

SWEAT BABY SWEAT (2011)

by Jan Martens



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"SWEAT BABY SWEAT is a performance in which simplicity shines."

Moos Van den Broek, *Theaterkrant*, 06 October 2012 *****

"This is a relentless work, methodically paced, even maddening as it repeats from the beginning to try for a different outcome."

Brian Seibert, *The New York Times*, 31 January 2017

"Martens teasingly acknowledges how the couple's all-consuming insularity might inspire viewer boredom, but sticking with it yields emotionally complex rewards."

The New Yorker, 27 January 2017

1. PUBLICITY TEXT

SWEAT BABY SWEAT is a performance about love. Following A SMALL GUIDE ON HOW TO TREAT YOUR LIFETIME COMPANION (2010), Jan Martens created a slow duet in which a man and a woman combine acrobatic strength with mental vulnerability: a look at love, beyond all the clichés.

In a provocatively slow dance, based on different movement languages such as butoh, yoga, circus acrobatics and rock 'n' roll dancing, two people hold on tight to one another. They neither want to nor can let go; after all, two is better than one. There is no absolute meaning, but a recognizability that gives the audience enough room to tie its own feelings, hopes and stories to that which is unfolding before their eyes. Jaap van Keulen provided the soundscape for the show and Paul Sixta the text projection.

2. CREDITS

PREMIERE: 18 October 2011, Frascati Amsterdam
(NL)
BY: Jan Martens
WITH: Kimmy Ligtvoet and Steven Michel
MUSIC: Jaap van Keulen
VIDEO: Paul Sixta
ADVICE: Peter Seynaeve
TECHNICAL SUPERVISION: Michel Spang
DURATION: 65 minutes
PRODUCTION: Frascati Producties, ICKamsterdam
and TAKT
Dommelhof and JAN vzw
INTERNATIONAL DIFFUSION: A Propic / Line Rousseau and Marion
Gauvent
THANKS TO: SummerStudios Brussels and Marc
Vanrunxt

3. TOUR SCHEDULE

2018

31 mar 2018 cc waregem WAREGEM BE
07 apr 2018 uppsala konsert & kongres UPPSALA SE
10 apr 2018 norrlandsoperan UMEÅ SE
12 apr 2018 sagateatern LINKÖPING SE
16 apr 2018 dansstationen MALMÖ SE
17 apr 2018 dansstationen MALMÖ SE
18 apr 2018 falkhallen FALKENBERG SE
28 jul 2018 oper graz / la strada GRAZ AT
29 jul 2018 oper graz / la strada GRAZ AR

2017

18 jan 2017 push festival / the dance center scotiabank VANCOUVER CA
19 jan 2017 push festival / the dance center scotiabank VANCOUVER CA
20 jan 2017 push festival / the dance center scotiabank VANCOUVER CA
22 jan 2016 banff center BANFF CA



27 jan 2017 abrons arts center NEW YORK US
 28 jan 2017 abrons arts center NEW YORK US
 02 feb 2017 contemporary arts center CINCINNATI US
 03 feb 2017 contemporary arts center CINCINNATI US
 06 feb 2017 antigel / salle du lignon GENEVA CH
 07 feb 2017 antigel / salle du lignon GENEVA CH
 24 feb 2017 dansens hus STOCKHOLM SE
 25 feb 2017 dansens hus STOCKHOLM SE
 10 mar 2017 theater kikker UTRECHT NL
 13 mar 2017 l'étincelle ROUEN FR
 14 mar 2017 l'étincelle ROUEN FR
 7 dec 2017 théâtre paul eluard BEZONS FR

2016

16 apr 2016 rotterdamse schouwburg ROTTERDAM NL
 18 jun 2016 staatstheater DARMSTADT DE
 19 jun 2016 staatstheater DARMSTADT DE
 01 jul 2016 festival les 7 collines ST.-ETIENNE FR
 12 jul 2016 ravnedans KRISTIANSAND NO (**premiere NO**)
 18 sept 2016 indisciplinarte festival TERNI IT
 21 sept 2016 kc nona MECHELEN BE
 22 sept 2016 kc nona MECHELEN BE
 23 sept 2016 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
 24 sept 2016 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
 27 oct 2016 desingel ANTWERP BE
 04 nov 2016 regensburger tanztage REGENSBURG DE
 27 nov 2016 tanzhaus nrw DÜSSELDORF DE
 09 dec 2016 beursschouwburg BRUSSELS BE
 10 dec 2016 beursschouwburg BRUSSELS BE

2015

13 jan 2015 parktheater EINDHOVEN NL
 23 jan 2015 tanzhaus nrw DÜSSELDORF DE
 24 jan 2015 tanzhaus nrw DÜSSELDORF DE
 05 feb 2015 cc diest DIEST BE
 12 feb 2015 tanz in BREMEN DE
 14 feb 2015 schouwburg ARNHEM NL
 24 feb 2015 cc maasmechelen MAASMECHELEN BE
 27 feb 2015 ccbe BERCHEM BE
 28 feb 2015 chassé theater BREDA NL
 14 mar 2015 gc de kluize OOSTERZELE BE
 15 mar 2015 cc het perron IEPER BE
 17 mar 2015 tanzmainz MAINS DE
 18 apr 2015 cc de woeker OUDENAARDE BE
 23 apr 2015 bipod maqamat BEIRUT LB (**premiere LB**)
 06 may 2015 new baltic dance VILNIUS LT (**premiere LT**)
 25 jul 2015 mousonturm FRANKFURT DE
 01 aug 2015 theater aan zee OSTEND BE
 02 aug 2015 theater aan zee OSTEND BE
 01 sept 2015 kunstfest weimar WEIMAR DE
 02 sept 2015 kunstfest weimar WEIMAR DE
 05 sept 2015 neumunster luxemburg LUXEMBOURG (**premiere LX**)
 08 sept 2015 international dance festival HANNOVER DE
 26 sept 2015 l'actoral MONTPELLIER FR
 27 sept 2015 l'actoral MONTPELLIER FR
 08 oct 2015 wexner arts center COLUMBUS OHIO US (**premiere US**)
 09 oct 2015 wexner arts center COLUMBUS OHIO US
 04 nov 2015 euroscene festival LEIPZIG DE
 05 nov 2015 euroscene festival LEIPZIG DE

16 nov 2015 next festival ROUBAIX FR
17 nov 2015 next festival ROUBAIX FR

2014

11 jan 2014 cc het gasthuis AARSCHOT BE
18 jan 2014 cc 't vondel HALLE BE
24 jan 2014 cc de adelberg LOMMEL BE
30 jan 2014 stadsschouwburg SINT-NIKLAAS BE
01 feb 2014 cc nova WETTEREN BE
29 mar 2014 les printemps de sévelin LAUSANNE CH
17 may 2014 c-mine GENK BE
28 may 2014 tanztage POTSDAM DE (**premiere DE**)
29 may 2014 tanztage POTSDAM DE
05 jun 2014 queer ZAGREB HR (**premiere HR**)
26 jun 2014 biennale de la danza VENICE IT (**premiere IT**)
28 aug 2014 tanzmesse DÜSSELDORF DE
05 nov 2014 dansehallerne COPENHAGEN DK

2013

08 jan 2013 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
09 jan 2013 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
11 jan 2013 takt dommelhof NEERPELT BE
12 jan 2013 30cc LEUVEN BE
13 jan 2013 korzo THE HAGUE NL
22 jan 2013 theater aan het vrijthof MAASTRICHT NL
25 jan 2013 plaza futura EINDHOVEN NL
07 feb 2013 cc westrand DILBEEK BE
08 feb 2013 campo GHENT BE
12 feb 2013 theater kikker UTRECHT NL
14 feb 2013 cc gildhof TIELT BE
27 feb 2013 verkadefabriek 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH NL
28 feb 2013 theater zuidpool ANTWERP BE
03 mar 2013 de nwe vorst TILBURG NL
25 aug 2013 international festival / les brigittines BRUSSELS BE
06 sept 2013 theaterfestival / kaaistudio's BRUSSELS BE
07 sept 2013 theater kikker UTRECHT NL
28 sept 2013 les plateaux CRÉTEIL FR (**premiere FR**)
05 oct 2013 dance umbrella / the place LONDON UK (**premiere UK**)
07 oct 2013 dance umbrella / the place LONDON UK
29 oct 2013 tanz in bern / dampfzentrale BERN CH (**premiere CH**)
22 nov 2013 usine-c MONTRÉAL CA (**premiere CA**)
23 nov 2013 usine-c MONTRÉAL CA

2012

22 mar 2012 festival cement / verkadefabriek 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH NL
23 mar 2012 festival cement / verkadefabriek 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH NL
24 mar 2012 festival cement / verkadefabriek 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH NL
06 oct 2012 nederlandse dansdagen MAASTRICHT NL
25 oct 2012 junge hunde festival ÅRHUS DK (**premiere DK**)
26 oct 2012 junge hunde festival ÅRHUS DK
05 dec 2012 de warande TURNHOUT BE (**premiere BE**)
07 dec 2012 cc de werft GEEL BE
08 dec 2012 cc ter vesten BEVEREN BE
10 dec 2012 perform2012 festival ISTANBUL TU (**premiere TU**)
12 dec 2012 de gouvernestraat ROTTERDAM NL
13 dec 2012 de gouvernestraat ROTTERDAM NL

2011

18 oct 2011 frascati AMSTERDAM NL (**première NL**)
19 oct 2011 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
20 oct 2011 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
21 oct 2011 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
22 oct 2011 frascati AMSTERDAM NL
10 dec 2011 theater de nwe vorst TILBURG NL

4. CONTACT

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5. BIOGRAPHY

Jan Martens (b. 1984, Belgium) studied at the Fontys Dance Academy in Tilburg and graduated in 2006 from the dance department of the Artesis Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. Since 2010 he has been making his own choreographic work which, over the years, has been performed with increasing regularity before a national and international audience.

Jan Martens' work is nurtured by the belief that each body can communicate, that each body has something to say. That direct communication expresses itself in transparent forms. His work is a sanctuary in which the notion of time becomes tangible again and in which there is room for observation and emotion as well as reflection. To achieve this result he creates not so much a movement language of his own, but shapes and reuses existing idioms in a different context so that new ideas emerge. In each new work he tries to redraw the relation between public and performer.

Jan Martens' first show *I CAN RIDE A HORSE WHILST JUGGLING SO MARRY ME* (2010) was a portrait of a generation of young women in a society dominated by social networks. It was followed by two love duets that he made at Frascati Amsterdam. *A SMALL GUIDE ON HOW TO TREAT YOUR LIFETIME COMPANION* (2011) was selected for Aerowaves 2011 and *SWEAT BABY SWEAT* (2011) for the Dutch Dance Festival 2012 and Circuit X 2013. He then created three shows about unconventional beauty, with performers whose bodies you do not expect in the context of contemporary dance: *BIS* (2012) for the 62-year-old Truus Bronkhorst, *LA BETE* (2013) for the young actress Joke Emmers, and *VICTOR* (2013), a duet for a boy and a grown man that Jan created with director Peter Seynaeve.

In 2014 Jan Martens focused attention on the jump as movement in the group performance *THE DOG DAYS ARE OVER* (2014). The show was selected for the Flanders Theatre Festival and is still touring, just like Jan's solo *ODE TO THE ATTEMPT* (2014) and the project *THE COMMON PEOPLE* (2016), a performance, social



experiment and workshop in one, created in collaboration with film director Lukas Dhont. Jan Martens' latest show *RULE OF THREE*, a collaboration with the American sound artist NAH, had its premiere at deSingel in Antwerp on 28 September 2017. The performance got nominated for a Zwaan (Swan) in the category 'most impressive dance production 2018.' De Zwanen are seen as the most prestigious dance prize within the Dutch performing arts field.

In the 2018-19 season, Jan Martens will engage in three new collaborations. Together with 13 youths and *FABULEUS*, he will create *PASSING THE BECHDEL TEST*, a theatrical production in which the voices of the youths are interwoven with the voices of famous and less famous women from the present and the past. He will also revise the successful 2011 production *A SMALL GUIDE ON HOW TO TREAT YOUR LIFETIME COMPANION* with two new dancers under the title *PAULINE THOMAS* as commissioned by CDCN Le Gymnase in Roubaix. In January 2019 Jan himself will be back on stage with the solo *lostmovements*, in which he plunges into the universe of choreographer and friend Marc Vanrunxt (Kunst/Werk).

Jan Martens makes regular guest performances, such as *MAN MADE* (2017) for the Dance On Ensemble. He also coaches young makers with their own creations. Jan Martens has won the North Brabant Prize of the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds (2014) and the prestigious Charlotte Köhlerprijs (2015) for his oeuvre. He is 'Creative Associate' at deSingel international arts campus from 2017 until 2021 and 'Artiste Associé' at CDCN Le Gymnase in Roubaix, Nord-Pas-de-Calais with support from the ministry of Culture and Communication (2016-2018).

In 2014 Jan Martens founded, together with business manager Klaartje Oerlemans, the choreographic platform GRIP in Antwerp / Rotterdam, from where they jointly produce and distribute his work as well as support the work of Bára Sigfúsdóttir, Steven Michel and Michele Rizzo.

6. ON GRIP

GRIP is a choreographic platform that produces and supports the work of choreographer Jan Martens. Jan Martens' work is focused on man and nurtured by the belief that each body can communicate. That direct communication expresses itself in transparent forms by which he not so much creates a movement language of his own, but shapes and reuses existing idioms in a different context so that new ideas emerge. Jan Martens is currently 'Creative Associate' at deSingel in Antwerp (2017-21) and 'Artiste Associé' at CDCN Le Gymnase in Roubaix (2016- 18). Apart from Jan Martens' work, GRIP also supports the work of three choreographers: Bára Sigfúsdóttir, Steven Michel and Michele Rizzo. GRIP is based in Antwerp and Rotterdam and is supported by the Government of Flanders (2017-21)

7. PRESS

- Press articles are available via <https://www.grip.house/en/productie/sweat-baby-sweat-2011/>

8. VIDEO

- **Full registration:**
 - **Link:** <https://vimeo.com/31534292>
 - **Password:** kimmysteven



9. ONLINE

website: www.grip.house

facebook: www.facebook.com/grip.artists

instagram: www.instagram.com/grip.artists



GRIP is supported by the Flemish Government (2017-21)

