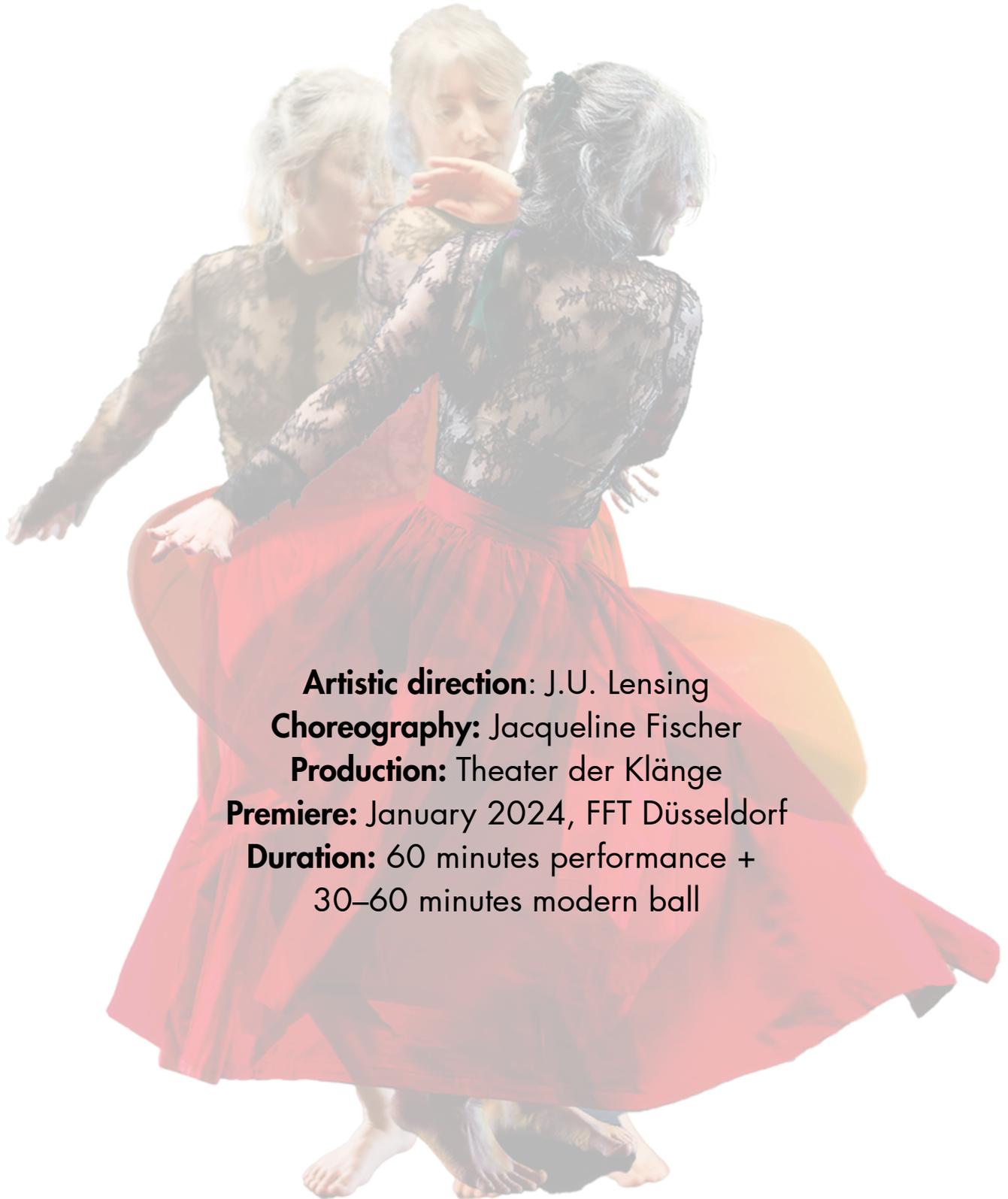




THEATER DER KLÄNGE WEST-LAND-TÄNZE

An interactive dance project



Artistic direction: J.U. Lensing

Choreography: Jacqueline Fischer

Production: Theater der Klänge

Premiere: January 2024, FFT Düsseldorf

Duration: 60 minutes performance +
30–60 minutes modern ball



WHAT IT'S ABOUT

What happens when forgotten cultural heritage meets contemporary dance? When historical melodies pulse through electronic beats? When the audience becomes co-dancers?

Traditional folk dances from Westphalia and the Rhineland – the “Kleine Düsseldorfer,” “Siebensprung,” “Herr Schmidt” – are increasingly falling into oblivion. West-Land-Tänze brings this almost forgotten cultural heritage back to the stage. Not as nostalgic folklore, but as a lively exploration of identity, integration, and collective memory.

After intensive research in the spring of 2023, Theater der Klänge developed a production that deconstructs traditional dance forms and translates them into a contemporary language of movement. The result: a thrilling evening that breaks down the barrier between stage and audience.



TWO PARTS

Part 1: The stage performance

Nine dancers and three live musicians explore the DNA of traditional dances. They break down traditional step sequences, discover hidden patterns, and develop their own choreographic language. The musical reinterpretation blends historical melodies with electronic sounds, flute, and accordion—a pulsating soundtrack between yesterday and today.

Part 2: The modern ball

After the performance, the stage becomes a dance hall. Under the professional guidance of the ensemble, the audience dances together—cultural heritage is not only observed, but physically experienced and passed on. A social space is created in which community can be experienced through movement.



ARTISTIC APPROACH

Form & Structure

The choreography deconstructs traditional folk dances and combines them into a contemporary reflection. Traditional step sequences are broken up, recombined, and interwoven with contemporary forms of movement. This creates connections between the past and historical oblivion, between tradition and critical reflection.

Musik & Sound

Live electronics meets traditional instruments. J.U. Lensing, Jens Barabasch, and Christiane Meis transform catchy folk melodies into a multi-layered soundscape that combines the catchiness of historical songs with contemporary soundscapes.

Space & Facilities

White curtains structure the black stage space. Video projections create visual layers between history and the present. Caterina Di Fiore's costumes play with traditional elements in modern cuts.



THE ENSEMBLE

Dancers (premiere cast)

Miriam Arnold, William Lundberg, Francesca Merolla, Julia Monschau, Christian Paul, Lara Piloni, Mariane Verbecq, Linda Withelm
Guest dancer: Frederik Brune

Live-Musik

J.U. Lensing – Electronics & Percussion
Jens Barabasch – Woodwind Instruments
Christiane Meis – Accordion

Creative team

Costume: Caterina Di Fiore
Lighting design: Markus Schramm

TECHNICAL FLEXIBILITY

Performance area: min. 8 x 6 meters (ideal: black dance floor/sprung floor)
Stage design: Black-curtained stage, 2 tracks for white curtains
Lighting: 15 x 1KW Fresnel, 30 x 1KW Zooms, 7 moving lights
Sound: PA system for live music (flute, accordion, live electronics), 2 microphones
Video: Projector for projections
Setup: 1 day | **Dismantling:** 3 hours



GUEST PERFORMANCE FORMATS

Full version with modern ball

60 min. performance + 30–60 min. participatory segment
Complete ensemble (9 dancers, 3 musicians)
Ideal for theater spaces with dance floors

Compact version for festivals

30–40 min. performance + 20 min. interactive segment
More flexible space requirements
Reduced cast possible

Workshop format

Teaching artistic approaches
Combining traditional and contemporary dance
For professionals and interested amateurs



THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

Production is particularly suitable for programs focusing on:

- Cultural heritage & tradition – New perspectives on regional cultural assets and homeland
- Contemporary dance – Innovative approaches to movement research and deconstruction
- Participation & community – Low-threshold access and cultural participation
- Intercultural projects – Dialogue on integration and cultural memory
- Intergenerational dialogue – Bridges between the past and the future



PRESS REVIEWS

“The Theater der Klänge has made it its mission to revive this cultural treasure and bring it back to the stage [...] a successful premiere.”
Rheinische Post, January 2024

“The result is a rousing performance that is catchy simply because of its melodies.”
Rheinische Post

“Rarely have visitors left a contemporary dance performance with as many happiness hormones as they did this evening.”
O-Ton cultural magazine





SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS & MEDIATION

Publications & Documentation

- E-book for research: Free publication with historical background information
- Audio documentation: Musical reinterpretations to listen to
- Photographic material: Michael S. Zerban



MEDIATION SERVICES

- Introductions and follow-up discussions with the artistic team
- Workshops for preparation or further studies
- Guidance for organizing your own modern ball events



THEATER DER KLÄNGE

Since 1987, Theater der Klänge has been known for its innovative combinations of music, dance, and theater. Under the artistic direction of J.U. Lensing (composition/direction) and Jacqueline Fischer (choreography), the ensemble has developed over 30 productions and performed internationally.

The Düsseldorf-based theater is known for its cross-media works and creative engagement with cultural heritage. With West-Land-Tänze, the ensemble continues its long-standing tradition of translating socially relevant themes into contemporary forms of expression.



WHY WEST-LAND-TÄNZE?

At a time when matters like cultural identity and social cohesion are becoming increasingly important, this production offers an artistically sophisticated yet accessible approach.

The project shows that engaging with tradition does not have to be backward-looking. It can provide impetus for the present, create spaces for encounter, and foster community. The combination of professional stage art with interactive elements creates experiences that have an impact beyond the performance.

West-Land-Tänze is more than a performance—it is an invitation to dialogue between generations, between different cultural backgrounds, between the past and the future.

THEATER DER KLÄNGE

J.U. Lensing

Künstlerische Leitung & Produktionsleitung

Jacqueline Fischer

Choreografie

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