

season  
2024 - 2025



deStilte

# olanz

with (live) music

for children



There is nothing better than hearing our audiences' views, allowing us to gain new insights. Each association uncovers new meanings, and each new layer influences the performance.

A performance for children is not a monologue in which the performer speaks and the audience is required to stay silent. It is not a lesson in which the teacher has the knowledge and the ignorant are taught. Together our wisdom is greater.

The magic of theater is that a performance never draws to an end. Who can say when something has ended?

This can be frustrating for anyone wanting absolute certainty. But for those who want adventure, the unfinished is a breath of fresh air. There is always something new to discover for all involved - creators, performers, spectators. This process of ever-growing insights, this process of becoming, makes us more receptive. Every position is relative, dictated by the perspective from which we observe.

We learn this from young children who are not yet overwhelmed by a form of teaching in which obedience prevails. One hopes that every adult can rediscover his original curiosity, spirit of discovery and unpredictability, instead of thinking 'that's just how it is'.

We agree with Dutch writer Multatuli, that it is a sad phenomenon that the word 'original' is praise. It should go without saying.

**Jack Timmermans**  
Artistic Director de Stille

## mission

de Stilte makes its mark with dance performances for children that capture their imagination. Every child has the right to an inner world, in which perception, amazement, and fantasy evoke personal freedom. de Stilte believes it is important that every child sees a dance performance that gives room for multiple perspectives, invites self-reflection and supports exchange.

de Stilte presents hundreds of performances, dance duets and workshops every year.

## vision

de Stilte chooses top level dance performances as a non-verbal language; a language that leaves room for everyone's personal interpretation. During a performance, children will immerse themselves in another world, making it their own, without the fear they may face in the real world.

They are given the opportunity to open up their personal space, overcome social bias and build up tolerance.

de Stilte considers the first encounter with art to be crucial: once touched by the love for art, this love could be everlasting for children. de Stilte chooses art that allows space, lets audiences read between the lines. Art that respects silence.

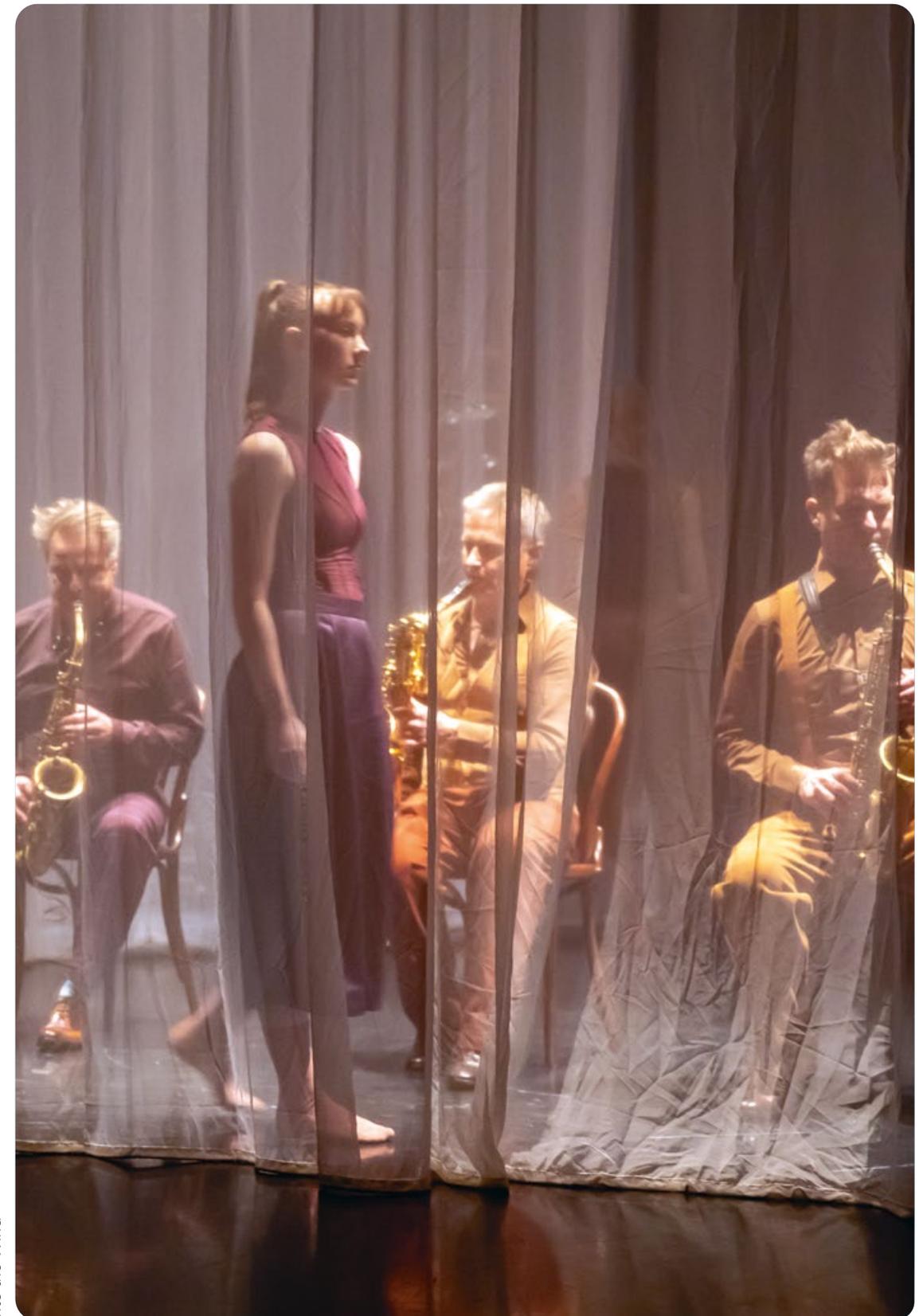
## MAPPING

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As part of the MAPPING project, de Stilte collaborates with cultural partners from 17 European countries. MAPPING is an artistic research project aimed to create a relationship with young children (0 to 6 years old) through performing arts. In MAPPING, Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil created the performances *Wait a minute* and *Eyecatchers*.

## BABEL

Since 2022, de Stilte has been a partner in the artistic research project BABEL. A collective of 16 European partners presenting dance, music, drama and visual art, that organize workshops, lectures, exchanges and training sessions among themselves.



Into the Wind

# Into the Wind

family show | 7+ | large & middle hall | with Artvark saxophone quartet

'The answer my friend, is blowin' in the wind,  
the answer is blowin' in the wind.' – Bob Dylan

The sequel of the collaboration of de Stilte and saxophone quartet Artvark in the production 'Bosch in Bed' will take place in 2024, with the performance 'Into the Wind'.

Based on album 'Mother of Thousand' by Artvark, Jack Timmermans created thirteen sketches on the musical pieces. Music and dance come together in an alternating backdrop of glass curtains and chairs. The stage breathes a bygone era and suggests terraces, plazas or similar locations where people gather. Encouraged by the music, the dancers interact with each other.

## About Artvark saxophone quartet

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Artvark meanders through musical traditions, sometimes on the intersection of classical and jazz, and always soulful and with blues. They aspire to connect worlds and cross borders, both in themselves and their music. They tirelessly look for more, keep digging and rooting through the mud and sway across the stage according to an improvised choreography.

'A fabulous performance. The successful collaboration of several art disciplines effortlessly intertwining, was particularly striking,'  
– regional Dutch newspaper *Brabants Dagblad* about *Bosch in Bed* (2016)

'Artvark avidly digs into the past, often using rare historical saxophones. It yields wonderfully hallucinating music.'  
– national Dutch newspaper *Trouw* about the album *Mother of Thousand* from Artvark

**choreography, concept, set design** Jack Timmermans  
**dancers** Hayleigh Smillie, Gianmarco Stefanelli, Eduarda Santos, Stivali Portegijs, Evi de Boeck, Philip Vötter, Pilvi Kuronen  
**music** Artvark saxophone quartet  
**costumes** Aleksandra Pershay  
**light** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein design



# Down to the Wire

family show | 5+ | small hall

How closely are we connected?

In a life that starts with an umbilical cord and finishes wireless, people are connected to one another. How can we keep track of the different strings in a world where we sometimes distance ourselves, but regularly tread on each other's toes? Down to the Wire plays with the visible and invisible threads that keep us balanced.

Two dancers, two chairs, a table and a bed complete the homely picture. With a touch of Dutch revue artist Louis Davids, who sang in 1935: "You imagine you are pulling the strings, but ah, life hurls you left and right".

- 8 Stefan Busch composed the gentle chords for piano, cello and accordion, especially for this performance.

'With their engaging, energetic play, Pilvi Kuronen and Gianmarco Stefanelli manage to fascinate the audience, both young and old. It is poetry in motion, not in words.'  
– Emmanuel Naaijkens, *Brabant Cultureel*

**choreography** Jack Timmermans  
**assistant choreographer** Femke Somerwil  
**dancers** Pilvi Kuronen, Gianmarco Stefanelli  
**music** Stefan Busch  
**costumes** Aleksandra Pershay  
**light** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design  
**set design** Jack Timmermans and Bert Vogels



# Come and Go

family show | 4+ | small hall

'When I show up, I hold out my hand to you.'

'Nice, can I keep it?'

'No, you can't. I'll need it for waving goodbye when I leave.'

Let us meet a thousand times, let us leave and return to each other 999 times. Let us share, add and multiply a thousand times of joy, sorrow, hope and disappointment.

Each time, in a different way, we are together and alone. Sometimes we say goodbye with a sense of relief, often with sadness and regret. On stage in a world of paper pillars, there is a life of 'comings and goings'. Slow, tragic and humorous. Sketches of introductions under various circumstances and disguises.

The music is a selection from songs and piano pieces by George Gershwin, performed live by soprano Kelly Poukens.

## About Kelly Poukens

Belgian soprano Kelly Poukens is the winner of the Stiftung Blatow prize in the International Anton Rubinstein competition (Germany), and the silver award in the Manhattan International Music Competition (US). She was runner-up in the Honda Competition For Classical Music (Belgium), won the Prix Sophie, Laureates award and the audience award during the finals and preliminaries of the Princess Christina Competition (the Netherlands).

'the swirling, wordless world of de Stilte is convincing from the very start'  
– Machteld Postma, Jury chair Dutch Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund, Prize 2021

**choreography** Jack Timmermans  
**assistant choreography** Gertien Bergstra  
**dancers** Elvedin Šiljdedić or Mirella de Almeida Castagna  
**vocals, play** Kelly Poukens  
**music** George Gershwin  
**set design** Jack Timmermans  
**piano (recording)** Henk van Riel



# Eyecatchers

early years – 1 to 5 | stage-on-stage

In the beginning, the world was uninhibited.  
Life was so pristine, curiosity triumphed over  
fear and anger.

This pristineness could be likened to the open mind of someone watching the world.  
The sound of water, the stream of movement, nature was without words.  
Discovery was a breeze, and every touch, the start of an adventure.

Two dancers and a musician return to the source with unusual instruments and unusual  
encounters, which become evident ... simply because they are there.

'Leon and Julia's response to seeing their first dance performance  
was beautiful. Especially when they were invited to join the dancers  
on stage after the performance and were able to play with the strange props.'  
– Martijn Schraven about *Eyecatchers*, Regional Dutch newspaper *BN/de Stem*

*Eyecatchers* is part of MAPPING.

**concept** Helene Jank, Gertien Bergstra, Femke Somerwil

**choreography** Gertien Bergstra, Femke Somerwil

**music** Helene Jank

**dancers** Elvedin Šiljdedić & Ivar Draaisma or  
Chiara Aldoriso & Donna Scholten

**design** Bert Vogels

**light** Twan Mensen, Rob Touwslager



# HiHaHutBuilders

early years | 2+ | stage-on-stage

In the middle of a blue field with fair-weather clouds, there's a ... well, what is it actually?

Because no one knows what it is, we call it a bed, a mountain, a house or anything else we can think of.

Very subtly, the stories emerge. A man and a woman appear on stage.

de Stilte treats both young and old to an imaginative story in an intimate setting. Set designer Bert Vogels helps the cast to bring to life a tiny world through sun, wind, rain and snow.

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'Light and playful. The approach of choreographers Jack Timmermans and Jack Gallagher is perfect; they don't go into great detail about what's happening and rightly presume that young children can handle some form of abstraction.'

– Theaterkrant

**choreography** Jack Timmermans, Jack Gallagher  
**dancers** Eduarda Santos, Ivar Draaisma, Pilvi Kuronen, Elvedin Šiljdedić, Gianmarco Stefanelli, Kaia Vercammen, Mirella de Almeida Castagna  
**music** Mete Erker, Jeroen van Vliet  
**props** Bert Vogels  
**costumes** Joost van Wijmen  
**light** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design  
**decor** Jack Timmermans



# Wait a minute

early years | 0,5 to 6 | stage-on-stage

LIVE MUSIC AS OPTION

From a building kit, a world unfolds.

Snow-white objects fill the void.

A small table, a stool, a door, a tiny piano.

But wait a minute, is somebody here?

How do you deal with someone that is different? Especially when you don't know what kind of somebody it is?

A human, a dog, a bird? Fortunately, nobody is forced to change. Just stay who you are.

Accompanied by the wonderful piano music of Jeroen van Vliet, the unfamiliar becomes familiar in this new environment; a world comes to life directly at the eye level of the young audience.

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*Many beautiful, poetic, exciting and always surprising moments.*  
– *Kinder-Jugend-Kultur*

*'The piano sounds of Jeroen van Vliet, who created a new composition, are calm and serene.'*  
– *Mirjam van der Linden – Dans Magazine*

*Wait a minute* is part of MAPPING.

**choreography** Gertien Bergstra, Femke Somerwil  
**dancers** Kaia Vercammen, Donna Scholten, Eduarda Santos, Hayleigh Smillie, Chiara Aldoriso, Mirella de Almeida Castagna, Evi de Boeck  
**music** Jeroen van Vliet (piano)  
**costumes** Czakon  
**light / decor** Twan Mensen, Bert Vogels



# 1-2's

all ages | dance at school or on location

## An encounter between two dancers.

In an intimate setting of just 3.5 by 3.5 meters, two dancers present a duet on location. The dance is so close, there's no escaping it.

The duet is followed by a workshop, where assignments allow everyone to experience the joy of dancing as a duet.

de Stilte offers duets for all age groups, created by Jack Timmermans, Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil.

'Hi Pilvi & Mirella,  
you gave a performance last week in my son Rocco's class.  
He loved your dance! Afterwards he enjoyed demonstrating  
his own dance skills. He is still talking about it.  
Regards from Rocco & his mum'

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**choreography** Jack Timmermans, Femke Somerwil, Gertien Bergstra, Lidia Wos



## Performance information and bookings

performance	age	capacity	duration	floor space	stage dimension	
<b>Into the Wind</b>	7+	275 – 350 visitors mid-size/auditorium	55 min.		10 x 10 x 5 m	with live music by Artvark saxophone quartet
<b>Down to the Wire</b>	5+	200 visitors auditorium/black box	45 min.		9 x 9 x 5 m	
<b>Come and Go</b>	4+	200 visitors auditorium/black box	50 min.		9 x 9 x 4 m	with live singing by soprano Kelly Poukens
<b>HiHaHutBuilders</b>	2+	80 visitors stage-on-stage	40 min. + 10 min. interaction	9 x 9 m	6 x 6 x 5 m	
<b>Eyecatchers</b>	1+	60 visitors stage-on-stage	35 min. + 10 min. interaction	9 x 9 m	6 x 6 x 5 m	with live music by Helene Jank
<b>Wait a minute</b>	0,5+	55 visitors stage-on-stage	40 min. + 10 min. interaction	9 x 9 m	6 x 7 x 4 m	live music possible by pianist Jeroen van Vliet
<b>1-2's</b>			60 min.	6 x 10 m	3.5 x 3.5 m	

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### Bookings for France & Spain

Agency Christelle Dubuc | +33 6 13492476 | flyingcow.diffusion@gmail.com

### Bookings in all other countries

de Stilte | Jan Baanstra | +31 76 5138125 | jan@destilte.nl



Down to the wire

# Who is who?

artistic team



**Jack Timmermans**  
artistic director

artistic team



**Gertien Bergstra**  
choreographer,  
rehearsal director

artistic team



**Femke Somerwil**  
choreographer,  
rehearsal director

artistic team



**Jack Gallagher**  
choreographer,  
rehearsal director

dancer



**Chiara Aldoriso**

dancer



**Mirella de Almeida Castagna**

dancer



**Pilvi Kuronen**

dancer



**Ivar Draaisma**

dancer



**Donna Scholten**

dancer



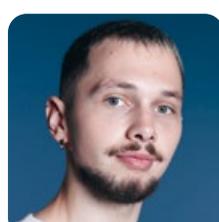
**Gianmarco Stefanelli**

dancer



**Kaia Vercammen**

dancer



**Elvedin Šiljdedić**

dancer



**Eduarda Santos**

dancer



**Philip Vötter**

dancer



**Hayleigh Smillie**

dancer



**Evi de Boeck**

dancer



**Sara Pigatto**

dancer



**Stavali Portegijs**

costumes



**Aleksandra Pershaya**

costumes

**Czakon**  
costume designer  
**Joost van Wijmen**  
costume designer

music



**Stefan Busch**  
composer

music



**Mete Erker**  
composer

music



**Jeroen van Vliet**  
composer, piano player

music



**Kelly Poukens**  
singer, performer

music



**Helene Jank**  
creator, performer

music



**Artvark**  
saxophone quartet

technics



**Yannick de Regt**

technics



**Arjuna Borsetti Torchio**

technics



**Alessandro Sposetti**

technics



**Rob Touwslager**

technics



**Bjorn Even**

technics



**Twan Mensen**

education



**Susanne Driedijk**  
daycare coordinator

education



**Marinka Korff**  
primary school coordinator

education



**Eva Holtzer**  
secondary education  
coordinator

education



**Grace van Gilst**  
dance teacher

education



**Svetlana Willemen**  
host performances

education



**Jan Baanstra**  
managing director

education



**Irma Bouwman**  
office manager

education



**Eric Maas**  
hr manager

education



**Moniek Simons**  
marketeer

education



**Elke Bernards**  
online marketeer

education



**Maarten van Herwijnen**  
planner

# de Stilte

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Lars de Nijs, Claudette van de Rakt  
**graphic design** Berry van Gerwen  
**print** NPN drukkers, Breda

