

VanThorhout selected for the TheaterFestival 2023!

not/
standing
/alexander
vantournhout
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The jury report

In *VanThorhout*, movement artist Alexander Vantournhout is once again solo on the stage. This time, he delves into the theme of masculine power and its cultural image. He has selected an enormous hammer as central prop, which serves as companion and counterweight. It references Thor's Mjölmir. The link between the Norse God and the dance and circus athlete with chiselled body is easily established.

The audience sits around the wooden circle of which Vantournhout is the centre. His only item of clothing is a pair of skirt-like trousers. This first, ambiguous image sets the tone for the entire performance. He continuously challenges the classical point of view in three parts: a kaleidoscopic arm choreography, a duel with the hammer and a poetic surrender. Each time, he twitches the stereotypical masculine image. Hard and soft are constantly dancing and duelling to take the upper hand in this intelligent choreography.

As jury, *VanThorhout* showed us yet again a different side of this versatile artist, who has graced Het Theaterfestival's stage on previous occasions. Besides a new study of the body, this gender-fluid choreography also introduces an extra sense of vulnerability in his work. No need to panic: the physical exertion, so typical of Vantournhout's performances, is still very much present. Just like his sense of danger. His swinging hammer will make everybody on the first-row flinch. However, it is mainly *VanThorhout's* softness that separates this solo from his previous work, while simultaneously succeeding in effortlessly combining various dance and cultural traditions into a personal, accessible and at times extremely surprising language of movement. Given that we live in a tension-filled time period, this is in many ways a 'disarming' work.



Every year, the TheaterFestival selects the best shows within the Flemish, Brussels and Dutch theatre scene.

With *VanThorhout*, Alexander Vantournhout / not standing has been selected for the TheaterFestival for the fifth time. Previous selections include *Aneckxander*, *SCREWS*, *Through the Grapevine* and *Snakearms*.