

Ugo Dehaes

Ugo Dehaes [°1977, Leuven] started to dance at the age of 18. During a year he took ballet classes, followed contemporary dance with teachers like David Hernandez, Benoît Lachambre and Saburro Teshigawara and attended a half-time theater education at De Kleine Academie. The following year he started his full-time dance education at **P.A.R.T.S.**, the international school for dancers and choreographers directed by Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.



In 1998 Ugo started to work as a dancer for **Meg Stuart/Damaged Goods**. During three years he collaborated on the pieces *appetite* and *Highway 101*.

In 2000 he founded the company *kwaad bloed* [www.kwaadbloed.com] together Charlotte Vanden Eynde. Their first piece, *lijfstof*, premiered at Kaaaitheater before starting an international tour to Vienna, Salzburg, Berlin, Paris, etc.

From that moment onwards Ugo created regularly new choreographies.

A **first phase** was inspired by the visual and mechanical aspects of the human body. He investigates the body as an object, how it grows older and how it can be transformed.

The **second phase** consisted of very physical work. He investigates what happens when two bodies occupy the same space, or how bodies can invoke emotions without the help of music or visual aids. This phase concluded with urban dance morphing into contemporary dance in a piece with youngsters and 6 autonomous drones.

Parallel a **third phase** aroused in which science takes an important role: from very visual choreographies inspired by the universal forces that keep our world together, to an investigation into the mind of persons living with dementia.

Since 2018 Ugo shifted his focus and became a **choreographer of things**. Ugo made the moving sculpture *Stalactiet* (2018) for Tweetakt Festival (NL), *Forced Labor: Arena* (2020), an installation with 8 interactive robots, *Forced Labor* (2021), a lecture-performance with small robots, *Runner* (2020), a self-learning robot, *Pickled Punks* (2021), a series of robots in jars of formaldehyde, commissioned by KIKK, and started the research for *LIMP*, a collaboration with Prof. Geraint A. Wiggins (Computational Creativity) and Axiles Bionics (AI robotized foot-protheses).

Next to his choreographic work, Ugo also made *Coupure*, a **permanent, moving sculpture** for the city of Bruges.

As a member of the **Flemish Young Academy** (www.jonggeacademie.be) Ugo has a direct contact with numerous important young scientists and researchers in Belgium.

In the meanwhile Ugo gave numerous workshops and masterclasses and worked for other artists amongst which Stijn Gruppig (Post Uit Hesdalen), Ehsan Hemat, Samah Hijawi, Stéphane Arcas, Sachiyo Takahashi, Emil Hrvatin, Arco Renz, Gisèle Vienne & Etienne Bideau-Rey, Kataline Patkaï, Nada Gambier, Antonin De Bemels, Heine R. Avdal,...



2020: Forced Labor: Arena

An installation-performance with 8 robots. The audience is invited to interact with the robots by manipulating or rating them. As such they help the ai to better understand how to create its own choreography.

'Forced Labor: Arena' is a must-see for everyone who kicks on AI, interactive art, experimental dance and ethical questions!



2018: Stalactiet

Stalactiet is a moving sculpture commissioned by Tweetakt, Utrecht. Using its 10 servos, this stalactite slowly comes to life. The water that once solidified with the minerals becomes liquid again and transforms the stalactite into an alien state.

Mesmerizing!



2017: RATS

An impressive show for 6 autonome drones, a contemporary dancer and 7 young urban dancers. In collaboration with fABULEUS.

The alfabet of street dances is made visible in a game of accelerations and decelerations. But Dehaes also highlights nicely the importance of humor, mime, pastiche and personal attitude.



2015: DMNT

A piece for 3 dancers. An investigation into the head of persons living with dementia and physical childhood memories. Première in Avignon during the Festival.

Captivating to see how dementia leads to total solitude, how the trio knows to show the disconcerting.

They move like neurons that are communicating.



2013: Intimacy

A pure and intimate living room presentation based on the eponymous short story by Raymon Carver. With Ugo Dehaes (dance), Guylène Olivares (acting) and Tuur Florizoone (live accordeon).

The verbal impact on the dancer's body is brutal and intimate at the same time.



2013: Grafted & 2015: Grafted Duet

An acrobatic choreography inspired by the physicality of relationships, for 4 (dance-)couples and 2 soloists.

In Grafted, Dehaes has steered the dancers towards a beautiful, breathtaking result that is moving, overwhelming and memorable. The suppleness with which these artists maneuvered their bodies elicited a series of shocked cries from the audience. Bravo!



2013: GIRLS

A recreation of WOMEN with a group of young girls aged 9 to 14. An internationally acclaimed piece in collaboration with fABULEUS.

GIRLS is a remarkable piece of dance performed by young people that at once raises the bar by a few kilometers. The audacious step of letting young girls dance this incredibly demanding choreography delivers rock-solid dance.



2011: WOMEN

A choreography for 8 female dancers aged 30 to 60. An exploration of emotions, using nothing more than the breath as a soundtrack. Selected for Het Theater Festival, Brussels.

The spectator sees his own body reflected on stage. The breathing thematized by Dehaes is a powerful way of achieving this. He adroitly makes the dancing body tangible and involuntarily drags the audience along with him. Women is not only beautiful, but also moving. Mission accomplished.



2010: couple-like#2

A recreation of the hit-show couple-like, this time danced by teenagers. In collaboration with Dox and Het Lab, Utrecht.

A headbutt as a caress.

They stretch the boundaries of vulnerability and resilience while never moving more than 1 meter apart.

Couple-like is a Classic, and also #2 can last for years



2008: FORCES

A collection of scènes exploring the universal forces that keep our world together: gravitation, electromagnetic force, strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force.

Forces is unusual in its generosity. [Dehaes] succeeds in putting a fresh stamp on empty abstractions. He unfailingly arrives at choreographies that are crystal-clear, playful and poetic.



2006: couple-like

A duet based on the confrontation of 2 bodies literally occupying the same space. In collaboration with Keren Levi.

They're twisting, colliding, rolling, dancing lightly. We rarely see dance being so intimate, yet so adventurous, being unconventional, yet impregnated by a desire that moves every spectator.



2004: Rozenblad

A choreography for children, exploring how plants grow and bloom, on a pitch-black sculpture by Fabian Luyten. In collaboration with Laika.

Choreographer Ugo Dehaes proves with Rozenblad that it's more than possible to create good contemporary dance for young children.



2002: Coupure

A moving sculpture, designed to accompany the pedestrian vertical-lift bridge by Jürg Conzett. Commissioned for Brugge 2002, Cultural Capital of Europe.

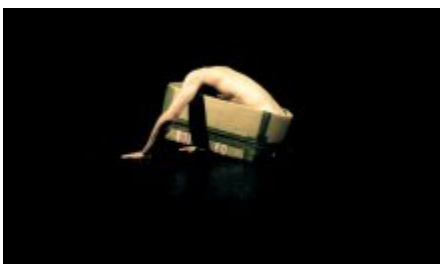
Coupure became an artistic homage to the bridge.



2002: ROEST

A performance exploring the decay of the human body. Two bodies in confrontation with a big rusty machine.

Also in 'ROEST' we see that Dehaes is in the first place a master in the composition of powerful images.



2000: lijfstof

A performance about the body as a thing, and things as bodies. A collaboration with Charlotte Vanden Eynde.

The dance material in this choreography are often plainly splendid and closely related to experiments in visual arts.

Watching the show feels like flipping through a fancy fashion magazine.