

# "CRASH POINT"



Choreographic solo

Delegated Production Kraken



Length 45-50 minutes

## CASTING

**Choreography and dramaturgy:** Hilary Edesess  
**Artistic direction:** Susanne Döbel

**Dance:** Hilary Edesess

**Music:** eauchaude - Doris Abéla et Julien Bellanger

**Lighting design:** Nicolas Dalban-Moreynas

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## PARTNERS

### Financial and material support

- Fabriques & Laboratoires artistiques de Nantes- General Direction culture and arts in the city
- KLAP Maison pour la danse in Marseille
- Les Ateliers de Bitche in Nantes
- Company Écart at 38 Breil in Nantes

# CALENDAR

// 2024-25 //

- **June-November 2024**

partner and residency search

- **October 2024 - February 2025**

5 half-days of residency in Nantes, sound and music tests with Doris Abéla and Julien Bellanger (eauchaude):

October 2, 2024 at 38 Breil (Co Écart) - November 13, 2024 at La Fabrique Dervallières - November 27 (2024), December 4 (2024) and January 10 (2025) at Ateliers de Bitché

- **March-April 2025**

March 31 to April 4, 2025 at **KLAP Maison pour la Danse à Marseille**:

choreographic and dramaturgic residency with Hilary Edesess, Doris Abéla and Julien Bellanger. Susanne Döbel as artistic director - *confirmed*

- **May 2025**

May 5-9 at **La Fabrique Chantenay** (Nantes): residency, finalization of mock-up with Hilary Edesess, Doris Abéla, Julien Bellanger, Susanne Döbel and Nicolas Dalban-Moreynas - *confirmed with coproduction*

May 7 - presentation of mock-up at **La Fabrique Chantenay** - *confirmed*

// 2025-26 //

- **October 2025 - January 2026** : 5 days of residency, material tests and costume conception, in discussion with **La Fonderie** (Le Mans, France) - *in progress*

- **February-April 2026** : 3 weeks of non-consecutive residency, advancement with artistic direction, in conversation with **Cour et jardin** (Vertou, France) - *in progress*

- **May-July 2026** : 2 weeks of non-consecutive residency, technical focus - *in progress*

- **November-September 2026** : Premiere - *in progress*

# Introduction



**“Crash Point”** is a choreographic solo. It offers a testimony of what happens after a trauma. This performance takes the audience through the process of mourning and resilience, exploring the stages of fragility and strength in the mind, soul, and body.

## Artistic Concept

“Crash Point” aims to explore how we are traversed by traumatic events and periods of transition that we encounter. It is an exploration of the opposing forces that inhabit us during moments of rupture, the experience of fragility and the return of strength.

Through “Crash Point”, Hilary Edesess explores the non-sequential and unpredictable nature of grief, thus opposing the stages proposed by psychology. Hilary Edesess draws on her own experience, conversations with others, and references from popular culture. She draws from a foundation of physical and emotional sensations that guide improvised movements, allowing for an organic stage presence. This instantaneous conception is coupled with a more precise choreographic structure in order to compose the performance.

H.E invited the experimental electronic music duo eauchaude (Doris Abéla and Julien Bellanger) to collaborate on this project. The music of eauchaude is both lingering and rhythmic, full of nuances that evoke a range of emotions. Their work includes spoken word and poetry, aspects which Hilary Edesess wishes to test out for the soundtrack. eauchaude provides an organic sound that captures the moment through improvised loops and added textures from field recording sessions. H.E. identifies with the duo’s invitation to the unexpected.

During this performance, costumes represent forms of protection against a world that feels hostile. The dancer dresses and undresses, the fragility of each garment aligning with her own vulnerability.

## **Project Description**

### **Dance**

The starting point of Hilary Edesess' first choreographic piece is based on sensations experienced when navigating certain emotional states. She magnifies these sensations to develop a supernatural aesthetic, allowing distance from the initial event responsible for the emotional state. She invited dancer and actress Susanne Döbel to collaborate as artistic director. She met Susanne through other dance research, and they have established an artistic relationship that allows for vulnerability.

Susanne's approach is both sensitive to the challenge of displaying fragility and capable of guiding the message conveyed to the audience.

### **Musique**

Hilary and eauchaude created the soundtrack for this piece through a collaborative process. During five experimental brainstorm sessions, they fueled the soundtrack by discussing the themes of the work: grief, mourning rituals, trauma, how to support people suffering from trauma, and healing.

### **Costumes**

Hilary Edesess is currently experimenting with materials to make garments that are light and fragile. During her initial research, she designed a plastic tarp dress that was made to tear while she wore it. She would like to continue her research on materials that are more environmentally sound.

She intends to work with the visual artist and performer Luz Cartagena on costumes made from different types of paper and plastic.

## **Community action**

Hilary Edesess aims to offer dance and physical theater workshops on the topic of strength and fragility. The participants of these workshops would be anyone interested in exploring the topics addressed in "Crash Point": elderly people, individuals with disabilities, anyone going through a period of transition (career change, separation, moving, adolescence).

In these workshops, participants will be encouraged to use their senses and imagination to connect in a different way with how the body experiences emotions.

They will explore:

- strength and fragility
- surrender and resistance
- freedom and constraint
- density and lightness
- experience and judgement

In April 2024, Mrs. Edesess presented a first step of "Crash Point" at a retirement home in Thouaré-sur-Loire, France. The presentation was followed by a dance and movement workshop with the residents of the retirement home and a nearby nursing home (EHPAD) which led to enriching exchanges.

## Artistic Team

### Choreographer and Dancer

**Hilary Edesess** was born in Colorado. She earned a bachelor's degree in classical ballet from Butler University in 2004. From her teenage years, she showed an interest in social and street dances, the places that inspired them, and their influence on society.

In 2006, Ms. Edesess was certified to teach yoga, a profession she continues to practice today and that has allowed her to gain experience with students of all ages and health conditions. Her experience teaching yoga influences the subjects of her choreographic work.

Between 2020 and 2023, her artistic research project, "Descen-danse", explored how the body integrates the cumulative layers of experience and identity.

"Crash Point" was born from an invitation to present a solo dance piece in March 2024 during an evening organized by the non-profit organisation Les Films Volants. The evening took place on the 2-year anniversary of a friend's passing and provided an opportunity to reflect on the mourning process.

Mrs. Edesess continues to educate herself in artistic practices—dance, theater, and physical theater. She participates in workshops with Ohad Naharin (choreographer), Ex nihilo (dance company), Phia Ménard (performer), Nathalie Béasse (choreographer), and Mots de tête (puppet and visual theater company), among others.

## Music

**eauchaude** - Doris Abéla and Julien Bellanger - Initially a sonic, ambient techno duo, they went on to write texts and work on existing ones. They offer live performances that are constantly reshaped depending on the locations. eauchaude (de)constructs both sound, voice, performance, and textual writing. The duo has performed in a wide variety of venues (from a DIY blockhouse in Nantes to a Breton chapel in Kerminy). They have held residencies in Iceland, in Paris at La Générale, and in Medellin (Colombia) at Platohedro for several writing and performance sessions.

In Sainte-Soline in March 2023, they transformed an entire day's sound recording into a live set, which was broadcasted on RADIA, a European radio network. This marked the beginning of their desire to continue this sound documentation work and research on political and social topics, particularly focusing on the question of the body and audio. In April 2023, they participated in developing several workshops of l'antémonde to organize labofictions and launch the workshop format (art schools in Angers, Le Mans, and Nantes, University of Nantes).

## Artistic Direction

**Susanne Döbel**, French-German actress and dancer, was trained in classical ballet and theater in Germany. Initially in dance, and later in theater as a student at the STADTTHEATER WÜRZBURG.

At the age of 20, she moved to Paris, where she attended Actor Studio method Master classes with Jack Waltzer. From 2006, she regularly performed in local theaters, on tour, and in numerous short and feature films for cinema.

After an intense period devoted to theater and cinema, she returned to her first passion, dance, and began training in contemporary dance. She joined the company "Cie Sait-Mouvoir" and furthered her training with Anna Wehsarg (from the "Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch" company from 2000 to 2018), Shahar Dor, a multidisciplinary artist, performer, and artistic director, as well as with Juju Alishina, a choreographer and dancer specializing in traditional Japanese dance and Butoh.

Susanne co-created an actor collective (Actors Workshop Paris) and a theater and production company ("La Sans Sou CIE"), where she gained extensive experience in directing actors and stage directing.



## Links

*Shock*, 1st step of “Crash point” - March 2024

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lg7sX0bCno>

Other works by Hilary Edesess

- Descen-danse, presentation of mock-up 10', June 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6sSzxFdLPo>

- Diaspora, video 3'26, January 2023

<https://vimeo.com/794448514>

- Il faut du temps, video 1'17, July 2022

<https://youtu.be/zrEqEJZxYEA>

eauchaude

- <https://eauchaude.bandcamp.com/album/live-recording-stand>
- <https://www.lagenerale.fr/fr/projet/eauchaude>
- <http://radio.fm/2023/04/radio-943-ritournelle-a-live-performance-by-eau-chaude-for-jet-fm/>

### Note from the choreographer:

While this project is about my own experience, and very little about my friend who left us, I dedicate this performance to Florian Minjat. He was one of my first friends when I moved to Nantes in 2018 and he was present throughout several transitions in my turbulent life as a newcomer. He was a constant source of strength, and I miss him.

