

# Speak low if you speak love ...

World Premiere: July 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 . Mons (BE)



Photo Danny Willems

*Cutting edge dance.  
An overwhelming visual experience.*  
**Gerrit van den Hoven, Brabants Dagblad**

*In the heart of the performance Vandekeybus loosens the reins allowing musicians Mauro Pawlowski, Jeroen Stevens and Elko Blijweert to play their hearts out, readying the audience, now brought to the edge of their seats, for a virtuoso and sizzling 'vintage Vandekeybus' moment.*

**Els Van Steenberghe, Knack**

*Speak low if you speak love ... abounds in numerous and wonderfully visual choreographic treasures, the musicians play as if their lives depended on it, equalled only by the tremendous skill the dancers display. So if you would ask me if it's worth going to, then I'd say unhesitatingly, yes.*

**Pieter 't Jonck, Klara**

For Wim Vandekeybus love is perhaps the most intangible and capricious of all our inner states of mind: it moves mountains, and creates immeasurable heights and depths. It gives strength, but causes devastating pain when it turns against you. Love inspires poetry: it is exalted and cursed.

Following the captivating soundtrack in *nieuwZwart* (2009), Wim Vandekeybus is once again collaborating with musician Mauro Pawlowski. This time, classical stories will be the inspiration for songs written by Mauro and his compagnons and performed by the charismatic South African singer Tutu Puoane. *Ultima Vez* performers and more classically-trained dancers influence one another. *Speak low if you speak love ...* isn't an opera, nor a musical in the usual sense of the word, but a stirring combination of experimental music and the classical tradition.

It is not Wim Vandekeybus' intention to provide an all-embracing framework by which to understand love, because the comprehensibility of love does not exist as such, it is weightless. Vandekeybus: "Man gives it meaning and imputes to it a certain connotation. What we are concerned with is the recognition and the emotionality. Love can hardly be captured in words, but music is able to arouse a certain feeling, and is after all able to convey the incredible power of love. Love is a hidden force; it's in every nook and cranny, it's everywhere, but you can't simply disregard it. That's why it's 'Speak low...'

## Credits

DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY, SCENOGRAPHY **Wim Vandekeybus**

CREATED WITH & PERFORMED BY **Jamil Attar, Livia Balazova, Chloé Beillevaire, David Ledger, Tomislav English, Nuhacet Guerra Segura, Sandra Geco Mercky, Maria Kolegova**

ORIGINAL MUSIC (LIVE) **Mauro Pawlowski, Elko Blijweert, Jeroen Stevens, Tutu Puoane**

ARTISTIC ASSISTANT & DRAMATURGE **Greet Van Poeck**

MOVEMENT ASSISTANTS **Iñaki Azpillaga, Máté Mészáros**

STYLIST **Isabelle Lhoas** ASSISTED BY **Isabelle De Cannière**

LIGHTING DESIGN **Davy Deschepper, Wim Vandekeybus**

SOUND DESIGN **Bram Moriau, Antoine Delagoutte**

STAGE MANAGER **Tom de With**

SCENOGRAPHIC ADVICE **Isabelle Lhoas, Davy Deschepper**

COSTUMES STUDIO **Lieve Meeussen**

TECHNICAL COORDINATION **Davy Deschepper**

PRODUCTION **Ultima Vez (Brussels, BE)**

CO-PRODUCTION **KVS (Brussels, BE), Le manège.mons (Mons, BE), Festival de Marseille (Marseille, FR), Foundation Mons 2015 European Capital of Culture**

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