

## Learning by Ear

### "Everyone's Different – Respect for Minorities"

#### Episode 10:

#### Dance with Us – Africans in Germany

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#### Characters

|                                |             |           |          |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| <b><i>Narrator</i></b>         | female      | around 30 | english  |
| <b><i>Yahi Nestor Gahe</i></b> | male        | 32        | german   |
| <b><i>Steve Bimamisa</i></b>   | male        | around 30 | german   |
| <b><i>Study quotation</i></b>  | male/female | ?         | english? |
| <b><i>Clip Actor</i></b>       | male        | around 30 | german   |

**Intro:**

Hello and welcome to “Learning by Ear” and the tenth and last part of our series “Everyone’s Different - Respect for Minorities”. In our stories from all over the continent we’ve been introducing you to people who fight against discrimination. In today’s programme, we meet Nestor and Steve. Both come from Africa and live in Germany, where they promote tolerance and the better integration of minorities. This is the subject of the music and dance of their band, Diversité: living together, rather than simply side by side.

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**1. SFX Drinking tea, theatre entrance hall, stays loud, then fade under**

**2. Narrator:**

Yahi Nestor Gahe will appear on stage in just over half an hour, but he still appears relaxed. The young man is sitting in the entrance hall of “tri-bühne”, a theatre in the German city of Stuttgart, where he works as an actor, choreographer and dancer. He sips his tea as he talks to his friend Steve Bimamisa. They’re making use of these few free moments to discuss their latest project “Gumboot meets Schuhplatteln”. Because time is marching on: the premiere will take place at the “tri-bühne” in just two months. Steve is looking forward to presenting the new piece.

**3. SFX Schuhplattler/Gumboot (NOT live), fade in under text above, stays loud, then fade under**

#### **4. Clip Steve (german):**

*“We combined the Gumbboot Dance from South Africa with the Schuhplattler from Bavaria. Nestor starts with Gumbboot and suddenly he switches to Schuhplattler.”*

#### **5. SFX Schuhplattler/Gumbboot (NOT live), gets loud again, then fade under, then long fade out under following text**

#### **6. Narrator:**

Men who used to work in gold mines in South Africa had to wear Wellington boots, known there as gumboots. As drumming was forbidden by the apartheid regime, the black miners started using their boots to communicate inside the dark mines, and soon they developed different dance rhythms. The Schuhplattler is a traditional dance in the southern German region of Bavaria. Young men developed this dance to impress single ladies of marriageable age with a series of jumps and moves. While dancing, they wore “Lederhosen”, the traditional Bavarian leather breeches.

Although they originated in very different regions, to the musicians the similarities between the two dances seemed striking. The Gumbboot-Schuhplattler piece has already become Nestor and Steve’s band’s new hit. The group is called Diversité, and their music is – as the band members put it – a new kind of world music that mixes soul, African rumba, afro-beat, jazz and classical music. For Nestor, Diversité - or, in English, ‘diversity’ - is about far more than just variety.

### **7. Clip Nestor (german):**

*“Diversity is everything that is not similar but that can be brought together. Diversity – Diversité – means that every one of us is different. But together we can achieve more.”*

### **8. Narrator:**

Diversité is made up of both African and German artists. They perform in different line-ups depending on the show, but the core trio is Nestor, Steve, and the singer-songwriter Michael Dikizeyeko. They all say that there’s no better way of bringing people together than through music and dance: with gumboots and, of course, “Lederhosen”. For Steve, it’s a good way of expressing his idea of unity within diversity.

### **9. Clip Steve (german):**

*“To show people: ‘You think that we’re so different, but look: black as we are, we’re dancing your Schuhplattler!’”*

### **10. Narrator:**

Steve partly grew up in Germany. He arrived here with his family from the Democratic Republic of Congo 16 years ago, and went to school near Stuttgart. Today he’s around 30, though he doesn’t reveal his exact age. Steve’s an entrepreneur: he’s been the boss of a music label for the last six years, and since 2009 he’s also the producer of Diversité. For him, Germany is in the process of opening itself to the world and to immigrants.

**11. Clip Steve (german):**

*“In '98, 2000, it was very difficult for an African family to find a flat to live in. We only got refusals. The flat is already rented, people would say. And two hours later another family would get it. At that time I was a boy scout and I often came to Stuttgart. At the train station, police were always checking Africans. Today it's not like that any more.”*

**12. Narrator:**

According to a 2009 study commissioned by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in the European Union, the Roma, commonly known as gypsies, are the ethnic group most affected by discrimination in the EU, followed by sub-Saharan African migrants. According to the report:

**13. Clip quotation:**

*“The ‘top 10’ experiencing the highest levels of discrimination over a 10-month period were, in descending order: Roma in the Czech Republic, Africans in Malta, Roma in Hungary, Roma in Poland, Roma in Greece, Sub-Saharan Africans in Ireland, North Africans in Italy, Somalis in Finland, Somalis in Denmark, and Brazilians in Portugal.”*

**14. SFX Nestor talking to Steve, then fade under**

**15. Narrator:**

Living diversity is not always easy. The band had to buy several “Lederhosen” for the dancers. The first pairs were too long, and the second ones still hindered their movements. They had to study the Bavarian dance in detail, improvise a bit, and practice a lot.

**16. Clip Steve (german):**

*“We see integration is a matter of persistence. For the dancers, too. We’ve seen that after the shows their thighs were blue because you slap them when you dance the Schuhplattler. I think it’s exciting to see that it’s not easy when you learn something new. Living with each other is not easy; it’s a process that demands lots of perseverance and patience.”*

**17. Narrator:**

According to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, in 2010 almost 7 million immigrants were living in Germany. In the region of Baden-Württemberg where Nestor and Steve live, almost 11% of the population are immigrants. Nevertheless, the study from 2009 led by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights still considered the German integration policy to be only “halfway favourable”, meaning that Germany ranks somewhere in the middle of the EU countries in this regard.

**18. SFX Music playing, Nestor singing to music, then fade under**

**19. Narrator:**

Nestor came to Germany in 2005. He left his home country, Ivory Coast in West Africa, to work as a choreographer and dancer at a show that performed throughout the country for three years. When his contract expired in 2008, he came to Stuttgart. Since then he's married a German woman, and for now he has no plans to leave. Yes, he admits, there is some discrimination; but here in western Germany it happens indirectly:

**20. Clip Nestor (german):**

*"I enjoy going out with my wife. But in some bars and restaurants there are very few Africans. So everyone looks at us. The whole time! They look because I'm different, my skin colour is different. The good thing is that here they don't act directly, they communicate it only with their eyes."*

**21. Narrator:**

These are the kind of looks Nestor *doesn't* like. The other kind, when he's on stage, are much nicer. Talking of the stage, it's time for him to go. This evening's performance of the play begins in 10 minutes. Nestor won't be wearing costume for his dance tonight, but he still has to warm up.

**22. SFX People entering auditorium, actor speaking, long fade in**

**23. Clip Actor (german):**

*“Dear guests, first of all I would like to thank you all for coming...”*

**long fade out**

**24. Narrator:**

Steve has already seen Nestor play, but he wants to take the opportunity to check out the auditorium. He expects to be playing here with Diversité at the premiere of “Gumboot meets Schuhplatteln” in two months’ time. It’s a small auditorium; he likes it when the audience sits close to the band, so he can look into people’s eyes.

**25. SFX Nestor dancing to music, begins under text above, then gets loud, then long fade out under next text**

**26. Narrator:**

The play lasts just over an hour without an interval, and the audience is captivated. Even the other actors admit that what makes it special is Nestor’s dance.

**27. SFX People clapping, begins under text above, stays loud, then long fade out under next text**

**28. Narrator:**

And in two months’ time he’ll dance here again, this time with Diversité. Then he, Steve and the other bandmates will give a monthly guest performance to keep on spreading their message: that people should live together, not just side by side.

## **29. SFX Diversité, then long fade out (NOT live)**

### **Outro:**

And that's all for today. This was the last episode of our "Learning by Ear" series about respect for minorities. It was written by Marta Barroso. If you'd like to find out more about this or any other "Learning by Ear" programmes, or if you'd just like to listen to this episode again, go to our website at [www.dw.de/lbe](http://www.dw.de/lbe). Thanks for being with us.