



SKÅNES DANSTEATER

COMMON GROUND

Choreography: **Anouk van Dijk**

COMMON GROUND

A ritualistic battleground for two dance greats, *Common Ground* is a choreographic game of chess. Ingrained rules are upturned by unexpected moves—intricate gambits, sacrifices and reactive attacks. Together with her team, Dutch choreographer and former Chunky Move Artistic Director Anouk van Dijk looked at the duet form as both a utopian ideal and a display of the inherent complexity that partnerships bring.

Restaged and performed by two strong Skånes Dansteater dancers, this breathtaking duet has become a poetic study on similarity, equality, defining territory and shifting grounds, testing the tension between the support we need and the restrictions of codependency.

ABOUT SKÅNES DANSTEATER

Skånes Dansteater is a company in motion, Sweden's only independent dance institution, a contemporary dance company based in Malmö. By offering a variety of relevant and enriching experiences, we contribute to a sustainable society. We work in close dialogue with the arts, culture and people in a world we all share so that more people can discover the power of contemporary dance.

TOURING

JANUARY - MARCH 2025.



ANOUK VAN DIJK ABOUT COMMON GROUND

‘Fascinated by the feuds between political leaders on the national and international stage, and the public celebrations of their own reign, I explored the dynamics of power. This took me back to the 17th century, and the birth of ballet. In the court of Louis XIV, dance - for the first time in history - was staged as a spectacle used to solidify absolute monarchy, with King Louis dancing the lead role on his own.

In a time where equality is more than ever on the political agenda, I imagined what would have happened if Louis XIV had been performing with an equally strong female in the lead. How would it have shaped our ideas around power and gender? What would have happened to the course of history, the way we fight our battles, value our societies and shape our humanity through art?’

PRESS QUOTES

”With ‘Common Ground’ the important and perilous questions about the world and our lives together are mercilessly put to the test.”

— Sydsvenskan

”70 minutes of dance magic”

— Skånska Dagbladet

CREATIVE TEAM

CONCEPT, CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION **Anouk Van Dijk**

COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN **Jethro Woodward**

MUSIC **Jean Baptiste Lully, Johann Sebastian Bach**

SET & COSTUMES **Marg Horwell**

LIGHT DESIGN **Paul Jackson**

DRAMATURGICAL ADVICE **Jerry Remkes**

DANCERS **Two dancers from Skånes Dansteater**

CREDITS

Originally created for Chunky Move

Premiere Season 26 April – 5 May 2018 Chunky Move Studios, Melbourne.

PHOTO **Common Ground 2024**

PHOTO CREDITS BY **Håkan Larsson**

DANCERS IN PHOTOS **Kat Nakui and Simone Frederick Scacchetti**

CONTACT

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A documentation of the performance is available upon request.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

PREMIERE: **2024-02-08**

TOURING: **January - March, 2025.**

DURATION: **62 minutes, no intermission.**

AGE RECOMMENDATIONS: **14 years and up.**

ON STAGE: **2 dancers.**

VENUE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Clean stage, heated. A (black) bare wall aesthetic is our preference. However, there may be a requirement for masking, if for any reason the walls will not fit the work. If possible, please provide pictures of your venue so that a decision on masking can be made in the early stages of planning.**
- **Stage manager from the venue during show.**
- **Crew for load in, show and load out according to the technical rider.**
- **Dressing rooms with showers, mirrors, drinking water and secure lockable storage space.**
- **Wooden (sprung) dance floor or: Black Dance Vinyl, covering whole stage.**
- **FOH in auditorium for sound and lights.**
- **Access to a rehearsal studio/warm up space with an area of approximately 9 x 9 m. for 90 minutes per day for dance classes. If possible the space would be located at the performance venue.**

OPTIMAL STAGE DIMENSION: **(b) 13 m x (d) 11 m x (h) 6,5 m.**

SET UP: **8 hours for technical work and spacing before the performance. 3 hours post performance.**

SET-UP / LOAD OUT CREW: **4 people, at least 1 of them with good knowledge of venue and technical equipment.**

SKÅNES DANSTEATER STAFF: **5 people (1x rehearsal director/tour manager, 1x head electrician/ lighting operator, 1x sound engineer and 2x performers.)**

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER

Anouk van Dijk



Anouk van Dijk is choreographer, director and the creator behind Countertechnique. She has been the Artistic Director of the Australian dance company Chunky Move from 2012-2019, and ran her own Amsterdam-based company anoukvandijk dc from 1999-2012. Her work is staged for a wide range of settings: from black box theatre to main stage productions, from installation work to site-specific spectacles.

In 2012 Van Dijk was awarded the Golden Swan, the Netherlands most prestigious dance accolade – in recognition of her outstanding artistic and academic contribution to dance. Central to the foundation of her creative work has been Countertechnique, providing dancers with tools for versatile dance practice in the 21st century. Currently Countertechnique has almost 40 certified teachers worldwide and the methodology holds a prominent place in the publication Dance Techniques 2010, co-written by Prof. Gerald Siegmund and Anouk van Dijk.
