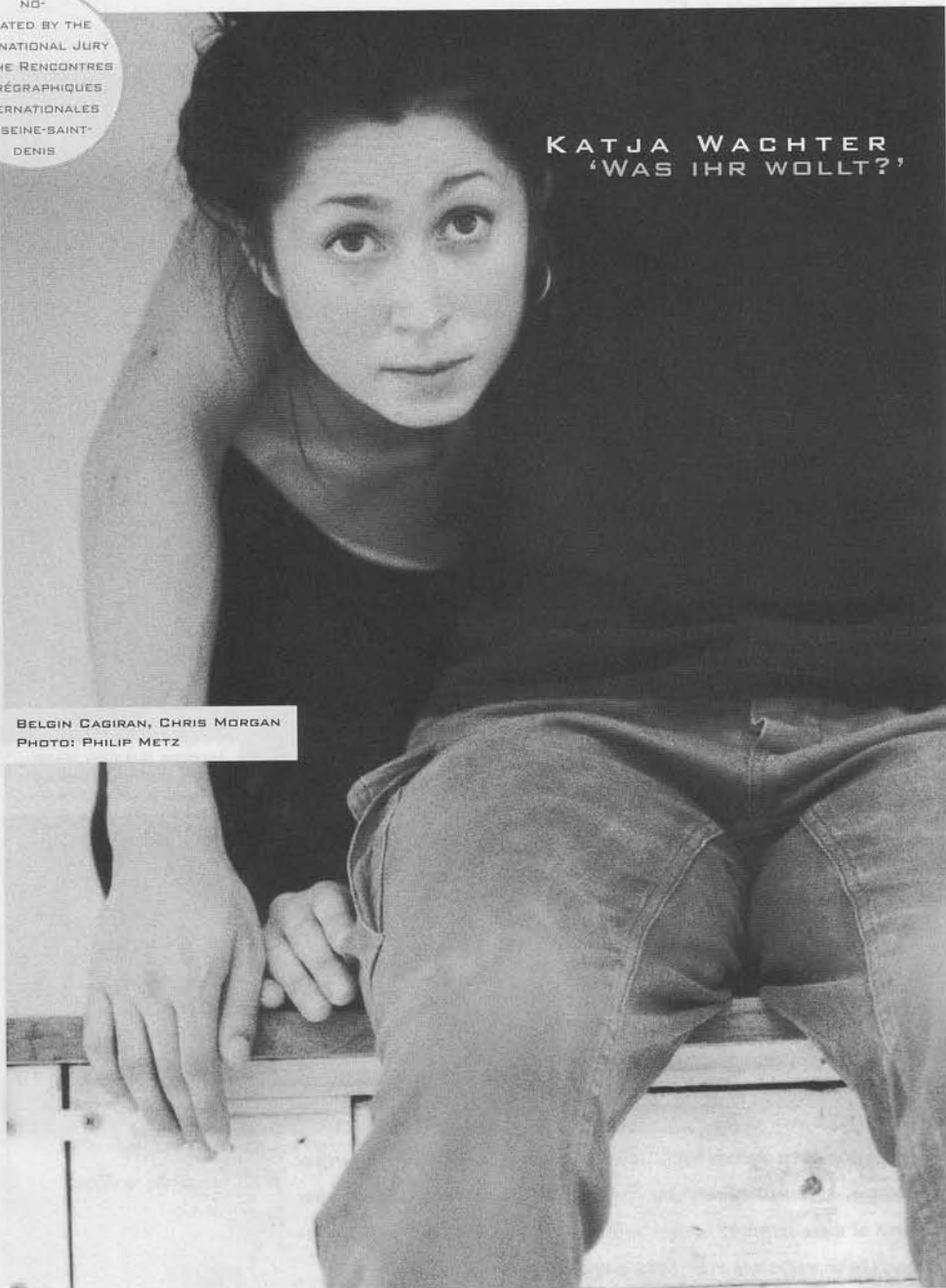


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KATJA WACHTER
'WAS IHR WOLLT?'

BELGIN DAGIRAN, CHRIS MORGAN
PHOTO: PHILIP METZ



Katja Wachter, who studied in London, sent her company Selfish Shellfish out on the streets of Munich. She asked passers-by: what is contemporary dance? On the stage, the answers come from the wings: "Contemporary dance is a bigger kick than sex." Wachter collected 15 hours of interviews, and engaged the audience with her own version of the I-just-can't-quite-describe-it of dance. As a "researcher of movement," she links the propositions with nimble choreographic illustrations of preconceptions about dance. Katja Wachter feels solidarity with the spectators, crammed into narrow seats and impatient. Two dancers, seated in the audience, stretch energetically and fidget. At the entrance, the spectators are counted, filmed, and photographed. At the curtain call, they are reflected back; they applaud their own opinion: that contemporary dance combines "beauty with character," and, especially with Katja Wachter, is "not a bit uptight."

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“... the search for new movements is often guided and inspired by principles taken from spheres completely foreign to dance. For me, what is important is that the movements constitute a link between form and content. The starting point for content is produced in the observation of the human, with all its rough edges and contradictions. I'm fascinated with the sheer number of different ways one and the same thing can be seen and represented.