

Leahkit, TFF Rudolstadt 2015

by Babette Michel (WDR / [Westdeutscher Rundfunk](#))

From the very first second Leahkit is an exciting experience, a great combination of arts, I've never seen before. At Germany's biggest Festival of Folk, Roots and Worldmusic, TFF Rudolstadt 2015, Hallgrim Hansegard caught the attraction of the people in the hall not only by lighting up a crackling fire on stage, but brought them into the very moment and to themselves by his vibrant, soulful and expressive dance moves.

In Leahkit he artfully and groundbreakingly combines the archaic with the contemporary and thus is a real genius of his art. In this unique art piece he meets the innovative spirit of the Sami musician Torgeir Vassvik, who renews the vocal tradition of Joik, not by putting it in a pop context but using his own expression, inspired by other vocal techniques of the world and by new sounds. Two different „Norwegian“ worlds – Halling dance with its developing energy and Joik with its more being-in-the-state-of-mind intensity – meet in Leahkit. But you can feel that they are in fact not that different! They both express inner states of mind of men, their dark sides and their power, their worries and dreams. So, this trance-like production makes us come home to ourselves, to our inner world, where we are all connected.

The Rudolstadt audience realized the great value of this artistic production. The fascinated people in the hall were concentrated and quiet, you could hear a pin drop. Hallgrim and Torgeir kept the audience breathless for 50 minutes and, in the end, let it erupt into a storm of excitement and enthusiasm.