



Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Jubilant Tribute to Imagination

Wiener FestWochen, 22.06.2025 [ENA]

Lia Rodrigues's *Borda*, performed in Halle E at MuseumsQuartier on June 20–21, was a mesmerizing celebration of collective creativity and cultural crossing. Rooted in over two decades of her work in Rio's favelas with the Companhia de Danças and the Centro de Artes da Maré, Rodrigues deftly intertwines memory, imagination, and community into a striking evening of performance.

Borda—a Portuguese word meaning both “border” and “embroidery”—embodies its dual concept through choreography and design. Onstage, nine dancers, co-creators with Rodrigues, manipulate simple fabrics and plastics to construct a resonant world of layered borders—between people, cultures, and artistic mediums. These materials become symbolic threads in an evolving tapestry—fluid, porous, alive.

Across approximately 75 minutes, the performance unfolds as an immersive ritual: dancers drift, weave, and reshape the stage space in gradual, poetic gestures. Under Nicolas Boudier's luminous lighting, the multi-textured set becomes a living canvas, responding to the performers' raw, emotional energy. Dramaturg Silvia Soter's emotional arch and Amalia Lima's choreographic insight ensure every moment resonates with layered intention.

The underlying choreography—crafted with Leonardo Nunes, Valentina Fittipaldi, Andrey da Silva, and others—balances structured motifs with spontaneous interactions, inviting viewers to perceive borders not as limitations but as evolving thresholds. The dancers' sensitivity and collective focus transform each stretch of fabric into a metaphor for connectedness, empathy, and renewal.

Ultimately, *Borda* offers more than aesthetic pleasure—it is a profoundly hopeful meditation on empathy and cultural exchange. In a phrase, it is “a celebration of the imagination beyond all limits”—an artistic and humanistic triumph that lingers long after the final movement. It's not just performance; it's a living manifesto for crossing divides with care and creativity.

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Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

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V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDSStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
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