

## Kiss & Cry

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE AND EXCLUSIVE

Charleroi Danses, the Choreographic Centre of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Belgium.



Photo: Kiss & Cry © Maarten Vanden Abeele

*"One of most touching and emotional experiences you'll have in a theatre."* **Metro**

*"The beauty and simplicity of Charleroi Danses's imagery is often breathtaking and this playful, engaging story will transport you to a world of illusion and imagination"* **Time Out**

*"There's so much charm, originality and poignancy in this singular show."* **Evening Standard**

*"The effect of this novel production is never less than fascinating."* **The Times**

*Kiss & Cry* is a sweeping cinematic romance with a twist, starring a duo of dexterous, dancing hands, moving with precision onscreen, through a series of miniature landscapes. In an Australian premiere, the Belgian love story poetically unfolds, blurring the boundaries between dance, theatre, music and film.

A collaboration between prize-winning filmmaker **Jaco Van Dormael** and choreographer **Michèle Anne De Mey**, a founding member of Rosas dance company, *Kiss & Cry* enters a space of deep imagination, memory and innovation. Filmed and projected onscreen simultaneously, a sensuous small-scale ballet comes to life before the audiences eyes.

The cinematic production tells the story of an older woman Gisèle who looks back on her past loves. She begins with her first and most pure memory of a 14-year-old boy whose hand she only held for a brief moment in a crowded train before he disappeared, never to be seen again.

Gisèle tells the stories of five lovers, each through her encounter with their hands. Her wistful narration, written by novelist and radio personality **Thomas Gunzig** and co-creator **Jaco Van Dormael**, transports audiences from their seats into the miniature world of her personal encounters.

*"Hands have an amazing capacity to transform themselves into people, bodies, animals, characters. They can evoke a whole range of emotions while they themselves remain abstract,"* explains co-creator Michèle Anne De Mey.

Michèle Anne De Mey and Jaco Van Dormael create an intriguing 'nanoworld' taking the audience on an adventure through a combination of urban and natural landscapes. The audience is able to observe the exquisite film, and a team of technicians and an extraordinarily talented film crew who bring the story alive on screen.

Michèle Anne De Mey is a Belgian choreographer who took contemporary dance in a new direction with her early choreography *Passé Simple* (1981). In 1990, De Mey founded her own company and choreographed fifteen creations met with international acclaim. Her most recent work, the Monteverdi-inspired work *Lamento*, premiered in Mey 2012, and continues to tour internationally.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

**Jaco Van Dormael** studied film at Louis-Lumière in Paris and INSAS in Brussels, and has worked as a director in film, theatre and opera. He wrote and directed several fictional short films and documentaries before his award-winning feature length films: *Toto the Hero* (1991), winner of the Caméra d'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival, *Mr. Nobody* (2009), which won Best Film, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay at the Magrittes awards, and *The Eight Day*.

A moving love story – and a showcase for some seriously inspired handiwork – *Kiss & Cry* is a gorgeous intertwining of film and dance, as nimble of finger as it is nimble of imagination.

Both complex and simple, *Kiss & Cry* will undoubtedly entertain dance fanatics, theatre buffs, story lovers and audiences of all ages.

Where	Carriageworks Bay 17
When	22-25 January at 7.30pm Sat at 2pm and 7.30pm
Duration	85minutes, no interval
Price	Premium \$75 A Reserve \$65 / \$59 conc
Bookings	1300 856 876 sydneyfestival.org.au/kiss

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Auslan interpreted performance on 24 January at 2pm. Bookings essential.

Golden Age Cinema and Bar in Surry Hills will present Jaco van Dormael's award-winning film *Mr. Nobody*, starring Jared Leto, throughout January. For more information, visit [ourgoldenage.com.au/now-showing](http://ourgoldenage.com.au/now-showing)

### For interviews and further information contact:

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