

V+ THEATER ★★★★★

## In het sterke 'It Really Hurts When Your Head Hits the Concrete' is het aan de toeschouwer om te associëren

Mannenduo Nick Deroo en Tom de Ronde spelen woordeloos een verhaal met wrange ondertoon, doorspekt met komische scènes.

Annette Embrechts 11 augustus 2024, 14:33



'It Really Hurts When Your Head Hits the Concrete' in de tuin van de Sint-Janskathedraal in Den Bosch. Beeld Joshua Walter

### In the strong "It Really Hurts When Your Head Hits the Concrete," it is up to the viewer to associate

The duo Nick Deroo and Tom de Ronde wordlessly play a story with wry undertones, peppered with comedic scenes.

Annette Embrechts, August 11, 2024, 14:33

A man drags a body behind him, up the sacred grass of the garden of St. John's Cathedral in Den Bosch. He (Nick Deroo) is wearing neat pants and shirt, unlike his ballast (Tom de Ronde). His brown shirt is torn, his battered pants half-wet.

The man looks worried, startled when the limp male body gives a sign of life. At first, the bundle of bones and muscles lets itself be toyed with, like a rag doll. But then the ballast starts teasing. You don't throw off "a backpack full of feelings" that easily.

From that moment on, during the strong male duet *It Really Hurts When Your Head Hits the Concrete*, a telling, wordless dialogue unfolds in which DeRonde/Deroo leave all associations to the viewer. Is it a thirty-something struggling with his past, with his conscience, with a love that went wrong?

Are they brothers in which the oldest unwillingly roams with the youngest? Or lost travelers, like the dreamy Don Quixote and his realistic servant Sancho Panza, where one keeps the other with both feet on the ground?

There are comical scenes in between with wry undertones, such as when the smeared sounds turn into crumbling love songs and De Ronde's mouth as a searching radio frequency reminds Deroo of lost loves. Beautiful and painful at the same time. Both men know each other from mime school (graduating in 2020 and 2021) and, coached by Feikes Huis, are perfectly matched.

When the heavens open up for a moment during Theaterfestival Boulevard and they stand drenched on each other's shoulders in front of all those well-behaved statues of saints, they could easily be incorporated into a niche. Fortunately, they also go on tour.

<https://www.volkskrant.nl/theater/in-het-sterke-it-really-hurts-when-your-head-hits-the-concrete-is-het-aan-de-toeschouwer-om-te-associeren~b3146ab7/>