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## VERA TUSSING & ESSE VANDERBRUGGEN

### BOTH, TWO

In *Both, Two* Tussing & Vanderbruggen examine the duet, the smallest unit of togetherness. The dance duet is a genre with a history. In their most familiar forms, duets reflect the range of possibilities for relating, which resonate within a certain cultural imaginary. In particular, they reveal common-sense attitudes towards who gets to move, how, and under what conditions. When two people dance together, a whole constellation of invitations, permissions and prohibitions is put on display.

If we imagine the duet as the meeting of two concrete, self-contained bodies, *Both, Two* provides evidence to the contrary: we are never just two, never just among humans, never immune to the call of the other nor untouched by what we reach out to touch. In *Both, Two* power positions are not fixed in advance, nor is the dance a struggle for power; rather, agency circulates in surprising ways. Often, the origin of a particular movement or form is undecidable – who is leading and who is following? ‘Passive’ and ‘active’ begin to lose their concrete flavor as touching and being-touched are revealed as inseparable. What if this more nuanced way of understanding relations between people became part of our cultural vocabulary?



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*Both, Two* invites the spectator to jump into this complex more-than-human ecology with her whole body: the work asks us not just to see but to sense. Can we hear a duet? What does it feel like? Costumes with palpable textures, swirling currents of air and sound, and a tactile program note complement the movements of tangibly en fleshed bodies; a journey for the proximal senses that intersects with the visual and the aural in unusual ways.

“Movement, and especially the encounter with movement, is who we are.”

An interview with Vera Tussing & Esse Vanderbruggen by  
dramaturg Sebastian Kann.

[http://www.hiros.be/uploads/Interview\\_Sebastian\\_Kann.pdf](http://www.hiros.be/uploads/Interview_Sebastian_Kann.pdf)



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## PRESS

[“Vera Tussing ou la danse par tous les sens”](#)

A portrait of Vera Tussing’s artistic practice by Guy Duplat  
in La Libre Belgique.

[http://www.hiros.be/uploads/20180221\\_La-Libre-Belgique\\_p-45-Tussing.pdf](http://www.hiros.be/uploads/20180221_La-Libre-Belgique_p-45-Tussing.pdf)

[“KaaP-maakster Vera Tussing geeft het klassieke dansduet  
een nieuwe invulling”](#)

An interview with Vera Tussing on Both, Two in EXIT.

<http://www.hiros.be/uploads/2018-02-Exit-maart.pdf>

[“This was a magical, stimulating and thought provoking af-  
ternoon with Vera and Esse  
as we explored with them a work in progress.”](#)

Keith Stewart sharing his thoughts after experiencing the  
work in progress at South East Dance programme.

[http://www.hiros.be/uploads/Keith\\_Stewart.pdf](http://www.hiros.be/uploads/Keith_Stewart.pdf)

## VIDEO

Watch the [trailer](https://vimeo.com/346155436) here: [vimeo.com/346155436](https://vimeo.com/346155436)

Contact us at [nina@hiros.be](mailto:nina@hiros.be) to receive the link to the  
video of the [entire performance](#).

# CREDITS

**Performance & Creation:** Vera Tussing & Esse Vanderbruggen **Sound:** Mike Picknett **Lights:** Bert van Dijck **Costumes:** Sofie Durnez, Jivan van der Ende **Direction:** Vera Tussing **Dramaturgy:** Seb Kann **Feedback:** Saïd Gharbi **Artistic Collaborator:** JS Rafaeli **Photography:** Alessandra Rocchetti **Video:** Zoilly Molnar **Production:** Hiros **Co-production:** Kaaitheater, KAAP, The Place, IN / FINITY **Support, Research, Residencies:** Vlaamse Gemeenschap, South East Dance, The Place, CND Paris, Tanzhaus Zuerich, ImpulsTanz, BUDA, STUK, KAAP, De Markten, Cc 't Vondel, De Warande, Stems Gallery / Cindy Daignault, Klein Verzet **Tactile Programme Note:** Anna Goette, Bert Van Dijck, Lucie Beauvert, Esse Vanderbruggen & Vera Tussing **Additional support and special thank you:** Esther Severi, Anneleen Keppens, Zoltan Vakulya, Chen Wei Lee, Gorka Gurrutxaga, Laura Poletti, Magrit De Maegd, TOPAZ, Susan Carter-Schwantes, Bun Kobayashi & Clara Levy





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## VERA TUSSING

°1982 in Germany, lives & works in Brussels and London

Vera Tussing graduated from the London Contemporary Dance School, and has worked as a dancer, director and creator throughout Belgium, the UK, Canada and across Europe over the last 10 years. In 2011 she premiered *Trilogy* with Albert Quesada before going on to make the stage pieces *You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet* (2012) and *T-Dance* (2014), and the movement-sound installation *Sound Bed*. The performance, *The Palm of Your Hand* premiered in 2015 and *Mazing* in November 2016. In 2017 a recreation of *The Palm of Your Hand*, making the work accessible to blind and partially sighted audience members, premiered at CND in Paris. This piece is part of *The Humane Body Project* with *ImpulsTanz* (Vienna), *Kaaitheater* (Brussels) and *The Place* (London) as its partners. Both, *Two*, a duet in collaboration with *Esse Vanderbruggen* premiered at *Kaaistudio's* (Brussels) in 2018.

The duet cycle begun with *in Both, Two* is further explored in the online digital project *@duettthecity*, in collaboration with the photographer Stine Sampers, and in an emergent sculptural practice, featured as part of *Performatik 19* (Brussels). In October 2019, *Tactile Quartet(s)*, a performance in which she expands her research into tactility to the discipline of music, went into premiere at Kaaithheater. A central theme of Vera's work is how the different senses combine to structure our perception, and the creation of unique, inter-personal encounters between audience and performer. Being a former Research Associate at South East Dance (Brighton), Workplace artist at The Place, KAAP-maker (Oostende/Brugge) and IN-FINITY artist (Brussels), she is currently artist-in-residence at Kaaithheater.

[www.veratussing.com](http://www.veratussing.com)





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## ESSE VANDERBRUGGEN

Esse Vanderbruggen is a Brussels based dancer and performer. After graduating at P.A.R.T.S. in 2012, she worked a.o. with Vera Tussing, Kubilai Khan Investigations (*Biensûr les choses Tournent mal*, *Volt(s)Face*), CompagnieMonica (*Glimpses in Turbid Water*), Benjamin Vandewalle (*Interview/EntreVue*), Isabella Soupart and Sam Touzani (*C'est ici que le jour se lève*). *Both, Two*, a duet with Vera Tussing premiered in 2018 in Kaaistudio's and *Tactile Quartet(s)* created by Vera Tussing and *Quatuor MP4* premiered in Kaaitheater in 2019.



## ON PREVIOUS WORK



**Mazing / Interview 3:38**  
<https://vimeo.com/191618953>



**The Palm of Your Hand 5:13**  
<https://www.numeridanse.tv/fr/video/4906-the-palm-of-your-hand-2>



**The Palm of Your Hand / Research 3:00**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAflWsiGlJs>

“The choreography remains abstract but by participating ourselves, we seem to understand and feel it on an other level. Vera Tussing her new piece is accesible and comprehensive. Clarifying for the uniniciated dance spectator and an enrichment for dance lovers.”

**Eline Van de Voorde on The Palm of Your Hand in Etcetera.**

“It's fun to feel a transfer of your energy feed into someone else's movement.”

**Siobhan Murphy on Mazing in DanceTabs.**

## CONTACT

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## HIROS

Hiros is a production and management structure for independent artists working in various disciplines. We offer tailor-made support for each artist and project, ranging from pre-production to production, administration, communication to financial management, tour management to post-production.

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