



MESSIAH RUN!, SOIT / Hans Van den Broeck

New dance piece SOIT/Hans Van den Broeck on the need and uselessness of a new Messiah:

MESSIAH RUN!

Premiere January 26th, 2012, Arts Centre Vooruit, Ghent (B)

MESSIAH RUN! is Hans Van den Broeck's fourth major production since he founded SOIT (Stay Only If Temporary), after having worked for 12 years at Les Ballets C de la B. For MESSIAH RUN! Hans Van den Broeck gathers six dancers. As astronauts they slowly wake up from a long sleep and run around in a labyrinth. Roaming in the back room of a collective subconscious, they re-enact excerpts of their memory, in a last attempt to escape from falling into oblivion. They stage curious uncanny characters from the past and the future and deliver messages of a perhaps' soon arriving oracle.



© Chris Van der Burght

There is a need to understand and classify the disorder into a system. Is there something or someone holding all of this together? Is there a savior, or will there be one tomorrow? Maybe we shall elect and create a new messiah, a refurbished hero, an imperfect simpleton, the one we can count on and trust. This is the one who shall be instilled with powers, at least for a while, if not today, then tomorrow, until the magic, the belief is over. Hans Van den Broeck places the brain as a sentient master or an inner rival, freeing the mind through the body. He takes the audience into an image-like universe sunk with anguish, emotion and raw energy.

Contact: Quentin Legrand – quentin@soit.info - +32 472 54 99 88



MESSIAH RUN!, SOIT / Hans Van den Broeck

Credits

Direction	Hans Van den Broeck
Cocreation & performance	Harold Henning, Lars August Jørgensen, Joe Jurd, Jonathan Pranlas, Sara Sampelayo, Anuschka Von Oppen
Dramaturgical assistance	Diane Fourdrignier
Sound creation	James Brown
Sound research & set up	Eric Faes
Set design & lights	Dirk De Hooghe
Artistic assistance light	Giacomo Gorini
Costumes	Marion Jouffre
Coproduction/collaboration	Arts Centre Vooruit, Ghent (B) - TRAFFIC: Cultuurcentrum Kortrijk (B) / La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq (F) - Le Rive Gauche, St-Etienne-du-Rouvray (F). SOIT is supported by the Flemish Community.

Tour

Premiere 26-27-28/01/12, Arts Centre Vooruit, Ghent (B)
31/01/12 – 01/02/12 La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq (F)
11/02/12 Cultuurcentrum Kortrijk (B)
15/02/12 Cultuurcentrum Brugge (B)
16/11/12 Le Rive Gauche, Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray (F)

Video

2' trailer: <http://vimeo.com/36013270>
15' excerpt: <http://vimeo.com/36755640> (password: messiahpro)
70' complete performance: <http://vimeo.com/37118988> (password: messiahpro)
Interview with Hans Van den Broeck: <http://rehearsalmatters.org/interview/hans-van-den-broeck>

Press

"Each scene provokes amazement and self-reflection." * (Els Van Steenberghe, Knack Focus , 30/01/12)**

"Very recognizable and touching images and an intense choreography." * (Eline Van de Voorde, Cutting Edge, 16/02/12)**



THEATRE

Katy Desmond

Messiah Run!

It all began with Simon Says, says Hans Van den Broeck about his new choreography *Messiah Run!*, which premieres this month in Ghent.

"My girlfriend told me about this game where one child tells the other children to move a certain way, and if you don't listen well or you do it wrong, you are out," explains the Brussels-based choreographer and founder of the SOIT dance company. "I said: 'That's not a game, that's crowd control.'"

Van den Broeck and his girlfriend laughed about the game - known as "Jantje zegt" in Dutch - but the next morning it was still with him. "I woke up and 'Simon' had become 'messiah': Messiah says. It became a game in my mind to imagine what if there was a messiah, whatever that is. And what if he was a person who ordered us to do things, and we would have to obey him and follow his structure to understand the world."

Out of this came *Messiah Run!* Set on a stage littered with chairs (dance fans may recognise a nod to Pina Bausch here), the piece uses movement to explore humanity's reflex to make order from chaos, the resulting search for some all-powerful guiding force and why we would never recognise such a power if it presented itself.

For the piece, Van den Broeck couples his passion for dance with his educational training in psychology (which he studied at KU Leuven) to investigate the human capacity to take in and hold information, as well as its limitations. Six performers,



coming from the worlds of both dance and theatre, scan their minds like computers, mining for data made up of memories and organising input in the attempt to construct and understand their environment.

"It's a very lonely piece because everyone is wandering through their own personal memories, trying to communicate them to the audience," says Van den Broeck. "But memories are by definition impossible to share." The 47-year-old built the piece with

his performers in a manner not unlike how a psychoanalyst might guide his patients through the exploration of their memories and anxieties, finding new ways to push the boundaries of communication. Rehearsing in the abandoned chapel of an old psychiatric institute where Van den Broeck worked as a student, the group would have silent days during which they had to develop their roles and share their ideas only through the movement of their bodies.

In the piece, the line between sanity and insanity, reality and memory is blurred. Van den Broeck, who spent more than 12 years with the Ghent-based dance collective Les Ballets C de la B before founding SOIT in 2001, suggests that this is because distinguishing between them may be impossible. "I am fascinated by some of these people you see in Brussels: the loners, the crazies. Sometimes I meet these people, and they talk to me like contemporary oracles. I find they have something like a messiah

in them: They put things in front of us that we don't want to see."

Light-hearted? Perhaps not. But the subject is endlessly fascinating: why our cognitive limitations mean we need a messiah and why we can never accept one, all told through elegant, evocative, sometimes startling dance and drama.

Simon says, go see it.

26-28 January, 20.00 | Vooruit Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23, Ghent | www.vooruit.be

Press attention

11/01/12	Zone 09	24/01/12	Urgent Fm
12/01/12	CJP	25/01/12	Radio Klara (Babel)
13/01/12	The Bulletin	25/01/12	Het Nieuwsblad
18/01/12	Flanders Today	26/01/12	De Standaard
20/01/12	METRO	30/01/12	Focus Knack
21/01/12	Victoire Le Soir	08/02/12	Femmes d'Aujourd'hui
23/01/12	Cobra	16/02/12	Cutting Edge
23/01/12	Le Vif/L'Express		



MESSIAH RUN!, SOIT / Hans Van den Broeck

BIO

Hans Van den Broeck / SOIT

After his studies of Psychology at the University of Leuven, Hans Van den Broeck moved to New York where he studied Film at the City University of New York. Back in Belgium, he danced in several pieces of Alain Platel at Les Ballets C de la B, which he cofounded. Within this company, Hans Van den Broeck created several pieces: 'Everyman', 'Eat, Eat, Eat', 'La Sortie', 'Lac des Singes'...

In 2001 Hans Van den Broeck founded SOIT (Stay Only If Temporary) as a new structure for his choreographical and directional work. Ever since he made different big productions ('Almost Dark', 'En Servicio', 'We Was Them') and location projects ('Café Prückel', 'Settlement' trilogy).

Hans Van den Broeck was awarded for his movie work: 'Our Circumscribed Days' obtained the 'Prix du Jury' at the 'Entrainements #4' festival in Paris in 2003.

So then they looked up to the ceiling, closed their eyes, took a deep breath and took off

The search for a new existence and the refuge in fictional realities are recurring themes in Hans Van den Broeck's work. Inside-outside, city life-isolation are juxtaposed. He investigates the dynamics in individuals and groups in new and unknown situations. The role of the subconscious and the individual and collective memory is fundamental in his work.

Hans Van den Broeck has a very visual and cinematic approach of dance. The play of the dancers is very physical and demonstrates raw energy.

Pieces

2011, 'Messiah Run!', premiere Vooruit, Ghent
On the need and uselessness of a new Messiah

2009, 'We Was Them', premiere KVS, Brussels
About physical and mental detox

2006, 'En Servicio', premiere ImPulsTanz Festival, Vienna
About captivity of individuals in group structures

2005, 'Durchgang', collaboration with Ellen Meijer, premiere Stadtmuseum Düsseldorf
About children's mental strategies concerning society

2004, 'Almost Dark', premiere La Rose des Vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq
About individuals who want to free themselves from the collective memory



MESSIAH RUN!, SOIT / Hans Van den Broeck

2003, 'Deed of arrangement', premiere Temps d'Images festival, Les Halles de Schaerbeek, Brussels
About fiction and non-fiction during a hostage

2001, 'Lac des Singes', premiere Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels
About the confrontation human/animal

1999, 'La Sortie', premiere Vooruit, Ghent
About anxiety, hope and relationships in the bar of a theatre

1998, 'Au progrès', premiere Vooruit, Ghent
About a wedding that falls through the ceiling

1996, '(They Feed We) Eat, Eat, Eat', premiere Vooruit, Ghent
About a group in search for its own rituals

1994, 'Everyman', premiere Vooruit, Ghent
About a broken family, based on 'As I Lay Dying' by William Faulkner

1992, 'How to Approach a Dog', premiere STUK, Leuven
Adaptation of 'In Cold Blood' by Truman Capote

In situ projects

2010, 'Café Prückel', premiere ImPulsTanz Festival, Vienna
About table conversations and kept up appearances

2008, 'Nomads', Sydney, Australia
Continuation of Settlement

2007, 2008, 'Settlement', Sydney, Zimbabwe, Corsica, Vienna, New Zealand
About the behaviour of citizens in a temporary settlement construction
Performance as a result of a workshop with local dancers

Movies

2011, 'Homeland', short movie
Continuation of Settlement and Nomads

2006, 'Alivetoo', video, collaboration with Abdel Noukrati, Harold Henning, KVS and two groups of Moroccan youngsters. The ironic interpretation of a disaster film

2003, 'Odeur de Sainteté', short movie
About a brother-sister relationship

2000, 'Our Circumscribed Days', short movie, premiere Kunstenfestivaldesarts
About public life in Moscow
'Prix du Jury' at the 'Entrainements # 4' festival in Paris.

2000, Induced Sleep, Hong-Kong City festival

1999, 'Eyes on the Back', short movie, collaboration with Yves Opstaele, Vidéodanse, Centre Pompidou
About an anxious woman who isolates herself from a group, based on the piece '(They feed we) Eat, Eat, Eat'



MESSIAH RUN!, SOIT / Hans Van den Broeck

1998, 'Ways of Watching', video, collaboration with Galerij Witte de With, Rotterdam
Adaptation of 'Death of a salesman'

Performance in

1994, 'Bonjour Madame', Alain Platel
1991, 'Mussen', Alain Platel
1990, 'O Boom', Alain Platel
1988, 'Alchemie', Alain Platel

BIO

Cast MESSIAH RUN!

Harold Henning

followed a theatrical education at INSAS (Brussels). He has been performing with Pierre Droulers, Hush-Hush-Hush, Les Ballets C de la B, Diederik Peeters, Dito'Dito', Union Suspecte and others. With SOIT he performed in 'Lac des Singes', 'Almost dark', 'En Servicio', 'We Was Them'. He has recently created the platform 'Domaine de la Solitude' to develop his artistic work.

Lars August Jorgensen

studied art in Denmark and acting at the Norwegian Theatre Academy.

Joe Jurd

has studied dance at the University of Western Sydney. He has been working with David Zambrano, Lee Su-Feh and others. He has been teaching in contemporary technique, hip-hop and contact improvisation.

Jonathan Pranas

studied theatre in Marseille and dance at P.A.R.T.S. (Brussels). He has been working with Romeo Castellucci, Sasha Waltz, Alexandra Waierstall and Mathilde Monnier. He continues his research as a choreographer with his own company, Tangible Craft.

Sara Sampelayo

studied contemporary dance in Madrid. She has collaborated with Pedro Berdäyes, Chevy Muraday, Michiel Soete, Fré Werbrouck and Wim Vandekeybus. In 2011, she created the solo 'Just in time for Something'.

Anuschka Von Oppen

studied dance in New York at the Alvin Ailey Dance School and the Merce Cunningham School, danced with Esse Afficionado (NYC); Cie Toulalimnaios; TanzApartment-Huber & Christen; Adekwhat-Philippe Blanchart and Gemma Higginbotham; Hyoung-Min Kim; Gerald M. Rasanayagam; A. and I. Ramadani and others. With SOIT she performed in 'En Servicio', 'We Was Them', 'Nomads' and 'Settlement'. She recently made a solo called "Nearby Buffalo".