A hand is shown in the foreground, reaching out from the left side of the frame. The hand is positioned as if about to grasp something. The background is a dark, blue-tinted cityscape at night, with many windows of buildings illuminated from within, creating a grid of light and shadow. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

THE MANÈGE.MONS, ASTRAGALE ASBL AND THE THÉÂTRE DE NAMUR PRESENT

COLD BLOOD

A show by Michèle Anne De Mey, Jaco Van Dormael, Collectif Kiss and Cry
Texts Thomas Gunzig

COLD BLOOD, A POETIC JOURNEY

Following on from the resounding success of Kiss & Cry, which was staged more than 300 times in nine languages in some 20 countries to a total of over 180,000 people, choreographer Michèle Anne De Mey, film-maker Jaco Van Dormael and their brilliant creative team bring us Cold Blood.

Lights, camera, Action! Fingers cavort in a delightful miniature setting, the cameras hover in time to the music, a voice narrates. Film-maker Jaco Van Dormael and choreographer Michèle Anne De Mey are filming right in front of your eyes. Like Kiss & Cry, which has enjoyed international success since 2011, the long-awaited Cold Blood is a beautiful, highly-intuitive journey packed with mind-blowing visual effects. Made at the end of the 2015 Le Mons, it was an immediate hit with the press and the public alike before setting off on a new world tour.

A plane journey, a forest in the fog, seven unexpected deaths...

Punctuated by the sudden realisations of a waking dream, *Cold Blood* unveils a series of different lives in a hypnotic story laced with offbeat humour.

With a certain lightness, life celebrates its final moments of happiness and memories file past, at times languid, at times more vibrant. Existence stands still for a dance.

When death arrives, it is absurd, often trivial and sometimes comical.

Thomas Gunzig's script tells us that "there are mechanical deaths, organic deaths, fragrant deaths, deaths in the dead of night, deaths experienced first-hand, silent deaths. And then there are erotic deaths". This may be a world of death, but the dance is far from macabre. Oh no, it is a celebration of life, the senses, love, the final moments of light and the preceding memories.

«Is there life before death?» seems to be the question *Cold Blood* is asking us.

And the answer lies in these hands which are dancing before us, in these virtuoso fingers which are clinging to life and the beam of the spotlights.

The show explores the miniscule, surveys little worlds where life is viewed through a kaleidoscope.

In this Lilliputian décor, hands intertwine then relax, touch each other and leave the scene, then come back before disappearing for good.

Under the direction of Michèle-Anne de Mey and Jaco Van Dormael, the Kiss & Cry group returns with its latest creation set in a studio where technicians film animated miniature worlds in full view of the audience.


«We challenged ourselves to make a feature-length film on a kitchen table with a cast of dancing hands» Jaco and Michèle Anne explained. «But unlike a regular film, the script was written at the end, once we had experimented with improvisation and suggestions from all members of the group. When the script was in place, we pulled together all the visuals. Yes, it is cinema but it is also much more. There is dance, but there is also more than dance. It is like a pop-up film in which the camera films things which are too small to be seen by the naked eye and the eye sees what the camera does not capture.»

Cold Blood takes us to the other side of the mirror, where moments are suspended in time, in a state of weightlessness. Behind the scenes we find a fantasy world, an optical illusion that reminds us of the wonder of childhood.

«It is a show which appeals to all five senses. When people take their last breath, they expect to see their lives flash before them but this is not what happens. There is only one final image which takes them by surprise ... the softness of skin on an afternoon which smells of vanilla, the noise of the sheep you are sheering, the smell of freshly-cut grass in the height of summer...»

These unexpected memories are a reminder that we only die once because «when the end comes, we do not know that it is the end.»

Discover *Cold Blood* in pictures: - Trailer : [Here](#) - Pics : [Here](#) - KitCom : [Here](#)



«Cold Blood is a tribute to the team that brings it to life each night that it seems fresh and immediate, yet utterly polished; no small achievement and no ordinary night at the theatre.»

Michael Crabb, Canada
The Star

PRESS REVIEWS

Link for press review: [Here](#)

«A huge success, a tremendous accomplishment»

Jean-Marie Wynants, Belgium - Le Soir

«Thomas Gunzig's tender, quirky script intertwines the sequences, as they flit between dream and reality, and guides us through the heroine's many deaths and resurrections, while a delightful mix of nostalgia and humour underlies the whole show. By addressing the audience with the formal 'vous', he involves us directly in this eulogy of a life which is on the brink of death. Exceptionally good teamwork. A triumphant success.»

Christian Jade, Belgium - RTBF

«If the team came back to Quebec ten times we would rush to see them ten times. And would encourage you to do the same. Because their work is absolutely masterful..»

Catherine Lalonde, Montréal - Le Devoir

«A show entirely about death? Perhaps it is. But above all it is a veritable ode to life when it opens up to an imagination that can show reality in a new light, through a filter or philtre, fusing the past with the present, real life with dreams, feeling with emotion.»

Michel Voiturier, Belgium - Rue du théâtre

«This may be table-top, special-effects cinema, after the style of Frenchman Georges Méliès, with all the nostalgia and childhood wonderment we love so dearly, but in actual fact they are filming a real feature-length film.»

Guy Duplat et Marie Baudet, Belgium - La libre

«After seeing this show you probably will never see your hands in the same way.»

Berverley Daurio, Canada - Evidanceradio,

«As if the hand reunited the animated and inamated worlds as one.»

Fabienne Darge, France - Le Monde

«The narration is written by Thomas Gunzig and performed by Toby Regbo in a slightly deadpan manner that only enhances Cold Blood's dark humour and ironical flourishes. This detached, at times almost flippant tone can become tiresome.»

Michael Crabb, Canada - The Star



*« Magic happens. It is absolutely
and undeniably charming »*

Catherine Lalonde, Montreal
Le Devoir

DISTRIBUTION

A show by Michèle Anne De Mey, Jaco Van Dormael and the collectif « Kiss & Cry » - **Texts** Thomas Gunzig - **A collective creation by** Grégory Grosjean, Thomas Gunzig, Julien Lambert, Sylvie Olivé, Nicolas Olivier with the participation of de Thomas Beni, Gladys Brookfield-Hampson, Boris Cekevda, Gabriella Iacono, Aurélie Leporcq, Bruno Olivier, Stefano Serra - **Direction** Jaco Van Dormael and Michèle Anne De Mey - **Texts** Thomas Gunzig
Scenario Thomas Gunzig, Jaco Van Dormael and Michèle Anne De Mey - **Cinematography** Jaco Van Dormael and Julien Lambert - **Choreography** Michèle Anne De Mey and Grégory Grosjean

Director Jaco Van Dormael alternately with Harry Cleven and Nicolas Olivier - Dancers Michèle Anne De Mey, Grégory Grosjean et Gabriella Iacono en alternance avec Nora Alberdi, Manuela Rastaldi, Denis Robert - **Camera** Julien Lambert assisted by Aurélie Leporcq alternately with Juliette Van Dormael and Pierre de Wurstemberger - **Set** Sylvie Olivé assisted by François Roux, Juliette Fassin, Théodore Brisset, Brigitte Baudet, Daniella Zorrozuza
Constructions Jean-François Pierlot (Feu, métal), Walter Gonzales (Triline) - **Costums** Béa Pendesini and Sarah Duvert - **Light** Nicolas Olivier assisted by Bruno Olivier - **Light technicians** Giacinto Caponio alternately with Nicolas Olivier - **Stage technician** Boris Cekevda alternately with Benjamin Dandoy
With Nora Alberdi, Harry Cleven, Giacinto Caponio, Michèle Anne De Mey, Ivan Fox, Grégory Grosjean, Gabriella Iacono, Julien Lambert, Aurélie Leporcq, Denis Robert, Manuela Rastaldi, Stefano Serra, Jaco Van Dormael, Juliette Van Dormael, Pierre de Wurstemberger - **Pictures** Julien Lambert - **Technical director** Thomas Dobruszkès

Production Hélène Dubois/Astragale - **Sales** Bérengère Deroux - **Tour manager** Meryl Moens/MoDul cie - **Producer** Le manège.mons (BE) - **Executive producer** Astragale asbl (BE) - **Associated producer** Théâtre de Namur (BE) - **Coproducer** Charleroi Danses (BE), la Fondation Mons 2015, KVS (BE), Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg (LUX), le Printemps des comédiens (FR), Torino Danza (IT), Canadian Stage (CA), Théâtre de Carouge (CH), Théâtre des Célestins (FR), La Comète - Scène Nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne (FR) - **With support of** Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles and Wallonie-Bruxelles International



*« The images Van Dormael, a filmmaker,
and de Mey, a choreographer, create are
often extraordinarily magical. »*

J. Kelly Nestruck, Canada
Globe and Mail

COLD BLOOD ON TOUR

2015/2016

08 → 15.12 *Cold Blood*, Mons, Théâtre Le Manège (BE)
19 → 21.01 *Kiss & Cry*, Béziers, La Cigalière (FR)
04 → 07.02 *Kiss & Cry*, Toronto, Canadian Stage (CA)
10 → 14.02 *Cold Blood*, Toronto, Canadian Stage (CA)
18 → 21.02 *Cold Blood*, Montréal, Usine C (CA)
05 → 07.04 *Kiss & Cry*, Chambéry, Espace Malraux (FR)
22 → 30.04 *Cold Blood*, Namur, Théâtre Royal de Namur (BE)
11 → 13.05 *Kiss & Cry*, Chalon, La Comète- Scène Nationale (FR)
19 → 21.05 *Kiss & Cry*, Combs, Scène Nationale de Scénart (FR)
26 → 27.05 *Kiss & Cry*, Massy, Opéra de Massy (FR)
09 → 11.06 *Cold Blood*, Printemps des Comédiens, Montpellier (FR)
15 → 16.06 *Kiss and Cry*, Festival de Naples
23 & 24.07 *Cold Blood*, Festival d'Athènes


2016/2017

16 → 24.09 *Cold Blood*, Bruxelles, KVS (BE)
29 → 30.09 *Cold Blood*, Luxembourg, Théâtres de la ville de Luxembourg (LUX)
04 → 08.10 *Cold Blood*, Charleroi, Charleroi Danses, Palais des Beaux-Arts (BE)
17 → 18.10 *Kiss & Cry*, Bologne, VIE Festival 2016, Arena del sole Theatre (IT)
22 → 26.10 *Cold Blood*, Torino, Torinodanza festival 2016, theater Fonderie Limone Moncalleri (IT)
24 → 26.11 *Cold Blood*, Vélizy, L'Onde (FR)
14 → 22.12 *Cold Blood*, Théâtre de Namur (BE)
01 → 04.02 *Kiss & Cry*, Londres, Mime Festival (UK)
08 → 17.02 *Cold Blood*, Lyon, Théâtre des Célestins, (FR)
08 → 17.03 *Cold Blood*, Bruxelles, KVS (BE)
22 → 23.03 *Cold Blood*, Compiègne, Festival Composites (FR)
31.03 & 01.04 *Cold Blood*, Welkenraedt, centre culturel (BE)
25 → 27.04 *Cold Blood*, Angers, Le Quai (FR)
01 → 03.06 *Cold Blood*, Saarbrücken, Festival PERSPECTIVES (DEU)

2017/2018

Août 2017 *Cold Blood*, Festival d'Édimbourg
09.01 → 03.02 *Cold Blood*, Carouge, Théâtre de Carouge, (CH)
08.02 → 10.02 *Kiss and Cry*, Fribourg, Nuithonie (CH)
Juin, juillet 2018 *Cold Blood*, Paris, La Scala (FR)

The show is available for tour in 2017, 2018, 2019...

A miniature city model is shown in a state of intense fire and destruction. The scene is dominated by bright orange and yellow flames that rise from the buildings, creating a thick, hazy atmosphere. In the background, a large, ornate dome with a spire, resembling the St. Peter's Basilica dome, is partially obscured by the smoke and fire. The foreground shows several multi-story buildings, some of which are heavily damaged or partially destroyed. The overall lighting is very warm and dramatic, emphasizing the scale of the destruction.

*« It's dark.
Your eyes are open, but you see nothing.
You've switched off your phone
because you've been asked to.
You think you're at the theatre
and yet you're already elsewhere.
You will live seven deaths.
Without worry, without fear.
Each death is a surprise.
Each death is the first.
Deaths are like lives.
not two are alike. »*

Thomas Gunzig

SALES

Tour sales

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Administration, production

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Technical director

Thomas Dobruszkès
tomdob@me.com
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TERMS

The tour team: 14 people (3 dancers, 1 artistic director, 8 technicians, 1 technical director, 1 tour manager)

Show duration: 1 hour 15 minutes with no interval

Extras: Possibility of meeting the audience after the show.

Recommended age: from 12 years

Stage area: Minimum wall-to-wall areas: 18m Proscenium: 12m
Depth from the edge of the stage to the back wall: 13m
Height under grid: 8m. The stage area must be completely level!

Assembly/Dismantling: One day to set up on the day before the show.
Depending on the specifics of the venue, pre-assembly and unloading of the scenery may be requested. Dismantling after the show.

A full show film is available on request.

