

COMMON STORIES

NEWSLETTER #6

It's a busy month for *Common Stories* in June!

After a happy landing at the Espaço Alcantara in sunny Lisbon in May, *CommonLAB* 2025 will stop in Cologne from 3 to 15 June 2025, as part of the *africologne* Festival.

The festival will also be hosting one of the first projects supported by *CommonPROD*, Saphir Belkheir's solo *Sycomore*. This gives us the opportunity to take a look back at the artists supported since 2023 by the *CommonPROD* programme.

Last but not least, June marks the publication of the 2024 *Good Practices Factory* Handbook and the release of the *Common Stories* 2024 annual film!





Mother Tongue by Lucía García Pullés © Paul Flé

COMMONPROD & COMMONMOB Producing and Presenting New Narratives...

Following on from *CommonLAB*, *CommonPROD* offers artists various forms of project support, including residencies, research grants, co-production and production schemes. Twelve *CommonLAB* 2023 and 2024 artists have benefited from this programme, and some performances have already been shown on our stages.

Upcoming dates in 2025!

After its premiere at the MC93 in May, ***Sycomore***, a solo by *CommonLAB* 2023 artist **Saphir Belkheir**, will be presented at the [africologne](#) Festival (Alte Feuerwache) **on 12 and 13 June**.

Produced by the MC93, it has received support from *africologne*, Alcantara and the Riksteatern, as well as from *CommonMOB*.

Drawing on an imaginary family tree, Saphir Belkheir reinvents his lineage. Dialoguing with personalities from the past, real or fictional, he tries to better understand the roots of his own dance to better prepare the journey ahead.

[Watch the teaser](#)

Mother Tongue by *CommonLAB* 2024 artist **Lucía García Pullés**, explores language, a troubled language that blends the need to survive and the fear of disappearing, longing for multiplicity and transformation as driving forces.

Co-produced by the MC93 and the Riksteatern, the solo will be performed at:

[Laboratoires d'Aubervilliers](#), as part of Nuit Blanche 2025, on **7 June**,

Théâtre Louis Aragon in Avignon, as part of [La belle scène Saint-Denis](#), **from 12 to 14 July**.



Silence, ça tourne by Chrystèle Khodr © Danish Saroee



umuko by Dorothee Munyaneza © Patrick Berger

A duet between *CommonLAB* 2023 artist **Stephanie Kayal** and musician and composer Abed Kobeissy, ***Galactic Crush II: Into the Cold*** recounts the tribulations of two Don Quixote-like anti-heroes who decide to flee mass exodus and global crisis in a DIY intergalactic spaceship...

Coproduced by the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles and Alkantara, the duet duo will be shown at:

Théâtre de la Vie in Brussels from **7 to 18**

October,

Théâtre Wallonie-Bruxelles on **4 and 5**

November,

Alkantara Festival in Lisbon on **22 and 23**

November, with support from the *CommonMOB* programme.

A mobility grant, *CommonMOB* aims to give greater visibility to emblematic shows that question notions of diversity.

In 2025, four projects will receive support, two projects supported by *CommonPROD*, *Sycomore* by Saphir Belkheir and *Galactic Crush II: Into the Cold* by Stephanie Kayal, as well as two existing projects.

Silence, ça tourne by **Chrystèle Khodr**, a Riksteatern production, will be presented at: Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles from **18 to 22 November,** MC93 in Bobigny from **26 to 29 November.**

umuko by **Dorothee Munyaneza** will be shown in Lisbon at Culturgest, as part of the Alkantara Festival, on **14 and 15 November.**



Workshop with Sonya Lindfors, annual film © Common Stories

The Good Practices Factory 2024 Handbook is Online!

Halfway through the *Common Stories* project, which will come to an end on December 31st, 2025, the *Good Practices Factory 2024* reviews and reflects on our production, touring, artist support, and audience development practices in our six partner cities, from Lisbon to Brussels, from Bobigny to Cologne, from Stockholm to Warsaw.

From the development of a common Code of Conduct for cultural venues in Cologne to greater accessibility of the theatre for audiences and artists with disabilities in Warsaw, from a reflection on racism within the theatre in Bobigny and Lisbon, in partnership with União Negra das Artes, to perceptions of notions of diversity within teams in Brussels and Stockholm, our journeys towards more valuable practices have taken different paths. Through texts and interviews, this publication shares the experiences that drive us and carry us forward every day, so that our stages can fully bear witness to the cultural diversity of today's European narratives, celebrating their complexities and richness.

[Download the GPF handbook / English version](#)

[Download the GPF handbook / French version](#)

Looking Back at 2024, Watch the *Common Stories* Annual Film

This seventeen-minute film retraces the highlights of *Common Stories* second year. It includes interviews with *CommonLAB 2024* artists and guest speakers, footages of the various modules in Lisbon, Maputo, Bobigny and Brussels, and highlights from the annual meeting that took place in Brussels in November 2024.

[Watch the Common Stories 2024 film](#)
(English version)

[Watch the Common Stories 2024 film](#)
(French version)

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To know more, please find out about our activities, the *CommonLAB* artists, the supported productions and the different *Common Stories* programmes on our bilingual website:

www.commonstories.eu

Common Stories is supported by the Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Denis, MC93 (Bobigny, France), in partnership with the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles (Brussels, Belgium), Alcantara (Lisbon, Portugal), Culturgest (Lisbon, Portugal), africologneFESTIVAL (Cologne, Germany), Riksteatern (Stockholm, Sweden), in association with TR Warszawa (Warsaw, Poland) and in 2025 with Orient Productions (Cairo, Egypt) and Les Récréâtres (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso).

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