

for children 2023-2024  
dance



ALSO WITH LIVE MUSIC

deStilte



## That is the Tao?

Back in 1990, four years before the company's official start, I made my first dance performance under the flag of de Stille: 'Heaven and Earth Moved'. Location was the small venue of Theater Concordia in Breda, the precursor of the Chassé Theater. After the show, I was approached by a spectator in high spirits. His analysis of the performance was so profound, so striking that I was genuinely impressed. For the first time I heard an explanation that exceeded my own imagination.

The conversation went on about my idea that the one in power gets to ask the questions; the one without is expected or even compelled to answer.

"What do you think you're doing here?"

"What's this all about?"

"Where is that supposed to go?"

To my companion, the world of prestige and power was a world of observing and being observed. The powerless were being watched by the powerful. The man explained he had recently been discharged from a mental institution where he had witnessed the game between psychiatrist and patient. He proudly described how he taught his fellow residents to stare back, in order not to be stared at.

Years later, I saw him again at a photo exhibit. Wearing dark glasses and handling a white cane, he was being guided past his son's photos. Clearly, this was not an act. He had put out his own eyes.

I didn't know what to say. We never spoke again. Reality had surpassed fantasy.

A saying, such as 'children and fools tell the truth', seems out of order if you ask me. I remember a story told by my esteemed teacher, the painter Waldy Vastrick, about a man who wants to know what the Tao is. After many wanderings and directions, the pilgrim arrives at the foot of a mountain. At the top lives an old man who knows the answer. On his way up, he passes a confused stranger who is stumbling and lurching in the opposite direction. The primal screams sounding from his raw throat, hoarse and incoherent, die away in the deep. After a short moment of contemplation, our man continues his climb.

When he finally reaches the summit, he gets an answer from the wise old man.

"I know what the Tao is, which is why I cannot tell you. But the man you met halfway... he almost got it."

Breda, October 5, 2022

**Jack Timmermans**, artistic director de Stille

# mission

With dance that appeals to the imagination, de Stilte strives to make its mark in the field of modern dance for children. Every child has the right to an inner world in which experience, wonder and fantasy evoke personal freedom.

A dance performance by de Stilte leaves space for multiple perspectives, invites self-reflection and exchange.

The ensemble consists of 13 dancers and annually presents hundreds of performances and dance duets.

de Stilte has made it its mission — regional, national and international — to get as many children as possible acquainted with the company’s productions and dance activities.

# vision

de Stilte chooses top level dance as a non-verbal language that leaves room for personal interpretation. During a performance, a child can get involved in a different world, free of the fears that any direct contact with such a world might provoke. Children are given the opportunity to enhance their personal space, to overcome their social bias and train tolerance. de Stilte considers the first acquaintance with art as crucial: once touched by art, imagination can take possession of the young spectator forever. de Stilte opts for art that leaves open spaces, that allows the white between the lines to be read. Art that respects the silence.

# international

de Stilte is a welcome guest on stages abroad. Up to now, 43 countries have made acquaintance with the company’s productions: from a series of consecutive shows in Opéra Bastille, Paris to a tour with performances in the King Hussein Theater of Amman.

# BABEL

As of 2022, de Stilte is a partner of the artistic research project BABEL. 16 European organisations, active in the performing arts for children, jointly organize workshops, lectures, exchange events and trainings. The project covers the disciplines dance, music, drama and visual arts.

# funding partners

de Stilte is included in the cultural basic infrastructure of The Netherlands (BIS) since 2021. The company is structurally supported by the Ministry of Culture, the province of Noord-Brabant, the municipality of Breda and the European Union.

# MAPPING

MAPPING is a European collaboration project for artistic research. It focusses on creating a sensory-based relationship with children, age 0 to 6, through performing arts. In particular, it explores the idea of “children - spectators of today and not just tomorrow”.

de Stilte is one of the project’s 18 cultural partners from 17 different countries. Together, we give an impulse to performances for the very, very young. In this context, choreographers Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil created *Wait a Minute*, a performance for children from 0,5 to 5 years old. And scheduled for 2024 is *Eyecatchers*; ‘their brand new second production for babies and toddlers (1+).

# mapping partners

- Artika Theatre Company | Athens, Greece  
Auraco dance theatre | Helsinki, Finland  
Baboró International Arts Festival for Children | Galway, Ireland  
Bologna Fiere/Bologna Children’s Book Fair | Bologna, Italy  
de Stilte | Breda, the Netherlands  
Helios Theater | Hamm, Germany  
Ion Creangă Theatre | Bucharest, Romania  
Kolibri Theatre for Children and Youth | Budapest, Hungary  
La Baracca – Testoni Ragazzi | Bologna, Italy
- Ljubljana Puppet Theatre (LPT) | Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Polka Theatre | Wimbledon, London, UK  
Teater Tre | Stockholm, Sweden  
Teatr Animacji | Poznan, Poland  
Teatro Paraíso | Vitoria, Spain  
Théâtre de la Guimbarde | Charleroi, Belgium  
Theatre Madam Bach | Odder, Denmark  
TOIHAUS THEATRE SALZBURG | Salzburg, Austria  
Ville de Limoges | Limoges, France

# schedule

|                                  |          |   |  |
|----------------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Into the Wind<br>new             | 7+       | mid-size stage / auditorium<br>capacity 275 - 350 | live music with<br>Artvark   |
| Down to the Wire<br>new          | 3+       | auditorium / black box<br>capaciteit 120          |  |
| Come and Go<br>new               | 4+       | auditorium / black box<br>capacity 150            | live music with<br>Kelly Poukens   |
| the Consolation Prize<br>reprise | 7+       | mid-size stage / auditorium<br>capacity 300 – 350 | live music with<br>Martin Fondse<br>Margriet Sjoerdsma<br>Vera van der Bie |
| Eyecatchers<br>new               | 1+       | stage-on-stage<br>capacity 60                     | live music with<br>Helene Jank   |
| Wait a Minute<br>reprise         | 0,5+     | stage-on-stage<br>capacity 55                     | also available with<br>live music with<br>Jeroen van Vliet                 |
| Time is Running<br>reprise       | 4+       | auditorium / black box<br>capacity 225            |  |
| HiHaHutBuilders<br>reprise       | 2+       | stage-on-stage<br>capacity 80                     |  |
| 1-2's<br>reprise                 | all ages | schools<br>capacity 35                            |  |

# Into the Wind

family show | 7+ | mid-size stage / auditorium | with Artvark

"The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind,  
the answer is blowin' in the wind."

— Bob Dylan

An image of leaves. Autumn leaves, bicycles, rain coats, covers and bus shelters. Darkness, spotlights, taillights headlights and cold. Hardly moving forward and still arriving.

In 2024, de Stille's successful collaboration with saxophone quartet Artvark (*Bosch in Bed*, 2016) will be renewed with *Into the Wind*, inspired by the album *Mother of Thousand*. Live music by Artvark Saxophone Quartet, four outstanding musicians who, together with four dancers, are blowing against the wind in order to enrich the world.

A strong headwind is all that needs to be overcome.  
What do we need, when things aren't going our way?

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## *Bosch in Bed* (2016) in the media

"Literally and figuratively, a fabulous performance. The fortunate collaboration of several art disciplines, effortlessly intertwining, was particularly striking."

— *Brabants Dagblad*

"Music and dance mix beautifully in a lucid anaesthetic dream" — *Theaterkrant*

**choreography** Jack Timmermans

**music** Artvark Saxophone Quartet: Rolf Delfos (alto sax),  
Bart Wirtz (alto sax), Mete Erker (tenor sax),  
Peter Broekhuizen (baritone sax)

**duration** 55 minutes

**stage dimensions** 10 x 10 x 5 meters

**cast and crew** 4 dancers, 4 musicians, 2 technicians

**capacity** 275 - 350 spectators



## about Artvark

Artvark searches for a contemporary sound and finds it thanks to inventive recording techniques, like placing a snare drum in between sax and microphone. The band avidly digs in the past by using oftentimes rare historical

saxophones from the collection of Dutch saxophone player and collector Leo van Oostrom. And most importantly: it yields wonderfully hallucinating music.  
— *de Volkskrant*





# Down to the Wire

family show | 3+ | auditorium / black box

How closely connected are we? In a life that starts with an umbilical cord and finishes at the end of the rope, people are mutually connected. How to keep track of the different leads in a world where we sometimes take distance but just as often step on each other's toes? *Down to the Wire* plays with the visible and invisible threads that keep us in balance.

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

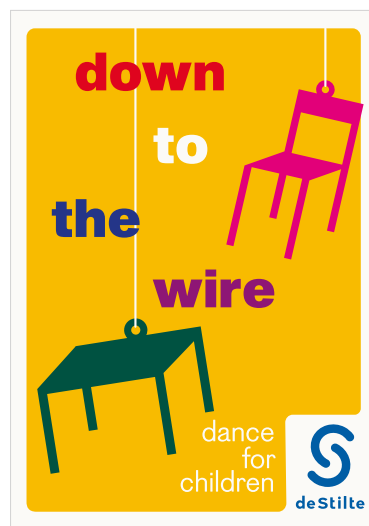
With original music, composed by Stevko Busch.

about de Stille

"The whirling, wordless world of de Stille convinces from the get-go."

– Machteld Postma – Jury chair Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Award 2021

**choreography** Jack Timmermans  
**assistant choreography** Femke Somerwil  
**music** Stevko Busch  
**lighting** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design  
**set design** Jack Timmermans and Bert Vogels  
**duration** 45 minutes  
**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 x 5 meters  
**cast and crew** 2 dancers, 1 technician  
**capacity** 120 spectators



# Come and Go

family show | 4+ | auditorium / black box | with Kelly Poukens

When I come, I hold out my hand to you.  
Nice, can I keep it?  
No, you can't. I'll need it for waving when I leave.

A singer and a dancer meet. They pull all the stops, from top to bottom, from left to right, from hard to gently and vice versa. Slow, tragic and humorous. Loose sketches of encounters in many disguises and circumstances.

With Kelly Poukens, soprano.

## about Kelly Poukens

Belgian soprano Kelly Poukens is the winner of the Stiftung Blatow prize in the International Anton Rubinstein Competition (Germany, 2018), the silver award in the Manhattan International Music Competition (USA, 2017), she was runner-up in the Honda Competition for Classical Music (2017, Brussels, Belgium), won the Prix Sophie, Laureates Award and Audience Price during the finals and preliminaries of the Princess Christina Competition (2012, The Hague, the Netherlands).



**choreography** Jack Timmermans  
**assistant choreographer** Gertien Bergstra  
**vocals** Kelly Poukens  
**music** various composers  
**set design** Jack Timmermans  
**duration** 50 minutes  
**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 x 4 meters  
**cast & crew** 1 singer, 1 dancer, 1 technician  
**capacity** 150 spectators



# the Consolation Prize

family show | 7+ | mid-size stage / auditorium

with Martin Fondse, Margriet Sjoerdsma and Vera van der Bie

'Seen from the moon, we are all the same size.'

– Multatuli, Idea 155

When we look up to the stars in the sky, people are small and insignificant. This will not do! And so we elevate ourselves to stardom.

We have speeches, raise podiums. We pad each other on the back and honour one another with awards. We appoint ourselves as champions. We hand out decorations, medals, victory cups. We build prize cabinets reaching all the way up to the ceiling, under the motto 'The sky is the limit'.

And yet.... And yet we are and remain but tiny creatures in an overwhelming universe. Each prize is a consolation prize.

Humour and a sense of perspective make *the Consolation Prize* an ode to the Human Dimension. The smallest person ever measured 54 centimetres, the tallest human being 2,72 meters. But seen from the moon, we won't be able to tell the difference.

Far away from stars and planets, we celebrate the limited shelf life of eternal glory with piano, vocals and dance.

## the Consolation Prize in the media

"the Consolation Prize is about the madness to turn everything in life into a competition. Thanks to its subtle layering the performance admirably balances astringency and nimbleness."

– Francine van der Wiel - NRC ★★★★★

**choreography** Jack Timmermans

**composition** Martin Fondse

**music** Martin Fondse (piano, vocals), Margriet Sjoerdsma (vocals) and Vera van der Bie (violin, musical saw, double bass, vocals)

**costumes** Czakon

**lighting design** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design

**set design** Jack Timmermans

**duration** 55 minutes

**stage dimensions** 10 x 10 x 5 meters

**cast & crew** 4 dancers, 3 musicians, 2 technicians

**capacity** 300-350 spectators





# Eyecatchers

early years, age 1 to 5 | stage-on-stage | with Helene Jank

By the choreographers of *Wait a Minute*

In the beginning, the world was uninhibited. Life was so pristine, that curiosity wasn't yet troubled by fear or anger.

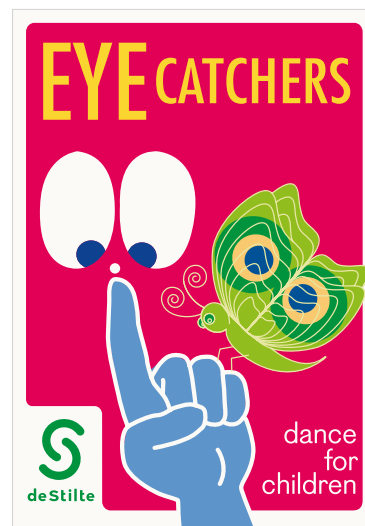
Like the open mind of the one who was watching the world, that's how pristine it was. The sound of water, the stream of movement, nature was without words. To discover was a piece of cake. Every touch was the start of an adventure.

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

## *Wait a Minute* in the media

"Leon's and Julia's response to their first dance performance was downright positive. Especially when afterwards, it turned out they were welcome to join the dancers on the stage to play with the strange attributes for a bit." – Martijn Schraven – *BN/de Stem*

**concept / choreography** Helene Jank,  
Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil  
**design** Bert Vogels  
**duration** 35 minutes + 10 minutes afterplay  
**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 x 5 meters audience included  
**set dimensions** 6 x 6 x 5 meters  
**cast & crew** 2 dancers, 1 musician, 1 technician  
**capacity** 60 spectators





# Wait a Minute

early years, age 0,5 to 5 | stage-on-stage | optional with Jeroen van Vliet

A world unfolds out of an assembly kit. Snow white objects fill the void. A small table, a stool, a door, a tiny piano. But wait a minute, is somebody here?

In a pristine landscape, two people disappear and reappear when the inevitable happens: they meet!

How to deal with somebody different? Someone whom you can't even tell what type of creature it is? A human, a dog, a bird? Luckily, there's no need to change each other. Wait a minute ... simply stick to being who you are.

As part of the European research project MAPPING, Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil — two of the company's original dancers — create a performance for children, 6 months and older. Accompanied by the wonderful piano music of Jeroen van Vliet, the unknown becomes familiar in this new environment; a world comes to life directly at eye level with the young audience.

## Wait a Minute in the media

"Dance company de Stilte from Breda presents a unique performance, giving a new dimension to the term 'for the very young'." — Martijn Schraven – *BN/de Stem*

"Jeroen van Vliet created a new composition and the sounds of his piano are calm and serene." — Mirjam van der Linden – *Dans Magazine*

**choreography** Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil

**music** Jeroen van Vliet (piano)

**costumes** Czakon

**light** Twan Mensen and Rob Touwslager

**set design** Bert Vogels

**duration** 40 minutes

**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 meters audience included

**stage on stage surface** 6 x 7 x 4 meters

**cast & crew** 2 dancers, 1 technician

**cast & crew with live music** 2 dancers, 1 pianist, 1 technician

**capacity** 55 spectators



# Time is Running

Family show | 4+ | auditorium / black box

What time is it? Is this the right time? Do you have time for me? It was a long time ago, or did it just happen? Can you wait one moment? But how long is one moment? Can you do it faster? In half a moment? I just saved some time. But does that mean that I can use it later?

Now or later? Past and future. Yesterday and tomorrow. The clock is ticking. The world is spinning. The seasons are shifting. Everyone experiences time in their own way. You can feel the time passing. Sometimes fast as a flash, and sometimes very slow. But can you see time? How does it look? Is time a clear line from one point to another? Or is it a circle that spins and comes back to the same place over and over again?

Feel welcome to follow the dancers on a journey in time. Take the chance to visit a very special universe, with a kaleidoscope of different images, movements, and twisted situations. Use your fantasy and allow yourself to create your own imaginary world. And hopefully we can stop time together for a while and just stay in the moment.

## *Time is Running in the media*

"The merit of *Time is Running* is that all generations among the audience can feel addressed. As an adult, I felt again like a child in a magical world, once again blessed with the open mind that children are so familiar with and is lost on our way to adulthood." – Emmanuel Naaijken – *Brabant Cultureel*

"You'll fall short of eyes in a performance as silly as it is poetic."  
– René van Peer – *BN/deStem*

**choreography** Lidia Wos  
**music** Peter Lunow  
**costumes** Czakon  
**lighting design** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design  
**set design** Bert Vogels  
**duration** 45 minutes  
**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 x 5 meters  
**cast & crew** 3 dancers, 1 technician  
**capacity** 225 spectators





# HiHaHutBuilders

family show | 2+ | stage-on-stage

## An imaginative duet in an intimate setting

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 think of. Very subtly, the stories emerge. A man and a woman appear.

In an intimate environment, de Stille treats young and old to an imaginative story: a tiny world, designed by visual inventor Bert Vogels, is brought to life through sun and wind, rain and snow.

### HiHaHutBuilders in the media

"Light and playfull [...] The sympathetic part about the approach of choreographers Jack Timmermans and Jack Gallagher is they don't overly explain what's going on and rightly presume young kids can handle various forms of abstraction." – *Theaterkrant*

**choreography** Jack Timmermans and Jack Gallagher  
**music** Mete Erker and Jeroen van Vliet  
**props** Bert Vogels  
**costumes** Joost van Wijmen  
**lighting design** Pink Steenvoorden – Einstein Design  
**set design** Jack Timmermans  
**duration** 40 minutes  
**stage dimensions** 9 x 9 meters  
**stage-on-stage surface** 6 x 6 x 5 meters  
**cast & crew** 2 dancers, 1 technician  
**capacity** 80 spectators





# 1-2's

all ages | dance at school / on location

## an encounter between two dancers

Dance duets on location, performed on a floor measuring 3,5 x 3,5 meters and the audience surrounding the floor on three sides.

Impinging on the spectator's space, a confrontation between two dancers unfolds. Over the course of ten minutes, dance is being explored. What's shown can be experienced a second time around during a subsequent workshop.

Tailored for different age groups, de Stilte has a number of duets created by Jack Timmermans, Gertien Bergstra and Femke Somerwil.

### about 1-2's

'With clearly defined boundaries yet respecting a child's personal baggage, pupils were given space to truly be present. A real gift to experience for me as a teacher. By letting the children dance themselves, the performance was brought even more to life. A very good combination.' – Marieke, teacher at primary school de Dromenvanger

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**choreography** Jack Timmermans, Somerberg and Lidia Wos  
**duration** 60 minutes (duet 10 minutes, workshop 50 minutes)  
**earliest starting time** 10:00 hrs  
**break between 2nd and 3rd presentation** 1 hour minimum  
**location** classroom or gym  
**space required** 6 x 10 meters  
**stage surface** 3,5 x 3,5 meters  
**cast & crew** 2 dancers, 1 workshop leader  
**suited for** child care, primary schools and secondary schools  
**capacity** 35 spectators / participants  
**maximum number of presentations** 3 per day





## BRIK

The BRIK Festival (formerly known as the International Stiltefestival) was initiated by dance company de Stilte in 2011. It originated from the company's desire to share the many beautiful performances encountered on its international tours with their audience in Breda. Offering children and adults the opportunity to travel the world of non-verbal theatre in just one week, without having to leave Breda.

The festival programs poetic performances for children aged zero to twelve, their parents, grandparents, teachers and guardians. Performances that stimulate children's imagination and allow space for personal interpretation. Performances without words. Because the body, as de Stilte knows all too well, can convey a story equally well.

Most of the performances are presented at the Chassé Theatre and the Stilte Theatre but the festival also programs (freely accessible) performances in open air: at the town square, at cultural heritage sites or in parks.

The festival now hosts over fifteen international companies each edition, as well as a number of Dutch companies.

In 2022 the festival hosted more than 20 companies in school and public — over 5 days — in the city centre of Breda and welcomed over 17.000 youthful visitors. The festival receives structural funding from the Dutch Fund for Performing Arts, the province of Noord-Brabant and the municipality of Breda. The 7th edition of BRIK will take place in June 2023.





Time is Running



artistic team



**Jack Timmermans**  
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choreographer and rehearsal  
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**Jack Gallagher**  
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guest  
choreographer



**Lidia Wos**  
Guest choreographer *de Tijd Loopt*

dancers



**Catarina Paiva**



**Chiara Aldorisio**



**Donna Scholten**



**Eduarda Santos**



**Elvedin Šiljdedić**



**Gianmarco Stefanelli**



**Ivar Draaisma**

dancers



**Kaia Vercammen**



**Mirella de Almeida Castagna**



**Pablo Dávila Iglesia**



**Philip Vötter**



**Pilvi Kuronen**



**Sara Pigatto**

musicians



**Stevko Busch**  
composition and piano



**Mete Erker**  
composition and musician



**Martin Fondse**  
piano, vocals



**Artvark Saxophone Quartet**  
musicians



**Vera van der Bie**  
violin, double bass, vocals



**Jeroen van Vliet**  
piano

## musicians



**Margriet Sjoerdsma**  
vocals



**Kelly Poukens**  
vocals and performance



**Helene Jank**  
creator and performer

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