



CUBE association | Christian UBL

The Way Things Go...

Christian UBL
creation choreographic 2024

for six dancers,
an architect for space, an artificer,
a composer & drummer



THE WAY THINGS GO...

The Way Things Go... goes the way life does: a continuous spiral of flux and poetic actions and accidents. Collaborating with an architect, a live musician-composer drummer, a pyrotechnician, and several dancers, I stroke interdependence, the illogical and the absurd, the inexplicable and sometimes the surreal. In a rhythmic and choreographic journey where bodies and minds are on edge, *The Way Things Go...* is a playful, whimsical space open to laughter, astonishment, and lightness.

The Way Things Go... is inspired by *Der Lauf der Dinge* (1987), an emblematic film by FISCHLI & WEISS that opens multiple avenues and sources of inspiration for pure movement by chain reaction and that led my writing towards surprising combinations.

With this new choreographic project, I explore the concept of these two

visual artists, whereby the object becomes an actor in motion, establishing connection and triggering a specific action.

This piece, which I hope will be at once splendid and simple, oscillates between abstraction and theatrical expression to draw us into the spiral of life. It is about moving from one situation to the next, revealing the multiplicity of our identities and our ways of mobilizing body and thought in space through the butterfly effect.

The situations – be they surprising and unexpected, sad and troubling, or tangible and illogical – are supported by choreographic creation that crosses convention with new stage writing. I aim to awaken the audience's sensibility and pique their curiosity, leading them to question what holds them back and the nature of their prejudices.





In keeping with the choreography, music plays an important role in *The Way Things Go...* Composer, electronic musician, and drummer Romain Constant composes and performs the music live on stage. He gives great importance to instrumental gesture and electronically processed acoustic textures. He questions the place of the body in performance, and the notion of space-time in music. Working with Romain has allowed me to create an original musical identity in digital music and electronic sound.

The Way Things Go... speaks of the urgent need to act individually and collectively in a continuous, musical, organic, liberating, and horizontal movement. A ritual, a way of mobilizing body and mind in space, to propel humanity in the right direction with one flap of a butterfly's wings.

Choreographic and Musical Writing

With *The Way Things Go...* I seek to draw the audience into a movement where order and chaos run together and collide, bringing out the tensions between bodies and space. This research project aims to give free rein to the emergence of a style that is as minimalist as it is whimsical, between ostentation and austerity. The choreographic language can embrace the illogical and sometimes the absurd and the inexplicable, making room for both laughter and astonishment.

Gestures – be they smooth and organic, angular and mechanical, or backwards and forwards – are enriched by scenes from *Der Lauf der Dinge* and are taken from ordinary everyday situations. With this in mind, I called on dancers who were ‘hungry for movement’, with a certain technical virtuosity and a passion for lifts. A highly diverse group of performers, both in their choreographic skills and their personal and cultural experiences, they have been a driving force for inventing the butterfly effect on stage.

The musical aspect and the question of rhythm are, once again, a strong axis in my creation. After our collaboration on *La Cinquième Saison* (2012), I decided to continue our research with Romain Constant, an electronic music composer and drummer by training.

For *The Way Things Go...*, he performs his new original composition live on stage. Using technological tools, he develops new modes of composition in real time, notably by using connected objects and augmented drums.

Acoustic and digital, thus combined, play with the laws of nature and the properties of sound waves, giving rise to ‘surreal instruments’ in which each part affects the sound of the other.

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Little changes in our daily lives can sometimes lead to radical, brilliant results over time. Press forwards, without fear or dread!



MENTIONS & PARTNERS

Concept, Choreography | Christian UBL

In collaboration with performers, Émilie Cornillot, Marion Dechanteloup, Hannah Le Mesle, Martin Mauries, Baptiste Ménard, Yoann Hourcade

Music, Composition & Prepared Drums | Romain Constant

Space | Claudine Bertomeu

External Eye | Gaëlle Gillieron

Costume Design | Pierre Canitrot

Production | CUBe Association

Co-production | Le Pavillon Noir - CCN d'Aix-en-Provence, Le Phare - CCN du Havre Normandie, Fondation E.C.Art POMARET, Viadanse - CCN de Bourgogne Franche-Comté.

Support & Residencies | Le Pavillon Noir - CCN d'Aix-en-Provence, KLAP Maison pour la danse à Marseille, Le Phare - CCN du Havre Normandie, La Briqueterie - CDCN du Val-de-Marne, Cie La Baraka / La Chapelle à Annonay - Abou Lagraa and Nawal Aït Benalla, Le Théâtre Jean-Vilar à Vitry-sur-Seine, Le Carreau du Temple à Paris – Viadanse - CCN de Bourgogne Franche-Comté à Belfort.

All audiences from 8 years old
Duration 60min

Links

[Teaser](#) | [Pictures](#) | [press](#)

CRÉATION : _____

Creation on February 8 and 9, 2024

At Pavillon Noir – CCN d'Aix-en-Provence



BIOGRAPHY

Christian UBL

choreographer - artist - dancer



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Christian UBL was born in Vienna, Austria. He was initially trained and initiated by sports, particularly figure skating and Latin ballroom dancing, which he practiced at a very high level for 10 years. He became interested in contemporary dance and decided to take workshops in Vienna, Budapest, Nantes, Istres, and New York with Trisha Brown. In 1997, he joined the Coline training program in Istres for two years, then moved to a private school in Vienna. In 2005, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in theater from the University of Lyon, and he worked as a performer with numerous choreographers in France and Europe, including: Les carnets Bagouet, Michel Kelemenis, Thomas Lebrun (director of CCNT), Daniel Dobbels, David Wampach, Christiane Blaise, Abou Lagraa, Ireland Dance Theater, Cie Linga.

In 2005, he founded CUBe - a contemporary dance company based in Marseille.

His artistic approach is characterized by the desire to create spaces for choreographic research while integrating other artistic disciplines. The goal of the company is to respond poetically, transversally, and hybridly to contemporary questions, by questioning dance in its most powerful and fragile forms, as well as the role of the artist in today's society.

Christian Ubl has developed an approach centered on notions of identity and origin, influenced by his Viennese roots and by his more than 25 years spent in France. "I consider choreographic art as a collective art, a total art in which multiple identities and origins must blend and collide to form a work, a human experience."

Within CUBe, Christian Ubl collaborates with numerous artists from various backgrounds, seeking to enrich his stage creations and narratives. Each project takes the form of a multifaceted stage proposal, aiming to forge a specific language around the body.

The company's repertoire is thus rich with about twenty choreographic works, some of which are aimed at young audiences. He also develops other types of projects such as participatory projects, creations in public spaces, artistic hikes, balls... and works with training dancers, including several creations for Coline in Istres.

He recently created *The Way Things Go...* a piece for 6 dancers and a live musician on the theme of the butterfly effect (24) and *Vagabondages & Conversations*, a duet with Gilles Clément, a renowned landscape gardener (25).

PRESS REVIEW

The Way Things Go...

"They come into contact, whirl around, establish multiple connections, and constantly redefine the contours of space in a wandering and musical dance. Outbursts of joy and freedom, unique farandoles, laughter, and sound humor alternate with some more unsettling and resistant moments, while keeping the audience's attention. Life embodied on stage with beautiful metaphors and light play.

The generosity of the artists throughout this performance must be commended.

A joyful and unexpected journey where poetry, softness, and shared feelings resonate and unite the group and the spectators in a luminous celebration thanks to the pyrotechnic effects that prolong the magic."

Paula Gomes - Theatre actu – February 25

"When a thousand choreographic events refuse to construct a narrative or a discourse, then the performers and spectators are free to fully enjoy the poetry and joy of the moment, like children or pure dance enthusiasts (..)

This little ballet full of suspense and humor, ineffable and inexhaustible, speaks to all ages, offering a millefeuille of entries and readings, from childish laughter to scientific theories and philosophical visions."

Thomas Hahn – Danser Canal Historique – 08/02/2024

"With his new creation, Christian UBL signs an original, fanciful, and profound show. The choreographer also brilliantly questions his choreographic writing, thus renewing the danced material of his company. The Way Things Go is a jubilant piece with a thousand sparks, and Christian UBL makes his stars shine until the very last second!"

Laurent Bourbousson - Ouvert aux publics – 17/02/2024



CONTACTS



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CUBe is a choreographic project subsidized by the Ministry of Culture and Communication / DRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the PACA Regional Council, the Bouches-du-Rhône General Council, and the City of Marseille. CUBe Christian UBL is occasionally supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum in Paris for its activities.



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