



## **“Body Migration – I Do(n’t) Want” Dance Performance: When the Body Reflects the Meaning of Home**

Goethe-Institut Indonesien presents “Body Migration – I Do(n’t) Want”, a dance performance by choreographer Siska Aprisia in collaboration with composer Jay Afrisando, which will take place at GoetheHaus Jakarta, on Sunday, 27 July 2025.

Built from close observations of migrant experiences across race, tribe, and skin colour—including the artist’s own—“Body Migration – I Do(n’t) Want” is a work by Siska Aprisia, developed during the REFLEKT residency programme with TanzFaktor in Cologne, Germany, in 2024. The REFLEKT residency is a Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia initiative that fosters shared artistic collaborations, critical reflections, and creative re-learnings, initiated in 2023.

“After its premiere at TanzFaktor in November last year, this work is now ready to be re-presented in Indonesia. ‘Body Migration – I Do(n’t) Want’ brings home Siska’s observations born out of dynamic cross-cultural encounters and dialogues during her three-month residency at REFLEKT. This work takes us into the sound and body of relocated memories and feelings,” said Dr. Ingo Schöningh, Regional Head of Cultural Programmes at Goethe-Institut Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

Bodies move, and movements migrate, with or without choice or voice. Between displacement and visibility, the reasons for leaving are varied—often simplified in humanity’s quest to resist and endure—and never fully articulated.

Yet, it is also the whole process: in contemporary times, it’s the border crossings and the repetition of questions—being asked why and how. In the olden days, it was the salient ways in which we acted, the echoes of geographies, and the contained fracture of time.

In this work, movement becomes more than choreography: it is a manifestation of methods for reassembling, reclaiming, and recalling. Gestures and rhythm evoke, holding what has been dislocated—moving between memory, nostalgia, and sensation.

### **Seeking the meaning of home**

Siska shared that she initially went to join the REFLEKT programme with the theme “*tubuh rantau*”. However, when she arrived in Cologne, she found it difficult to connect with fellow Indonesians because her messages were not returned or because they were located far apart. Despite these challenges, Siska routinely travelled by tram on a daily basis, which led to her observations and reflections on expanding the word “*rantau*” to ‘migration’.

During her time in Cologne, her observations of the surroundings, her interactions with migrants, and learning about her own patterns of being a Cologne “citizen” broadened her perspective. In the process, she also observed the bodily behaviour of homeless people, many of whom were foreigners. From these interactions and observations, she captured various motives for migration, including economic, educational, or happiness-seeking. However, not all of them were successful in reaching their destination.

Her personal experience of travelling to Cologne brought a sense of unfamiliarity, fear, cultural attraction, and racism, which eventually became

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material for observations on her own body. Siska added, "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn about the experiences of the migrants I met from different parts of the world. The conclusion from my interviews and observations is that the words 'migration' and 'home' are a unity that is difficult to separate because every immigrant, refugee, or homeless person is struggling to define what the word 'home' means to them."

The presentation will be followed by a post-performance conversation with Siska Aprisia and Jay Afrisando, together with Esha Tegar Putra (literary writer from Minangkabau) and moderated by Kennya Rinonce (Dance Committee of the Jakarta Arts Council).

The dance performance "Body Migration – I Do(n't) Want" can be watched for free at GoetheHaus Jakarta this coming Sunday at 6 p.m. WIB by first registering on [www.goers.co/reflektsiska](http://www.goers.co/reflektsiska).

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### **About Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social, and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programs support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

### **About Siska Aprisia**

Siska Aprisia, born in 1992 in Pariaman, Indonesia, holds a Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts and a Master's in Dance Creation from Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpanjang. Her work, rooted in Ulu Ambek Silat and personal journeys, spans dance, theatre, film, and installation. Active as a dancer, choreographer, and arts festival consultant, Siska's work has been featured at Artjog, Sasikirana Dance Camp, and internationally.

### **About Jay Afrisando**

Jay Afrisando is a composer, multimedia artist, researcher, and educator whose artistic practice explores aural diversity, disability, and access as sources of creativity across various methods and media. He is currently a DAAD Artists-in-Berlin 2024-25 resident while also serving as Assistant Professor of Music at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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