

**Interview with Su Guzey****Interviewer:** Tyece Hensley**Cameraman:** Leslie Gray**Editor:** Anastasiia Smyshliaeva**Tyece:** So let me introduce myself.**Su:** Yeah.**Tyece:** I am Tyece, I am a student here, and I am doing a class *How Movement Makes Meaning*. And I've been at your rehearsals, like, watching you guys, taking notes of, like, how you dance. I'm sure it was nice. This is Leslie, he is an engineer.**Leslie:** Yeah, I am assisting Aakash and doing whatever else you need, and am apparently cameraman for a day, so...

[Su laughs]

**Tyece:** My partner isn't here. She was supposed to be here, but she's not, so here's Lesley.

[Su laughs]

**Tyece:** So I would like you to say your name. And where are you from?**Su:** [nodes] I am Su, I am 27 years old. I am from Istanbul, Turkey.**Tyece:** How do you like Istanbul?**Su:** Now? I mean... Because it has changed so much in past 7 years so I don't like it anymore. It was a nice city with a nice city with a nice culture thought, but now... I don't know. I think, like, subconsciously I am making plans to move out of the city even out of the country if I can. It's a huge topic.

[Both laugh]

**Tyece:** I think I have to start with the first question. It is the question I have actually had for you since the first day I saw you. Did you dyed your hair in orange?**Su:** Yeah.**Tyece:** Why did you?**Su:** Ugh, because I didn't want to be orange. I wanted to go back to my natural colour which is copper. I really, hell, liked red hair. And I, like, I went to the hairdresser and, like, showed the

picture, like, "this is what I want". And he dyed my hair orange. So, yeah... Now I have to live with this for the next one month and one week until I go back home.

**Tyece:** This is really nice! I saw it and I was like "wow"! I've never seen like...

**Su:** That orange!

**Tyece:** Yeah. It was so gorgeous. I have another question about your tattoos. So where did you get them and how many do you have?

**Su:** I think 10. I have 10 tattoos. Hmm, when did I get them? I think I've started when I was 17. My dad took me to the tattoo place. Yeah, I really asked, "This is what I want". I had a boyfriend who was a tattoo artist, so I had, like, the next free ones for free. And then the last one was this one.

**Tyece:** It's really pretty!

**Su:** Yeah. I went to Berlin with my mom. And we both wanted, like, go to Berlin and get tattoos, because of the tattoo artists there, like, do it really nice. And this is also the one that I do like. But there was a problem: the guy was doing it really well and the next day I had to go to my boyfriend. It was his spare day because he was working somewhere. So like, the next day I got a tattoo I had to swim and get under the sun, so it got messed up.

**Tyece:** Having it under the sun messes it up, but it's good to learn. So why did you choose dancing, you know?

**Su:** Um, well, in high school I was thinking, "Maybe I can study physiology, maybe I can study fashion design." I never had dance in my mind because I never danced. Like, I didn't go to ballet, I didn't go to any, like, full dance education. I didn't have any of those. I had this huge problem with my back: I had both scoliosis and the hitch. So I really had a problem for, like, seven years since the beginning of puberty. And every night, like, when I went back home my back would hurt. And then, like, when I finished high school I wanted to study theatre and so I, like, studied in another university getting a performance classes education. But I didn't like the university, I didn't like the schedule. But I said, like, "You know, let's try."

[Su laughs]

**Tyece:** Make the schedule flexible.

**Su:** Yeah, I know. I never wanted to be a dancer... But here I am.

[Both laugh]

**Tyeece:** Oh wow! What is your favorite style of dance? Did you try much?

**Su:** I like all of them actually. But I think the most that I like is when I am home by myself and when I am waiting.

[Both laugh]

**Su:** And because for me, for a person without any background in dance, I just feel that the best when I can express myself is when I am listening to the rhythm. And just, like, all these movement, they just feel so big for me. I don't know. When I am watching dance I don't do this. [Su shows some moves] I just improvise. [laughs]

**Tyeece:** This is kind of the best answer. In the shower do you sing?

**Su:** Yeah, yeah! Exactly! [laughs and nods]

**Tyeece:** This is really cute. If you weren't dancing now, what else would you be doing besides?

**Su:** Oh, I don't know. I think I wanted to be a musician.

Tyeece: Oh, really?

**Su:** Yeah. I played piano for seven years. I've played drums for, like, three and a half years. Umm, also, like, any kind of percussion play. Umm, I sing. Since the kindergarten I've always been in the choir — that was my first initiation in music. Now if my computer was actually working I would start to actually make my own music.

**Tyeece:** That is so nice!

[Su laughs]

**Su:** I don't know. Probably electronical music.

**Tyeece:** That is really nice. Why did you choose to go here to Abu Dhabi and dance with Aakash?

**Su:** He chose us in the first place, yeah. And he came to give a workshop at our university in the conservatory. And it was only me, Yasin, and Beril, and Gizem. Yasin, Gizem and me were students there, and Beril was a teacher there but she was coming to the workshops. And at the end of the workshop, Aakash said, "I want to do something with you guys. I am going to find the funding for the project and I will invite you." And three years later he invited us. So yeah, he chose us.  
**Tyeece:** This is really an opportunity. You cannot waste it!

[Su laughs]

**Tyeece:** So why did you think Aakash chose you?

**Su:** I have no idea. [laughs] No, like, honestly, I really don't know. Because sometimes people see something that you cannot. So I think that he saw something that I didn't see and still can't see because I am least experienced in the group. So I don't know. Maybe something theatrical about me that he wanted to be a part of.

**Tyece:** I think I have one last question left and it's a good one. What do you think about the title of the dance programme of *#JeSuis*?

**Su:** No, because we have been working with Aakash for two years, and this piece came, like, in this past summer, so we did another piece called Red Goddess or something. And we did another one and then another one. And this came up — *#JeSuis*. Umm, I don't know if it's about individuality or is it about communal projection. Like, from my perspective I want to take it from the communal projection. It's not about "I am", it's about "we are". And that citing also, like, what Aakash wanted to transform that *#JeSuis*, because this is how that hashtag started. *#JeSuis*, hashtag "I am this," hashtag "I am that" but we never get in the place where hashtag "we are this" and hashtag "we are that," whatever that is. And especially in Turkey after the coincidence, I think. In this era "we are" capable of doing something instead of "I am" capable of doing something because when you are alone you don't have much power, unfortunately. [laughs] But when you are together, when you are, like, holding hands that's why you are a mass. And when mass has a perspective, when mass has an intention that's how you get it done, you know. I was also a part of a group who said *je ne suis pas*. [laughs] So in that sense, I think, I don't know, it really connected with me.

**Tyece:** That is really fun, I mean "*je ne suis pas*". "I am not."

**Su:** "I am not", you know. I am something and I am that. Everyone is something and everyone is that, but, like, I am not sure definitely. [laughs] So we need to find what we are.

**Tyece:** So how do you propose about finding who we are and what we stand for and stuff?

**Su:** Umm. I think we come from common cultures and, like [pause] Sorry about my English.

**Tyece:** It's fine!

**Su:** We come from, like, common ground and experiences. Especially from the past seven or eight years it is not hard to find because what you experience personally on the street in your country is genially whatever experiences so... I don't know. I also have different experiences, because I have, like, tattoos and different kind of hair. And I don't feel that obligation to cover up, you know.

So whatever you do, like, with your T-shirt or your pants you always get attention in a bad way, which can abuse you in a dance way. So just the idea of liberation from that pressure, I think, is the general one for all of us.

**Tyece:** That makes sense.

[Both laugh]

**Tyece:** Good. Thanks!