

Reckless Sleepers

a string section



created by
leen dewilde for reckless sleepers

reckless-sleepers.eu

publicity & reviews



In 2010 Leen Dewilde started destroying things, smashing cups, breaking down walls, cutting up furniture and sawing the legs off chairs.

A String Section started as one of these works, a simple set of 5 chairs, 5 women and 5 saws. A project where the production of sawdust, the left over legs, the half broken chairs, the residue of the action is as important as the action itself.

Presented indoors in galleries, theatres, a church, and a warehouse, outside in front of the sea, in an Italian courtyard, underneath a bridge...

'I have never been to a performance – of anything – where the need for resolution, for completion, has felt so compelling, has been so actively craved. I would happily have sat there for twice A String Section's forty-five minute running time, caught up in that feeling of things about to fall'

Tom Moyser, Broadway Baby

★★★★★ [link to full review](#)

'what a manifold and meaningful piece it proves - without doubt, one of the most gripping and visceral things I have seen this festival.'

Matt Trueman, Whats on Stage

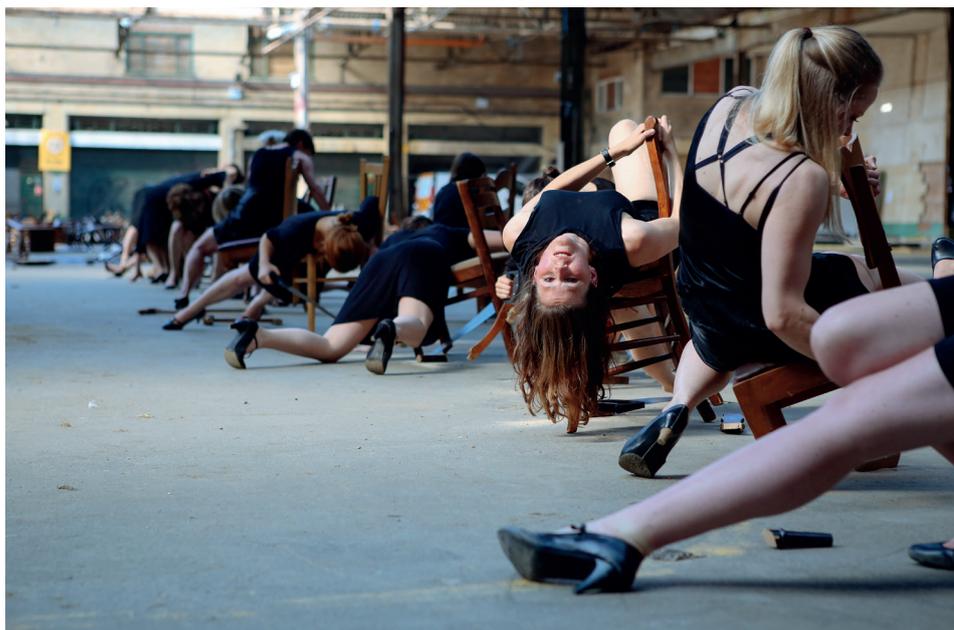
★★★★★ [link to full review](#)

'To describe this work as hypnotic isn't enough—the state it induces is one of intense engagement with its presentness, in both a temporal and spatial sense. It is the feeling of a breath held for 50 minutes, all in the audience leaning forward, alert to every movement.'

John Bailey, Real Time [link to full review](#)

[reviews](#)

larger scale versions



Originally conceived as a gallery project, larger scale versions and adaptations with local dancers have been presented in Brighton, Hastings, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Brugge.

Metropolis Festival Copenhagen

“Reckless Sleepers have created a lavish, mesmerising and humorous ritual. A quirky, beautiful and self-destructive choreography with character and symbolism all depending on where it is presented.

5 women, all in little black dresses, sitting on 5 chairs. Elegant like the string section in a symphony orchestra, but equipped with saws instead of violin and bow.

Their mission is rather simple: to saw off the legs underneath them without falling over. Sitting on the chair, lying stretched out, wrapped around the backrest, head down, legs split.

The bodies are twisted in order to find the optimal working position. The task is tough, the chair legs put up a struggle, but the women are so dedicated and so ready for battle. The rhythmic sound of the saw blade into wood foreshadows destruction. Sweat is mixed with sawdust, the muscles burn, and they desperately fight to keep up the facade and balance when the chair legs break and the chairs tilt over.

We shiver when the saw slips, and we laugh when they lose their balance and fall to the ground with a bang. We are all mesmerised as we follow every single movement, each cut with the saw, while we wait in excitement for the ultimate and inevitable self-destruction.’

[link to Metropolis website](#)

[Brugge Pre-Triennale](#)

[Brighton](#)

[Copenhagen](#)

[Porto](#)

P r o d u c t i o n

d o w n l o a d s

[Technical File original Gallery](#)

[Technical File Large Scale](#)

[Publicity Photographs](#)

Reckless Sleepers

c r e d i t s

Created by Leen Dewilde for Reckless Sleepers.

Concept: Leen Dewilde

Performed by

Leen Dewilde

Caroline D'Haese

Lisa Kendall

Orla Shine

Rachel Piekarczyk

Sofie Vanderstede

Annika Kompart

Meike Stevens

Anna Heuer Hanssen

Alexa Moyer Panksep

Joana Eliseu Cavaco

Producer: Mole Wetherell

c o n t a c t

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Reckless
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 Vlaanderen
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