

Sounds of Brussels

One British composer, one requiem
and 282 children

p7



Asylum seekers left out in the cold

There are 5,000 more refugees awaiting housing than last year, threatening another winter of families on the streets

ALAN HOPE

Belgium is facing a repeat of the scenes of last winter, which saw entire families of refugees, including babies and children, camped out in the open and in railway stations to escape the freezing winter. Last winter found about 1,000 asylum-seekers on the streets because authorities were unable to find enough available housing. At the moment, about 6,000 find themselves in the same situation, mainly in Brussels but also in Antwerp and Ghent.

Last week, about 200 people held a sleep-in outside the Justice Palace in Brussels to protest at the government's inadequate provision for asylum-seekers. Wrapped in sleeping bags and sheltering in tents, the protestors called for an end to the situation, which has seen the courts swamped with requests for accommodation from asylum-seekers – a flood that threatened to bring the court system grinding to a halt.

Every day, the Brussels labour court has to deal with 10 to 20 applications for interim judgement against Fedasil, the government agency responsible for asylum-seekers. The courts then order Fedasil to comply, forcing them to pay damages for failure to do so.

But Fedasil does not have enough places to go around. The court actions mean that ordinary applications are no longer dealt with because the threat of fines gives those applicants priority, and so increasing numbers of asylum-seekers are left with no option but to follow the same route, in a vicious circle which is on the verge of making the entire situation intolerable.

Last week, the lawyer of a Congolese man sent bailiffs into the offices of Fedasil, the government agency responsible for asylum-seekers, after the agency was unable to pay a fine imposed by a court. When the man applied for accommodation, Fedasil was unable

to find anything and was ordered by the court to pay €500 a day for as long as it defaulted. After 31 days, the man claimed a sum of €15,500. Bailiffs put a lien on four cars and 15 computers owned by Fedasil, though they were not seized. The agency claims the man was offered a place earlier but failed to show.

“The presence of 6,000 asylum seekers on the streets shows that more places are needed, and the government has to provide them”

Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen

Last week the council of ministers announced it would make places available for 2,000 in military barracks in Weelde, Houthalen-Helchteren, Bastogne and Bierset. They should be ready by the end of the year, but the weather is already cold, and many more places are expected to be needed.

“The 2,000 places in barracks are fine as an emergency solution,” said Els Keytsman of the asylum support organisation Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen, “but the presence of 6,000 asylum seekers on the streets shows that more places are needed, and the government has to provide them.”

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A matter of taste

Flanders' annual celebration lets you experience food in ways you never thought possible

ALAN HOPE

November is all about food in Flanders – it's the month of Week van de Smaak, or Week of Taste, now celebrating its fifth edition. The incredibly popular event promotes Flemish agriculture, food production and tourism, but for you and me, the best part is the pure enjoyment of cuisine – both Belgian and international in scope. Growing every year, the event now boasts about 1,200 events and initiatives throughout Flanders and Brussels. Following Leuven last

year, Aalst is 2010's special guest Stad van de Smaak, or City of Taste. Known for its onions and its annual carnival, the city will bring its expertise in the latter (and perhaps also a little bit of the former) to a massive programme of events.

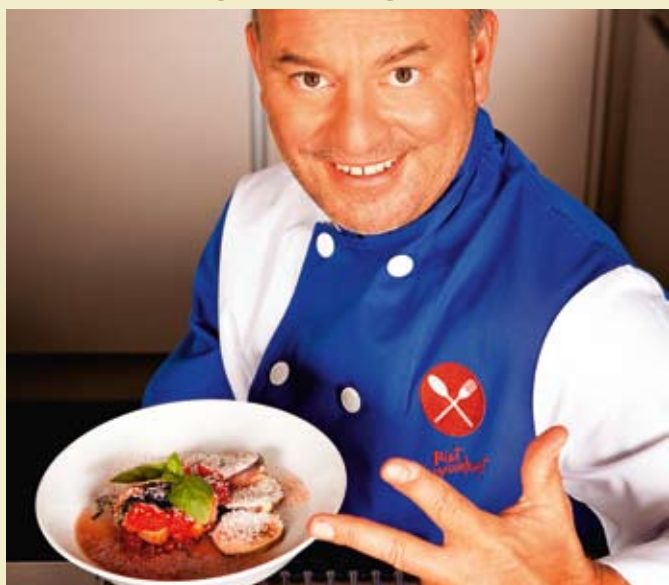
Spain is this year's Land van de Smaak (Guest Country), providing accents of Rioja and seafood, tapas and Serrano to the goings-on across the regions.

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OFFSIDE

ALAN HOPE

Knives out against plagiarists



On 22 November, a new CD box set of the hits of Michael Jackson will be released, and Belgian buyers will immediately have their hands on a collectors' item because one number, "You Are Not Alone", will not appear in the version sold here. Meanwhile, Flanders' bestselling author last week vowed to fight any attempt to plunder his work.

The reason behind both pieces of news is plagiarism. Flemish composers (and brothers) Eddy and Danny Van Passel filed a complaint in 1995 stating that "You are not Alone", recorded by Jackson but written by American R&B singer Robert Kelly, was a copy of their 1993 song "If We Can Start All Over". A Brussels court ruled in their favour three years ago, but the ruling is only valid in Belgium. "You Are Not Alone" can no longer be played on the radio here or sold anywhere in the country.

In these days of instant access to information, the problem of plagiarism is growing.

Piet Huysentruyt, the TV star and best selling cookbook writer known as SOS Piet, vowed last week to fight following the ruling of a judge in Liège that recipes were not protected by copyright and could therefore be re-published freely. A recipe, the judge reasoned, is an idea, which cannot be copyrighted: only the form in which it appears is protected. So you can steal SOS Piet's idea, but you have to change the words a little.

"If it appears that through a loophole in the law culinary recipes have no rights, that loophole has to be urgently closed," the knife-wielding Huysentruyt said.

His interests are clear: he has sold 1.3 million books already, which fuels audiences for his VTM shows, which in turn promotes new books. His own personal style is the source of his success, rather than any gastronomic innovation.

Flemish artist Arne Quinze, meanwhile, is fighting a similar battle. Last week, a court in Hasselt declared itself incompetent to deal with a lawsuit by the Oudenaarde-based artist, responsible for well-known, large-scale public installations such as "The Sequence", which graces Brussels' Leuvenseweg in front of the Flemish Parliament. He filed suit against an artist from Sint-Truiden who he says copied his work. His lawyers plan to fight the case in the appeal court in Antwerp.

News in brief

Leopold Storme, 22, was last week found guilty of the **murder of his mother, father and sister** in the family's textiles shop in the Marollen area of Brussels in 2007. He was sentenced to 26 years in prison. Storme maintains that he is innocent and that the killers were masked intruders.

hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Such cases will not attract a fine, the mobility ministry said, but drivers may have their licence withdrawn for 12 hours before a second test is carried out. The new saliva tests have been criticised by scientists for too many false positive results.

From February, all new and renovated flat roofs in Antwerp have to be "green roofs", on which plants grow to assist insulation, the city council has voted. **Green roofs** protect against the sun and hold heat inside the house. They also retain rainwater and put less pressure on sewer systems. Subsidies will be available for the installation of green roofs, the city said. Meanwhile, across Flanders, property owners who have not insulated their roofs by 2020 will not be allowed to rent their property out, housing minister Freya Van den Bossche has announced.

The Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), which split from the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in 1968, has been returned to Flanders by the prestigious **British scientific journal Nature**. In its last issue, the journal assigned 61.7% of the nation's researchers to Flanders because it had assumed that UCL was in Leuven. Instead of 21% of researchers working in Wallonia, the figure is closer to 33%.

The new **saliva test** used by police to detect motorists under the influence of amphetamines and cannabis also reacts positively to the prescription drug Ritalin, used to treat cases of attention deficit

Meanwhile in Leuven, the KUL is one of only seven universities in Europe to **achieve excellence in all seven subject areas** surveyed by the German think tank Centre for Higher Education Development. The others universities, in Amsterdam, Bristol, London, Manchester, Munich and Oxford, all scored highly in study and research opportunities in biology, chemistry,

physics, mathematics, economics, psychology and political science. www.che.de

Belgium has dropped one place in the **world transparency rankings**, issued annually by Transparency International. Belgium is now considered the 22nd most transparent (or least corrupt) country in the world, tied with the United States, which fell out of the Top 20 for the first time. Denmark, New Zealand and Singapore top the least-corrupt list with 9.3 points out of 10, while Belgium scores 7.1. The most corrupt country in 2010 is Somalia with 1.1 points. www.transparency.org

Flemish public broadcaster VRT will collaborate with dictionary publisher Van Dale to find the **Word of the Year for 2010**. This year, for the first time, separate polls will be held in the Netherlands and Flanders. The categories are lifestyle, sport and leisure, economy, politics and the language of youth. Previous winners include *ontvrienden* (to "unfriend" someone on Facebook). Nominations are invited on the website. <http://woordvanhetjaar.vandale.nl>

FACE OF FLANDERS

ALAN HOPE

The fox

The epic 13th-century poem of Reynaert the Fox may be one of the treasures of the Dutch language, plundered by Chaucer and printed by Caxton, but these days his real-life counterpart is not considered so much of a hero. The fox is making a comeback in Flanders, and opinions are divided.

Last week the Flemish parliament's environment committee held a meeting, attended by representatives of farmers, hunters and conservationists. Flemish environment minister Joke Schauvliege was (ironically) attending a bio-diversity summit in Japan and could not be present.

Foxes have been in decline in Flanders since the early 19th century. They are blamed for the spread of rabies and the pillage of henhouses and are systematically wiped out with gas, traps and poison. But now the fox is making a comeback, even encroaching into towns and cities in search of food, as the availability of prey in the countryside has diminished. A fox is now more likely to rip open bin-bags than feed on poultry (which nowadays are mainly reared inside factory farms).

Small-time poultry keepers still resent the intrusion, however, and have demanded action. The hunters, represented by the Hubertus Association, are happy to oblige. "The damage caused by this predator is enormous," says spokesman Jef Schrijvers. "I'm fed up with the negative attitudes surrounding this subject."

The hunters are opposed by the nature conservationists. "We say, abolish the hunting of foxes altogether," said Jan Rodts of the bird protection society Vogelbescherming. "You can't shoot them; you just have to protect your chicken runs better."

Vogelbescherming, together with Natuurpunt, has started a campaign to protect the fox, including a petition on their websites and a



Facebook group, which already has more than 4,000 members.

In the meantime, both sides wait to see which way Schauvliege's opinion will fall. In July, she said she was considering introducing more "flexibility" into hunting regulations – open season on foxes is from 1 October to 14 February.

The aim, the minister said, was to "manage the fox population better," which leaves the question open to positive interpretation from both sides. Both hope for clarification before April, when the foxes' mating season starts.

→ www.vogelbescherming.be

FLANDERS TODAY

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Courts suffocate under asylum procedures

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That view was supported by Ivo Flachet with the Progress Lawyers Network in Schaarbeek, who defended the decision to take each application to court: "If the government were able to find a solution to the problem, we wouldn't need to do this work," he said.

In addition to the 2,000 places, the government has agreed to set aside €26 million to help support municipal social-aid organisations in providing lodging for another 2,000 from their own networks. The use of hotels to lodge asylum-seekers should be discouraged, said acting prime minister Yves Leterme because it makes it too attractive for new asylum-seekers to come here. There are currently about 1,100 lodged in hotels.

Both the tribunal and the federal secretary of state for integration, Philippe Courard, have accused lawyers of making money from the growing numbers of refugees seeking asylum. "Our biggest problem is the fines imposed by the courts because lawyers keep pushing on cases," said a

spokesman for the minister. "The fines are out of all proportion. We could use that money far better to provide new accommodation."

Daniëlle Adams of the Brussels tribunal said: "We've noticed that it's always the same lawyers coming back in these cases. Some practices have specialised in asylum law." According to some reports, representatives of the law firms concerned look for business outside the Foreigners' Office in central Brussels.

"We're certainly not getting rich on the business," said Flachet. "Under the pro Deo system, filing an application earns you 10 points, which entitles you to a payment. Last year the gross fee was €23 a point. As an hourly wage, it's not much."

The Flemish bar association defended its members: "The assistance of a lawyer is a basic right for an asylum-seeker," it said in a press statement. "In recent years, the asylum procedure has become particularly formal and complicated. The presence of a lawyer is essential. Now the hotels are full, nearly 6,000 asylum-seekers are living on the streets. As lawyers, we cannot ignore this manifest breach of the right to a humane existence, which the European Treaty on Human Rights and our own constitution grant to everyone."

Belgium attracts four times more asylum-seekers than the EU average. The number of applications per million inhabitants in the second quarter of 2010 was 455;



In February this year, 360 asylum-seekers came from Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. In March, 41 of them were sent back, including this boy

only Cyprus (775) and Sweden (635) had more. Belgium's numbers could be attributed to the two waves of regularisation of illegal immigrants, the last of them in 2009, which instils in potential migrants the hope that one day they may become legal immigrants.

The news that they will now not only be treated as priority cases for accommodation, but also stand to make €500 a day from the government's inability to cope, is not likely to stem the flow of asylum-seekers. The rumours are already doing the rounds in Serbia and Macedonia, according to a Macedonian journalist, that Belgium will

give you a house and €800 a month. Since February this year, 700 ethnic Albanians from the two former Yugoslav provinces have applied for asylum in Belgium. Now that the EU has stopped visa requirements for Albanian nationals, it was revealed that 1.3 million people – about one-third of the population – have applied for passports to travel abroad.

Most of those will probably only want to visit family members and then go home again. Others, though, could become part of the next big flood into Belgium. ♦

THE WEEK IN FIGURES



42,310

people from Brussels working in Flanders, thanks to a cooperation agreement signed three years ago. More than 7,000 found jobs last year alone, mainly in small companies

291

motorists caught last year driving the wrong way on a motorway. The so-called "ghost riders" were responsible for 20 serious accidents. One in 10 of the ghost riders did not survive the experience

73

diamonds from a package of 120 stolen from a trader in Antwerp earlier this year have now been recovered. Two Antwerp police officers and two from Israel last week recovered four of the diamonds in Israel. The rest remain untraced

623

bicycles stolen by one man in the area of Antwerp Central Station over a period of 78 days. The man was caught last week and revealed his tally to police, worth a total of about €16,000

1 in 7

students in Flanders leaves secondary school without a diploma. This amounts to 2% more than 2002, when the Flemish government set a target to cut the number in half. In Brussels, the figure is now one in four

Worries over religious schools

The clash between religious and secular thinking continues to raise concerns, as Flemish education minister Pascal Smet last week promised to send inspectors to two religious schools to see if their beliefs were in breach of guidelines.

In the first case, a Protestant evangelical primary and pre-school in Borgerhout, a district of Antwerp, was revealed to be using a fundamentalist Bible basis to teach children to question evolution. "We say that there are many people who believe that is how the world came about," said Luc Borkes, director of the Zonnebloem School, which has 29 pre-schoolers and nine first-year pupils. "We're not saying that creationism is proven, but we raise questions about evolutionary theory. In religious lessons, we learn the Creation story. And in biology lessons, we say that the hand of God is involved in our existence."

Smet's problem is that the school is subsidised by the government and is required by law to adhere to guidelines regarding the content of lessons. However, evolution is only on the official syllabus of secondary schools, and religion education is not in the government's remit, making intervention impossible. A similar problem arose when a number of Jewish



Creationism: all right for religious lessons, not for the science class

schools in Antwerp were revealed to be censoring textbooks in order to, for example, black out the appearance of a woman's bare arms, remove words like "pope" and "church" and, like the Protestant school, remove any mention of evolutionary theory. Matters like sexual education are passed over completely.

Michael Freilich, editor of the magazine *Joods Actueel*, defended the policy. "In our community there are no rapes, no teenage pregnancies and no sexually transmitted diseases," he told *De Standaard*. "Other people in Jewish schools say almost exactly the same is true. They all explain that it is due to the strong teaching about sex and the relations between men and women, or boys and girls." ♦

Westvleteren in Colruyt?

The monks of the abbey of Westvleteren, makers of what many claim to be the world's best beer, are in talks with discount supermarket chain Colruyt to sell the beer in supermarkets, breaking with a long tradition in which only visitors to the abbey could buy the coveted drink.

In recent years, following the beer's consistent rating on the website Ratebeer.com as the world's best, the abbey has been forced to introduce tighter sales measures. Officially, it is only for sale at the abbey and in Café De Vrede opposite the abbey.

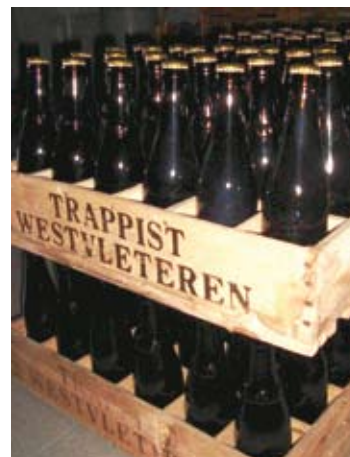
A strict telephone-only reservation system was developed whereby customers must book a time and day to pick up their purchase, which

is limited to one or two crates, depending on supplies. The abbey always maintained that, despite the beer's success, they had no desire to increase production beyond their usual modest limits.

Now, however, planned renovation work on the abbey appears to be costing more than expected, and the monks are in need of income. The decision to increase production and commercialise the beer in the shops is a "temporary" one, a brother said.

Colruyt refused to comment, except to say that reports of an agreement being reached were "premature". It has been reported that the plan is to offer a special box of three bottles and a glass. How long the cooperation will last and whether

the abbey will decide to temporarily farm out a portion of the brewing of its fabled beer to an outside licensee, are questions which will only become clear later. ♦



FIFTH COLUMN

ANJA OTTE

Life without government

The following may come as news to some, but Belgium has a working government. In fact, it has several, as all three regions (Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels) and all three communities (Flemish, French-speaking and German-speaking) have their own governing bodies. In all, this makes for five working governments. (Note: nothing wrong with the arithmetic. Flanders fused together its regional and community governments, making for one less).

These five governments cover domains such as education, economy, mobility, welfare, culture and media, even in absence of a federal government. So can we do without one government? It might seem that way, as the other governments take care of people's everyday concerns. Observers compare Belgium to a plane that has one motor turned off, but can still fly.

Even in foreign policy, a typical federal domain, Belgium gets on fine without a federal government. It has heard compliments for the way it handles the European presidency, thanks to a trained diplomatic corps, a genuine belief in Europe and a caretaker prime minister with time on his hands. Yves Leterme (CD&V), meanwhile, has set some kind of strange record, having been caretaker prime minister in his second term for longer than he had been actual prime minister. Still, this situation is reminiscent of the early 1980s, when government upon government fell on roughly the same issues that stand in the way now. This bickering made a real budgetary policy nearly impossible, leading to an explosion of state debt that we were paying off well into the 1990s, when the idea of being left out of the euro finally forced us into some budget orthodoxy. Sadly, the phrase "the hole in the budget has appeared by itself, it will disappear by itself too" did not hold true.

Is history repeating itself? Possibly. In countries around us, serious cut-backs are being made. Even Flanders, with its working government, has started to economise. This has already led to protests from cultural, conservation and other organisations, all aimed at the Flemish minister for culture and environment Joke Schauvliege (CD&V). What is happening to Schauvliege now will surely happen to the new federal government, too. Yet no-one knows when there will be one.

Although there is optimism in the formation talks right now, the possibility still exists that new elections will be held without a government ever having been formed. This will not happen before January, though, when the Belgian presidency of the European Union ends. No need for the rest of Europe to see exactly what a muddle we are in.



FLANDERS SHINES IN EUROPE SHINES IN FLANDERS



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Bombardier wins new orders

The new deals guarantee employment at the Bruges company for at least four years

ALAN HOPE

The Bruges-based chassis construction company Bombardier will make 65 new trams for the Brussels public transport authority MIVB, it was confirmed last week. The order will provide guaranteed employment in the tram division of the company until 2014.

The MIVB's order consists of 19 seven-wagon T4000 trams and 46 five-wagon T3000 trams, which are gradually replacing the older stock of 7700 and 7900 vehicles on the Brussels system. The new trams form part of the Iris 2 strategy under which Brussels Region hopes to reduce car use in the city by 20% by 2015. Another 65 trams were ordered last year as part of a renovation of the authority's fleet.

The T3000 (pictured) has a capacity of 184 passengers and is more than 31 metres long, 4m longer than the old version. The

T4000, meanwhile, measures 43m and holds 258 passengers, whereas the older trams held a maximum of 152.

In 2008, the trains division of Bombardier received an order for 115 trains for the planned Brussels regional network (GEN), guaranteeing employment in that division until 2015. The news came as a relief to the Bruges arm of the Canadian-owned company, after the contract for the whole GEN network was awarded to Siemens, which in turn subcontracted the trains out to Bombardier.

- In Koningshooikt, near Lier, Antwerp province, bus constructor Van Hool has been asked to provide five "green" buses for the city of Oslo. The buses, which work on electricity provided by hydrogen batteries, produce no carbon dioxide and are also



remarkably quiet. The energy usually lost in braking is recycled into the batteries. The company, which employs 4,100 people,

said the order was a testimony of faith in its technology. ♦

Flemish-Chinese telecoms alliance

Option, a Leuven-based manufacturer of wireless modems, has entered into an alliance with Huawei, a Chinese telecommunications manufacturer, in a deal that is expected to end hostility between the two companies.

Under the deal, Huawei will license software from Option, bringing the Flemish company €27 million in the first year. The Chinese company will also buy the Option subsidiary M4S, which is currently developing chips for fourth-generation mobile phones. The agreement comes some

weeks after Option lodged a complaint with the European Commission, alleging that the Chinese government was unfairly subsidising manufacturers of wireless modems, such as Huawei. Option has now dropped its complaint, the company announced.

Option's share prices rose 50% following the announcement of an agreement, taking it to the highest level this year. The two companies are said to also be discussing the possibility of building a research and development centre in Belgium. ♦

Belgians pay too much for telecom packages

Belgians are paying on average 50% more than French consumers for "triple play" telecom packages, according to the consumer association Test-Aankoop. The report examined the costs of packages combining TV, phone and internet and found that they cost around €60 per month in Belgium compared to €40 in the case of French provider Alice. The report added that Alice offered subscribers unlimited downloads, whereas most Belgian operators set an upper limit per month.

Meanwhile, Belgacom, one of the

two communications giants in Belgium, has promised to treat its customers better by keeping the helpdesk open until 22.00 and at weekends and scrapping reminder costs for customers who are paying late. Technicians will make housecalls in the evening, and warn you by SMS when they're on the way. "Customer service is our new priority," senior Belgacom executive Scott Alcott told the tech website ZDNet.be. "It is the only important aspect in which we don't already shine." ♦

Awards news

- Enterprise of the Year 2010 in Flanders is Ghent-based chemical company Taminco, which turns ammonia and methanol into a daily output of 230 tonnes of methylamines, which are contained in a wide range of household products, from shampoo to plant fertiliser. As well as its main factory in the Ghent harbour district, the company also has plants in Germany, China, the US and Brazil. Taminco was set up in 2003 as a spin-off from the chemicals division of UCB, which decided to concentrate on pharmaceuticals.

- Enterprise of the Year in the French-speaking part of the country, meanwhile, is the ubiquitous Exki restaurant chain, set up in 2000 by three friends to provide a healthy alternative to fast food. The chain started with two restaurants in Brussels before opening a third in Antwerp in 2002. It now reaches as far as Luxembourg, France and Italy.



B-Park in Bruges is the best retail park in the country

- Duval Guillaume Antwerp/Modem has picked up three prizes at the MIXX Awards held last week at Tour & Taxis in Brussels for their innovative campaign for Axa insurance. The campaign married a print ad and an iPad application to turn a static image into a video clip. The campaign won gold for Best Brand/Product Launch and Most

Innovative, and the business was voted Agency of the Year.

- B-Park, the 42,000-square-metre shopping centre in Bruges, has been voted Best Retail Park in the country at this year's Shopping Awards, organised by the Belgium-Luxembourg Council of Commercial Centres, based in Vilvoorde. Best

Refurbished Centre was Anspach Centre in Brussels. Retailers from Flanders also picked up prizes: Uterqüe in Antwerp for shoes and leather; Veritas in Kontich for hygiene and beauty; Maona in Antwerp for food retailing; and AS Adventure in Hoboken for leisurewear and products. ♦

THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Air • Brussels Airlines

Lebanon's Middle East Airlines (MEA) has signed a code share agreement with Brussels Airlines to gain access to the carrier's extensive African network. The move will allow Lebanese living in Africa to reach Beirut via Brussels on MEA's three-flights-a-week service to Zaventem.

Business monitor • Brussels

Brussels moved up a place in the European Cities Monitor published annually by global property consultant Cushman & Wakefield. Brussels now ranks fourth in best business cities, behind London, Paris and Frankfurt but ahead of Barcelona, Amsterdam and Berlin. Brussels' main assets are easy accessibility from abroad and the many languages spoken. Its biggest problem is the cost of employment.

Cards • Cartamundi

Cartamundi, the world's leading playing cards manufacturing company, based in Turnhout, has acquired a 50% stake in India's Parksons Games company, the country's largest. The deal allows the Cartamundi to develop its international activities and open new markets in Asia.

Economy • Confidence

The National Bank's indicator of future business prospects was up again in October for the fourth consecutive month. Manufacturing and building industries pushed the index higher, but the services and trade sectors showed disappointing results.

Electronics • Barco

Barco, the Kortrijk-based video and screen manufacturing company, has won a four-year contract to supply 1,100 digital cinema projectors to Australia's Amalgamated Holdings Ltd, an entertainment group with screens in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the United Arab Emirates.

Employment • Banks

The country's three largest financial institutions – BNP Paribas Fortis, KBC and ING – have collectively hired more than 2,200 employees since the beginning of the year. The move reflects the banking sector's gradual recovery to employment levels seen before the financial crisis in 2008.

Industry • Hansen

Industrial gear box specialist Hansen Transmission is to sell its Edegem-based industrial division to the Japanese Sumitomo Heavy Industries for some €75 million. The move allows Hansen to further develop its activities in the production of gear boxes for wind turbines.



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The sounds of youth and death

A British composer enters fascinating territory with a new Requiem performed by Brussels' children

MARIE DUMONT

Remember those awkward childhood experiences of being dragged to hear middle-aged men play *Peter and the Wolf* or *The Nutcracker*? Not that all children's concerts back then were tedious and prissy. At their best, they could even be witty and illuminating, like the Young People's Concerts staged by Leonard Bernstein at the Lincoln Center in the 1960s or some of the concert-lectures still regularly organised by the Jeunesses Musicales. But lectures they remained.

Lately though, the whole idea of children's concerts has been turned on its head, with the new byword being concerts by, rather than just for, children. The kids are no longer passive onlookers: they are singers, dancers, even composers. Classical music, which for so long perceived itself as requiring years of exposure to appreciate, let alone perform, is suddenly courting the energy, spontaneity and freshness of the younger generation.

The Brussels Requiem, a new work about to premiere at De Munt, admirably reflects this trend. The latest in a cycle of Requiems staged at the Brussels opera house over several seasons, it will be performed by a 40-strong orchestra, a flautist and two soloists (soprano Anne-Catherine Gillet and bass Giovanni-Battista Parodi), as well as 282 children.

These include the suave-voiced singers of De Munt's children's choir, but the vast majority of them have zero formal musical training: they are your just average, pop-fuelled 10- and 11-year-olds, many of them from immigrant backgrounds, bursting with energy and natural talent.

At a rehearsal last week, I watched in amazement as about 70 of them sang a long and demanding score in nine languages while performing complex dance moves, clawing at the air like savage beasts, rolling on the floor to evoke the sea or just standing still for long minutes on end – the part they

seemed to have the most problems with.

Vigorously helming the group were project stage director Benoît De Leersnyde, choreographer Ela Baumann and, singing the male solos himself, its British composer Howard Moody.

Moody, who has a long history of working with children, began more than a year ago by running workshops in six Brussels primary schools, most of them in working-class areas of Vorst, Schaarbeek, Laken and Sint-Joost. He offered the kids their first glimpse of the classical sound world by playing them bits of Verdi and Fauré. He asked them to ponder issues of rest, anger, paradise and other themes contained in the classical Requiem. He even encouraged them to compose a few songs of their own.

He then went back to Britain and produced an entirely new score made up of ear-catching tunes, plangent flute solos and more abrasive, dissonant moments. "The actual writing took four months," he says. "But that's not counting the time I spent thinking about it, lying awake in bed."

Weaving in and out of French, Dutch, English, Hebrew and Arabic, the piece is a vivid and touching portrait of the cultural patchwork that is Brussels, fed from visions and impressions Moody garnered during his stay here. "The statue of Saint Michael that sits atop the Brussels town hall, that young girl singing in Arabic as she swung from a lamppost in the city centre, the poppies of In Flanders Fields and water, which is so present here in the Low Countries," he lists. "All these various elements found their way into the piece, although not always consciously."

The piece is also a searing, unflinching meditation on death conveyed through quotes from Shakespeare, Dante, Goethe and Buddhist mantras, as well as images of Persephone being drawn to the underworld and Charon crossing the Styx. This is not the usual stuff of children's concerts, and you can't help



© De Munt

feeling that Moody has broken some unspoken taboo when you see some of the young performers carrying the corpse of one of their friends or singing lines such as: "My young life has an end", from an old Flemish song.

"Children know, perhaps better than anyone else, what death is like," argues Moody. "See how intensely they respond to the death of their pets or of their grandparents. It's terribly important for them."

It is hard to overestimate the extent to which these kids have been changed by the Requiem experience. "Their teachers are telling us that they've gained in confidence and maturity," says Anne-Sophie Noël of De Munt's education department. "Some have even expressed an interest in joining the children's choir."

"It's an altogether different way of learning," agrees Moody, "away from blackboards and written words, which are not suited to everyone. And, because they sometimes get to sing in their own language, they can be the experts, too." Ultimately, the music world is a winner,

too. "For many of these children," says Moody, "De Munt used to be that place close to McDonald's. Hopefully, when they hear about it again many years from now, they'll remember that they once did a show here. And they might want to come back. And their parents, their friends, so many people will be touched by it."

Not to mention that such experiments could open new roads for composers. "It's a new kind of music making, much in the spirit of Verdi, who also composed from the heart and for the people," says Moody. "These children are gold dust. When are opera houses going to realise it?" ♦

The Brussels Requiem

19 & 21 November
De Munt
Muntplein, Brussels

→ www.demunt.be

A Bronks tale • Kids' theatre festival works for those from any language

Have you ever been called a lunch box? Even if you haven't, you can probably recall the smarting humiliation and existential misery that came with such petty schoolyard taunts. And that means you – and your children – are likely to love *Brooddoos*, a brilliant and sympathetic glimpse into a shy schoolgirl's mind thought up by Flemish actor and writer Dimitri Leue.

Brooddoos (Bread Box) is one of the highlights of this year's Bronks Festival, an entertaining, witty and provoking festival of Dutch-speaking theatre for children and teens that kicks off next week in the slick and airy Bronks building on Brussels' Varkensmarkt.

That particular play will also be repeated, in French translation under the title *Garnelle*, at partner theatre La Montagne Magique, reflecting a desire on the part of organisers to reach out to non-Dutch-speaking communities with a handful of productions in French, plus non-verbal theatre, dance and music performances. So even if your kids' Dutch is less than fluent, they might be tempted away from their computers and i-phones with *Steen, papier, schaar* (Rock, Paper Scissors), a zesty exploration of the generation gap in which all the sets, props and puppets are made

of paper (five and up); *Da/For*, a cramped acrobatics act inside an old truck (eight and up); or *Huub de Kuub*, a multimedia installation that turns dance steps into sizzling hot musical compositions (eight and up).

The festival will close with a promising new addition called *Big Bang*, a one-day event at Bozar that sets out to make classical and contemporary music more agreeable to young ears. French pianist Sophie Agnel plays a concert with a giant mirror hanging over her grand piano, revealing its complex mechanism at work. There will also be chances to fight musical terrorists and peep inside musicians' changing rooms. Feel free to don a hoody and tag along. ♦ MD

10-14 November

Bronks
Varkensmarkt 15
Brussels

→ www.bronks.be



© Jean-Christophe Sornaliet

Da/For: an old truck is the perfect setting for acrobatics when knitting becomes a bore

A matter of taste

Five programme books add up to more than 1,200 events in the Week van de Smaak

→ continued from page 1



Culture minister Joke Schauvliege and tourism minister Geert Bourgeois join the Week van de Smaak's official patron, chef Wouter Keersmaekers to make the wholly original "hoppas"

The *peter*, or godfather, of the Week van de Smaak this year is Wouter Keersmaekers (pictured on cover), the Michelin-starred chef of De Schone van Boskoop in Boechout, Antwerp province. "I make no secret of my pride in this Week van de Smaak," he says. "That's not only because of the huge range of activities that are going on, but also because of the way they're being carried out."

Keersmaekers attaches a lot of importance to cooking with seasonal products, and the week (which is in fact 11 days) consistently supports that idea. "I'm also a big supporter of cooking with local produce," he continues. "Using vegetables from the area is in my genes: my father came from a family of farmers, and my mother from a family of vegetable growers. Cooking to the rhythm of the seasons is more than just nostalgia – it's a way of making sure that varieties of vegetables and fruit forgotten by most people get the respect they deserve."

A campaign has been launched to get people growing and, because this is the 21st century, blogging about it. At moestuinblog.be are contributions from food writers, experts on bio- and historic growing, herb cultivators and more, and keen growers are invited to join in to help inspire each other. There are prizes for the best entries (which must be in Dutch).

Keersmaekers has also invented a whole new dish for the occasion: the *savwa* is a sort of vegetable sausage made of Savoy cabbage. He'll be presenting it at the grand opening of the Week in his restaurant on 11 November.

→ www.deschonevanboskoop.be

Hoppas plate, please

Keersmaekers also helped create 15 hoppas for an action being launched during the Week van de Smaak by Vlaanderen Lekker Land, which helps market local and regional products.

Sorry, hoppas? The name derives from tapas, but with hops. In other words, bite-sized snacks using Flemish beer, destined to be eaten, like tapas, standing up at a convivial bar somewhere. At an event to introduce the hoppas, we were treated to five varieties, and, if this is what

appetisers have come to, no wonder the Spanish are happy to wait until midnight before dragging themselves away to the dinner table.

The hoppas include, among other, tartar of veal fillet with the new Vedett white beer and mackerel mayonnaise; the melt-in-the-mouth *kalfskop* (head cheese) with herby vinaigrette and Tripel Karmeliet; sorbet of red beet with Lindemans Kriek; a *bavarois* of Bruges Prestige cheese with a syrup of old Geuze and hand-peeled grey shrimps with potato puree, which culture minister Joke Schauvliege and tourism minister Geert Bourgeois were kind enough to help prepare.

Every province has its own brochure for the Week van de Smaak, and each contains a booklet on Hoppas, with addresses where they'll be available (from the lowliest café to the poshest culinary temple) and recipes for you to try at home. There's also a booklet in English with a selection of addresses from all the provinces. You can download it from the English section of the website.

Programme (x five)

The Week van de Smaak is so huge that there are five programmes available, one for each province. They can be picked up for free from tourist offices and many restaurants and cafes. We've made a selection of what we won't be missing, but you'd do well to pick up your own programme; ours is just a tiny part of the whole – one or two grains of rice from the paella, if you will.

Antwerp

For historical reasons, you wouldn't expect the city of Antwerp to open its heart to the Spaniard, but old animosities have no place in the Week van de Smaak. The non-profit Culinaire Wandelingen hosts (as the name suggests) **culinary walking tours** of the city in the footsteps of the former Spanish overlords, including tastings of wine, sherry, cava, olives, cheese and meats. At the end, as if that weren't enough, there's a traditional Spanish meat and/or fish stew.

→ www.culinairewandelingen.be

In Mol, residents have been working since May to grow the **biggest possible parsnip**, a delicious but much-maligned vegetable. On 16 November they'll be facing off, with gastronomic prizes for the winner. On 21 November, the rest of us can enjoy the **farmers' market** and free parsnip soup made from the best of the entries.

→ www.cvomol.be

Brussels

The Spanish influence on this year's Week van de Smaak is almost inescapable in Brussels, but aside from that there's something for English speakers organised by Faro, the organisation for Flemish heritage, on 19 November in their offices in the Priemstraat. British naturopath and herbalist Fiona Grant, among other, will talk about the **historic importance of city gardens** in life and in literature. Like many of the Smaak events, it's free and includes a sandwich lunch (and a few surprises). Info and reservations at 02.213.10.85.

In Sint-Pieters-Woluwe they're bucking the trend with a cookery evening on 18 November at the Kontakt community centre featuring Italian cook Daniela in a hands-on **demonstration of la cucina italiana**. Bring an apron, kitchen knife, tea towel and appetite. Later, on 20 November at 10.00, Kontakt is offering a culinary walk with stops at local food shops for on-the-spot tastings.

→ kontakt.vgc.be

East Flanders

Het Wereldrestaurant in Ghent's Centrale Cultural Centre provides work experience to young people who each day prepare a meal with an international flavour. From 15 to 19 November, they'll be serving up a **Spanish-influenced dish** for only €6.50. Reservation required at 09.266.13.21.

→ www.decentrale.be

The Guides of Ghent and East Flanders are offering **Hoppas walking tours** with three stops for tastings, including beer, and a little education on local produce on the side. Reservation required at 09.233.77.88.

Meanwhile in Evergem, hometown of culture minister Joke Schauvliege, there's a **theatre performance** on 21 November at the public library by the Kip van Troje company including extracts from Cervantes, Lorca and Toon Hermans. It's all accompanied by tapas and a glass of cava.

→ www.evergem.be/bibliotheek

Flemish Brabant

One of the highlights of the week for anyone who wants to try out Hoppas big-time is the **Tournée gratuite** offered by Zarza restaurant in Leuven. On 13 and 20 November they'll lay out a series of 10 Hoppas, each containing a different specialty beer. If you can identify eight of the 10 correctly, you don't have to pay a thing – otherwise there's a bill of €35. Which is still pretty reasonable for 10 beer samples and 10 hearty snacks. Reservation required.

→ www.zarza.be



Discover the famous Aalsterse vlaai (pie), eat some vegetables from Congo and...

In Kessel-Lo, a walk in the woods turns into a culinary expedition on 21 November as you taste dishes prepared from **woodland ingredients**.

→ www.inverde.be

Especially for English speakers is the presentation on 16 November at the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe on the disastrous **potato famine** of 1847 and its wide-reaching effects. There will be potato dishes to taste and a Guinness or Belgian beer to go with them.

→ www.leuveninstitute.eu





visit the winner of the TV show *Mijn Restaurant!* in Aalst, this year's host city

Week van de Smaak

11-21 November
Across Brussels and Flanders

→ www.weekvandesmaak.be

©Emy Eleboog



Like tapas, but with hops: Hoppas, served across Brussels and Flanders during Week van de Smaak, are made with Flemish beers

Limburg

Wine gets a bit of attention in the midst of all those local beers thanks to Dirk Hoet from Turnhout, who is now a **wine grower in Priorat, Catalonia**. He'll be organising wine tasting evenings of his own products at a number of locations and dates around Flanders, including the Ambrozijs restaurant in Borgloon on 15 November. The price of €85 also includes dinner.

→ www.ambrozijs.be

History comes to life in Genk on 21 November with a tour of the **Winterslag mining area**, now a burgeoning new culture and leisure site. The subject is the men, including immigrants, who left their families behind to come and work in the mines. They lived in lodging houses and cooked their own one-pot meals in shared kitchens. At the end of the tour you'll taste for yourself what sort of things they ate.

→ www.mijnergoed.be



Underutilised regional produce (like the much-maligned parsnip) is brought out of the shadows



Churros con chocolate: Spain is the Week van de Smaak's guest country

©Week van de smaak

MORE SMAAK THIS MONTH

It's food all month long in *Flanders Today*: every issue in November covers more Week van de Smaak and regional specialties in Flanders.

10 November • Aalst • Aalst, East Flanders, known for its outstanding Carnival celebrations every February, is this year's host city for the Week van de Smaak, chosen well before the restaurant Karnavale won the last series of *Mijn Restaurant!* and put the city on the culinary map of Flanders. There are a host of events planned, so next week's issue we dedicate to Aalst.

Also next week: Immigrants get in on the Week van de Smaak with Expatatas, a celebration of potatoes, with recipes from the home countries of expats living in Brussels and Flanders.

17 November • Spain • This year's guest country, following Turkey last year, is Spain. There's an Iberian tint to many of the activities during the week, and we'll tell you about some of them, plus how Spanish food has influenced chefs and cooking in general in Flanders.

24 November • Regional products • Even when Week van de Smaak is finished, we won't be. In this issue, we'll introduce you to some of Flanders' most delicious and regional specialties, from the potted meat of the Westhoek to the pear syrup of Wellen in southern Limburg.

West Flanders

The feeding of the poor is the subject of a reading by Dominiek Dendooven at In Flanders Fields Museum. On the evening of 19 November in Ostend's De Boeie centre, he'll talk about food conditions in the First World War, as well as the general situation for the poor of West Flanders, even in peace time. There will be servings of waterzooi, a poor man's dish designed to use up the less attractive species landed by the boats, and now grown into a respected regional dish.

→ www.willemsfondsoostende.be

More history, this time from the 19th century and the meticulously kept household notes of the family of Pieter De Melgar (1772-1858), whose maid wrote down simply everything. To bring the papers to life, a series of dishes are being made according to her methods and based on her recipes. You may be surprised at how differently things tasted back then. It's on 19 November at the Oostkamp library. Reservations required at 050.83.31.32. ♦

Skies over Brussels

New exhibition asks, what if the history of aviation hadn't been decided by military priorities?

ALAN HOPE

Let's face it: anyone who thought it made sense to build a machine out of metal and then get inside so you can fly up in the air would have had to be a bit unhinged. Man was never meant to soar in the air; you can tell that just by looking at us. Yet it's always been the human dream.

So it may seem redundant to call your exhibition *Crazy Flying Machines* – aren't they all? – but that's what Jean Leclercqz has done, with an exhibition in the unusual setting of the aviation hall of Brussels' Royal Museum of Army and Military History.

Amid the Spitfires, Dakotas and Tiger Moths hang 10 enormous drawings of the most outrageous flying machines – at six by four metres, a perfect scale for the vast hall. At floor level are more of the same, but scaled more for exhibition viewing.

The works are hand drawn by Leclercqz, then scanned and coloured on computer. "I was working on a logo for a European association in the aviation industry, just doodling freely," explains Leclercqz, who runs a graphic design company in Brussels. "I liked the look of something I'd done – it looks to me now like a flying ice-cream scoop – and now I have more than 150 crazy flying machines."

The full effect of the works can only be gained *in situ*, where they are juxtaposed with real flying machines someone once took his life in his hands going up in. You get the sense that aircraft design split at an early stage, and Leclercqz belongs to the species that was less successful – for the time being.

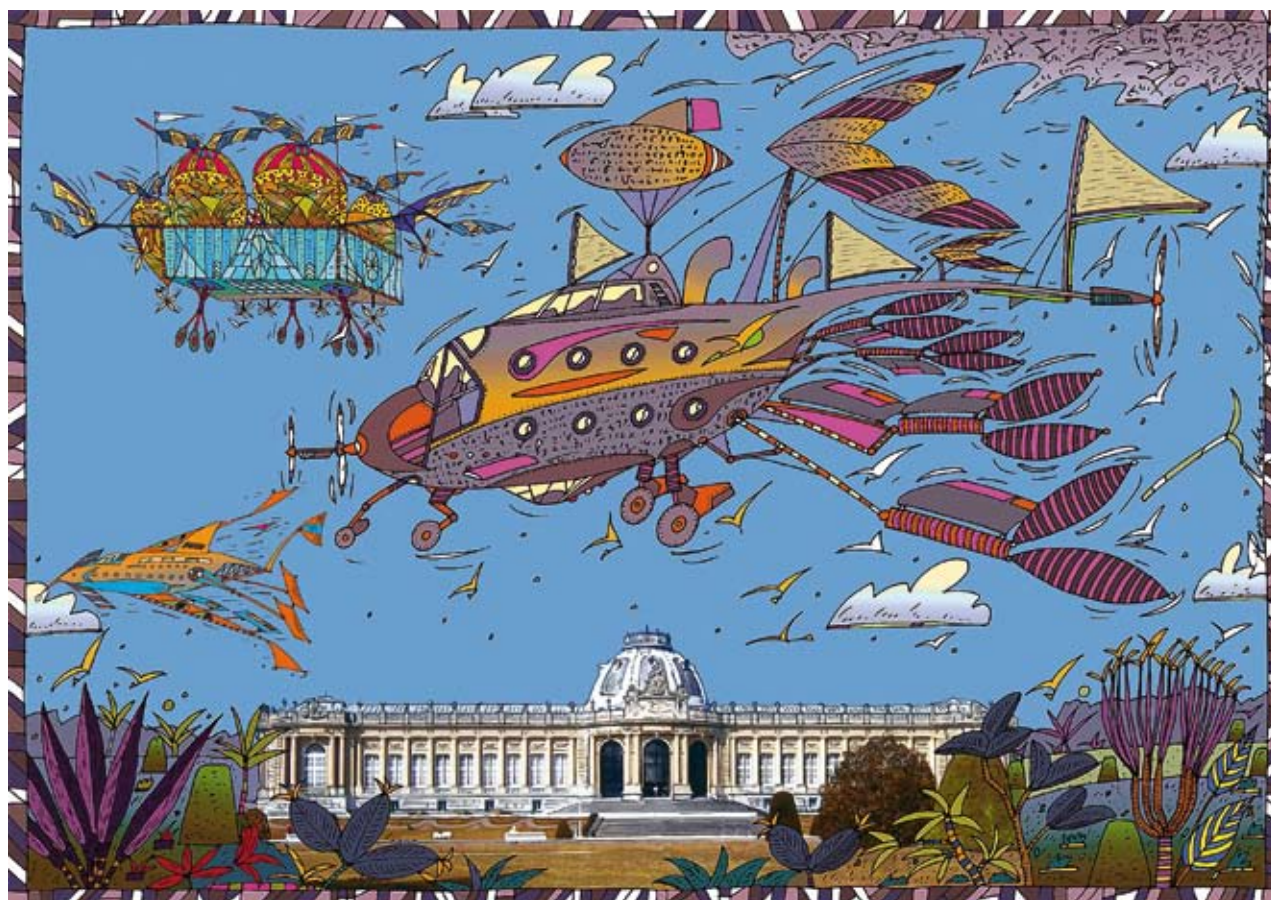
"At first I was a bit afraid of showing against the backdrop of real planes, but in fact it works really well".

He says that some members of the public walk right past and don't seem to see a thing, but young people are quick to notice. "When I see children taking an interest, I consider that a success," says Leclercqz. "The real plane fanatics who take the aircraft here very seriously – who come at the weekends to restore old planes – could have been bothered by the idea, but they don't seem to be disturbed a bit."

It's unusual for this museum to host an exhibition that is purely aesthetic – and certainly on such a scale. "To be honest, when the government collapsed, I thought 'uh-oh, this is the end'," admits Leclercqz. "I was sure the exhibition would never happen".

The Royal Museum of Army and Military History is a federal institution, and the success of Leclercqz's application is considered an administrative success. "The hope is that it might leave the door open to future exhibitions of a similar sort," he says.

Leclercqz uses a Lambda printing process, which is very flexible in terms of mounting material. The large-scale works are essentially tarpaulins; the



majority of the smaller works are printed on aluminium, which brings out lines and colours in all their high-definition glory.

Technicalities aside, the works are bright, playful, comic. "I'm inspired by my daughters," he says – he has three. "I'm also a collector of tribal art, and my wife is from Burkina Faso, so there are influences from that – from African masks for example. A lot of my flying machines have an organic, animal or insect look, as if they have faces."

As do many real aircraft, not to mention helicopters who stole their style from the dragonfly. Many involve flying machines superimposed on photos of city scenes: the royal palace, the Botanique, the Jubelpark museum itself (*pictured*). Anything is possible with computer images. "I can even work to order," he says.

The exhibition officially lasts just a few more weeks but could stick around

longer or pop up again later, as the museum now owns these works. In the meantime, Leclercqz is thinking of taking more of his work underground. "I'd like to do a metro station," he says. "Maybe with old trams transformed into flying machines." ♦

Crazy Flying Machines

Until 30 November
Royal Museum of Army and Military History
Jubelpark 3, Brussels

→ www.flyingmachines.be

Mirroring culture

The man who nearly single-handedly brought the *spiegeltent* back to Belgium

SUKI JENKINS

In Brussels' Sint-Katelijne on a spot known to be occupied over the Christmas season by a giant blow-up monster, stands a carnival tent, circa 1925. Not cold and dusty with uninspired trapeze artists, but a gorgeous event palace with wood floors and red velvet-covered benches facing dark wooden tables.

With a brass bar and an ornate antique organ, this is a *spiegeltent*, or mirror tent, and light dancing off the numerous mirrors reflects around the room in spectrums through stained glass windows. *Spiegel tents* were developed and built only in Flanders in the 19th and early 20th centuries. They often pop up now for special events, but this one in Sint-Katelijne, from the Magic Mirrors company in Turnhout, hopes to be permanent. Theatre, concerts and cabaret have been staged under its canvas since it opened in August. But, with culture subsidies being cut and noise complaints from the surrounding hotels, it might not be able to survive on the spot past December.

This particular *spiegeltent* has an illustrious history, brought home to Brussels just this year by owner (and carnival tent fanatic) Alexander Meder. Soft spoken and full of conviction, he tells me the story of Magic Mirrors, which begins 30 years ago. He was in Scheveningen, a coastal town in the Netherlands. "The clouds came over, and it began to rain softly," he says. "I took my things

to go inside an old decrepit tent. The terrace was plastered with beer ads, and everything was tattered. It was full of plastic tables and chairs smelling of damp."

Then the sun came out – literally, followed by figuratively. "The sun began to shine through the stained glass and bounce off the mirrors. It was unbelievable!"

The young man couldn't help but ask the owner if it was for sale. It was, for 100,000 guilders (about €40,000). Meder set off to find the money. "I asked my parents, and they thought I was crazy," he says with a grin. "They said: 'My son wants to be in a circus!'"

He finally got a brewery to forward him the cash, but when he returned to Scheveningen, the tent was already sold. "My world collapsed!" he exclaims.

But he soon found himself standing in front of a *spiegeltent* in Belgium. And he bought it. "I didn't know what to do with it," he admits. "I didn't understand the business." He soon found, however, that he could rent tents out for activities. And he himself began renting more tents from owners – which he could do rather cheaply, as they had fallen out of favour – in which to host events.

Meder's network and contacts grew, and he travelled all over Europe renting and eventually



buying what now amounts to 30 *spiegel tents* in the Magic Mirrors stable. He has made the structures so popular in Belgium, his company now even builds new tents.

The tent that stands in Sint-Katelijne (*pictured*) is the second one Meder ever acquired. He found the "wayward tent," he says, "with a theatre in Berlin. I got a warm feeling bringing it back to Brussels. I want it to be a meeting place for artists,

musicians, dancers... I want it to stay."

The tent hosts events nearly every night, open fairly early in the evening for drinks. The music stops by 22.30, but there has still been noise complaints. If you've never been in a *spiegeltent*, it is worth a visit – an opportunity that might come to an end in a few weeks. ♦

→ www.magicmirrors.com

The god within

Wim Delvoye's first major solo exhibition in Belgium in a decade is a small and intimate affair

CHRISTOPHE VERBIEST

Last month Wim Delvoye placed a neo-gothic tower, "Tour (Bruxelles)", on the roof of Bozar, a harbinger of his exhibition *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*. It build up great expectations, especially as it's Delvoye's first exhibition in a major space on Belgian soil since he revealed, 10 years ago, his self-described "poop machine" called "Cloaca" – a contraption that takes in sustenance, processes it through a digestive system and spits it out the other end – at M KHA in Antwerp. *Knockin' on Heaven's Door* was announced as a retrospective of Delvoye's Gothic works of the past decade, plus some new creations. It isn't – it's just a selection of all of that. The minimal approach is a pity, since the luxurious catalogue *does* show what's not display, but could have been: Delvoye's Gothic-themed cement truck and concrete mixer, to name but two.

And the exhibition certainly should not be compared to the prestigious overview of his work at the Musée Rodin this summer in Paris, although it would be great to have such a retrospective in his home country, rather sooner than later. So, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*. Half an hour, and you'll be out again. And believe me, you'll have had plenty of time to look at all the works carefully.

Once one accepts the small scale of the exhibition, there is still much to admire. You'll have to use Bozar's entrance at Koningsstraat (the upper entrance), and you'll be welcomed in the rotunda by a contorted sculpture, "Daphne & Chloe (Counterclockwise)", carried out in glimmering bronze. The embrace of the two mythological figures has never looked as twisted and forbidding.

There are some smaller, though just as shiny, sculptures but more remarkable are constructions, in the rotunda's anterooms, with titles such as "Double Helix CCI 180 0" and "Double Helix DS 360 90". They're crucifixes but contorted, stretched out and twisted according to the structure of a double helix – a spiral-like space curve. (DNA has the same structure.)

It results in a crucified Christ showing extreme suffering. The acquiescence Christ often shows on a classical crucifix has evaporated completely. But even more interesting are the coloured preparatory drawings that adorn the walls of the rooms. Sometimes they just show a double



Grimly Gothic: Delvoye and his tower

helix against a neutral background, but on others the construction is placed against a cityscape or landscape. The result is as troubling as the appearance of the monolith in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

Sadly, some of the drawings hang way too high, so it's almost impossible to see them. Is this carelessness of the curator or did Delvoye think: "They're only preparatory drawings, if you've seen one, you've seen them all?" (Either way, it's a pity.)

Incidentally, all those helixes don't look very Gothic, but in other anterooms, you'll find work that does harmonise with "Tour (Bruxelles)", such as a huge panoramic view of a medieval but stylised Brussels in which Delvoye's pontifically placed tower dominates the skyline, overshadowing the city hall and the cathedral.

But the most fascinating and complex works are two large-scale models of a chapel that, like "Tour (Bruxelles)", is made from corrosion-resistant Corten steel. Thanks to the laser cutting technique used to create them, the Gothic motifs are much more pristine than in real ancient Gothic buildings.

This strong contrast between detailed execution and bygone visual motifs creates an intriguing tension, most notably in Delvoye's stained glass. No religious imagery here, but x-rays of people performing sexual acts.

Blasphemous as it might feel to Christians, it's an acerbic comment on the difficult relationship Christianity seems to have with sexuality. It even ties in with the recent scandals in the Belgian catholic church, from paedophilia to archbishop Léonard labelling AIDS as "immanent justice" – though it was created before all of that news broke.

"Mama, put my guns in the ground / I can't shoot them anymore / That long black cloud is comin' down / I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door", sings Bob Dylan in one of his most famous songs. But this exhibition shows that Delvoye is stronger than ever. No long, black cloud is darkening *his* sky, that's for sure.

Delvoye recently stated that he wanted to start a new religion, so I supposed it's us who will be knocking at Delvoye's door. At least, that's my guess how *he* sees it. Surely, with his oeuvre, there must have been some kind of god living in his deepest self for quite some time. As long as his art stays as interesting as it is now, it's all fine with me. ♦

Knockin' on Heaven's Door

Until 23 January
Bozar, Koningsstraat entrance
Brussel

→ www.bozar.be



A section of "Helix DHAACO": crucifix for the space age

CULTURE NEWS

The long-awaited **renovation of Ostend's old Post Building**, constructed between 1947 and 1953 by Flemish architect Gaston Eyselincx, will begin this month, announced Nancy Bourgoignie, culture alderwoman of Ostend. The renovation of the protected monument, considered a masterpiece of post-war architecture, will take two years; the building will open in 2012 as a culture centre. Minister of tourism and cultural heritage, Geert Bourgeois, has promised €7 million from the Flemish government out of the total €26 million cost of the project.


City of Antwerp culture alderman Philip Heylen is back this week from a week-long trip to US cities Philadelphia, New York and Washington to discuss plans with a number of major institutions offering support to the future **Red Star Line Museum in Antwerp**. The Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution and the brand new National Museum of American Jewish History will all work with Antwerp on marketing and, it is hoped, financing. The Red Star Line was a shipping company that took about two million European passengers from Antwerp to the US in the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, including many Jews fleeing the Nazi regime. There is apparently much interest from the United States in the museum, set to open in 2012 at a total cost of €18 million.

The Flemish film *Adem*, now playing in cinemas across Brussels and Flanders, has just been accepted into its 10th international festival. The Les Arcs European Film Festival in Savoie, France, features films by emerging directors. *Adem* is the first feature by Flemish filmmaker Hans Van Nuffel and follows the story of two men with cystic fibrosis, a disease the director himself has.

Bruges' Groeninge Museum last week opened one of its largest and most lavish exhibitions ever, ***Van Eyck to Dürer***, in which paintings by Flemish Primitives are shown alongside work by painters from across Central Europe who were influenced by them. Fifteenth-century art works have travelled from museums across Europe and the United States for the show, including German painter Stefan Lochner's magnificent "Birth of Christ" and Albrecht Dürer's seminal portraits. The exhibition is part of the Bruges Central Festival, which brings performances and exhibitions by Central European and Belgian artists together. Check *Flanders Today* later this month for a full review of *Van Eyck to Dürer*.



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Toute l'info régionale en 3 langues
The local news in 3 languages

 www.tvbrussel.be 

Moscow City Ballet presents “Nutcracker” on Sunday December 5th at 15.00 in the Cirque Royal, Brussels.

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Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the world's most famous dance shows that will without doubt leave you dreaming!

Piet Peere dinner

Get a four-course meal while enjoying the show of Flemish artist Piet Peere on 6 November at Lieve Lambrecht Gallery in Merendree
→ www.lievelambrecht.be



An Pierlé & White Velvet

SARAH CREW

As she prepares for the official CD launch concert of *Hinterland* at Ancienne Belgique this weekend, Flemish singer-songwriter An Pierlé can't contain her enthusiasm. The event has been a long time coming. "This is a really hectic and crazy period but also very exciting; I can't wait to perform on Saturday," she tells me. The concert is also a challenge: band White Velvet is returning to its original four-member line-up, necessitating a return for Pierlé to her first musical love, the piano. "It's rather ironic as there is little in the way of piano in the album," she says with a smile. "Playing on stage represents much more work and preparation for me. I can't just play the rock star!" The long-awaited fourth album follows a four-year hiatus in which Pierlé and her partner (in life as well as work), Koen Gisen, have reinforced their winning collaboration. The band's guitarist, Gisen is also a concert programmer for Ghent's art centre Vooruit and an independent record producer. This year the pair have produced their second album together and celebrated the birth of their first child, daughter Isadora. "For the first time in a long time, I worked on my own, writing songs in a very simplified process before Koen took over for all the

technical bits," explains Pierlé. "My favourite part is when you begin a song – write the very first draft before the hard work sets in." She says the result has made the new album "simpler, less perfectionist and more experimental. I hope the result is more direct and with greater depth. The aim is to try and touch people's emotions." Released in October, *Hinterland* finds Pierlé's powerful and melodic voice reinforced by a more rhythmic structure, yet retaining its otherworldly distinction. The album's title originated from new artwork inspired by the couple's eclectic home in Ghent and Pierlé's experience of insomnia. "I'm fascinated by that period between consciousness and sleep when you are literally on the edge of an imaginary world." Daughter Isadora appears to be sharing her mother's overactive imagination and not sleeping through the night. She is also imposing a greater discipline on Pierlé's work. "I now have to work during the day while she's at the crèche, which is maybe not such a bad thing. Inspiration can come at any time," she says. Pierlé is now working on a series of piano solos and a collaboration with Dutch and Flemish songwriters on a collection of songs in Dutch that hark back to

a forgotten era of Dutch chanson. Two of the songs have already been completed with Peter Verhulst and Christophe Vekeman. Aside from that, the work of a singer and band that defy categorisation to gain the necessary radio air time for chart success is an ongoing effort. While An Pierlé & White Velvet have certainly achieved that rare double bill of commercial and critical fortune in both Belgium and Europe, this talented and grounded singer believes the future lies in "being true to yourself – maybe reaching fewer people but touching them more deeply". ♦

6 November, 20.00
Ancienne Belgique
Anspachlaan 110, Brussels

17 November, 20.00
CC Hasselt, Kunstlaan 5

Check the website for more dates
→ www.pias.be



Antwerp

Arenbergschouwburg
Arenbergstraat 28; 070.222.192
www.arenbergschouwburg.be
NOV 7 20.15 Dez Mona
NOV 11 20.15 BRZZLL & Gloria

CC Berchem
Driekoningenstraat 126; 03.286.88.20
www.ccbe.be
NOV 4 20.30 Paul Michiels

Lotto Arena
Schijnpootweg 119; 070.345.345
www.sportpaleis.be
NOV 11 20.00 Volbeat

Sportpaleis
Schijnpootweg 119; 070.345.345
www.sportpaleis.be
Until NOV 6 20.30 Night of the Proms 2010, featuring John Fogerty, Grace Jones, Boy George, more

Trix
Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00
www.trixonline.be
NOV 3 20.00 Feeder **NOV 7** 16.00 G.B.H. + Mr Symarip with The Moon Invaders + Funeral Dress + more **NOV 8** 20.00 The Sword + Karma To Burn **NOV 10** 20.00 De Jeugd Van Tegenwoordig + Nobody Beats The Drum

Ardoois

Cultuurkapel De Schaduw
Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82
www.deschaduw.net
NOV 11 20.00 Carolyn Wonderland + Guy Forsyth

Brussels

Ancienne Belgique
Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24
www.abconcerts.be
Concerts at 20.00:
NOV 3 Root + Hindi Zahra. Surfer Blood
NOV 4 Minus the Bear + Jimmy Eat World
NOV 6 An Pierlé & White Velvet **NOV 8** 17.00 The Eastpak Antidote Tour with Sum 41 + The Black Pacific + The Riverboat Gamblers + Veara. 20.00 Best Coast **NOV 9** Public Enemy. The Boxer Rebellion **NOV 10** Alex Roeka **NOV 11** Liam Gerner + Ryan Bingham & The Dead Horses + Carolina Chocolate Drops

Beursschouwburg
Auguste Ortsstraat 20-28; 02.550.03.50
www.vkconcerts.be
NOV 3 22.00 Benito Band
NOV 6 21.40 SoundBits: Casse Brique + Monolithic

K-Nal
Havenlaan 1; 0474.04.00.00 www.k-nal.be
NOV 10 23.00 Abracada night with Yuksek & Brodinski (The Krays), The Magician, The Aiku live, more

Le Botanique
Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32
www.botanique.be
NOV 3 20.00 Professor Green

Magasin 4
Havenlaan 51B; 02.223.34.74
www.magasin4.be
NOV 3 19.00 Amber Asylum + ?Alos + Diskrepan more **NOV 4** 20.00 The Turbo A.C.S + Random Hand + Eleven **NOV 8** 20.00 Joe Lally + The Boilermen + Vitas Guerulaitis **NOV 10** 20.00 Quok + Missing Dog Head

Recyclart
Ursulinenstraat 25; 02.502.57.34
www.recyclart.be
NOV 5 20.30 Plankton Bar #36, art and music featuring Théâtre Molotof, Stripmax, Shepard
NOV 10 22.00 Redlight + Ramadanman + Science + Grimelock + Bunzero

Ghent

Charlatan
Vlasmarkt 6; 09.224.24.57
www.charlatan.be
NOV 9 20.00 Beach Fossils

Handelsbeurs
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65
www.handelsbeurs.be
NOV 4 19.30 The Coral
NOV 5 19.30 The Tellers + Get Cape. Wear Cape. Fly + School of Seven Bells

Kinky Star
Vlasmarkt 9; 09.223.48.45
www.kinkystar.com
NOV 4 22.00 Plastik + Carve vs Keylocked + Tafar B2B + Tropmanga **NOV 5** 21.00 [2.9] = 18 Again with DJ DO + Les Frères Dépinière **NOV 6** 21.00 The Sweeties +

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Crossing Border

19-21 November
Arenbergschouwburg
Antwerp

Just like last year's, this fantastic festival of music and literature is bound to sell out, particularly the first evening, a concert by the ever-cool American warbler Rufus Wainwright (pictured). The following night, you'll be dazzled by New York's Mercury Rev and the Clear Light Ensemble, whose experimental rock is backed by avant-garde film clips. Sunday is the big day, though, with more than 40 acts, including performance punk poet John Cooper Clarke, British art rock duo Field Music and American actor and poet Michael Madsen, known much better for his role as Mr Blonde in Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* than his latest book of poetry *American Badass*.



JonGeDuld **NOV 7** 22.00 KSRadio DeeJays PJ & DO + Tex Taiwan **NOV 9** 21.00 Sailors Beware

Vooruit
St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
NOV 5 21.00 Dyn-O-Mite: Ben l'Oncle Soul
NOV 6 20.00 Tribute to Wim De Craene. 21.00 Archie Bronson Outfit + Victorian English Gentlemen's Club + Apache Beat **NOV 7** 20.30 Tindersticks + David Kitt

Muziekodroom
Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13
www.muziekodroom.be
NOV 5 20.00 The Dying: The Final Farewell
NOV 6 21.00 Rave Our Souls VI
NOV 10 20.00 Melissa Auf Der Maur

Kortrijk

De Kreun
Conservatoriumplein 1; 056.37.06.44
www.dekreun.be
NOV 7 20.00 The Bony King of Nowhere
NOV 10 20.00 Shrinebuilder

Leuven

Het Depot
Martelarenplein 12; 016.22.06.03
www.hetdepot.be
NOV 5 20.00 Luka Bloom **NOV 6** 20.00 Elliott Murphy **NOV 7** 20.00 Dweezil Zappa plays Zappa **NOV 9** 20.00 We Are Scientists



Antwerp

Buster
Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53
www.busterpodium.be
NOV 3 21.00 Playtime Session **NOV 4** 22.00 P-funk Express **NOV 5** 22.00 Woodstock Unplugged **NOV 9** 20.30 JazzNight **NOV 10** 22.00 Strange Fruit

De Hopper
Leopold De Waelstraat 2; 03.248.49.33
www.cafehopper.be

MORE LOCAL MUSICIANS THIS WEEK

Wim De Craene tribute → Vooruit, Ghent

The Moon Invaders & Funeral Dress → Trix, Antwerp

Buscemi & Michel Bisceglia Ensemble → CC De Werf, Aalst

NOV 7 16.00 The Jacqueline
NOV 8 21.00 The Art of Sound
NOV 9 21.00 Hopper Jam

Ratapan
Wijnegemstraat 27; 03.292.97.40
www.ratapanvzw.be
NOV 6 20.30 Ewout Pierreux Quintet +
Reut Regev Trio
NOV 10 20.30 School Is Cool

Brussels

Art Base
Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20
www.art-base.be
NOV 6 20.00 Youri Blow

Jazz Station
Leuvensesteenweg 193; 02.733.13.78
NOV 3 20.30 Augusto Pirodda Quartet
NOV 4 20.00 Jazz Station Big Band
NOV 6 18.00 Lewinsky Quartet
NOV 10 20.30 S K R

Piola Libri
Franklinstraat 66-68; 02.736.93.91
www.piolalibri.be
NOV 9 19.00 Apéro showcase with Banjy

Sounds Jazz Club
Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50
www.soundsjazzclub.be
Concerts at 22.00:
NOV 4 Marc Lelangue Band
NOV 5-6 Robin Verheyen Quartet
NOV 8 Master Session
NOV 9 Raf Debacker Trio
NOV 10 Los Soneros del Barrio
NOV 11 Mess Trio

The Music Village
Steenstraat 50; 02.513.13.45
www.themusicvillage.com
Concerts at 21.00:
NOV 4 Krupnik
NOV 5 Philippe Duchemin Trio
NOV 6 Michel Mainil Quartet
NOV 9 Steven Pitman & The Piks
'Elvis Presley Unplugged'
NOV 10 Joachim Caffonnette Trio

Viage
Anspachlaan 30; 070.44.34.43
www.viage.be
NOV 3 20.30 Oslo Gospel Choir
NOV 9 20.30 Joan Armatrading

Ghent

Vooruit
St Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
NOV 3 20.00 John Scofield Trio. 22.00 We Have Band

Hasselt

Muziekodroom
Bootstraat 9; 011.23.13.13
www.muziekodroom.be
NOV 11 20.00 Mac Arnold & Plate Full O'Blues



Brussels

Art Base
Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20
www.art-base.be
NOV 7 18.00 David Trasoff & Arun Sen Gupta (India)

Atelier 210
Sint-Pieterssteenweg 210; 02.732.25.98
www.atelier210.be
NOV 3 20.00 What the Folk! Troy Von Balthazar (US)

Espace Senghor
Waversesteenweg 366; 02.230.31.40
www.senghor.be
NOV 5 20.30 Isa Bagayogo (Mali)
Théâtre Molière
Bastionsquare 3; 02.217.26.00
www.muziekpublique.be
NOV 5 20.00 Aurelia CD release concert
NOV 6 20.00 Gülistan Perwer Quartet

VK Club
Schoolstraat 76; 02.414.29.07
www.vkconcerts.be
NOV 4 21.00 EZ3kiel
NOV 11 21.00 Vieux Farka Toure



Antwerp

Amuz
Kammenstraat 81; 03.292.36.80
www.amuz.be
NOV 5 21.00 Daniel Sepec, violin; Roel Dieltiens, cello; Andreas Staier, fortepiano; Beethoven, Schumann
NOV 7 15.00 Ensemble Liber: Niccolò da Perugia, Gilles Binchois, Guillaume de Machaut
NOV 11 20.00 Zefiro Torna: Jacopo da Bologna, Johannes Ciconia, Cristobal de Morales, more

Bruges

Concertgebouw
't Zand 34; 070.22.33.02
www.concertgebouw.be
NOV 3 20.00 Tae-Hyung Kim, piano: fifth laureate of the 2010 Queen Elisabeth Competition
NOV 4 15.00 Laureate of the 2010 Queen Elisabeth Piano Competition
NOV 5 20.00 Il Giardino Armonico conducted by Giovanni Antonini; Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Giovanni Battista Ferrandini, more
NOV 6 20.00 Il Giardino Armonico conducted by Giovanni Antonini, flautino: Vivaldi
NOV 9 20.00 Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen conducted by Seikyo Kim: Mozart, Schumann
NOV 10 20.00 Liber Ensemble: Niccolò da Perugia, Lorenzo da Firenze, Francesco Landini, more
NOV 11 20.00 Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir conducted by Daniel Reuss: Pärt, Mendelssohn, Gallina, more

Brussels

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
NOV 3 12.40 Daniel Blumenthal, piano; Olsi Leka, cello: Prokofiev, Moscheles
NOV 8 20.00 Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen conducted by Seikyo Kim: Mozart, Schumann
NOV 10 12.40 Danel Quartet: Haydn, Beethoven
NOV 11 20.00 Private Musicke: Monterverdi, more

De Munt
Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be
NOV 10-13 20.00 De Munt Symphony Orchestra and Men's Choir conducted by Leo Hussain: Mozart, Cherubini

Espace Senghor
Waversesteenweg 366; 02.230.31.40
www.senghor.be
NOV 7 11.30 Serge Clément, piano; Eric Robberecht, violin; Jean-Pol Zanutel, cello: new music by Victor Kissine

Flagey
Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20
www.flagey.be
NOV 8 19.30 Charlemagne Orchestra for Europe conducted by Bartholomeus-Henri Van de Velde: Schubert, Prokofiev

Hanlet Auditorium
Livornostraat 15; 02.720.66.85
solskytz@gmail.com
NOV 7 20.00 Itzhak Solsky, piano: Bach

KVS Bol
Lakensstraat 146; 02.210.11.12
www.kvs.be
NOV 7 11.30 Dawn Upshaw, soprano; Geoff Nutall, violin: Kurtág's Kafka Fragments

Musical Instruments Museum
Hofberg 2; 02.545.01.30 www.mim.be
NOV 7 11.00 Caridad Galindo and Marianne Rubenstein, piano: Le Piano Symphonique (four-hand piano)

Royal Music Conservatory
Regentschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37
www.kcb.be
NOV 4 20.00 Janine Jansen, violin; Itamar Golan, piano: Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, more
NOV 8-10 20.00 Artemis Quartett: Beethoven

Ghent

De Bijloke
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2 09.233.68.78
www.debijloke.be
NOV 7 11.00 Ex Tempore conducted by Florian Heyerick: Christopher Graupner

Handelsbeurs
Kouter 29; 09.265.91.65
NOV 9 20.15 Antoine Tamestit, viola: Biber, Ligeti, Stravinsky, JS Bach
NOV 10 20.15 I Solisti del Vento: Poulenc, Stravinsky, Kirchner

Leuven

Sint-Geertruikerk
Halfmaartstraat; 016.23.84.27 www.30cc.be
NOV 7 16.00 La Petite Bande conducted by Sigiswald Kuijken: Schütz, Buxtehude



Antwerp

Stadsschouwburg
Theaterplein 1; 0900.69.900
www.stadsschouwburgantwerpen.be
NOV 8 19.30 Giuseppe Verdi's Rigoletto in four acts, staged by Frank-Bernd Gottschalk (in Italian with Dutch surtitles)

Vlaamse Opera
Frankrijkplein 1; 070.22.02.02
www.vlaamseopera.be
Until NOV 7 15.00/20.00 Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Serail (The Abduction from the Seraglio) conducted by Umberto Benedetti Michelangeli, staged by Eike Gramss (in the original German with Dutch surtitles)

Brussels

De Munt
Muntplein; 070.23.39.39 www.demunt.be
Until NOV 14 15.00/20.00 Janacek's Káťa Kabanová, conducted by Leo Hussain, staged by Andrea Breth (in Czech with Dutch and French surtitles)

Ghent

Capitole
Graaf van Vlaanderenplein 5; 0900.69.00
www.capitolegent.be
NOV 7 15.00 Giuseppe Verdi's Rigoletto in four acts, staged by Frank-Bernd Gottschalk (in Italian with Dutch surtitles)



Brussels

Les Brigittines
Korte Brigittinenstraat 1; 02.213.86.10
www.brigittines.be
NOV 3-6 20.30 Still Alive, choreographed by Barbara Mavro Thalassitis



Antwerp

De Zwarte Komedie
Leguit 15-17; 03.233.56.78
www.dezwartekomedie.be
Until NOV 13 15.00/21.00 Pieter Klink and Katrien De Winter in Obama en Osama (De Vrede), written and directed by Katrien Scheir (in Dutch)

HetPaleis
Theaterplein 1; 03.202.83.11
www.hetpaleis.be
Until NOV 20 19.00 Aleksej by Frank Adam, staged by Koen De Sutter (in Dutch)

Theater aan de Stroom
Ijzerenwaag 6; 070.22.33.30
www.theateraandestroom.be
Until DEC 5 20.30 De Fluistercompagnie in Stepping Out, directed by Walter Van de Velde (in Dutch)

Zuiderpershuis
Waalse Kaai 14; 03.248.01.00
www.zuiderpershuis.be
Until DEC 16 20.30 Chokri Ben Chikha in Heldendood voor de beschaving: de finale (Heroic Death for Civilisation: The Finale) (in Dutch)
NOV 10-11 20.30 Koning Leopolds alleenspraak (King Leopold's Soliloquy) by Mark Twain (in Dutch)

DON'T MISS

City One Minutes

Until 6 November

Beursschouwburg, Brussels

It's your last chance to find out how the rest of the world lives at this fantastic little exhibition that shows video artists' one-minute impressions of their own cities, like Tokyo, Port-au-Prince and Ramallah. In this special selection of the more than 120 cities available (all to be found at www.cityoneminutes.org), you'll also find Brussels, Ostend and Ghent.



→ www.beursschouwburg.be

Brussels

Bronkstheater
Varkensmarkt 15; 02.218.20.15
www.bronks.be
NOV 6-7 15.00/20.00 Eva, directed by Veerle Dobbelaere (in Dutch; ages 7 and up)

Halles de Schaarbeek
Koninklijke Sint-Mariastraat 22; 02.218.21.07 www.halles.be
NOV 10-11 16.00 Cie Sweatshop in Sibling, circus performance

KVS Bol
Lakensstraat 146; 02.210.11.12
www.kvs.be
Until NOV 11 20.00 Monkey Sandwich, theatre/film, directed by Wim Vandekeybus (in English and German with French and Dutch surtitles)

The Warehouse Studio
Waelhemstraat 69a; 0475.59.27.03
www.shaksoc.com
NOV 9-13 20.00 Brussels Shakespeare Society in King John by Shakespeare, directed by Stephen Challens (in English)

Ghent

Vooruit
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23; 0900.26.060
www.vooruit.be
NOV 10-12 times vary K: A Society, installation/performance by Kris Verdonck and A Two Dogs Company

Ostend

Kursaal (Casino)
Monacoplein 2; 070.22.56.00
www.sherpa.be
NOV 5 20.00 Kommil Foo 'De Luxe' (in Dutch)



Antwerp

Contemporary Art Museum (M HKA)
Leuvenstraat 32; 03.238.59.60
www.muhka.be
Until NOV 14 Modern Dialect, contemporary artists look at the work of late Flemish architect Renaat Braem
Until JAN 16 Confluence and Consequence, tapestries by Craigie Horsfield based on his own photographs

Diamond Museum
Kon. Astridplein 19-23 (03.202.48.90
www.diamantmuseum.be
Until DEC 31 For Honour & Glory: Treasure of Napoleon, the pomp and splendour of Napoleon and Marie-Louise's jewelry on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of their arrival in Antwerp

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 world-famous British hatmaker

Fotomuseum
Waalse Kaai 47; 03.242.93.00
www.fotomuseum.be
Until JAN 16 Boris Becker 1984-2009, photographs by the German modernist
Until JAN 16 Willy Kessels 1930-1960, photographs by the Flemish modernist

Plantin-Moretus Museum
Vrijdagmarkt 22; 03.221.14.50
www.museumplantinmoretus.be
Until JAN 16 Jan I Moretus, documents showing how the 16th-century Flemish printer built Plantin into one of the world's most significant publishing houses

Royal Museum of Fine Arts
Leopold De Waelplaats; 03.238.78.09
www.kmska.be
Until DEC 5 MOOI. Over kwetsbare schoonheid (BEAUTIFUL. On Fragile Beauty), collection of works by 12 artists, including Jan Fabre, Wim Delvoye and David Claerbout, on the definition of beauty (for kids ages 9-12)
Until JAN 23 Anselm Kiefer, works by the contemporary German artist

Bruges

De Bond
Buiten Smedenvest 1; 050.44.30.40
www.ccbrugge.be
Until NOV 28 Exhibition Models, installations by Chohreh Feyzdzjou, Meschac Gaba and Wesley Meuris

Groeningemuseum
Dijver 12; 050.44.87.43
Until JAN 30 Van Eyck tot Dürer, paintings by Flemish Primitives paired with work by painters from Central Europe who were directly influenced by the Primitives

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

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

Bozar
Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00
www.bozar.be
Until NOV 28 Belge 3 fois/3 keer Belgisch, drawings and installations by French artist Catherine Van den Steen illustrating her impressions of Brussels, Antwerp and Liège
Until JAN 23 Gilbert & George: Jack Freak Pictures, major exhibition of the Italian-British artist duo's stylised photographs with British flag iconography
Until FEB 13 Ensor: Composer and Writer,

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by e-mail: expats@euromut.be
by phone: +32 2 44 44 700
www.euromut.be/expats



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autographs, publications, documents and photographs by the Flemish Surrealist master James Ensor

Brussels Info Place (BIP)
Koningsplein; 02.563.63.99
www.biponline.be

Until DEC 19 The history of towers in Europe via 150 architectural projects
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)

Clockarium Museum
Reyerslaan 163; 02.732.08.28
www.clockarium.com
Until NOV 11 10ALOGUE, works by contemporary artists shown alongside Art Deco porcelain clocks on the occasion of the museum's 10th anniversary

ING Cultural Centre
Koningsplein 6; 02.507.82.00 www.bozar.be
Until FEB 13 Ensor Revealed, drawings and paintings reveal the imaginary and artistic evolution of the Ostend artist on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth

Justus Lipsius
Wetstraat 175; www.spullenhulp.be
Until DEC 31 Fashion & Design: Second Hand Second Life, works by Belgian fashion and object designers made out of recycled clothing, objects and furniture from the Spullenhulp charity

Museum van Elsene
Jean Van Volsemstraat 71; 02.515.64.22
www.museumvanelsene.be

WEEK IN FILM

LISA BRADSHAW

Mediterranean Cinema Festival



5-13 November Le Botanique, Brussels

Pink Screens just finished up last weekend, and already Brussels starts a new film festival. This one, now in its 11th year, is dedicated to Mediterranean countries, so you'll find plenty of Romance languages at Botanique this week.

Unax Ugalde has won several awards in Spain for his portrayal of a young priest (pictured) who arrives at his new rural parish in 1936, only to witness a military uprising and the onset of the Spanish Civil War in *La buena nueva* (*The Good News*). It joins nine other films in competition, including the beautifully shot *Kosmos* by Turkish director Reha Erdem, the tale of a town's reaction to a prophet in its midst, and *Metastaze* by leading Croatian director Branko Schmidt about young junkies in Zagreb.

Many of the films are only subtitled in French, so check programme notes carefully. The festival also includes concerts, debates and a Mediterranean market.

→ www.cinemamed.be

Until JAN 16 Paul Delvaux: Starting Points, paintings by the Belgian surrealist shown alongside works by artists who influenced him
Until JAN 16 From Dürer to Jan Fabre: Masterpieces, paintings from the museum's collection including 19th- and 20th-century works by Ensor, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Miró, more

Pavillon Rodin
Auguste Rodinlaan 8; 02.347.44.68
www.maisonbejarthuis.be
Until NOV 22 Maurice Béjart, parcours libre: Décors et Costumes, works by international designers and artists who have collaborated with the late choreographer Maurice Béjart

Royal Museum of the Armed Forces
Jubelpark 3; 02.737.78.33
www.legermuseum.be
Until NOV 30 Crazy Flying Machines, drawings by Belgian illustrator Jean Leclercq

Royal Museums of Art and History
Jubelpark 10; 02.741.72.11
www.kmkg-mrah.be
Until NOV 30 The Etruscans in Europe, multimedia tour of the Etruscan civilisation from their conquest of Italy to the rest of Europe

Royal Museum of Fine Arts
Regentschapsstraat 3; 02.508.32.11
www.fine-arts-museum.be
Until NOV 28 Javier Marin: De 3 en 3, urban installation by the Mexican sculptor
Until JAN 9 From Delacroix to Kandinsky, Orientalism in Europe, European Orientalist art during the 19th century with paintings, drawings and sculpture
Until FEB 6 Jules Schmalzigaug: A Futurist Belgian, retrospective of paintings by the artist (1882-1917) who was the only Belgian to be involved in the Italian futurist movement before the First World War
Until FEB 6 Reinhoud, tribute to the Belgian sculptor and graphic artist, member of the CoBrA movement, who died in 2007

Tour & Taxis
Havenlaan 86C; 02.549.60.49
www.tour-taxis.com
Until NOV 14 Morocco & Europe: Six Centuries in the Glance of the Other, the 600-year history of immigration and commercial and political relations between Morocco and Europe
Until DEC 5 Art in All of Us, photos from an around-the-world trip by Anthony Asaël and Stéphanie Rabemiafara (www.artinallofus.be)
Until MAY 9 America: It's Also Our History, three centuries of cross-Atlantic relations with frescoes, charts, audiovisual material, installations, objects and artwork

WIELS
Van Volxemlaan 354; 02.340.00.50
www.wiels.org
Until JAN 30 Francis Alÿs: A Story of Deception, installations, paintings, drawings, and documents by the Mexico-based Flemish artist

Deurle

Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens
Museumlaan 14; 09.282.51.23
www.museumdd.be
Until DEC 5 Thomas Hirschhorn: Too Too - Much Much, installations by the contemporary Swiss artist

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

Dr Guislain Museum
Jozef Guislainstraat 43; 09.216.35.95
www.museumdrguislain.be
Until JAN 27 Bobby Baker Diary Drawings: Mental Illness and Me, more than 150 drawings by the British performance artist illustrate her 10-year journey through psychiatric institutions
Until MAY 8 The Weighty Body: Of Fat and Thin, Perfect or Deranged, a history of fasting for personal, esthetic, religious or economic reasons

Museum of Modern Art (SMAK)
Citadelpark; 09.221.17.03 www.smak.be
Until NOV 21 Tegenlicht (Backlight), young visual artists and writers confront famous artists from the literary, arts and music scene
Until DEC 3 Inside Installations, 10 installations from the museum's collection
Until FEB 27 Hareng Saur: Ensor and contemporary art, the work of James Ensor associated with the work of contemporary artists

Stadsmuseum Gent (STAM)
Bijloke - Godshuizenlaan 2; 09.269.87.90
www.stamgent.be
Until MAY 1 Enlightened City, an examination of how light affects a city through diaries, models, paintings, photographs and installations

Hasselt

Fashion Museum
Gasthuisstraat 11; 011.239.621
www.modemuseumhasselt.be
Until JAN 9 Devout/Divine: Fashion vs Religion, examples of religious symbolism in designs of the past decennia

Literair Museum
Bampslaan 35; 011.26.17.87 www.literairmuseum.be
Until NOV 7 Tom Schamp: Feest in de stad (Party in the City), work by the Flemish illustrator

z33
Zuivelmarkt 33; 011.29.59.60 www.z33.be
Until DEC 12 David Huycke: Re-thinking granulation, sculptures by the Flemish silver designer
Until DEC 12 Toegepast (Applied), works by students selected from Belgian and Dutch design academies

Kasterlee

Frans Masereel Centre
Zaardendijk 20; 014.85.22.50
www.fransmasereelcentrum.be
Until NOV 30 Reunalla/Aan de grens, contemporary Finnish lithography

Knokke-Heist

Cultuurcentrum Scharpoord
Meerlaan 32; 050.630.430
www.congocollectie.be
Until JAN 16 Congo Collection, Congolese sculptures and masks

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

Centrale Bibliotheek
Ladeuzeplein 21; 016.32.46.60
http://bib.kuleuven.be
Until NOV 30 De slaap neemt geen plaats in (Sleep Occupies No Space), photographs, paintings, collages and video on street children in Kinshasa by Flemish photographer and anthropologist Kristien Geenen

Museum M
Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28; 016.27.29.29 www.mleuven.be
Until DEC 5 The Anjou Bible: A Royal Manuscript Revealed, a rare manuscript from the 14th-century court of Naples
Until DEC 5 Matthew Brannon, lithographs and screenprints by the American artist

Until JAN 16 Robert Devriendt: Victimes de la Passion, paintings by the Flemish artist
Until JAN 23 Mayombe: Meesters van de magie (Master of Magic), sculptures and objects from KU Leuven's Congolese collection

Ostend

Vrijstaat O
Zeedijk 10; 059.26.51.27 www.vrijstaat-o.be
Until NOV 7 Citybooks presents Martijn van de Griendt, photographs of Ostend

Tervuren

Royal Museum for Central Africa
Leuvensesteenweg 13; 02.769.52.11
www.africamuseum.be
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
Until JAN 9 Congo belge en images, photographs by Carl Dekeyser and Johan Lagae



Opera in the Cinema: Opera from the Met in New York live via satellite on the big screen
Until MAY 14 in Kinepolis cinemas across Belgium
www.kinepolis.com/opera

Antwerp

Boekenbeurs: Flanders' largest book fair with dozens of author appearances and thousands of new books for sale
Until NOV 11 10.00-18.00 at Antwerp Expo, Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 191
03.260.81.20 www.boekenbeurs.be

Bruges

Brugge Centraal: Festival celebrating the art and culture of Central Europe, with dance, theatre, music, literature, film and major exhibitions
Until JAN 30 across Bruges
www.bruggecentraal.be

Brussels

Dreams of the Far East: Talk on the Chinese Pavilion in Laken, its history and collection, organised by BRIDFAS (British Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Brussels) and delivered by Nathalie Vandepierre, Head of the Department for the Far East at the Royal Museum of Art and History
NOV 10 20.00 at Town Hall, Paul Hymanslaan 2, Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe
02.782.16.12, www.bridfas.org

Brussels Accessible Art Fair: Original works by some 50 Belgian and international artists, including paintings, photographs, prints and sculpture from €50 to €5,000
NOV 5-7 at Conrad Hotel, Louizalaan 71
www.accessibleartfair.com

Jetherfst: Contemporary dance festival with a selection of works created at the Jette Dance Centre over the past two years
NOV 4-14 at Jette Dance Centre and other venues across Brussels
www.danscentrumjette.be

Michael Cunningham: The American author of the Pulitzer prize-winning book *The Hours* talks about his new book *By Nightfall* (in English)
NOV 3 20.00 at Passa Porta, Antoine Dansaertstraat 46
02.226.04.54, www.beschrijf.be

Museum Nocturnes: Late-opening in Brussels' museums, with at least six different museums open until 22.00 every Thursday, plus guided tours and special events
Until DEC 16 on Thursdays, across the city
http://nocturnes.brusselsmuseums.be

Norway Now: Festival of contemporary Norwegian culture with classical and pop music, literature, architecture, film and graphic design
Until MAY 24 across Brussels
www.abconcerts.be

Playtown: Toy fair
NOV 4-7 at Tour & Taxis, Havenlaan 86C
02.549.60.49, www.playtown.be

Proud of Belgium and Proud To Be So: Debate on ideal(ised) images of Belgium with art historian Elsbeth Eitty, state minister Marc Eyskens and editors from newspapers *Le Soir* and *De Wereld Morgen* (in French, Dutch and English with simultaneous translation)
NOV 10 20.15 at Flagey, Heilig Kruisplein
Reservation recommended: info@deburen.eu, 02.212.19.30

Skoda Jazz: The 25th edition of this international jazz festival featuring Herbie Hancock, Toots Thielemans, Philip Catherine, Lady Linn, more
Until NOV 30 across Brussels
www.skodajazz.be

Ghent

De nacht van de reclame (The Night of the Advertisement): Funny commercials from around the world, hosted by Flemish comedian Gunter Lamoot
NOV 5 20.00-2.00 at Vooruit, Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23
www.nachtvandreclame.be

Hasselt

Een rijm in mijn oor (A Rhyme in My Ear): Poetry festival for children, ages 8-12
NOV 3 at the Literary Museum, Bampslaan 35
011.26.17.87 www.literairmuseum.be

DUSK 'TIL DAWN

KATRIEN LINDEMANS



Ne Vuilen Avond

Legendary swing party organisers Radio Modern is back with its Ne Vuilen Avond after a much-too-long summer break. The next edition of the ground-breaking event in Belgian cabaret is on 5 November at Ghent's Vooruit, and it's possibly the most ambitious Vuilen Avond (Dirty Evening) yet, with acrobats, ballerinas, lion tamers, burlesque dancers and other silly and/or sultry surprises.

A vaudeville show stars Circus BAF, who'll bring along "the strongest woman in the world". All the way from Germany, Die Donnerwetter will perform a "fire fakir freak show" and burlesque dancers will perform "the art of tease". After a dizzying show of two hours, the Djettes Rebelles take over and will drag everybody to the dance floor during the Grand Surbourn.

As usual, dressing up retro is a must, so bring on those floral dresses, shine those dancing shoes and spray your hair in a beehive (or comb it backwards with lots of brylcreem).

→ www.radiomodern.be

Bozar Night

The 10th of November is a special Wednesday since most of us don't have to work the next day. Brussels' fine arts centre takes advantage with its annual Bozar Night. Exhibitions stay open until midnight, and a few famous DJs will take over Horta Hall until 4.00 (or so).

As for the exhibitions, both come highly recommended: *Jack Freak Pictures* is a series of 85 large-scale photos by the famous Italian-British artist duo Gilbert & George. In their trademark photos of themselves and others placed in specific scenes, manipulated with overlays of bright colours – in this case the red, white and blue of the Union Jack – they cover themes such as city life and religion. The other exhibition is *Knockin' on Heaven's Door* by the eccentric Flemish artist Wim Delvoye. (For more on him, see page 11.)

Throughout the night, students from the Brussels audio-visual school RITS stage performances related to the works on display. As for the rest of the evening, Bozar has gathered Flemish DJ greats, including The Glimmers, Mauro 'tanzdebi' Pawlowski and Cal & Sikey from Studio Brussel.

→ www.bozar.be

ROBYN BOYLE

bite



Wild game

'Tis the season to be primal. Flanders has the gastronomic advantage of being located next to the woods of Wallonia to the south. From now until the end of December, these woods are teeming with game: pheasant, hare, deer, boar and other wild animals. Furthermore, berries, nuts and mushrooms grow in abundance at this time of the year, providing the perfect accompaniment to game dishes.

Due to the free-range nature of game, the meat is leaner than that of domesticated animals and therefore healthier. It also tends to be tougher which is why it is best slow-cooked and/or marinated for tenderness. You can tell a good piece of large game meat, such as deer or boar, by its deep red colour (with the exception of young boar's meat which is light pink).

Game birds, such as pheasant and partridge, are light and golden in colour when cooked. These specialty meats are most often served with seasonal sides like puree, winter vegetables (like cabbage and roots), mushrooms and tart berries. Even if we may not be doing any foraging or hunting ourselves, we can still enjoy the earthy flavours of game in a number of fine Flemish restaurants. Here is Bite's pick of some of the best spots to sink your teeth into some wild meat.

At Restaurant Figaro in **Hasselt** (www.figaro.be) the wild menu currently features fillet of deer (venison) with wild berries, celery and blood sausage and native pheasant with black salsify roots, sprout leaves and hazelnuts. They also often have partridge with chestnuts (pictured).

Another address known for its game is Restaurant Ladeuze in **Maarkedal**, East Flanders (www.la-deuze.be). They offer home-grown pumpkin soup and red wine marinated saddle of hare served with a duo of vegetable puree and forest mushrooms in a spicy pepper sauce.

Then there's the aptly named *Puur Herfst* (Pure Autumn) menu at Restaurant Den Dyer in **Bruges** (www.dijver.be): wild boar dry-cured on Rodenbach beer wood with apple-sage-boar sausage, croquettes, radishes and cranberries.

In Limburg province, picturesque **Oud-Rekem** (proud bearer of the title "Flanders' most beautiful village") is home to the ultra-classy Restaurant Poortgebouw (www.poortgebouw.be) whose seasonal menu includes wood pigeon breast fillet with red berries and golden chanterelle mushrooms.

Partridge and cabbage in a wild mushroom *jus* or venison steak with cabbage *stoemp* and hunter's sauce are on the menu at Restaurant Vina Clara in **Borgerhout** (www.vinaclara.be).

At De Harlekijn in **Zwevegem**, West Flanders (www.restaurantdeharlekijn.be), enjoy venison chops in a sauce made from the famous syrup of Liège, alongside stewed witloof, sprouts and hazelnut croquettes.

Contact Bite at flandersbite@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK IN FLANDERS TODAY #155

Business

Are you part of "the new normal"? We talk to Flemish writer Peter Hinssen about his book *The New Normal: Explore the Limits of the Digital World*, ahead of his workshop later this month

Arts

Koen Mortier, director of the infamous film *Ex-Drummer*, tells us about *The 22nd of May*, his new movie about a pervading fear: suicide bombers

Active

The start of Week van de Smaak (Week of Taste) is upon us, and we take a close look at the culinary surprises in Aalst, the honorary host city of the event

TALKING DUTCH

ALISTAIR MACLEAN



'uithoudingsvermogen'

Our word this week is a mouthful: *uithoudingsvermogen* – stamina. It's something that seems to be essential in so many situations, especially in politics. Belgian politicians no doubt wryly smile at the idea of a week being a long time in politics as they use up their *uithoudingsvermogen* jostling their way out of the present impasse.

Long Dutch words can be a bit intimidating, so let's first cut up the word. The first part, *uithouding*, means endurance, and its verb *uithouden* translates as to hold out; the *vermogen* part means ability.

The word came to mind recently when I witnessed a demonstration of *uithoudingsvermogen* that filled me with admiration. The occasion was a concert given by Arthur Blanckaert, better known as Will Tura.

Will's singing career spans 50 years. So as we settled into our theatre seats and saw the stage set-up, I commented that there would probably be a small choir to fill in the notes the septuagenarian would miss.

How wrong I was. The stage filled up with a 20-piece band and the one singer, Will. He took us on a tour of his repertoire for the next two hours with as smooth a performance as you could wish. He perched on the bar stool for just a few minutes; the rest of the time he was on his feet either belting out or crooning his way through his

last 50 years, finishing with *Ik ben zo eenzaam zonder jou* – I'm so lonely without you.

Will is from West Flanders, where people have a reputation for hard work: *een West-Vlaming moet werken én verdienen* – a West Fleming must work and earn. They are great believers in value for money: *"de mensen moeten waar voor hun geld krijgen* – people must get their money's worth", which Will generously showed.

But how has he managed to keep his voice in such condition? Early on, he took singing lessons and still uses *de opwarmingsoefeningen* – warm-up exercises to this day. He uses his remarkable voice sparingly: *"thuis zing ik niet* – I don't sing at home." A bit like comedians shuffling morosely round the house.

But, still, with such a voice you would expect him to brighten up family gatherings. Nope: *"Het is heel raar, maar als ik niet optreed, durf ik niet te zingen* – It's very strange, but if I'm not performing, I don't dare to sing." He obviously still loves performing. His wife encourages him: *"Je moet blijven zingen of je gaat dood* – You must go on singing or you'll die." Well, it's working so far. I looked around the auditorium as we were leaving. Many were Will Tura's age but few looked as if they had even half his *uithoudingsvermogen*.

→ www.willtura.be

THE LAST WORD...

Best foot forward

"We regularly have to send slippers to Kensington Palace. It has to be someone from the royal family, but we don't know who."

Sarah Vanacker of Belgian Shoes in Izegem, West Flanders, whose New York shops supply the rich and famous

Happy holidays

"It'll be a nice Christmas present for people who don't have a lot."

Norbert Verzwijver of Antwerp, who bought 500 car stereos from Media Markt for €1 each because of a mistake in printed discount coupons

Silence is golden

"Léonard would do better to keep quiet."

Bert Claerhout, editor of the magazine *Kerk & Leven* (Church and Life), following another controversial statement by the Belgian archbishop last week

Cold on hotspots

"Millions of people are being exposed against their will to radiation whose consequences for the human body are not fully known."

Stefaan Van Gool, professor at the Catholic University of Leuven, who is calling for a shut down of internet "hot-spots" in city streets