to remain authentic while everything around us is always changing?" Beside dancing I constantly drawing and both influence each other. With paper and pen it is the same process I do with my body, constantly drawing in space and creating new shapes."



Valentina Zappa | ITALY
works with Hannah Ma Dance since 2017



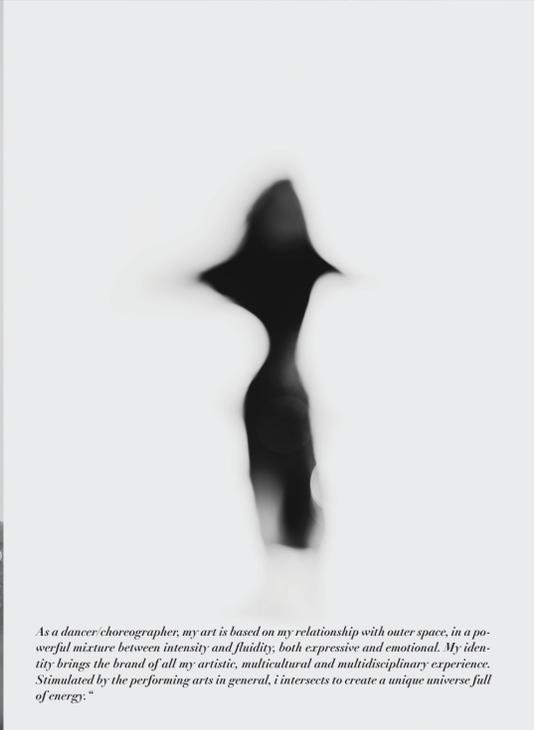
Maher Abdul Moaty | SYRIA
works with Hannah Ma Dance since 2015



"I started my dance education in Syria. I create my own expression of movement by combining traditional Arab dance and European contemporary dance. I integrate different cultural perspectives and beliefs in the process of sharing intercultural ideas and viewpoints in order to create organic new pieces of dance. In the continual search of a new body language and a new way to move the human body, my essentials are power, dynamism, spirit and mind."



Sergio Mel | BRAZIL
works with Hannah Ma Dance since 2016



"As a dancer/choreographer, my art is based on my relationship with outer space, in a powerful mixture between intensity and fluidity, both expressive and emotional. My identity brings the brand of all my artistic, multicultural and multidisciplinary experience. Stimulated by the performing arts in general, i intersects to create a unique universe full of energy."



"For me it's a big adventure to know who I am. When I discover another side of me, I feel I did a big step for my life. Sometimes I discover suddenly, sometimes after 10 years. For me dancing is important for these processes as well as to share part of myself to all That's why I am here. And I am dancing."



Ritsuko Matsuoka | JAPAN
works with Hannah Ma Dance since 2019



UFERSTUDIOS BERLIN
August 20th | 19h

www.uferstudios.com
Tickets: Reservix.de



UFER_STUDIOS

ONDA INTO THE UNKNOWN

"ONDA" is a research, performance and art production space curiously discussing the relationship of humans and nature against the background of anthropocentrism

ONDA is an artistic collaboration between Hannah Ma (Hanna Ma Dance), Sebastian M. Purfürst (LE.M-Studios, Berlin) and their teams

WELCOME TO THE OPEN WATERS TRACKLIST

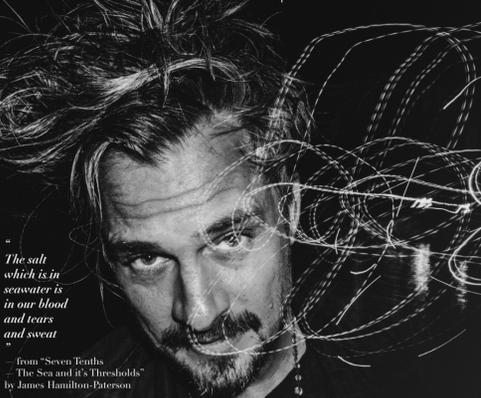
Voices and body percussions are musical instruments we all can play to a certain degree. With great joy we captured many sonic fragments during our rehearsals – from beatboxing to whale like singing to choir cluster chords that got lost in the reverberations of our rehearsal space almost like in a church. Especially breathing and the intimacy of voices can create a wonderful atmosphere that brings back a certain human element into a composition no digital instrument can. Encouraged by our experiments we created together a sample kit based on our voices and body sounds that were later digitally mangled and manipulated. These rather otherworldly and strange results fitted our idea of the "unknown" almost like some field recordings directly from the uncanny valley twenty thousand leagues under the seas.

SMP

LIST OF BOOKS WE WORKED WITH:

- Seven-Tenths: The Sea and its Thresholds by James Hamilton-Paterson
- "Homo Deus"
- Yuval Noah Harari
- "Das Kunstwerk im Zeitalter seiner technischen Reproduzierbarkeit"
- Walter Benjamin
- "Alles fühlt: Mensch, Natur und die Revolution der Lebenswissenschaften"
- Andreas Weber
- "Synecrismy"
- C. G. Jung
- "Liebe, Tod und Wasserfrau: Mythen des Weiblichen in der Literatur"
- Anna Maria Study
- "POLITICS OF INTIMACY: Rethinking the End-Of-Life Controversy,"
- Anna Durkova
- "Todesarten"
- Byung-Chul Han
- "Interspecies Politics"
- Raf Yonait
- "Bodies of Evidence"
- Gurue Ertan, Sandra Voeth (eds.)

Sebastian M. Purfürst | GERMANY



The salt which is in seawater is in our blood and sweat

from "Seven-Tenths: The Sea and its Thresholds" by James Hamilton-Paterson

Sebastian M. Purfürst, born in 1976, is an artist for audiovisual media. The main focus of his work is the design of immersive rooms for video, music and sound. Since completing his Master's degree (2005, at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, EMW Potsdam, and the Filmuniversität Babelsberg Potsdam) he has been involved as a freelance artist in various national and international theatre productions, live performances, exhibitions and commercial productions, incl. in Athens, Berlin, Cologne, London, Luxembourg, Mainz, Beijing, Shanghai and Zurich. In 2017 the artistic cooperation with Hannah Ma Dance started with SWAN where his music and visuals became key element of the performance. The piece was followed up by Wanderer (2018) and Onda (2021). The team

presented their work to an international audience in Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and South Africa. Many projects are carried out by his own label, LE.M Studios founded 2002, often in cooperation with other artists or commissioned by agencies. Since 2002, he has worked regularly as a freelance lecturer at design and art schools, incl. at the Design Akademie Berlin, BTK Art & Design Berlin, the UDK University of the Arts Berlin, the Filmuniversität Babelsberg Potsdam, and the Royal College of Art in London. Sebastian M. Purfürst also produces music and videos for the independent Berlin project SONICNOCLASM.

lem-studios.com

My work for ONDA started in 2018 without knowing it at the time. In retrospect many artistic bits and pieces of ONDA were washed ashore and I just kept collecting them – without planning it. I had already started to work on something that would later turn into the audiovisual world of ONDA.

I was travelling the western cape of South Africa after our "Wanderer" performance at the National Art Festival. I had spontaneously decided to stay for the rest of my summer holidays and see more of the country and especially its breathtaking ocean and its wonderful coastal scenery. I was fully equipped with my artistic tools - cameras and various lenses, my laptop, my guitar and two wonderful books: "Seven-Tenths: The Sea and its Thresholds" by James Hamilton-Paterson and "The Invention of Nature" by Andrea Wulf which would be a great inspiration for my upcoming project. The experience of unpredictable natural forces is unique around Cape Point where the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the warmer waters of the Indian Ocean meet: an endless dark and blue sea with creature's that dream of the unknown are made of.

I spent many hours on the shorelines trying to capture the force of crashing waves which grew more and more intense, since the African summer was arriving in August. Months later, after my return to Europe, Hannah Ma sent me a project memo with the working title ONDA - which is Italian for "wave". We started playing around with ideas, musical sketches and plans to return to South Africa for a first workshop in cooperation with the University of Johannesburg.

It seems almost like irony of fate that less than a year later everybody was talking about a wave – a pandemic wave, like an apocalypse in slow motion, hitting the countries of this world. And suddenly all of us were swallowed by this wave. Everything became more and more muted, like sinking into the depths of an ocean. I always liked the picture of deep waters, symbolizing our "subconsciousness" with endless thoughts and dreams. This metaphor was really helpful in trying to stay away

from feelings of helplessness and depression. The whole world in an REM-phase and it can't move. Months passed and every new lockdown seemed like a new mark for a bigger depth, with the pressure rising – but also discovering deceleration and silence in a formerly constantly busy and restless world.

Another ten months later and against all hopes it became obvious that the situation for live performances had completely changed for the worse. In retrospect I think the corona virus might have pushed our efforts into the same direction we knew we had to pull. Digital culture and the convergence of media has massively challenged the idea of the classic live performance and their viewers anyway for years. It is a big chance to think of innovative forms of presentations – not as a substitute – but as a creative expansion of watching, listening, reading, interacting and playing and turning it into a wider experience in transmediality.

As all our projects, ONDA started as a three-dimensional associative space with three axes: Mythology, Nature and Digital Culture. I think understanding ONDA as a transmedia laboratory instead of simply a live event completely liberated us from squeezing too many ideas into one format.

With this approach in mind our working process highly encapsulated itself from the traditional idea of producing a purely live show: the rehearsal stage became a photo, film and music studio and a mutual space for workshops and lectures. ONDA became the laboratory for live performances, participative video installations and music software development and much more. And with all these possibilities the subtle "open waters" seemed to fit perfectly.

In 1850 Alfred Tennyson wrote In Memoriam: "There where the long street roars, hath been The stillness of the central sea"

I hope we made good use of the stillness of this pandemic sea that has flooded all of us, expanding our artistic perspectives and trying to make the creative streets roar again against all odds.

Hannah Ma | GERMANY/CHINA



Hannah is a German-Chinese choreographer. She was born in Bielefeld, Bavaria. Her focus lies on contemporary rituals and the translation of archaic roots within our society. Her works are divided in two choreographic directions: "Taming Monsters" and "Transfeminaries". Besides of her work as an artist, producer and curator Hannah also works as a hospice helper since 2021.

Hannah reflects on eurocentrism, post-colonialism, racism, sexism and focuses on diversity, mainstreaming, empowerment of feminist actions and genderfluidity. Her choreographic language is creatively mixing elements of dance and theatre, of ballet, dance-theatre and performance.

Hannah is and has been working with and was supported by: Théâtre National Luxembourg, Trois C.L., Choreographic Center Luxembourg, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, The German Unesco Commission, Festival Passages Metz, Conseil General New York, Dachverband Tanz Deutschland, Fonds Darstellende Künste, Arp, Museum am Rothenberg, UJ Arts & Culture Johannesburg, National Arts Festival South Africa, MAC Cretel Paris and others.

www.hannahmadance.com
www.the-people-united.com

YOUR PEAK

QUADROPOLIS OCEANIS

NOISE IN ALL COLORS

YOUR ABYSS

MERMAID

TRAFFIC ISLAND

IT COMES IN WAVES

KELP FOREST

SWEAT PANTS PROCESSION

ONDA is a fragmentary, intuitive road trip in which analog and digital components are organically interwoven. What I propose to the viewer is a performance based on the aesthetics of a nature documentation.

The choreography creates organic swarm patterns, creaturely snapshots and energetic synergies based on the example of nature. The performance itself is a hybrid organism - created from the analog, the digital and the mythical space and is interwoven in a visible and invisible way. It remains post-narrative and deprives the viewer of the aesthetic signs that make the piece intellectually legible. What remains is an invitation to immerse yourself in the unknown and untamed.

The point of departure of the choreographic work is Hannah Ma's interest in searching for swarm intelligence within performative processes and the intersection of natural and cultural spaces with vital identities including traces of the mythical in our society. Special importance is attached to the mythical, because when viewed from a capitalistic-critical point of view, the myth makes us human: a being gifted with reason, who nevertheless only rises to become a creative creature through being gifted with creativity.

The myth of the mermaid serves as a bridge between the solid and the fluid, between the material world and that of the imagination, between trash and cultural philosophy and between voice and intellect. The hybrid creature "mermaid", which represents our longing for immortality, our powerlessness in the face of the overpowering and untamable nature and our fears of the female principle, is the interface between madness and understanding. It represents the momentum in which we can lose ourselves due to our own power and divinity.

"Liebe, Tod und Wasserfrau", Anna Maria Study S. Friends, 17

The sirens seemed to have been singing, but in a way that was unsatisfactory.

Maurice Blanchot



Interview of Hannah Ma with Michael Friends, Dachsen and Tina Deutschland Fackler, "The Other Body - Tanz und Rassismus | The Performative Politics of Body of today", Schillertheater Berlin, September 2020