

The end of innocence

475 abusers
507 cases of abuse
14 victims committed suicide
youngest victim was two years old

ALAN HOPE

The former bishop of Bruges, Roger Vangheluwe, last week announced he was leaving the abbey of Westvleteren in West Flanders, where he had taken refuge in April after admitting to the sexual abuse of his nephew during a period of 13 years.

The announcement came only hours after the release of a report by the commission set up by the Catholic Church to investigate abuse by clergy, chaired by eminent child psychiatrist Peter Adriaenssens.

The 200-page report of the Adriaenssens Commission contains testimony from some of the victims of the 475 cases brought to light after Vangheluwe's resignation as bishop. Accounts had to stop being detailed last June when case files were seized by police on the orders of a Brussels magistrate. A court has since decided that those files are not admissible in evidence, but the report, while only scratching the surface of the problem, is a shocking document revealing long-term institutionalised abuse by Catholic clergy in Belgium.

Many of the cases go back as far as the 1950s, which means

that some of the victims are now more than 70 years old. Most of the victims were boys – 327 compared to 161 girls – and most were at the time of the abuse between 10 and 14 years old. However, the youngest case on the record involves a child of two.

Most of the cases examined cannot be brought to court because Belgian law considers them timed-out: too many years have passed since the events for any prosecution to take place. The same rule applies to the crimes of the former bishop himself, who admitted abusing his own nephew from the time he was five until the age of 18. His victim is now 42.

In the cases described, many of the children involved were attending Catholic schools or boarding schools, though others were simply members of a congregation. In the words of Professor Adriaenssens, speaking at a press conference at the Catholic University of Leuven: "I will tell you that in most cases it's not a question of touching, as some would have you believe. Many [victims] suffered terrible acts, including anal and oral sex. I have worked for 23 years in this sector, but even

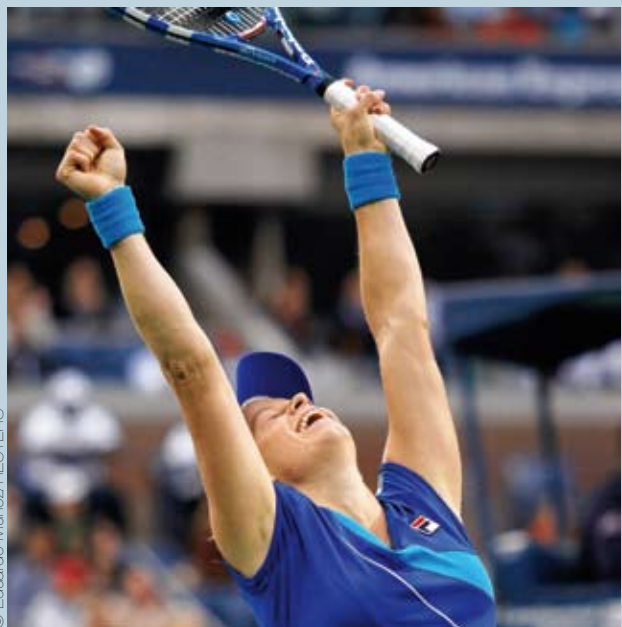
for me these stories made me sick to my stomach."

The cases chosen by the Adriaenssens commission are only a sample of the complaints they received, and those are, as most authorities admit, only the tip of the iceberg. Aside from the details of the abuse, the most important issue revealed by the report is the system that allowed such practices to continue for such a long period.

"The children often had worries about the consequences," Adriaenssens said. "Some of the abusers paid for their victims' studies, or the abused children were given better marks. There were also consequences for the parents, whose reputation was often at stake. Imagine your son were to be expelled from a prestigious college. They didn't want to risk that. Three out of four victims let their parents know, without any result. That's also a constant in all of this testimony – victims who tell their story in confidence to a teacher or priest, but the confidant does nothing. The silencing of this abuse lies in society itself."

→ continued on page 3

Comeback Kim keeps US crown



→ story on page 3

Ignorance is bliss

The key to breaking boundaries, according to one theatre company, is to not know where the boundaries lie

LISA BRADSHAW

An adolescent boy looks into an audience of adults and says: "You are not an example; you are a warning." It's a sobering statement of judgement from young people with their whole lives ahead of them. They do not want to become like you – they want to avoid becoming like you.

The Ghent-based theatre company Ontroerend Goed has done what practically no other company ever has: made theatre with teenagers for adults. By mostly just telling you about themselves, the young actors have an uncanny knack of telling you about yourself.

The latest show is *Teenage Riot*, which is just back from the Edinburgh Festival before its Belgian premiere in Ghent later this month. Edinburgh is a big fan of the work of Ontroerend Goed, and its critics lauded *Teenage Riot* (pictured) as "the strongest" in a spate of plays about young people.

"They cheated because they were real teenagers, where the other shows were with slightly older actors playing teenagers," said one commentator on BBC2. "The show was very good at expressing what teenagers want to say to parents."

→ continued on page 5



OFFSIDE

ALAN HOPE

Coming home



The philosopher Heraclitus might have had us in mind when he pointed out that you can't step in the same river twice: nothing stands still, everything is in flux.

Once you've lived abroad for a while and return to where you came from, you find that your own personal river has flowed in one direction, while the one you first stepped in has gone in another.

Lots of Flemings go abroad, and some of them come home. And it's their problems that are the issue for a new service run by Flemings in the World, an organisation that provides a network for the children of Flanders, wherever they may be.

The new service is called Expert/Expats, and its aim is to make it easier to come home. Their service takes three forms:

- Publication of a handbook for anyone who has plans in the near (or distant) future to return to Flanders from a life abroad
- Provision of expert help from people who have already been through the experience to help expats and families re-insert themselves into Flemish society
- Organisation of a twice-yearly meeting place, where returnees and experts can get together to talk about their experiences. The first of those will take place on 15 October

→ www.viw.be

News in brief

One of three youths who two weeks ago saved three people from a burning house in Boom has admitted **returning to steal laptop computers** from the house. The three entered the house when they saw smoke and brought out two children and an elderly lady. One of the youths, however, later returned to the scene, after which a friend reported he had four laptops in his possession. Neither of the other two rescuers was implicated.

A field in Neder-Over-Heembeek used by travellers as a camp has been **planted with mustard**, despite an assurance given by Brussels mayor Freddie Thielemans in May that the plan would not go ahead. The idea of alderman Bertin Mampaka, the tall mustard plants were intended to stop travellers with caravans from using the field, but it ran up against the resistance of integration groups and local scouts who use the field for recreation. Mustard, a highly invasive plant, grows quickly to a height of up to 1.5 metres. A spokesman for the scouts warned that they would present a problem for the whole area when they begin to spread their seeds in the spring.

Flemish universities have dropped several places in the prestigious **QS rankings of international institutions** of higher education, released last week. The Catholic University of Leuven, the region's leader, dropped from 65 to 86, while the University of Antwerp went down from 177 to 179, and Ghent dropped from 136 to 192. The rankings are led by Cambridge University, which knocked Harvard from its number one spot last year.

More than 4,000 barrels of **spoiled Stella Artois** – enough to serve 850,000 pintjes – were last week delivered to Belgian cafes, following a production accident in which the beer was mixed with yeast normally used to make Leffe. A shipment of 10,000 hectolitres, or four million pintjes, was stopped before it could be delivered to the US.

Fewer than one in four of the candidates for entry to studies for **medicine and dentistry** this year gained a place after exams. There were 4,000 candidates, of whom 999 succeeded. Last year there were 500 fewer who sat the exam, but 1,295 passed.

Brussels Airport Company, which runs the airport at Zaventem, has won a court case against five Brussels municipalities that protested at proposals to build a **new terminal dedicated to low-cost airlines**. The five communes – Oudergem, Schaarbeek, Evere and the two Woluwe – said the disused terminal would be renovated without first gaining planning permission and without the necessary environmental impact study being carried out. The court found the arguments unfounded. However, the terminal, originally planned to come into operation at the beginning of this year, has been delayed by other legal challenges, and no opening date is currently planned.

City authorities in Ghent have decided to send **no New Year's cards** this year, and to donate the money instead to the 12-12 appeal for victims of the flooding in Pakistan. The cost of cards is estimated at €13,000, to which a further donation of €5,000 will be added.

FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

George Van Reeth

One of the most prominent Europeans in the field of space research, Flemish scientist George Van Reeth, has died at his home in Tuscany. He was 86.

"George Van Reeth was a pioneer throughout his career, but never more so than during his tenure as President of the International Space University," said the current head of ISU, Michael Simpson. "He was a person whose perspective incarnated ISU's intercultural, interdisciplinary and international values. In living those values, he helped show us their great potential for our species and the space sector. In passing, he leaves a legacy of accomplishment that both permits and encourages us to carry on. He will be missed, but his impact continues."

Van Reeth was born in Herselt, Antwerp province, in 1924. He studied civil engineering and later law at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL), earning a doctorate in 1952. He then practiced as a lawyer before going to work for Nato in Koblenz as a legal expert in their Starfighter Monitoring office.

Van Reeth then moved to the European Space Research Organisation (ESRO), a forerunner of the European Space Agency (ESA). He designed and implemented their industrial policy, which encouraged the creation of international consortia to manage development projects in the early days of space technology. He rose to become Acting Secretary General of the European Launcher Development Organisation until it merged with ESRO to form the ESA.



In 1991, he went on to be president of the ISU, transforming what was then only a summer school into a full-fledged institution awarding Master's degrees in space studies. He also oversaw the university's move from the US to Strasbourg. In later life, he held a number of positions in organisations like the International Bar Association's space law committee and the International Astronautical Federation. He was also made a Knight of the Legion of Honour in France and recently received a visit from Belgium's king and queen at his home in Tuscany.

He is survived by a wife and five children. His brother is the prominent Flemish architect bOb Van Reeth.

FLANDERS TODAY

Flanders Today, a free weekly English-language newspaper, is an initiative of the Flemish Region and is financially supported by the Flemish authorities.

The logo and the name Flanders Today belong to the Flemish Region (Benelux Beeldmerk nr 815.088). The editorial team of Flanders Today has full editorial autonomy regarding the content of the newspaper and is responsible for all content, as stipulated in the agreement between Corelio Publishing and the Flemish authorities.

Editor: Derek Blyth

Deputy editor: Lisa Bradshaw

News editor: Alan Hope

Agenda: Sarah Crew, Robyn Boyle

Art director: Michel Didier

Prepress: Corelio P&P

Contributors: Rebecca Benoot, Robyn Boyle, Leo Cendrowicz, Courtney Davis, Stéphanie Duval, Suki Jenkins, Anna Jenkinson, Katrien Lindemans, Alistair MacLean, Marc Maes, Ian Mundell, Anja Otte, Emma Portier Davis, Saffina Rana, Christophe Verbiest, Denzil Walton

General manager: Christine Van den Berghe

Publisher: Corelio Publishing NV

Editorial address:

Gossetlaan 30

1702 Groot-Bijgaarden

Tel.: 02.373.99.09 – Fax: 02.375.98.22

editorial@flanderstoday.eu

Subscriptions:

subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu

or sign up online at www.flanderstoday.eu

Advertising: Evelyn Fregonese

02.373.83.57

advertising@flanderstoday.eu

Verantwoordelijke uitgever:

Derek Blyth





Ex-bishop flees as report reveals extent of abuse

→ continued from page 1

Two weeks ago, tapes made by the nephew of Vangheluwe during a meeting he had with the former head of the Catholic Church in Belgium, Cardinal Godfried Danneels, were released to *De Standaard*. The retired archbishop clearly suggests to the victim, who was abused for 13 years from the age of five, that he put off any public statements until Vangheluwe retired. Vangheluwe was ordained as a bishop before the abuse was revealed.

Vangheluwe, who resigned as bishop when the affair was about to become public, had so far declined to make an public statements for apologies. Last weekend he announced that he was moving out of Westvleteren abbey to an undisclosed location and issued a written statement:

"The silencing of this abuse lies in society itself"

—Peter Adriaenssens



© Fred Guerdin/REPORTERS

THE WEEK IN FIGURES



39%

of Belgian children are born to unmarried parents, according to figures compiled by Eurostat, the EU's statistical service. The European average is 35%, but in Estonia, Sweden, Slovenia, France and Bulgaria the figure is more than 50%

819

children got lost at the Belgian coast this year, 626 fewer than last year, according to the lifeguard service IKWV. The sharp decrease was mainly due to the poor weather in August, which brought fewer people to the seaside than normal

23%

of Flemish families buy school supplies second hand, mainly from friends and family. Atlases and dictionaries are the most common second-hand purchases

25,757

requests for training subsidy cheques in August, following a decision by the Flemish government to limit subsidies to courses aimed at gaining work-related qualifications. In August 2009, the figure was 42,742

1,027

people took their own lives in Flanders in 2008, the first time the figure has gone above 1,000, putting Flanders at 50% higher than the European average. Suicide is the leading cause of death in Flanders for males aged 20-24 and 30-50, and for females aged 15-40

→ www.zelfmoordlijn.be

"On 23 April, I offered my resignation as bishop and said that I was very sorry for what I did in the past. At that time, I asked for forgiveness and offered my apologies to the victim, his family and the whole church community. I wish to do the same now. My regret has increased on seeing how much anger my acts have caused. Many others have been drawn into a spiral of sorrow and confusion, among them Cardinal Danneels. I wish once more to admit my guilt and ask the forgiveness of the church, of society and of all those who have suffered.

I am intensely thankful to the father abbot and the community of Westvleteren abbey for their hospitality over the last months. From this day on, I will reflect upon my life and my future somewhere secret, away from the bishopric of Bruges."

Because the law in Belgium bars prosecution of child sexual abuse that is reported more than 10 years after the victim reaches the age of majority, Vangheluwe is not a fugitive from justice. Unless the justice system can show he abused others within that time limit, he is untouchable. There is now

pressure from many quarters to extend or even abandon that time limit, although it would not have a retroactive effect.

According to the Adriaenssens report, 95 of the clerics identified by victims are now dead. A further 91 are still alive, and may or may not be subject to the time limit. However, a ruling by the courts last month means that they cannot now be prosecuted on the basis of the testimony given to the commission. ♦

Clijsters wins US Open

The Flemish tennis champion brings home the silver cup two years in a row

LEO CENDROWICZ

New York has been good to Kim Clijsters. It was where she won her first Grand Slam title, in 2005, and where she won her second – her surprise victory last year after coming back from retirement. And on Sunday, she retained her US Open title at Flushing Meadows, seeing off Russia's Vera Zvonareva 6-2, 6-1, to score her third trophy.

Clijsters had lost her two previous meetings with Zvonareva, including a recent defeat at Wimbledon as the Russian made it through to her first Grand Slam final. But it took Clijsters one minute less than an hour to dispatch the lacklustre Zvonareva at the US Open's Arthur Ashe Stadium in one of the most lopsided tennis finals in recent memory. Zvonareva, who had impressed coming into the final, disintegrated embarrassingly.

But Clijsters was generous about her defeated opponent, as she commented after the match, her two-year-old daughter Jada by her side: "A little bit of experience definitely helps. I told Vera it's tough when you lose, but I think it took me six or seven finals before I finally got one."

Clijsters' biggest challenge in New York came two days earlier in her semi-final, where she had to fight back from a set down to defeat Venus Williams 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

The 27-year-old from Bree, Limburg province, has now been the champion on her last three visits to New York. She did not play from 2006-2008 because of injury and motherhood.

Meanwhile, fellow Fleming Yanina Wickmayer was unable to replicate the form that had propelled her to the semi-finals in New York last year, as she



Kim Clijsters kisses the trophy after beating Vera Zvonareva at the US Open tennis tournament in New York

© Mike Segar/REUTERS

collapsed in the fourth round, losing 0-6, 7-6 (2), 6-1 to Estonian Kaia Kanepi. Wickmayer insisted the score was deceptive, however. "I won the set pretty easily on the score, but all the games were pretty tough, and I had to fight for every point," she said. "I knew the second set was going to be a tougher one. I had my chances in the second set and didn't take them." ♦



© Shutterstock

Pascal Bisschop from Bikschoote, West Flanders, set a new world record last week by launching a pumpkin a distance of 726.4 metres using a specially designed catapult. The contest, which Bisschop helped organise, set contestants the task of firing the five-kilo vegetable the farthest distance possible. The former record-holder, an American, sent his pumpkin and catapult on a three-week sea voyage to take part. He had to clear the cargo with his country's Department of Homeland Security, as the catapult was considered a weapon. In the end, he managed a distance of only 627 metres. Pumpkin shooting started in Flanders as a friendly contest between Bikschoote and a neighbouring village, unaware that it was already an international competitive sport.

Eternal talks

A week is an eternity in politics. This is one of these clichés often used by politicians who would rather not answer questions about their plans in the near future. Who knows what that might bring? In Belgian politics, everything may be completely different in just one week. Then again, things may stay exactly the same. In that case, too, a week can last an eternity.

Take last week. Not much changed. In fact, nothing changed. Bart De Wever's nationalist N-VA is still the winner of the federal elections in June. So is Elio Di Rupo's French-speaking socialist PS. And, three months on, Belgium is still without a government. Months of negotiating between N-VA, Christian democrats, socialists and greens have brought us precisely nowhere.

An agreement was almost reached two weeks ago, but N-VA refused to provide extra money for Brussels. De Wever insisted on guarantees for a reform of the finance law, which governs how the budget is divided between regions and communities.

And so here we are. As this publication went to press, two mediators were still trying to pave the way for another attempt between the same parties to form a federal government. Di Rupo, still hurt by the crash of the talks he conducted, sniped at the method they used for finding an agreement, for fear it would be leaked to the press. Immediately, that found its way to the press as well, proving him right in some way.

Meanwhile, Didier Reynders, leader of the French-speaking liberals, has offered to join the talks, claiming this would make it easier to force a breakthrough. With the possible exception of N-VA, none of the negotiating parties are willing to accept his offer. Last weekend, CD&V explicitly turned it down.

N-VA is now preparing a "Best and Final Offer" – Flemish negotiators are fond of business jargon – to Di Rupo. That sounds very much like an ultimatum. It also brings back memories from three years ago, when Yves Leterme (CD&V) went through the same problems trying to shape a federal government. At the time, Leterme's struggles were often blamed on his own shortcomings.

Three years on, with no Leterme in sight (except as a caretaker prime minister), we find ourselves in exactly the same situation. Three years is a very long time. Especially when a week is an eternity in politics.

ANJA OTTE

FIFTH COLUMN



Al het stadsnieuws in 3 talen
Toute l'info régionale en 3 langues
The local news in 3 languages

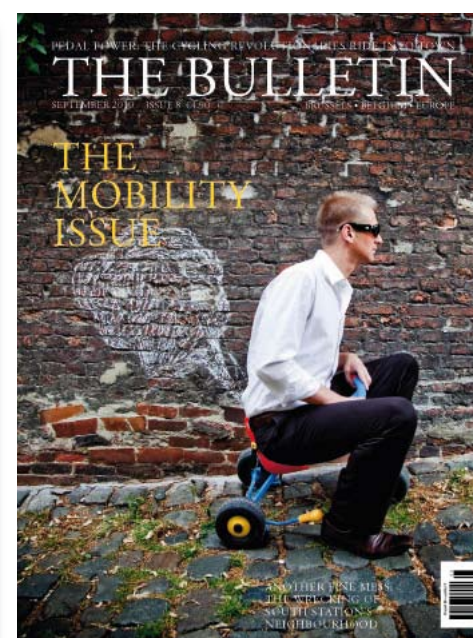
www.tvbrussel.be

Keep in touch with Brussels and Belgium

Find out about news, business, people, innovation, style, culture, travel, food and the environment

€ 85
one year

▶▶ You get: Brussels Unlimited every week for one year;
 The Bulletin every month for one year; two issues of Newcomer; one issue of the Expat Directory



☐ Yes, I want to begin/extend my subscription now

	Belgium	Europe Airmail	Outside Europe Airmail
<input type="checkbox"/> one year ▶▶	€ 85	€ 145	€ 235
<input type="checkbox"/> two years ▶▶	€ 150	€ 270	€ 450

I will pay by: ☐ bank transfer to KBC account 432-2012231-12
☐ credit card ☐ bank transfer to ING account 310-0883533-46

Card number*

Please add the three-digit number (Card Verification Number) printed on the signature panel on the back of your card

Expiry Date.....

Signature.....

Last name.....

 First name.....

 Address.....

 Postcode.....
 City.....
 Country.....
 Telephone.....
 E-mail.....

☐ As a result of responding to this offer you may receive promotional mailings from other companies. Tick this box if you prefer not to receive such offers.

Fax your order now on 02.375.98.22 or call 02.373.83.59.

**If you are sending your credit card details, please put the form in a sealed envelope for security reasons and send to:
 Ackroyd Publications
 The Bulletin subscriptions
 Gossetlaan 30
 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden
 or email to:
subscriptions@ackroyd.be*

Ignorance is bliss

“We just did what we felt was right”

→ continued from page 1

Although he never gets tired of hearing it, you don't need to explain this to Alexander Devriendt. “Not a lot of people make plays about teenagers and certainly not with teenagers for an adult audience,” he tells me at over tea at a cafe in Ghent. “If they do, it's some kind of social service project, and, artistically, those never reach the same heights.”

Devriendt, 33, founded Ontroerend Goed, together with several collaborators, when he was still studying Germanic languages at the University of Ghent. “We didn't know anything about theatre,” he admits. “We just made stuff up.”

In the decade since, that stuff they make up has won several awards at the Edinburgh Festival and in Australia, wowed critics in New York and taken them across Europe and into Morocco and Singapore, where audiences line up to be part of their wholly unique brand of interactive theatre. They're popular in Belgium, too – when they're here. At any given moment, several of their shows are on the road.

Right now they are touring a trilogy of pieces written in English, often performing the entire trilogy in one city. In *The Smile Off Your Face*, you are put into a wheelchair, blindfolded and wheeled through a number of experiences. Challenging expectations is part of the show: at one point when a woman speaks to you in a very soft, sexy voice, you are taken aback when you eventually see that she is dressed like Saint Nicolas. At another point, you lie down with someone on a bed and have a conversation with her. Later, a photo is taken of you, and, in the end, you are confronted with your own photo along with photographs of every other person who has been to the show.

When this debuted in Flanders in 2003, “people here didn't really know what to do with us,” says Devriendt. In 2007, they took it to Edinburgh, where they were scheduled in “a cellar of a cellar.” By the third day, word had spread, and the performance – a sort of assembly line with one new person beginning every five minutes – was sold out. It won the festival's Total Theatre Award for Experimentation and the Fringe First award. It later won the Fringe First award at the Adelaide Theatre Festival in Australia. “It is a discovery of what is possible beyond the norm,” says Devriendt.

Edinburgh, then, was happy to host *Internal* two years later. And they weren't sorry. Five audience participants are paired with five actors. Then the couples have a 30-minute conversation alone, sort of like a blind date. “The purpose of the show is to see how fast you can build a meaningful relationship with a stranger,” explains Devriendt.

Apparently very fast: on their very first performance, the woman Devriendt paired with announced she was in love with him. In other performances, couples kissed each other, and one woman broke up with her boyfriend afterwards. “There are some urban legends about this show,” says Devriendt, “and some of them are true.” At Edinburgh, “the attention was huge. The ethics of that show were at the centre of every discussion.”

The final in the trilogy has run in Hasselt and Ghent this year and is off to the Ulster Bank Theatre Festival in Dublin next month. *A Game of You* seeks to show participants the difference between how others see them and how they see themselves. “Some people come out of this show really happy, and some with a really dark look on their faces,” says Devriendt.



Alexander Devriendt a few years ago in a performance of *The Smile Off Your Face*

A distinct lack of boundaries

Ontroerend Goed began performing in 2001, though they hesitated to even call it performing. They put on their show *Poorror* (a mixture of horror, porn and poetry) at the local bar Hotsy Totsy. “But we never thought about the form; we were just doing a live, interactive thing.” They followed it up with a part II and III, which is where they began really experimenting with their relationship with the audience.

Soon enough, the Flemish theatre sector took notice, and they won an award at Ostend's Theater aan zee festival. “We still didn't have a clue what we were doing,” says Devriendt. “I was the only one present at the awards ceremony because we didn't have any idea that we were going to win.”

None of the group had studied theatre, and Devriendt credits that with their success. “We just did what we felt was right,” he says, “which gave us an advantage – not knowing the boundaries and rules. I still cherish that deeply, that I don't know what the rules are. We are still doing that.”

It was that refusal to follow any established patterns that led to *Once and for All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up and Listen*, their first production with teenage actors. Devriendt, who directs all Ontroerend's productions, wanted to do a show with young people, but when he had a rehearsal he couldn't get them to settle down. So he stopped trying and started watching – letting them goof around and tip over their chairs and just be. And that's largely what you get from the show. In *Once and for All*, they act like teenagers – from the funny shenanigans to the snogging and the random cruelty. Occasionally, dialogue is directed outward. “I will be home late, whatever hour you give me,” says one girl. “And I will be piss drunk, and I will not be ashamed of myself. I have no choice. I have to go too far. The moment that some of you are thinking... Does she really have to do what she is doing? Yes, I do. It's not because you've been there and done that that I shouldn't

go there and do that. Because everything has been done before; but not by me.”

In 2008, the production won not only Edinburgh's Total Theatre Award for Experiment and Innovation and its Fringe First Award, but also the prestigious Herald Angels Award.

Devriendt, of course, was ecstatic, but the reactions to the show suggested that the message wasn't complete. “Some people were looking at it like ‘oh, so cute, that teenage rebelliousness.’ I wanted to show the other side of the coin.”

So they made *Teenage Riot*. Several youth, aged from 14 to 17, are hidden within a huge box onstage, and they film themselves. You see what they let you see on the front side of the box, which acts as a screen. Inside they do what parents fear the most: have sex, put plastic bags over their heads, get beaten up. Boys cut themselves, while girls writhe about like they're in a music video.

The box separates the audience and the teens, emphasising physical and, hence, emotional distance. “I always say that *Once and for All* is the teenage experience I wish I'd had, and *Teenage Riot* is closer to the one I really had,” says Devriendt.

One of the performance's most affecting scenes is a close-up of a boy's face, completely emotionless as the others hurl a barrage of familiar phrases: “We're getting divorced, but nothing is going to change, we promise.” “You'll have to wait for a new skateboard; we don't have the money.” “You don't have to act so sad; I can't stand that.” “It's not that your dad hits me that he doesn't love me.” “Grandma is dead.”

Teenagers don't just have their own lives to deal with; they are subjected to ours. At the end of the scene, I felt exactly like a critic on BBC2, who admitted: “I was torn to shreds.” ♦

Ont-what?

Around the world, festivals have trouble pronouncing the name Ontroerend Goed, let alone understanding what it means. In fact, it's a play on words: in Dutch *ontroerend* means to be moved by something emotionally, while *onroerend goed* mean “real estate”. They tell English speakers that it roughly translates to “feel estate”.



Teenage Riot

30 September – 3 October
Kopergietery
Blekerijstraat 50, Ghent

→ www.ontroerendgoed.be

From Budapest to the Big Apple

Julien vander Straeten is one of Belgium's tiny handful of Apple systems administrators

LAWRENCE DeGEEST

Earlier this year, Julien vander Straeten became Apple's official consultant to Belgium and Luxembourg. But what he's remembering today is seven years ago when he was 19, riding his bicycle from Ghent to Budapest. "There was a friend's wedding to go to, and I was just fed up with everything – and with me," he says.

After three days he realised his real problem was that he had so much time to think. Then in Bratislava – 1,000 kilometres from Ghent – his bike was stolen. He eventually arrived in Budapest by bus – broke, sick and, despite the groom's request to all guests, the only one dressed as a hippy.

But vander Straeten could be found laughing that night at the hired comedian's jokes at his expense: because a life, like a computer, is best reinvented when broken. "I learned what I know by going on my own," he says. "And I never had to go far to discover."

The tall, slim vander Straeten nowadays runs his IT company, Yaska, from an apartment by the Gent-Dampoort train station. It is still modest – he recently hired his first employee – but so once were Apple, Google and, his favourite, Richard Branson's Virgin, and already his services, from giving computer courses to installing Apple servers for businesses, have been requested in Germany and Poland, along with Belgium and Luxembourg.

He started three years ago, he explains, and is still in a niche market. "There are only nine Apple-certified systems administrators on Belgium's public listing, and most of them work for companies in-house," he says. He started out by fixing computers and printers, later focusing on Apple. He worked for a year as a nanny to get the seed money to start his company; his first jobs involved giving classes to the elderly on how to use the internet.

"I was bored at school and starting fixing computers for the guy who sold me my first Mac when I was 15 or 16," says vander Straeten. "Then in university I started five different majors because I was bored with each one after three months. We are all raised with the idea of studying. I just wanted to be a professional sooner." He first thought about becoming an Apple consultant when a representative who sold him hardware told him they needed someone to do travel work. Then there's the name of his company. "It came to me after three months of thinking," he says. "It was the name of a Sanskrit grammarian who rewrote a difficult philosophy book so anyone could read it." He's also a bit philosophical



about his work: "To me, computers are just a tool, not an end." Nonetheless, his honest approach to his work has freed him. "When I was the head of the senior Friends of Scouting [FOS], I wanted to show them that everything is possible, even if I wasn't sure of it myself," he admits. "So I said we would hike in Norway for two weeks. No one believed it could be done, especially the parents. But we calculated everything perfectly, even the calories needed per day, and we did it for only €250 per person. After that, I knew I was capable of anything – as long as it was reasonable."

He still works with the FOS youth group as a unit leader whenever his shrinking schedule lets him. "Wherever I've gone and whatever I've done, I've always wanted to reproduce the feeling I had at scouts. We moved a lot when I was a little, and scouting is how I made the friends I still have today.

And I like the crisis management – if you can send me to a place where everything needs to be fixed fast, do it – that's my place."

Yaska's latest coup is to become the IT arm for Apple premium reseller CAMi. He also thinks about becoming a certified Apple trainer. But, despite all the Apple stuff, it's Richard Branson who comes to his mind when he thinks of the future. "He's a hero," vander Straeten says. "He's got long hair, he did his own stuff, nice values, great company. I think we need more of these people. He has the power to change things, and he uses it wisely." ♦

➔ www.yaska.eu

Peek into Brussels • The capital's Open Monument Day offers special tours of historical buildings

ALAN HOPE



Following last weekend's Open Monument Day in Flanders, the same event takes place this weekend in Brussels. Where Flanders focused on the four elements of earth, water, fire and air, Brussels concentrates on stone.

The theme Stone & Co sees a concentration on:

- buildings constructed or faced with stone
- facades with particularly interesting sculptural elements
- the decorative use of stone in interiors
- the use of imitation stone
- decorative elements using materials in place of stone

Taking place this weekend (keep in mind that Sunday is also Car-Free Day in the capital – see page 11), more than 100 buildings will open their doors, many of them not normally open to the public. At the same time, the Sint-Gorikshallen in central Brussels will offer an information point for questions about Brussels' architectural heritage, as well as posters, postcards and other documents offered for sale by the bookshops Plezier and Quartiers Latin. Among buildings worth noting are De Markten, near Sint-Katelijn church in the Dansaert area, now a central meeting point for the capital's Flemish population, formerly the headquarters of the glass and porcelain company Val St Lambert. Once the site of an Augustine cloister, the building was

constructed from 1911 to 1914 in the Beaux-Arts style by the architect Oscar Francotte and features an imposing mosaic floor and hall of mirrors. The nearby church of Saint John the Baptist, meanwhile, joins Gothic architecture with Baroque decoration, while, also in the centre, the North passage (now a shopping gallery) and the Church of Our Lady of Finisterre on the Nieuwstraat (*pictured*), still a popular venue for both concerts and carillon performances, also feature on the programme.

Less traditional is the Dexia bank headquarters on the Pachecolaan, built in 1964 out of glass and concrete, but featuring an impressive two-storey stone sculpture in the interior atrium, open for the occasion to other than business clients.

A three-hour bus tour of the main buildings organised by the conservation group ARAU is available on Saturday. You can reserve by calling 02.219.33.45, but the tour is only in French. Find a programme in French, Dutch or English online detailing all the buildings, which extend from the centre out to Laken, Oudergem, Ganshoren and the Woluwe. ♦

18-19 September
Across Brussels

➔ www.tinyurl.com/brussels-monuments

Belgian chocolate teams up with world leader

Callebaut will become main chocolate supplier to Kraft

ALAN HOPE

Barry Callebaut, the Belgian chocolate manufacturer founded in 1850 in Wieze, East Flanders, and now based in Zurich, has won a contract to become the main chocolate supplier to Kraft Foods, the world's second-largest food conglomerate after Nestlé.

The two companies already had a supply contract, but last week's decision will see a doubling of Barry Callebaut's provision and involve €51 million of new investment. Production will increase not only in Europe (the company still has a facility in Lebbeke near Aalst) but also in Malaysia, the US, Canada and Ivory Coast, where much of the raw cacao is produced.

Kraft Foods already produces brands such as Cote d'Or, Milka and Toblerone, as well as Belgian favourites such as Lu (which makes Prince biscuits). "This long-term

global supply agreement with Kraft Foods ranks amongst the largest strategic deals our company has ever signed," said Jürgen Steinemann, CEO of Barry Callebaut. "It means that we have succeeded in firmly establishing ourselves as a leading supplier for cocoa and chocolate products to the international food industry.... This is evidence of the ongoing outsourcing and partnership trend in the chocolate industry."

The Belgian arm of the company in Wieze produces 270,000 tonnes of chocolate every year, making it the biggest single chocolate facility in the world. Barry Callebaut, a result of the merger in 1996 between the Swiss-based Cacao Barry and the Flemish Callebaut, is in turn the largest chocolate company in the world, with annual production of 1.2 million tonnes. ♦



Belgacom moves into streaming entertainment

Communications giant Belgacom is to invest €5.56 million in broadening its stake in entertainment provision, with two new contracts announced last week. The company will invest €4m in in3Depth Systems, a Brussels-based company specialising in 3D applications and interfaces for leisure and business, and €1.56m in the Israeli company Jinni, which provides online access to movies and TV shows. Belgacom recently announced a partnership with OnLive, a streaming games platform.

Streaming, where media are consumed in real time as opposed to being downloaded, is seen as being the next major development in online media. YouTube videos, for example, are streamed rather than being downloaded to the viewer's own computer.

The trend, now popular in the US, is being held back by the tendency of European internet service providers (ISPs) to impose data limits on internet customers. Whereas a downloaded film might take up 750Mb of a customer's data allocation, a streamed film would take up as much or more, but cannot be saved for later viewing, or for viewing again.

The growth of streaming is welcomed by the industries representing content providers, including film producers, composer and games developers, as a way of replacing downloads, often illegal, which allow users to share media by means of bit-torrents, so that one purchaser of a DVD, for example, can then share it with hundreds if not thousands of people who receive the entire production for free.

"With the development of its forthcoming entertainment platform, Belgacom is moving into a new phase, providing more content on more platforms," the company said in a statement.

Meanwhile the Belgian Entertainment Association (BEA), the group representing the industry, issued figures showing that Belgian consumers spent more than €20 million last year on entertainment products, including music, films and games. The earnings from sales were down 3.9% compared with the same period in 2009.

However music sales were up 20%, the single positive note in the results, largely due to the iTunes platform, which allows the download of single songs from an album. Even though music can also be obtained by torrent, it seems that consumers like to be able to pick and choose. And iTunes is instant, whereas torrents involve a delay of days or weeks before a CD is made available – and someone always has to buy it in the first place in order to share.

Content providers have recently approached the government to take measures to stop ISPs from making it so easy for people to download their content illegally. However the popularity of streaming, which is already current in the US, will only increase if data limits here are increased sufficiently, or removed entirely as is the case in the US. ♦



© Shutterstock

Swedes take over Hilton

The Swedish hotel group Pandox has bought the Brussels Hilton hotel, bringing its hotel properties in the capital to 1,750 rooms. The Hilton, a Brussels landmark on the Waterloolaan, has 432 rooms on 26 floors. The sale price was reported as €29 million.

Other Pandox properties in Brussels include the Scandic Grand Place, Hilton Brussels City, Crowne Plaza Brussels City Centre, Hotel Bloom and the Holiday Inn in Zaventem. In Antwerp, the group has two hotels

in its portfolio: the Scandic and the Crowne Plaza.

Pandox will spend a further €25 million renovating the hotel, which dates from the 1960s, to bring it up to today's standards. The group hopes to raise the occupancy rate from the current 71%.

Pandox has a total of over 11,000 rooms in hotels spread across Sweden, the UK, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Canada and the Bahamas. ♦

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Biotechnology • Galapagos

Mechelen-based biotech company Galapagos has acquired a research facility employing 130 scientists in Zagreb, Croatia, from the British GlaxoSmith-Kline group. The move allows Galapagos to develop its research capacity and increases the company's workforce by 20%.

Chemicals • Solvay

The Brussels-based chemicals and plastics group Solvay has acquired a minority stake in the US Polyera company, located in the US state of Illinois and specialised in organic materials used in transistors and micro-processors. Solvay is also increasing capacity at its Italian affiliate Solexis, where it produces Tecnoflon, a fluoroelastomer used in automotive and oilfield applications. Solvay has also decided to build a new fluorhydric acid production unit in China.

Customer service • Vuitton

France's Louis Vuitton group has set up its European customer service centre in Brussels to handle relations with its clients in 11 countries. The new facility is expected to employ some 60 people skilled in five languages.

E-commerce • GIMV

The Flemish Region's investment company GIMV has invested €15 million in the French One-direct e-commerce platform, based in Perpignan and specialised in the sale of telecommunications-related products.

Hotels • Hilton

The landmark Brussels Hilton has been sold to the Swedish Pandox hotel group for €29 million. Pandox, which already owns five hotels in the city, has plans to invest up to €25 million in the property, although the hotel will remain under the Hilton brand. Meanwhile, the Starwood group, operator of the Sheraton and Merdien chains, has opened its first European Aloft hotel in Brussels. The 150-room hotel is located near the European Parliament.

Ports • Antwerp

The Port of Antwerp has signed a partnership agreement with the Panama Canal to share information on the handling of large ships, market research and new port technologies.

Retail • Forever 21

The US apparel retail chain Forever 21 is opening outlets in both Brussels and Antwerp next spring as part of its expansion across Europe.

“I’m in this world to die”

The collected works of a doomed 1970s poet have been published. But does Jotie T’Hooft have any relevance today?

ALAN HOPE

A slightly forgotten Flemish literary icon could be about to undergo a revival, with the recent publication of *Jotie T’Hooft: Verzameld werk*, the collected works of a troubled poet whose flame flared and was snuffed out in just a few years in the 1970s.

T’Hooft’s poems, for which he was feted during his short life, capture the essence of those times, but also echo the eternal voice of disgruntled youth for whom oblivion, and sometimes even death, are a righteous response to the troubles of the world.

Johan Geeraard Adriaan T’Hooft, known as Jotie, was born in 1956 in Oudenaarde, an only child. His father worked, his mother was bedridden, and he was cared for by his grandparents. He began to go off the rails in secondary school, turning his back on schoolwork to find himself, in the manner of the times, immersed in literature by Kafka and Hesse, and in music.

Drugs were also very much of the times, and he was addicted by the age of 14. At 17 he left home and went to art school in Ghent. However, the big city only made his drug problem worse, and he began dealing to earn the money to feed his habit.

In 1973, he made his first suicide attempt, after which his parents brought him home for a brief time of peace. The following year, however, he was picked up by the drugs squad and placed in an institution.

He met a girl named Ingrid Weverbergh and married her in August of that same year. Her father, a publisher with the firm Manteau, found him work as a reader and arranged the publication of his first volume of poetry in 1975.

But this wasn’t enough to calm the beast that raged in Jotie’s soul. He tried to kill himself again in 1976, despite literary success. His second volume of poetry was published and picked up an important literary prize. He gave readings and talks and contributed to several literary magazines.

But drug addiction remained, and Ingrid left him because he abused her. In October 1977, in a friend’s bedsit in Bruges, he took an overdose of cocaine.

“Those are, more or less, the facts,” wrote Hugo Brems, editor of a selection of T’Hooft’s poems published in 1992. “Next to that is the myth, in which Jotie T’Hooft plays by turns the role of the romantic, decadent and doomed hero, symbol of a generation and of a poetic lifestyle. The two images – that of the facts and that of the myth – have hardly anything to do with each other. Between the two lie the poems.”

A death foretold

The Flemish consider T’Hooft a neo-Romantic, a genre that, in English at least, extends all the way from Lewis Carroll to Ted Hughes; a nebulous division of literature characterised by a concentration on nature, a rather naïve escapism and a taste for the supernatural.

T’Hooft’s poems and, to a lesser extent, his prose are marked by two main traits: his youth and the constant shadow of death. It’s difficult to escape the conclusion, admittedly with hindsight, that his work is one long chronicle of a death foretold.

People tend to think of the 1960s and ’70s as flower power days, but we’ve all forgotten how the world of that time, pre-perestroika, seemed on the brink of total destruction. T’Hooft’s poems carry the marks of adolescent angst – the Dutch considered him too juvenile to take seriously, even as he was lauded in Flanders. But there is also an insight and profundity that point to a great talent, had he made it to maturity.

His star has since dimmed, as have those of many of the icons of that time. Maybe young people of the 1980s just weren’t that interested in deathly melancholy, a popular theme of songs since Elizabethan times. The new collection couldn’t have come at a better time. Perhaps T’Hooft, with his brooding dark looks, his slightly Byronic life, his obsession with death and his premature end, could be a new hero for the *Twilight* generation.



Forever young: Jotie T’Hooft died of a drug overdose aged 21

The book presents a wide selection of the poems as well as prose (which stand the test of time much less well) and letters – more than 900 pages in all. While perhaps not priced for a new market of young people coming to him afresh, it’s a beautiful object: fine paper, the pages edged in black, a black silk bookmark, the cover decorated in psychedelic lettering. A book, in short, fit to take its place on the shelves of any self-respecting library. ♦

Jotie T’Hooft: Verzameld Werk; Meulenhoff/Manteau; €49.95

And what then?

Jotie T’Hooft’s poems may be coloured by the pall of death, but they can also be funny and loving. One of his best-known is “En wat dan?”, in which he imagines (or fails to imagine) the world going on when he is no longer in it.

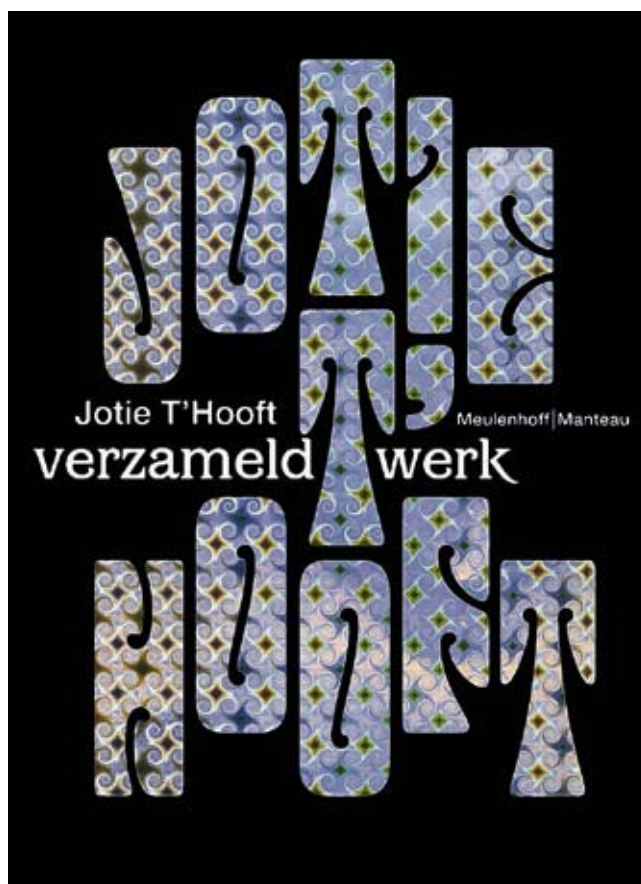
One day I’ll be gone and
What then? Vanished without a trace
or a farewell, the mess I leave behind
has gone beyond a joke.

For who else but me
built nothing
leaves nothing behind
but expectation and confusion
and what then?

Maybe I’ll be frozen in your memory
Faded into the past and
what then? What to do then?
“It was real,” you’ll say, “he played with words
like nobody else could,
but so what?
Faded like so.

In your mind...
And what then?

Translated by Alan Hope



What they’re saying about

Karen Van Godtsenhoven

Curator at the Fashion Museum in Antwerp

“I just bought [the new collected works] because he was an icon when I was a teen. You couldn’t find his works anywhere before. Everything was always sold out or stolen from the library. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, literature students vied to get a copy from one of the antique book stalls...or in junk markets, but he was impossible to find, all adding to the cult status. I now find it a little ‘much’, but still good.”



© Sam Sisk

Talking with Toots Thielemans is like reading a history book on jazz

MARC MAES

Toots Thielemans is the godfather of the Jazz Middelheim festival, so it was only right that he offered a preview of his new album there last month. In stores now, *Toots Thielemans: European Quartet Live* (Challenge Records) brings together 12 live concert tracks recorded over the last few years along with the harmonica virtuoso's best live performances over several decades.

Jean "Toots" Thielemans was born in Brussels in 1922, but his special relationship with Antwerp was solidified by his grandparents, who lived there, and by his mother, who was born there. "I started playing accordion at the age of three," he tells me from home in Belgium after a spate of festival appearances this summer. "Next I studied the accordion – but when I heard the harmonica, I made my decision."

During the Second World War, the young Thielemans picked up influences from the great jazz musicians. Inspired by Charlie Parker and Django Reinhardt, he decided to pursue a career in jazz. "I was first asked to play guitar with the Benny Goodman's Kings of Swing orchestra in 1950," he explains. "I got my nickname from Toots Mondello, who was playing the first alto saxophone with Benny Goodman. I met Mondello during the concerts and decided to borrow the nickname because 'Jean Thielemans' just doesn't swing."

With Benny Goodman, Toots toured all over Europe. "We even played in Antwerp but, at that time, I passed absolutely unnoticed," he says with a sigh. "In Sweden they thought I was a fantastic musician – that's where I harvested my first applause. Then came the European tour, the big venues, the London Palladium."

Toots eventually acquired working papers to go to the US and joined Charlie Parker's All Stars in 1952. "I met Charlie Parker at the Paris Jazz Festival in 1947. He remembered me and asked me to join him," he says. "Then I auditioned for George Shearing, which led into a long association with the George Shearing Quintet."

Finally, in 1962, he made a breakthrough with his song "Bluesette". This marked the debut of Toots' signature sound, combining guitar and whistling. "I was whistling the song during rehearsals and added a microphone when we recorded it – it's very simple," he says, matter of factly. The song became an international jazz standard that Toots still performs on stage.

Living for the moment

In 1969, Toots was asked to perform a harmonica solo for the film score of *Midnight Cowboy*. It was a career-altering decision. Single-handedly making the harmonica cool again, he contributed to several film soundtracks, from *The Getaway* and *Sugarland Express* to the Flemish TV series *Witse*.

In his seemingly never-ending career, Toots has played with pretty much every jazz legend. "The list is too long to print," he admits, but he emphasises his collaboration with the late American bass player Jaco Pastorius, who was famously killed by a club manager in 1987. "We worked together for a long time – we were good friends," says Toots.

At 88, Toots still remains open to new musical influences. In the early 1990s, he recorded the first of two *Brasil Project* albums. The opening track of the first Brasil album, "Começar de Novo" is featured on the new live album.

On the occasion of Toots' 70th anniversary, the famous American musician and producer Quincy Jones came to congratulate the *ketje*, or little kid, from Brussels. Their collaboration dates back to the early 1960s, delivering standards like "Flirt", "Hummin'" and the unforgettable "Killer Joe". "I met Quincy when he first came to New York," Toots remembers. "I was already in the Big Apple then, and we played a lot together."

Despite his long career as a professional musician, Toots isn't that interested in the fine details of the recording process, which, like Toots, have constantly evolved over the years – from the old vintage 45 rpm vinyl to the latest in mp3 technology. "The playing remains the same," he notes. "I'm not a technical guy, really." But he does in fact offer an observation. "The technical possibilities have increased enormously, and today you can cut a track in any room – even a bedroom – since the equipment is very small and compact." But still, he says, "It all depends on how accurate the orchestra is."

A similar attitude is echoed when Toots is asked about his role as legendary jazz musician, covered and sampled by thousands of musicians. "Musicians come and ask me things about my music. What I can do is play a tune and afterwards demonstrate how I did it."

With *Toots Thielemans: European Quartet Live*, Toots marks yet another step in his career. He is accompanied by Karel Boehlee (piano), Hans Van Oosterhout (drums) and Hein

Van de Geyn (double bass), all Dutch musicians. "This album rounds up the songs we have been playing over the last five years," says Toots. "I plan to cool down things right now, but then there's the summer season with lots of festivals, and we're off again."

The album also takes the audience on a trip through Toots' musical career, from the early days of "Bluesette", to the beautiful Gershwin compositions like "Summertime", to the *Brasil* project and the film and television scores.

Meanwhile, downstairs, Toots' piano is being tuned. The instrument is kept in condition for occasional moments with fellow musicians. ♦

➔ www.tootsthielemans.com



Far from retirement: His live album just released, 88-year-old Toots Thielemans will be back on the festival circuit next summer

A flying start • Jazz Hoeilaart gives the best of young jazz musicians the chance to tour Belgium

ANNA JENKINSON

Jotie T'Hooft

Marc Ernst

Webhost publisher and former magazine editor

"T'Hooft belongs to those few poets I have a volume of, together with the obligatory Herman De Coninck, Charles Ducal and Gust Gils. In fact, the book used to be in my bookcase, because I've just realised it's not there any more. Most likely it's somewhere in the mess of my 16-year-old son, who used it for school. He wanted to get to know our Belgian Jim Morrison because he read Morrison's biography last year for a class assignment. Nowadays people younger than me will probably be more likely to compare T'Hooft with Kurt Cobain. I consider T'Hooft – the man and the poems – as a part of my youth, together with Salinger, Kerouac and Gerard Reve. Going through puberty and becoming an adult with a bit of repulsion, rebellion, *sturm und drang* and so on. It was I think the *personage* Jotie T'Hooft that appealed to my generation rather than the poetry."



As living legend of jazz Toots Thielemans takes the winter off, Jazz Hoeilaart in Flemish Brabant is welcoming burgeoning young musicians. The festival celebrates players 30 years old and under, who perform all types of jazz, from traditional to bebop to groove. Jazz Hoeilaart is both an international competition and a concert. The first prize is €2,000 and the opportunity to do a tour of six concerts in jazz venues around Belgium.

The whole experience is something quite special, says Erik Moseholm, chairman of the jury. A professional double bassist who toured worldwide with jazz bands and who founded the European Jazz Orchestra, is now 80 years old. He's such a fan of Jazz Hoeilaart that, despite deciding to retire from the orchestra next year, he'll keep the Hoeilaart date in his diary.

During each evening of the festival, two of the six finalists play a 45-minute set, at least one song of which is complemented by an established jazz artist. Five of the young finalists were selected from a list of about 45 entries from 19 different countries based on submitted demos. As is traditional, the sixth finalist is the winner of Spain's Getxo Jazz Festival, an honour that this year has gone to Poland's Wierba & Schmidt Quintet (*pictured*).

The six finalists will also compete for a €500 composition prize by performing a new work provided by Sabam, the Belgian Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers. The prize will go to the group considered to have best interpreted the work.

Since Jazz Hoeilaart started in 1979, it has grown from being an event just for Belgian and Dutch groups to a truly international festival with entries from around the world. This year groups are coming from, for example, the US, Finland and Germany. It is this global touch that marks the festival out from other competitions for young jazz talents, according to Bernard Lefèvre, the chief editor of *Jazzmozaïek* magazine, (whose 10th anniversary will be celebrated at the festival).

"Mostly, competitions in different countries support primarily the local scene. Here it is really an international scene," Lefèvre says. He highlights eastern Europe as a region that has "a very busy scene which is not well known." ♦



23-25 September

GC De Bosuil
Witherendreef 1, Jezus-Eik

➔ www.jazzhoeilaart.be



September 30 2010

A new events series in the capital of Europe

“Brussels meets Europe” is an initiative of British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium, AmCham Belgium, Beci (Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry), and The Bulletin. These organisations are joining forces to organise four high-level events per year, each with a well-known speaker from a particular field.

For the fifth Brussels Meets Europe Business Networking Lunch, we warmly invite you to join us and listen to:

Baron Paul Buysse,
Chairman Bekaert

“The underlying challenges for international growth”



Baron Buysse, CMG CBE, is an international business leader.

For several decades he managed important international London based companies, e.a. BTR plc (10 billion GBP turnover). He also saved Vickers plc from bankruptcy through a thorough restructuring with e.g. the turmoil creating sale of Rolls Royce and Bentley and the acquisition of Ullstein Werke.

Since 2000 he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bekaert NV/SA, an international Belgian based group with a turnover of 4 billion Euro. He is also Chairman of Immobil - “Compagnie Immobilière de Belgique”, the College of Censors of the National Bank of Belgium and of Family Business Network Belgium.

Moreover he holds positions at several Boards, as well as other functions such as member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Belgian Industries (FEB).

He is also the originator of the Code Buysse, a Corporate Governance-manual for non-listed companies.

12.00-14.15

Venue: Brussels Hilton

Boulevard de Waterloo/Waterloolaan 38 1000 Brussels

Close to metro Louise and public car park Deux Portes

Price: €85 – All included (cocktail, lunch and service charges)

Registration requirements:

Reservation deadline: September 27, 2010.

Space is limited.

To register, email to events@beci.be with your full contact details. Please clearly mention the number of people attending. You will then receive an invoice and a registration number.

Online registration: www.beci.be/events

For more information, please call 02.643.78.05.



BRITISH CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE IN BELGIUM

THE BULLETIN
BRUSSELS • BELGIUM • EUROPE

Cost-cutting panic or investments in human capital?

In times like these, where we have to do more with less, there are two types of managers. **Those who cut costs** across the board, and **those who even now choose to continue to invest** prudently. Which type are you? The financial crisis and the uncertain economic situation are confronting managers with new challenges, but all too often they are also driving them to take decisions that are infused with panic and doom-and-gloom. But the ones who are forward-thinking and keep to their own course don't slam on the brakes – instead, they invest in the future.

Knowledge determines your competitive power

An organisation that wants to maintain and strengthen its competitive position in the global economy must be powered by a well-oiled knowledge engine. Your workforce is your greatest capital and lifelong learning is an absolute necessity. The acquired knowledge flows back into your company and your knowledge capital grows larger and larger, increasing your competitiveness. This will keep you competitive in the rapidly changing economic context. We call this 'learning with impact'.

Investing in training: costs versus benefits

Too often, training is still regarded as a cost instead of an investment. However, companies that view their personnel policy from a strategic standpoint continue – even when the economy becomes a serious challenge – to invest in training programmes for their most strategic employees. Investing in talent and training now guarantees you a significant jump on the competition when the economy gets going again.

Vlerick, your partner in tailor-made training programmes

Those who have participated in a Vlerick training programme are undoubtedly better prepared than other employees to take on today's challenges. Via in-company programmes – focused on the development of individual employees as well as on organisational development – Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School offers you a collaborative project fully tailored to your needs. Thanks to in-depth knowledge of both local and international economic environments and years of

experience in training management talent, the School can develop a specially adapted management training programme for every organisation, in each phase of its development, targeting the most diverse aspects of its business.

More info on our management programmes?

Consult:

www.vlerick.com/expats



Vlerick Leuven Gent
Management School

Ghent, Rhode Island

In a small café in a little town on the east coast of the US, are three very familiar towers

COURTNEY DAVIS

It is pretty obvious this breakfast café is not American, despite the thick New England accents of the owners and its downtown Westerly, Rhode Island location. The *broodjes* and *pannenkoeken* on the menu are a clue, but it's the painted mural of the three towers that drives it home: this café on the east coast of the US is all about Ghent, East Flanders.

The pancakes – paper thin and served with butter and light brown sugar – can be ordered American style (which means a side of maple syrup) but never with bacon or sausages. This isn't where you come for the quintessential American breakfast of hash browns or toast; Van Ghent Café serves only truly Belgian food.

The rough-voiced, broad-smiling owner Ebba Trapani laughs at my question of how a Flemish café ended up in the middle of this ocean-side town in the smallest state in the US, run, no less, by a Swedish-Italian American. The original owners, she tells me, Roland and Rosita Guiliams were from Ghent and Deinze. "I worked here as a waitress, and when Roland passed away from cancer, Rosita sold me and my husband this café."

I marvel at the *stoverij* on the menu and the plates of sugar-dusted *pannenkoeken* that keep coming out of the kitchen as much as at the walls covered with photo of Ghent and drawings of Flemish cities. "I wanted to keep this restaurant exactly as it was," explains Trapani, owner now for seven years. "I trusted their knowledge and experience. I said, in order for me to buy it, I wanted not just the decorations and art but also the recipes for

everything – the *vol-au-vent*, the waffles, everything."

The café only sits 32 and there are no plans to change it, not then and not now. In some ways, Trapani is the perfect Flemish entrepreneur: working hard, family nearby and content with serving a good product without ambitious plans to expand or make a barrelful of money.

There is also a socialist feel about the place: music from the 1960s plays in the background, and Grateful Dead dancing bears run across the front window. There is a familiar, relaxed sense to the café, with Trapani's towering husband popping in and her teenage son clearing tables.

In fact, Trapani did change one thing. "The Grateful Dead is all me. I'm a total deadhead and wanted to add that small touch of me to the restaurant." Despite the incongruent hippy influence, a Fleming would have a hard time feeling more at home in America than at Van Ghent. "We have some European customers who live in Connecticut and travel here for our pancakes," says Trapani proudly.

I can vouch for their authenticity, which Trapani attributes to Rosita's strict standards. "She'd come downstairs, test the batter, declare it no good and dump the lot of it down the sink. She was really picky." She and her husband continue, she says, "to whip up the batter properly."

Most of her customers come for the pancakes – although this Belgian style is called a crepe by most Americans. "No one else does them like us. I went to one place in Providence..." Trapani says,



The Van Ghent: a little bit of Flanders in Rhode Island

wrinkling her nose. "Nothing like mine." The couple also won an award for "best waffle" in 2005.

The waffles are also homemade and can be ordered "Belgian" (butter and sugar) or "American" (butter and maple syrup), but there is also an extended offering with fruits and whipped creams. One option, Crepes van Ghent, features bananas, ice cream, chocolate spread, powdered sugar and whipped cream.

Her menu has the obligatory American disclaimer about raw eggs and eating at your own risk, which is a quick reminder we are actually eating stateside. The menu also has a pretty accurate descrip-

tion of Belgian food: "Belgians take pride in their cuisine. It is customary to take your time to enjoy your meal, and here at Van Ghent, we take pride in upholding this tradition."

Trapani actually visited Belgium for two weeks before purchasing the café. Staying with Rosita's family in Deinze, she travelled through the Ardennes and visited both Brussels and Bruges, but conspiratorially tells me: "Bruges was nice, beautiful, but I don't like crowds. I'm laid back. When they took me to Ghent, I really liked it. Ghent is my favourite." ♦

→ www.vanghentcafewesterly.com

Free at last

DEREK BLYTH

Three cities turn off their engines this weekend

Ah, silence.

Once a year for the past eight years, the streets of Brussels have gone quiet for a whole day, with cars and trucks banned and taxis forced to crawl through the swarms of bicycles. It's a big, bold measure that is intended to give citizens a chance to see what their home town can be like without the endless rumble of road traffic.

Many people just see it as a day to get out their bikes and scoot off down the three-lane-wide boulevards. You can bet a lot of those same people will be back hogging the roads in their cars the next day.

Yet change is coming to the streets of Brussels, even if it is slower than the cycle lobby would want. Just look at the neat ranks of yellow city bikes that are spreading across the city. And count the number of bike shops. What was unthinkable 10 years ago has now become inevitable. Not that the bike-hire scheme is without its critics. Some complain

that the bikes all end up in the lower part of town since no one wants to heave themselves up the Ravensteinstraat on a heavy city bike. Others complain that the Villo! hotline never picks up. Yet others mutter about cyclists jumping red lights.

But bikes are here to stay, not just in Brussels but in every progressive city across Europe. The car-free concept has now spread to other cities in Flanders, notably Ghent and Antwerp, which each has its own car-free event this month.

If you have lived here for any length of time, you will know that the people of Antwerp are immensely proud of their city. So they view car-free day as an opportunity to walk or cycle around some of the city's most attractive quarters. They are also planning to set a world record for people ringing bicycle bells.

The Ghent authorities were careful to organise a referendum last year to check that people wanted another car-free day. Something



like 85% said yes, so the city will once again be traffic-free within the ring road. There are no big events to mark out the day and no website to compare with Antwerp's funky creation. Instead, the city suggests getting together with your neighbours for a brunch on the pavement or spreading out

a picnic in a quiet corner.

Car-free day happens in Brussels, Ghent, Antwerp and across Europe on 19 September. The streets remain off-limits to all but essential traffic until 19.00. But at 19.01, you will hear the sound of a thousand petrol engines kicking into life. ♦

→ www.autoloezondag.irisnet.be

→ <http://tiny.cc/gentcarfree>

→ www.antwerpenautovrij.be

Live! We take care of the rest!

**Euromut
welcomes you
to Belgium.**

It is essential that you receive the best health care advice and customer service. We'll make your administration as easy as possible and have solutions for every request. More than 4,000 expats choose Euromut every year. They can't be wrong!

Contact the Business Customer Care by mail: expats@euromut.be, by phone: +32 2 44 44 700.



euromut
health insurance

Live! we take care of the rest!

www.euromut.be/expats



Odegand

LISA BRADSHAW

Ghent is one of only four cities in the world to be designated as a Creative City of Music by UNESCO. They receive the official title this Saturday at Odegand – appropriate, considering that this event was key in helping secure the honour.

Odegand is the kick-off to the Ghent portion of the Festival of Flanders – a months-long classical and new music festival staged across the region, with each province presenting its own programme. Ghent has figured out how to dissolve the “hard sell” of classical: stage a free festival across the centre of town so nobody can, in fact, miss it. Innocent bystanders, as well as the initiated, will find outdoor stages of tango, brass bands and Mexican dance to introduce a season of equally diverse classical blends.

“That’s what a festival needs to do,” says Jelle Dierickx, Odegand’s artistic director, “make a new audience enthusiastic about classical music and music in general. Events like this show people that there’s nothing to be afraid of.”

That’s the free part: Odegand is also a set of about 60 concerts staged in venues across the city. Buy a ticket for €24 and make your own programme of concerts throughout the day and evening. Your one ticket gets you into any of them, and it also gets you transport: you can reach all the

venues via canal on one of several festival boats. “We think what a festival really does is connect people,” says Dierickx, “and water is very important in a city in doing that, too.”

The difficult part of Odegand is deciding which concerts to attend; the event prides itself on being an abundance of riches.

Flemish conductor Florian Heyerick is presenting a selection of work by German composer Christoph Graupner – no small feat with nearly 1,500 church cantatas from which to choose. Heyerick has gone with little-known works you probably won’t see on any other programme.

The 19-year-old pianist Claire Huangci, meanwhile, interprets Chopin, which last year brought her first place in the Darmstadt International Chopin Competition. Also from the US, jazz musician Uri Caine will revive his 1997 album that was dedicated to Mahler.

All these are good choices, but for something more offbeat, definitely make Heaven and Hell part of your day: Belgian metal band My Lament joins classical musicians and a soprano to put the work of William Blake to music. You’d also do well to see Japan’s Kodo drummers.

At the end of the evening, everyone comes together for the free closing concert, which is a mix of music and theatre in collaboration with

city theatre NT Gent. The whole thing wraps up with fireworks at 23.00.

Should you venture into the rest of Ghent’s packed three-week festival, don’t miss The Dark Night of the Soul, in which German group Qntal turns from a classical mediaeval ensemble into a Goth band before your very eyes; the bass voice of American Joel Frederiksen as he acts out songs of the English lute with his Phoenix Ensemble Munich; and the Venetian Ball, which, after you’ve chosen your evening’s disguise, serves classical ensembles together with the perfect wine.

Ghent’s programme has an overall theme of “Beyond Dreams” because, says Dierickx, “that’s where we’re going.” He recalls a quote sometimes attributed to 20th-century cellist and conductor Pablo Casals: The most important thing in music is what is not in the notes. “So we thought, if it’s not in the notes, let’s show them where it is. It’s in life, it’s in our hearts.” ♦

18 September
13.00-23.30
Across Ghent

→ www.festivalgent.be



Antwerp

Jolly Joker

Rijnkaai 14; www.jollyjoker.be
SEP 18 22.00 School Is Cool + I Heart Hiroshima + Bootsie Butsenzeller + Peter’s Heart Breaktunes + Koentje & Rakesh

Rataplán

Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40
www.rataplánvzw.be
SEP 18 20.30 Nicolas Kummert
SEP 22 20.30 Ifa y Xangó
SEP 23-25 20.30 Postume werken

Sportpaleis

Schijnpoortweg 119; 070.345.345
www.sportpaleis.be
SEP 18 21.00 Studio 54 disco party

Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00
www.trixonline.be
SEP 16 20.30 TRIXTRAXfestival featuring I Love Sarah + Hoquets

Brussels

Ancienne Belgique

Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24
www.abconcerts.be
SEP 15 20.00 Isobel Campbell with Mark Lanegan **SEP 16** 12.30 Sarah Ferri
SEP 18 20.00 Blonde Redhead **SEP 21** 20.00 Philip Selway **SEP 22** 20.00 Jason Derülo

Biouel Boat

Havenlaan 23; www.vkconcerts.be
SEP 18 20.00 Kanal Loca(l): Union of Water + Ertug Kosovar, Zak Lemissionnaire and Ver Balkanik + Tribal Pursuite + Nessbeal

Koning Boudewijnstadion

Marathonlaan 135; 0900.26.060
www.livenation.be
SEP 22-23 U2 - 360° Tour

Le Bar du Matin

Alsebergsesteenweg 172; 02.537.71.59
<http://bardumatin.blogspot.com>
SEP 16 21.00 Frown-I-Brown

Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32
www.botanique.be
Concerts at 20.00:
SEP 15 Phosphorescent **SEP 16** Dawn Landes & The Hounds + Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band + Grasscut **SEP 20** Caitlin Rose + Deer Tick. Ölöf Arnalds **SEP 22** Balthazar. Sad day for Puppets + Mystery Jets **SEP 23** Les Nuits du Soir: Music for Rabbits + Nestor! + Drums are for Parades + Auryn + Polyphonic Size. Love Amongst Ruin

Magasin 4

Havenlaan 51B; 02.223.34.74
www.magasin4.be
SEP 17 20.00 Joy as a Toy + Baby Fire + Part Chimp
SEP 18 20.00 Ultraphallus + Raxinasky + Liturgy
SEP 21 19.00 Lay Low, Bear Bones + Horacio Pollard + Pokemachine

The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45
www.themusicvillage.com
SEP 23 12.30 Venus in Flames

Vorst-Nationaal

Victor Rousseaulaan 208; 0900.00.991
www.forestnational.be
SEP 16 20.00 Peter Gabriel

Ghent

Kinky Star

Vlaammarkt 9; 09.223.48.45
www.kinkystar.com
SEP 18 21.00 Birds That Change Colour
SEP 19 21.00 DeadSets
SEP 21 21.00 Ladycop

Vooruit

St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
SEP 16 20.00 Windmill + Boston Tea Party **SEP 19** 19.30 Horse Feathers + Hanne Hukkelberg + Woodpigeon
SEP 21 22.00 Hallogallo 2010: Michael Rother & friends present NEU! Music
SEP 23 22.00 Magic Arm

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Night of the Proms

22 October – 6 November
Sportpaleis, Antwerp

And the line-up is complete: 1980s new-wave legend Grace Jones rounds out the star-studded bill of this year’s Night of the Proms, a seriously popular concert of pop and rock singers backed by the Il Novecento symphony orchestra conducted by Robert Groslot. Night of the Proms always features stars who are beyond their glory yet still capable of packing in audiences. Hence, this year it gives us John Fogerty (*pictured*), who will deliver hits of Creedence Clearwater Revival plus his solo work since the break-up of the seminal rock band, as well as Boy George, another 1980s hero. This sells out every year, so order tickets this minute.



→ www.notp.com



Antwerp

Buster

Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53
www.busterpodium.be
SEP 15 22.00 Playtime session
SEP 16 21.00 Buster Jam
SEP 17 22.00 Les Amis de Louis

Café Hopper

Leopold de Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33
www.cafehopper.be
Until SEP 27 21.00 sixTension

Brussels

The Music Village

Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45
www.themusicvillage.com
SEP 16 20.30 Mélanie De Biasio Trio
SEP 17-18 21.00 The Music Village Reunion Quintet **SEP 22** 20.30 Romain Verwilghen Duo **SEP 23** 20.30 Circacino, Astor Piazzolla music

Théâtre Marni

Vergniestraat 25; 02.639.09.80,
www.theatremarni.com
Annual jazz festival:
SEP 16 20.00 Moonly Delights
SEP 17 20.00 Jef Neve + Pascal Schumacher Duo
SEP 18 20.00 Rassinfosse + Collard-Neven + Alleman + Desandre-Navarre Quartet



Antwerp

Zuiderpershuis

Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00
www.zuiderpershuis.be
SEP 17 20.30 Baba Sissoko
SEP 18 20.30 Sunda

Brussels

Art Base

Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20
www.art-base.be

MORE FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS THIS WEEK

Maeterlinck Quartet → **De Munt, Brussels** →

Café Zimmerman → **Café Zimmerman**

Plamena Mangova → **GC de Zandloper, Wemmel**



SEP 16 20.00 Luiz Márquez & Mezcal Quartet (Mexico)
SEP 19 18.00 Partha Bose, sitar, Apurba Mukherjee, tabla, Indian music

GC De Maalbeek
Hoorstraat 97; 02.217.26.00
www.muziekpubliek.be
SEP 17 20.00 Wereldbal, taranella calabrese

Le Bar du Matin
Alsembergsesteenweg 172; 02.537.71.59
http://bardumatin.blogspot.com
SEP 23 21.00 Fanga, Afro beats

Piola Libri
Franklinstraat 66-68; 02.736.93.91 www.piolalibri.be
SEP 17 18.00 Season re-opening party: DJ A, + Marichka Connection
SEP 21 19.00 A Jigsaw, indie folk (Portugal)
SEP 23 19.00 Sandmoon, indie folk (Lebanon)



Bruges

Concertgebouw
t Zand 34; 070.22.33.02
www.concertgebouw.be
SEP 19 20.00 Monteverdi's L'Orfeo performed by young people, conducted by Nicolas Achten, staged by Wouter Van Looy, concept by Muziektheater Transparant (in Dutch)
SEP 21 20.00 The English Baroque Soloists, the Monteverdi Choir, His Majesty Sagbutts and Cornetts, conducted by John Eliot Gardiner: Monteverdi's Vespro dela Beata Vergine (in the original Italian with Dutch surtitles)

Brussels

Boondaal Kapel
Oude Linde Square 10; 0475.90.31.99
SEP 20 20.00 Luc Dewez and Alexandre Debrus, cello: Boccherini, Barrière, Boismortier, more

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
SEP 23 20.00 Liège Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Axelrod: Wagner, Schumann, Mahler

Flagey
Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20
www.flagey.be
SEP 20 19.30 Charlemagne Orchestra for Europe conducted by Bartholomeus-Henri Van de Velde: Handel, Mozart

Musical Instrument Museum
Hofberg 2; 02.545.01.30 www.mim.be
SEP 23 20.00 Christophe Rousset, Ioannes Couchet harpsichord: Couperin, Froberger

Royal Music Conservatory
Regentschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37
www.kcb.be
SEP 22 20.00 Café Zimmermann with Céline Frisch, harpsichord; Sophie Karthäuser, soprano: Bach

Ghent

Handelsbeurs
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65

www.handelsbeurs.be
SEP 15 20.15 ORCim Ensemble: Onverwachte variaties (Unexpected Variations)
SEP 16 20.15 Wim Mertens Ensemble



Antwerp

Vlaamse Opera
Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02
www.vlaamseopera.be
SEP 18-28 15.00/20.00 L'Amour de loin by Kaija Saariaho, conducted by Koen Kessels, staged by Daniele Finzi Pasca (in the original French with Dutch surtitles)

Brussels

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
SEP 21 19.00 Freiburger Barockorchester conducted by René Jacobs: Mozart's Così fan tutte (in French with Dutch surtitles)

De Munt
Muntplein; 070.23.39.39
www.demunt.be
SEP 21 15.00/20.00 Yvonne, Princesse de Bourgogne by De Munt composer-in-residence Philippe Boesmans, conducted by Patrick Davin, libretto and staging by Luc Bondy (in French with Dutch and French surtitles)

Deinze

Ooidonk Castle
Ooidonkdreef 9; 09.282.35.70
www.ooidonk.be
SEP 16-18 21.00 Georges Bizet's Carmen performed outdoors, conducted by Eric Lederhandler and staged by François de Carpentries (in the original French with Dutch surtitles)



Antwerp

Theater 't Eilandje
Kattendijkkook-Westkaai 16; 03.203.95.85 www.kbvv.be
SEP 17-24 15.00/20.00 Royal Ballet of Flanders in Coupe Maison 5

Zuiderpershuis
Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00 www.zuiderpershuis.be
SEP 23 20.30 Adela Campallo

Brussels

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
SEP 19 Gamelan Sunday: Indonesia's musical heritage is celebrated in a one-day programme of traditional music and dance
SEP 22 20.30 Germaine Acogny in Songook Yaakaar

KVS Bol
Lakenstraat 146; 02.210.11.12
www.kvs.be

DON'T MISS

France Springuel

24 September
Kempinski Hotel, Bruges

The six suites for solo cello by Johann Sebastian Bach are quite possibly the most beautiful sounds it is possible for a single human being to make, and next week there is an opportunity to hear them played by the Belgian cellist France Springuel in the intimate setting of the restored 15th-century chapel of the Prinsenhof in Bruges, now part of the Kempinski Hotel Dukes' Palace. The concert is part of the Dukes' Chapel Concert Series, which features an all-Belgian line-up, including flautist Aldo Baerten and violist Diederik Suys, cellists Luc Tooten and Karel Steylaerts and soprano Anne Cambier accompanied by harpist Sophie Hallynck.

→ www.kempinski.com/en/bruges



Until SEP 19 15.00/20.00 Les Ballets C de la B in Gardenia, dance theatre staged by Frank Van Laecke and Alain Platel
SEP 20 20.00 Premiere of new work Monkey Sandwich by Flemish choreographer Wim Vandekeybus (dance, multi-media)

Théâtre Les Tanneurs
Huidevetterstraat 75; 02.512.17.84 www.lesanneurs.be
SEP 21-25 20.30 Line of Oblivion, choreographed and performed by Johanne Saunier to music by Arturo Fuentes, staged by Jim Clayburgh



Antwerp

Fakkelteater
Reyndersstraat 7; 03.232.14.69
www.fakkelteater.be
Until SEP 19 15.00/20.30 Fast Forward in Dossier: Ronald Akkerman, directed by Barbara Rubin (in Dutch)

Theater aan de Stroom
Blancefloerlaan 181; 070.22.33.30
www.theateraandestroom.be
Until OCT 3 times vary
Fluistercompagnie in Bent, directed by Jean-Paul Van Steerteghem (in Dutch)

Brussels

Kaaitheater
Saintelette Square 20; 02.201.59.59
www.kaaitheater.be
SEP 23-25 20.30 Nature Theater of Oklahoma in Life and Times: Episode 1, music theatre staged by Pavol Liska and Kelly Cooper, with music by Robert M Johanson (in English)

KVS Box
Arduinkaai 9; 02.210.11.12 www.kvs.be
SEP 17-18 20.30 Fobbit, monologue written by Jeroen Vander Ven and Thomas Bellinck, performed by Vander Ven (in Dutch)
SEP 21-23 20.30 Ruhe, music theatre with Collegium Vocale Gent, staged by Josse de Pauw (in Dutch)

Ghent

Vooruit
St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
Until SEP 24 20.00 Compagnie Cecilia and Het Paleis in Schöne Blumen (Beautiful Flowers), written and directed by Arne Sierens (in Dutch)
Until SEP 18 20.00 tg STAN in Zomergasten (Summerfolk) by Maxim Gorky (in Dutch)



Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)
Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60
www.muhka.be
Until SEP 19 Art Kept Me Out of Jail, performance installations by Jan Fabre

Fashion Museum (MoMu)
Nationalestraat 28; 03.470.27.70
www.momu.be
Until FEB 13 Stephen Jones & The Accent of Fashion, retrospective of works by the British hatmaker

Middelheim Museum
Middelheimlaan 6; 03.828.13.50
www.middelheimmuseum.be
Until SEP 19 New Monuments in the Middelheim Museum, Belgian artists focus on the future of the monument

Royal Museum of Fine Arts
Leopold De Waelplaats; 03.238.78.09
www.kmska.be
Until OCT 3 Closing Time, curated by Flemish artist Jan Vanriet, who presents his own work alongside related pieces from the museum's collection
Until OCT 3 Jongbloed! (Young Blood), electronic music, mixed media/video, graphic design and photos by nine young artists inspired by the Closing Time exhibition

Bruges

Hospitaalmuseum
Mariastraat 38; 050.44.87.11
www.museabrugge.be
Until NOV 7 Ivory in Bruges, rare pieces from museums, churches and monasteries

Kunstcentrum Oud Sint-Jan
Mariastraat 38; 050.47.61.00 www.miro-brugge.be
Until OCT 3 Expo Miró, lithographs, ceramics and manuscripts from the surrealist painter Joan Miró

Brussels

Atomium
Atomium Square; 02.475.47.72
www.atomium.be
Until NOV 14 Intersections: Belgian Design, parcours of works by young Belgian designers Jean-François d'Or, Nicolas Destino and Linde Hermans

Belgian Comic Strip Centre
Zandstraat 20; 02.219.19.80
www.stripmuseum.be
Until JAN 30 The Studio of Franquin: Jijé, Morris and Will, rare documents and drawings show mutual influences between the four comic-strip artists who revolutionised the art form in Europe

Belvue Museum
Paleizenplein 7; 02.511.44.25
www.belvue.be
Until SEP 19 Brussels: A City with a View, interactive exhibition focusing on Jean-Baptiste Bonnacroy's 17th-century painting Gezicht op Brussel, showing panoramas of the city

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until SEP 26 GEO-Graphics: Mapping Historical and Contemporary Art Practice in Africa, African objects from Belgian museums come face-to-face with work of contemporary African artists (part of Visionary Africa)
Until OCT 10 A Passage to Asia: 25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe, a selection of 300 objects, including funeral urns, jewellery, semi-precious stones, gold and glass, Buddhist and Hindu images, ivory, manuscripts, textiles and archaeological finds

Brussels Info Place (BIP)
Koningsplein; 02.563.63.99
www.biponline.be
Until DEC 31 Europe in Brussels: Fragmented Past, Shared Future?, video exhibition looking at the European quarter, from its beginnings to the present day (www.europeinbrussels.be)

De Elektriciteitscentrale
Sint Katelijneplein 44; 02.279.64.45
Until OCT 3 Fighting the Box: 20 Belgian Designers, 20 Stories Behind the Products, the relationship between local designers and the international industry

GET FLANDERS TODAY IN YOUR LETTERBOX EACH WEEK

Would you like a free subscription to Flanders Today?

Fill in the form and send to:

Flanders Today

Subscription Department

Gossetlaan 30 – 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden – Belgium

Fax: 00.32.2.375.98.22

Email: subscriptions@flanderstoday.eu

or log on to www.flanderstoday.eu to register online

Name:
Street:
Postcode:
City:
Privacy policy: We fully respect Belgian legislation on the protection of personal information. The data we collect will only be used for distribution of publications and will not be disclosed to any third parties without express consent.

GOSSELIN MOVING
BELGIUM - MEMBER GOSSELIN GROUP

CLEARLY
NOT MOVED BY GOSSELIN

WE KNOW HOW TO MOVE PEOPLE

Belcrownlaan 23 | B-2100 Antwerp - Belgium
T +32-3-360 55 00 | T +32-2-772 34 87
F +32-3-360 55 79

WWW.GOSSELINGROUP.EU INFO@GOSSELINGROUP.EU

Yaruna
Waversesteenweg 214B; 02.512.93.12
www.anunsroom.com
Until OCT 14 Jeanne: A Nun's Room, interactive installation by Scottish artist Paul Morris

Deurle

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens
Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23
www.museumdd.be
Until SEP 19 Biennale van de Schilderkunst: het sublieme voorbij (Biennale of Painting: The Sublime Past), a subjective look at painting over the last 100 years (See also Roger Raveel museum in Machelen-Zulte)

WEEK IN FILM

LISA BRADSHAW

De helaasheid der dingen sweeps film prizes



The first-ever Flemish Film Prizes were awarded last weekend at the Kursaal, as part of the Ostend Film Festival. To no-one's surprise Felix van Groeningen's *De helaasheid der dingen* (*The Misfortunates*), based on the Flemish novel of the same name, took in a majority of the honours, including Best Film, Best Script, Best Actor (Koen De Graeve, pictured above), Best Supporting Actor (Wouter Hendrickx) and Best Debut (Kenneth Vanbaeden). It also won the event's public prize. In a bit of an upset, however, Groeningen was not given the prize for Best Director, which instead went to Caroline Strubbe for her film *Lost Persons Area*. That film's young star Kimke Desart tied with the equally young Anna Franziska Jaeger (*My Queen Karo*) for Best Actress, while Best Supporting Actress went to Ina Geerts for her role as the mother in *Bo*.

Adem wins at Montreal

The new Flemish film *Adem* (*Oxygen*), covered last week in *Flanders Today* and playing now across the region, has won the top prize at the Montreal World Film Festival, the Grand Prix. In addition, it won the prize of the Ecumenical Jury. The film follows the story of two Flemish men (Stef Aerts, Wouter Hendrickx) who have cystic fibrosis. The film's central theme, said the jury "about the need to find meaning in life was communicated in an outstanding and strong film language." They also said that the film was emotionally affecting for "each one of us, sick or healthy". *Adem* is the feature film debut of Hans Van Nuffel who himself has cystic fibrosis.

→ www.ademdefilm.be

Gaasbeek

Gaasbeek Castle
Kasteelstraat 40; 02.531.01.30
www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be
Until NOV 7 Dragon Brood!, collection of works and objects on the theme of dragons

Ghent

Design Museum
Jan Breydelstraat 5; 09.267.99.99
www.designmuseumgent.be
Until OCT 24 Super Normal: Sensations of the Everyday, objects from around the world selected by designers Naoto Fukasawa and Jasper Morrison
Until OCT 24 Piet Stockmans: Retrospective, works by the legendary Flemish porcelain designer
Until OCT 24 Nilton Cunha: Good Luck, works in silver and Corian by the Flemish designer

Museum of Fine Arts
Fernand Scribedreef 1 – Citadelpark; 09.240.07.00 www.mskgent.be
Until OCT 3 Stijn Cole: Sunset/Sunset, contemporary works by the Flemish artist-in-residence

Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)
Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03
www.smak.be
Until OCT 3 Xanadu! The SMAK collection presented by Hans Theys
Until DEC 3 Inside Installations, 10 installations from the museum's collection
Until OCT 17 Coming People, group exhibition of final year projects of students at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and St Lucas College of Science and Arts
Until NOV 21 Tegenlicht (Backlight), young visual artists and writers confront famous artists from the literary, arts and music scene

Kemzeke

Verbeke Foundation
Westakker; 03.789.22.07
www.verbekefoundation.com
Until OCT 31 Green Summer, ecological projects and art works
Until OCT 31 Stan Wannet: De Hondenmepper, moving installations and robotics by the artist-in-residence
Until OCT 31 Wout Hoeboer (1910-1983): Dandy Dada, retrospective of the surrealist Dutch painter

Kortrijk

Museum Kortrijk 1302
Houtmarkt-Begijnpark; 056.27.78.50, www.kortrijk1302.be
Until JAN 9 OnGELOOFlijk: van hemel, hel en halleluja (UnBELIEVEable: From Heaven, Hell and Hallelujah), religious objects and symbols from the past 500 years

Leuven

Museum M
Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29 www.mleuven.be
SEP 17-DEC 5 The Anjou Bible: A Royal Manuscript Revealed, a rare manuscript from the 14th-century Royal Court of Naples

Saint Michael Church
Naamsestraat 57a; www.gijsvanvaerenbergh.com
Until OCT 31 The Upside Dome, installation by Flemish artist duo Gijss Van Vaerenbergh

Meise

National Botanic Garden of Belgium
Nieuwelaan 38; 02.260.09.20
www.plantentuinmeise.be
Until OCT 24 Boxes Brimming with Life, photo installations by Flemish wildlife photographer Tom Linster
Until OCT 17 When Art Meets Science, watercolours of mushrooms by five European botanical artists

Ostend

Japanese Garden
Koningspark; 059.70.11.99
www.krisdewitte.com
Until OCT 3 Kris Dewitte: Set & Still, photos from Belgian film sets by the Flemish photographer

Tervuren

Royal Museum for Central Africa
Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11
www.africamuseum.be
Until SEP 30 Bonjour Congo, photographs and documents from Brussels on the presence of the Congo in Brussels
Until JAN 9 Congo River: 4,700

Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture, interactive exhibition on the lifeblood of Congo, from source to mouth
Until JAN 9 100 Years in 100 Photographs, outdoor exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the African Museum building
Until JAN 9 Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence, multi-media exhibition looks at the Democratic Republic of Congo from independence to today

Ypres

In Flanders Fields Museum
Grote Markt 34; 057.239.220
www.inflandersfields.be
Until OCT 10 More Force Than Necessary, photos and films by Brazilian artist-in-residence Rodrigo Braga



Festival of Flanders: International music festivals fill streets, squares and waterways with guerilla and organised concerts, from classical and mediaeval to traditional world and modern regional music
Until OCT 24 across Brussels and Flanders
www.festival.be

Vlaanderen Zingt: Huge group sing-alongs to live music on public squares
Until SEP 26 across Flanders
www.vlaanderenzingt.be

Antwerp

Book Presentation: Flemish artist Eva Cardon (aka Ephameron) presents and signs her first graphic novel, *Weg* (Away)
SEP 15 20.00-22.00 at University of Antwerp - Ten Prinsenhove, Koningstraat 8
www.bries.be

De Stad van Elsschot: Months-long celebration of 20th-century Antwerp author Willem Elsschot on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his death, featuring theatre, film and Dicht bij Elsschot, the first public exhibition of his complete archives
Until DEC 31 across Antwerp
www.destadvanelsschot.be

Millionaire Fair: Luxury event featuring art and antiques, sports cars, yachts, designer jewellery, home entertainment, travel and more
SEP 23-26 at Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191
03.260.81.20, www.millionairefair.be

Rommelant: Antiques and second-hand fair
SEP 18-19 10.00-18.00 at Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191
03.260.81.20, www.rommelant.be

Bruges

Brugge Centraal: International city festival with dance, theatre, music, literature, film and exhibitions, including Een visie op Centraal-Europa by Luc Tuyman and Van Eyck tot Dürer
Until JAN 30 across Bruges
www.bruggecentraal.be

Car-free Sunday: With no cars in the city centre, Bruges is transformed into one big street-theatre festival with activities and performances for all ages
SEP 19 12.30-17.30 across Bruges
www.bruggeplus.be

Brussels

Car-free Sunday: Annual car-free day in Brussels with events across the city (part of European Week of Mobility)
SEP 19 9.00-19.00 across all 19 communes
02.204.14.43, www.brussels.be

Chopin Festival: Festival of Chopin's music, featuring students and teachers from the Queen Elisabeth College of Music in Waterloo
SEP 22-25 at Flagey, Heilig Kruisplein
www.flagey.be

Design September: A city-wide celebration of all things design, with exhibitions, sales, open door studios, conferences and special guests, including Michele De Lucchi, a headliner during the rise and fall of the MEMPHIS design collective

Until OCT 1 across Brussels
www.designseptember.be

Festivaeria: Outdoor festival providing a platform for young artists, with musicians, singers, DJs, dancers, bodypainters, jugglers, photographers and street theatre
Until SEP 18 at Jubelpark
www.myspace.com/playnewconcept

Festival Kanal: New urban arts festival featuring theatre, performances, circus, music, open doors, walks and boat tours
SEP 17-19 along the canal district
www.festivalkanal.be

Folklore Festival: Tenth anniversary of the event featuring music, parade of giants and folklore groups
SEP 18-19 in and around Grote Markt
02.279.43.50 www.brussel.be

Lot Valley Market: Regional gastronomy and tourism market featuring culinary delights from Vallée du Lot in southwest France, including foie gras, truffles, wine and more
SEP 18-19 at Grote Zavel
02.512.79.69

Media Facade Festival Europe: Urban media art project linking seven European cities through media facades located in city centre public spaces
Until OCT 2 across Brussels
www.imal.org

Middeleeuwse feesten: Medieval festival with activities including a Medieval market, concerts, exhibition, jousting and fancy dress competitions, plus concerts and fireworks
SEP 17-19 at Abdij van Vorst, Sint-Denijsplaats 9
02.370.22.40, www.forest.irisnet.be

Open Monument Day: Annual heritage days with events, exhibitions and open-doors across the capital under the banner "Stone & Co"
SEP 18-19 across the Brussels Region
www.monument.irisnet.be

Pineau sur rue: Free gourmet weekend celebrating the gastronomic delights of the Pineau de Charentes region, plus music, family entertainment and Waiters' Race on Sunday
SEP 18-19 at Jubelpark
02.675.48.00, www.pineau.be

Taste Brussels: Annual gastronomy week organised by the Slow Food movement Karikol, with 54 participating restaurants, organic gardening workshops, picnics, more
SEP 20-26 across Brussels
www.proefbrussel.be

Ghent

Accenta jaarbeurs: Fair of diverse products and featuring guest country Indonesia
Until SEP 19 11.00-19.00 at Flanders Expo, Maaltekouter 1
09.241.92.11, www.accenta.be

Kalmthout

Japanese Moonfest: Traditional Japanese festival celebrating the full moon with a walk through the garden filled with Japanese plants, trees and flowers, traditional music concerts and drinks
SEP 23 at Kalmthout Arboretum, Heuvel 2
03.666.67.41, www.arboretumkalmthout.be

Mechelen

Jazz@home: Jazz festival in residents' gardens, historical homes and other fun spots, featuring Adrien Volant Quartet, Electric Quartet, Jazz Sweet Jazz and more
SEP 19 across Mechelen
www.hazzathome.be

Ostend

Théâtre de la Mode: Autumn and winter fashion show
SEP 17 20.00 at Kursaal (Casino), Monacoplein
070.22.56.00, www.sherpa.be

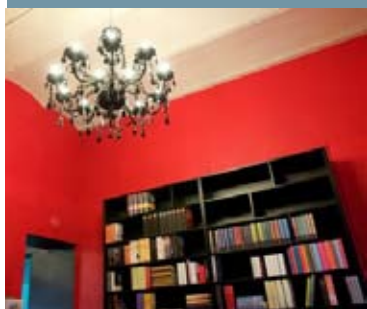
Overijse

Jazz Hoeilaart: Jazz festival and competition featuring young jazz bands from around the world, accompanied by the Bert Joris Kwartet, Rosario Giuliani and Enrico Pieranunzi and DelVitaGroup
SEP 23-25 at GC De Bosuil, Witherendreef 1
www.jazzhoeilaart.be

CAFE SPOTLIGHT

ANNA JENKINSON

De Tijd Hervonden



Witte Nonnenstraat 8 Hasselt

Hasselt's De Tijd Hervonden is a cafe, bookshop and art gallery all rolled into one, and come Friday evening, it also turns into a great spot for after-work drinks.

It's the kind of place with a cultural feel to it, but not so über-cool that you're worried about what you're wearing. You can browse through the books, take a look at the latest exhibition or simply settle into a corner for a drink.

Branding itself as a literary cafe, De Tijd Hervondens name – literally "the time recovered" is inspired by, appropriately enough, a classic novel: Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*. Bookshelves are at either end of the bar area, and a table is filled with Dutch-language newspapers and magazines.

The ambiance, however, is far from bookish. The walls are painted in black, red, orange and vivid green, and hanging from the ceiling are modern, black chandeliers. At one end of the cafe is a flat screen showing music videos, with the music at just the right volume to create atmosphere but not be intrusive.

As for the drinks, not only is there the usual selection of wine, beer, tea and coffee, but also several varieties of the local jenever. This is, after all, the town that is home to the National Jenever Museum – in fact, it's on the same street, just a few doors down.

The cafe is also a good spot for a bite to eat in the daytime, offering breakfast and lunch: its style is "Flemish cuisine with a southern (Italian) touch."

And don't forget to pop into the quieter space behind the bar where De Tijd Hervondens bookshop sells novels and coffee-table books, home to small art shows. Until 30 October, you'll find Piet Stockmans' *Wahrheit und Dichtung*. Stockmans, a Flemish designer and sculpture who specialises in ceramics, currently has several other exhibitions on around Belgium, including a retrospective at the Design Museum in Ghent.

All in all, De Tijd Hervonden is definitely worth a visit – if you can find the time.

→ www.detijdhervonden.be

ROBYN BOYLE

bite



Lozer Castle Delicatessen

Forget about closed castle walls and the mysterious noblemen who dwell there. Those who live in and near the small town of Kruishoutem in East Flanders love to visit Lozer Castle.

The 356-year-old fortress surrounded by water and green manicured lawns is home to Baron and Baroness della Faille d'Huyse. The 10th generation of the family to own the property, the ambitious couple moved here in the 1980s and immediately began the daunting task of renovating the rundown castle and surrounding buildings.

Inside the former horse stable they set up shop – a specialty gourmet food shop. Here you find the finest products, from French escargots and Belgian *foie gras* to Iranian caviar and exotic teas and spices from all over the world. Baron Bernard personally tastes and selects every item before offering it in his shop. If it doesn't meet his high standards, he doesn't sell it.

"I grew up having to eat what my parents and grandparents were eating," the Baron recalls, "and I think that gave me the ability to taste and appreciate all kinds of exceptional flavours." This could explain the refrigerated counter filled with things like wild boar pâté, duck file and goose sausage. There are shelves lined with choice pastas, pestos, olives, sun-dried tomatoes and pots of mustard, honey and jam. A freezer compartment holds homemade ice cream and sorbet. And the candy section will tempt any adult, with tasty treats from "the old days" such as nougat and butter caramels from renowned bonbon-maker Barnier in Normandy.

Admittedly, though, most adults are drawn to the wine corner, floor-to-ceiling bottles of South African reds, French whites, Champagne, Porto and the coveted Pineau des Charentes, a pleasantly sweet mixture of Cognac and grape juice aged in oak casks.

When not out searching for more products to sample, Bernard is an avid cook and offers lessons to small groups. These take place in the castle's charming cellar kitchen, where eight to 20 people learn how to make recipes using ingredients found in the shop, such as a terrine of duck liver, that they can prepare and take home. Tastings may also be arranged for groups and can take place in the delicatessen, outside on the grass or in the castle hall. Perhaps the most exciting part about Lozer Castle is not its history, but its future. The Baron and Baroness have more big plans; by spring of next year they intend to open a bed & breakfast above the shop, with eight rooms looking out over the property. In addition to the peaceful setting, guests can enjoy all the activities on offer in the area, including horseback riding, walking and cycling...even if only to justify indulging in the on-site delicacies.

- 📍 Kasteelstraat 36, Lozer (Kruishoutem); 09.383.50.27
- 🕒 Wed to Sat, 10.00-12.30 & 14.00-18.30
- ★ Fine gourmet foods on stunning castle grounds

➔ www.lozerkasteel.be

Contact Bite at flandersbite@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY

#148

Student guide special

Thousands of international students arrive over the next two weeks to enrol in Flemish universities in everything from painting to languages to neuroscience. Our four-part series highlights the strongest programmes of each school and tells students how to survive in this new place

Focus

A conference this month shows web designers and businesses how they can design technical tools to actually change people's behaviours: Design for Persuasion comes to Ghent

Agenda

American-born Beverly Jo Scott calls Brussels home and is a mainstay on the festival circuit. Now she hosts a very special tribute to Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, two 1960s singers with whom she has a surprisingly lot in common

TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



‘flitspaal’

Either they are a nuisance or they are lifesavers. Whichever, we all have an opinion about *flitspalen* – speed cameras. Gone are the days when you could count the number of *flitspalen* in Flanders on your fingers and they could be easily avoided by speed merchants. Now there are 1,400 of the distinctly inelegant *palen* – poles looming over unsuspecting drivers in Flanders.

In fact the poles are back in the news with the announcement that there is going to be 73 more. Strange when you consider that in Britain speed cameras are being removed in some areas because they don't improve road safety and are seen as a pest.

Flitspalen do bring out the worst in some of us. Take the guy who found his way into the news recently. Like many others, "*hij werd geflitst door een flitspaal*" – he was flashed by a speed pole (camera). He saw the flash and realised that *een boete* – a fine would be coming his way. Being short of money, he saw only one way out and that was to destroy the pole: "*hij heeft de flitspaal in brand gestoken*" – he set fire to the speed camera pole.

The fire drew the attention of a passing police car and within minutes the police stopped the man, who immediately confessed mainly because *hij naar benzine rook* – he smelled of petrol; and also, *de man bleek onder invloed van drank te zijn*

– the man seemed to be under the influence of alcohol.

Yet when you pass a *flitspaal* going just a tad over the limit, you don't always know if you have been flashed or not. You might think that in the digital age, images are being bounced off passing satellites to some nerve centre at police headquarters; but no, instead each camera is shared between four boxes. I suppose someone has rota for them. It's almost a game of Russian roulette: "*dat er meer flitskasten dan camera's zijn, wekt ook onvrede*" – that there are more boxes than cameras also causes discontent," comments a paper this week.

You might think I'm stirring things up to get you to sign a petition, yet no less a person than Stefaan Eeckhout, *Kortrijkse korpschef* – police chief of Kortrijk – has questioned the use of *flitspalen bij verkeerslichten* – speed cameras at traffic lights.

Meanwhile, a motorway exit near me has three of the things guarding one junction! Certainly, they would pick up both *overdreven snelheid* – speeding and *roodrijden* – driving through a red light. But according to Eeckhout, such offences account for *een zeer miniem aandeel van de boetes* – a very small part of the fines. "*De enige weggebruikers die soms een stoplicht negeren, zijn fietsers*" – The only road-users that sometimes ignore a red light are cyclists." Enough said.

THE LAST WORD...

Think before you drive

"This is not an anti-car plan. We just want to make people think about where and when they use their car."

Bruno de Lille, Brussels state secretary for mobility, announcing a new plan to cut car traffic in the capital by 20% by 2018

Justice will be done

"I will be calling on the college of prosecutors-general next week to bring order to this matter."

Federal justice minister Stefaan De Clerck, responding to the Adriaenssens Report (page 1)

Bowled over

"It's a remarkable film. A true original, with excellent acting."

Bart De Pauw, jury chairman at the first Flemish Film Prizes, praising *De helaasheid der dingen* (The Misfortunates)

Kim calls it a day

"Thanks for all the messages tweetherts. Just finished my dinner and massage! Going to sleep now, goodnight!"

Flemish tennis player Kim Clijsters' Facebook entry soon after winning the US Open