

**Mendi + Keith Obadike, *The Sun***

40 min.

In our practice we often think about how listening alters our sense of time. When listening, a repeating pulse can cause us to lose our grip on the passage of time. It can lull us, taking us out of time, or a sudden crash can awaken us to the moment. A musician may experience a moment differently because of how one divides time or pulses. This time-work is most evident with drummers. The great drummer JT Lewis, who plays with us on *The Sun*, seems to be able to occupy multiple time domains at once. One of rhythm's gifts is its ability to reorient us in relation to time and space.

Listening also engages the index of our memories. One may be pulled into the past when listening to an old melody or one may be pushed into the future by new and inspiring sounds. That internal place where our favorite refrains live is the infinite timezone of the imagination.

With *The Sun* we wanted to make a musical film about the oldest metronome (the sun) and all that happens under this star. In this piece we are thinking about the sun as a pulse and a guide across time. During the screening, we invite you to meditate on the constancy of the sun. The piece begins with an Igbo proverb about the sun and time. In English it reads:

The sun will shine  
on those stand  
before it shines  
on those who kneel  
under them.