

SWEAT BABY SWEAT - A CHOREOGRAPHY BY JAN MARTENS



Main publicity image *Sweat Baby Sweat* © Klaartje Lambrechts

Sweat Baby Sweat is about all-consuming love, and shows two people who can't – or won't – let one another go. A searing, minimal production in which images, text, movement and music complement one another perfectly.

Sweat Baby Sweat is a new step into the investigation on the symbiosis of storytelling and abstraction, which started in Jan's former production *a small guide on how to treat your lifetime companion*.

Working together with a video designer and a composer, ***Sweat Baby Sweat*** becomes a work in which composed music and projected text take an important role next to the moving composition.

Departure point in ***Sweat Baby Sweat*** is the most cliché theme ever: a relationship between a man and a woman. By adding love song lyrics and at times even mellow music one would expect a very theatrical approach, but the contrary is true. The result is a one-hour performance in which a lifetime is passing. A modern mating ritual: naïve, sensual, tender but painful, at the same time comforting and confronting.

Credits *Sweat Baby Sweat*

Choreography | *Jan Martens*

Performance | Kimmy Ligtoet and Steven Michel

Music | Jaap van Keulen

Video design | Paul Sixta

Coach | Peter Seynaeve.

Technics: Michel Spang

International bookings Jan Martens | *Apropic, Line Rousseau*

Premiere | Frascati Amsterdam, October 18th 2011

Duration performance | ca. 60 minutes

Production | Frascati Productions, ICKamsterdam, TAKT Dommelhof, JAN vzw

With thanks to | SummerStudios Brussels, Marc Vanrunxt

Video *Sweat Baby Sweat*

Teaser: <http://vimeo.com/29650678>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/32367882>

Full Length: <https://vimeo.com/31534292>, password: kimmysteven

Press about Jan Martens

“A *small guide on how to treat your live companion* is a successful experiment in dance showing experience of life and sensitive storytelling. Even this astounded dance novice was forced to admit: this production grabs you and won’t let go.” (Stijn Dierickx about *A small Guide on how to treat your life companion*, De Morgen, 03/08/11)

“The way text and music take over is a stroke of genius; the seriousness of the floor is traded for a sense of perspective and emotion. Martens has previously analyzed love in *A small guide on how to treat your lifetime companion*, a duet in which he danced himself. In this second duet, he goes much further and is able through consistent choices to dexterously remold the clichés that lie in wait. *Sweat Baby Sweat* is a simple, poetic production brimming with emotion.” (Moos van den Broek about *Sweat Baby Sweat***** in Theaterkrant, 06/10/12)

“Balancing on the boarder between abstraction and identification, Martens' minimalist movement idiom crochets instant to your own experience.” (Charlotte De Somviele in *De Morgen****1/2 about *To Love Duets*, 11/12/12)

More quotes and press releases on the work of Jan Martens on:

<http://www.janmartens.com/press>.

Tourschedule *Sweat Baby Sweat*

26 june 2014 | Biënnale | Venetië IT
28 august 2014 | tanzmesse nrw | Düsseldorf DE
05 november 2014 | Dansehallerne | Kopenhagen DK
13 january 2015 | Parktheater | Eindhoven NL
05 february 2015 | CC Diest | Diest BE
24 february 2015 | CC MM | Maasmechelen BE
27 february 2015 | CC Berchem | Antwerpen BE
28 february 2015 | chassé theater | Breda NL
14 march 2015 | GC De Kluize | Oosterzele BE
15 march 2015 | CC Het Perron | Ieper BE
18 april 2015 | CC De Woeker | Oudenaarde BE

Photo's *Sweat Baby Sweat*





Kimmy Ligtoet en Steven Michel © Klaartje Lambrechts

Biography Jan Martens



Jan Martens (Belgium °1984) studied at the Fontys dance academy in Tilburg and graduated at the Artesis Conservatory for Dance in Antwerp in 2006. He performed in the work of amongst others: Koen De Preter, United-C, Mor Shani and Ann Van den Broek. In 2009 he started to develop his own choreographic work. Since 2013 Martens is “artist in residence” at the International Choreographic Arts Centre (ICKamsterdam), and supported by DansBrabant. From September 2014 onwards he’ll become “artist in residence” at tanzhaus nrw Düsseldorf.

Martens’ first major work was I CAN RIDE A HORSE WHILST JUGGLING SO MARRY ME (United-C, 2010), a work that portrayed a generation of young women in a society dominated by social networks. From 2011 on his work was produced by Frascati. There he created TO LOVE DUETS, both investigating the cliché portrayal of a man – woman relationship: A SMALL GUIDE ON HOW TO TREAT YOUR LIFETIME COMPANION and SWEAT BABY SWEAT. The first one was selected for Aerowaves, a European network supporting young choreographers. The second one was selected for the Dutch Dance Days 2012 and Circuit X edition 2013 in Flanders.

In April 2013 two premières took place. Firstly, Martens created the breathtaking duet for a boy and a man called VICTOR together with actor and director Peter Seynaeve, produced by CAMPO. Afterwards he made LA BÊTE, a solo for the young actress Joke Emmers in a coproduction with La Briqueterie CDC du Val-de-Marne. Not much later LA BÊTE was combined with BIS, a solo for choreographer Truus Bronkhorst, in a double bill called DIALOGUE.

Next to these works he made guest choreographies for dansateliers, Meekers, and AHK. In March 2012 he created PRETTY PERFECT, a coproduction by dansateliers and Conny Janssen Danst. This work formed the base for a full evening performance THE DOG DAYS ARE OVER, which went into première on 20th of March 2014 in Frascati, Amsterdam and on 3rd of April in CAMPO, Ghent.

All Jan’s works explore the possibility of a perfect balance and symbiosis between storytelling and conceptualism. He is not trying to create a new movement language, but instead he molds and recycles existing idioms and places them in a different setting, so a new idea emerges. In his work the beauty of the incomplete human being stands up front, rather than to excel in choreographic complexity or physical virtuosity.