

**Lunalia Festival (Festival of Flanders, Mechelen) and
The Festival Academy (an initiative of the European
Festivals Association) present**

**Festival Readings Mechelen, a Manifesto on Festivals
27 – 29 April 2018**



Festival Readings and a Mechelen Manifesto on Festivals

Lunalia is the brand-new City Festival of Flanders Festival Mechelen and The Festival Academy (initiative of the European Festivals Association) and Lunalia want to cease this occasion to reflect on the future of festivals and their mission in the 21st Century. These reflections takes place in the framework of the Festival Readings, a concept developed by The Festival Academy and previously held in Sochi, Yerevan, Sibiu and Bari. We are delighted to have the following international festival makers amongst us: Tom Creed (theatre and opera director, Ireland), Eva Neklayeva (artistic director Santarcangelo Festival, Italy/ Belarus) and Andrea Voets (musician, founder of Resonate Productions - Musical Journalism, The Netherlands). The results of their discussions and brainstormings will be presented in a *Mechelen Manifesto on Festivals*. Note: This project replaces the earlier communicated concept regarding the Festival Readings.

Programme

Friday 27 April 2018

13:30-14:30 Preparatory lunch at De Cirque (<http://www.decirque.be/>)

14:30: Brainstorm in De Zalm, Zoutwerf 2-16, 2800 Mechelen

20:30 LUNALIA concert Qntal - *A Moon Party* - Cultural Centre of Mechelen.

Saturday, 28 April 2018

10:00 – 13:00: Working session 1 - Starting point: topics proposed by Marta Keil and Eva Neklyayeva:

- Marta Keil, curator, dramatist, researcher, Poland, *"What if none of the conditions and ways of working that we know is left? On the festival as common art institution"*
- Eva Neklayeva, Artistic Director Santarcangelo Festival, Italy/ Belarus, *"A festival as a collective of bodies: addressing the audience as emotional, intellectual, embodied, sexual beings."*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at Café Belge (<http://www.cafebelge.eu/>)

14:00 – 17:00 Workshop with Sigrid Hause, voice in residence of Lunalia Festival
OR visit of the City of Mechelen

19:00 – 20:00 Lecture by Bruno Tersago (in Dutch) during which he will elaborate on the current Greek socio-political background to the concert Xenitia

20:15 LUNALIA concert/documentary: Xenitia - *Greece, mon amour* - City Theatre

Sunday, 29 April 2018

10:00 – 13:00 Working session 2 - Starting point: topic proposed by Andrea Voets, musician, founder of Resonate Productions, Musical Journalism - Belgium on "creating musical journalism and identifying emotional blind spots of today"

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch at Lord Nelson (<http://www.lord-nelson.be/>)

19:00: Lunalia Concert David Moss and Daan Vandewalle at Kunstencentrum NONA

20:30: Lunalia Concert Imaginary Band at Kunstencentrum NONA

Speakers

Tom Creed is a theatre and opera director based in Dublin. His work has been seen at all the major Irish theatres and festivals, across Europe and in the USA, Canada and Australia. He stages work from the repertoire as well as new creations by contemporary voices. His work has recently been seen at the Paris Opera, the Abbey Theatre in Dublin and BAM in New York. As a festival curator and consultant, and director of Cork Midsummer Festival from 2011 to 2013, he has focused on creating contexts for



new emerging artists to develop ambitious projects, and for international artists to work with local communities on transformational site-specific and collaborative productions. He was nominated for an Irish Times Irish Theatre Award in 2013 "for original and dynamic use of local spaces at Cork Midsummer Festival". He has previously been Theatre and Dance Curator of Kilkenny Arts Festival and Associate Director of Rough Magic Theatre Company. He is a committee member of the National Campaign for the Arts, Ireland's grass-roots arts sector movement that makes the case for the arts in Ireland, ensures that the arts are on government agendas and are recognised as a vital part of contemporary Irish life. He was a member of the inaugural EFFE international jury in 2015.

Eva Neklyeva is a curator based in Santarcangelo di Romagna. She is concerned with the questions of freedom and focuses her practice on exploring these questions across performing art, politics and sexuality. At the moment, she is working as an artistic director towards her second edition of Santarcangelo festival. Her previous positions included Director of a contemporary art organization Checkpoint Helsinki and she had been running Baltic Circle International Contemporary Theatre Festival for six years. In 2014, Neklyeva has founded Wonderlust – a festival of diverse and creative sexuality that takes place every June in Helsinki.



For her work, Neklyeva received two TINFO awards for innovation in theatre field, Finnish PEN's Freedom of Speech award as well as Finnish Sexologists Association's award for promotion of sexual wellbeing. The current challenge is to find some kind of balance in the wild mix of personal, political and professional.

Andrea Voets obtained her bachelors of music and philosophy in Amsterdam at the age of 22. She then received a scholarship from the Prins Bernhard Fund to study at the Hanns Eisler conservatory in Berlin with Maria Graf. During her studies, Andrea won various first prizes and built a solo-career as a harpist. From the start, she produced interdisciplinary concerts as well. Andrea was appointed laureate of the Belgian SmartBE-foundation, as well as the Stringendo music fund, who supported a production on



Oscar Wilde's life with spoken-word artist Helen White. Andrea developed the notion of 'musical journalism' during and after the creation of XENITIA. She secured subsidy for this production on the occasion of the Dutch presidency of the EU in 2016, XENITIA has been touring around Europe since then. At ClassicalNEXT 2017, the head of music of the British Council called this production "the sort of program we need after Trump and Brexit."

Practical

Travel and Pick-up On your arrival at Brussels Airport Zaventem, we advise you to take the train to Mechelen. If the flight arrives on time you will be able to take the train at 10:11, arriving at 10:22 in Mechelen Station. Someone from the Festival will be there to pick you up and to bring you to the hotel. The driver will hold a sign with your name on it. The train ticket will be reimbursed on arrival. Please contact Eva on (+32 473 31 23 27) or Laure Verbruggen (+32 499 18 00 84) in case of a delay or if you can't find the driver.

Accommodation has been arranged for you for two nights, from 27 – 29 April in Hotel Elisabeth Goswin de Stassartstraat 26 (<http://www.elisabethhotel.be/nl/>)

Lunches:

Fri 27/4: 13u30	De Cirque: Vismarkt 8 (http://www.decirque.be/)
Sat 28/4: 13u(30)	Café Belge: Grote Mart 9 (http://www.cafebelge.eu/)
Sun 29/4: 13u(30)	Lord Nelson: Wollemarkt 8 (http://www.lord-nelson.be/)

Concerts

- **Friday 27 April:** The concert of Qntal and the workshop with Sigrid Hause takes place in the Cultural Centre of Mechelen, Minderbroedersgang 5 Mechelen, Belgium
- **Saturday 28 April:** The presentation of Bruno Tersago and the LUNALIA concert/documentary: Xenitia take place in the City Theatre Keizerstraat 2 Mechelen, Belgium
- **Sunday 29 April:** The concerts take place at Kunstencentrum NONA, Begijnenstraat 19/21 2800 Mechelen

Wining and dining

€ Unwined: Steenweg 22 (12:00–00:00 - <http://www.unwined.be/>)
l'Artista: Begijnenstraat 5 (11:30–14:00, 17:30–23:00 - <http://www.lartista.be>)
Pintxos: Nauwstraat 10 (12:00–23:00 - <https://www.pintxos.bar>)

€€ Cosma: Bafferstraat 24 (11:00–23:00 - <http://www.cosma.be>)
Lam'eau: Van Beethovenstraat 8 (11:30–15:30, 17:30–23:30 - <http://www.lameau.be>)
Graspoort: Begijnenstraat 28 (18:00–22:00 - <http://www.graspoort.be>)

Only drinks

De Gouden Vis: Nauwstraat 7 (10:00–00:00 - <http://www.degoudenvis.be>)
De Kuub: Minderbroedersgang 3A (08:30–02:00 - <http://dekuub.be>)
Kafee Zapoï: Onze-Lieve-Vrouwestraat 115 (12:00–00:00 - <http://www.kafeezapoi.be>)

Suggestions visits in Mechelen: Dossin Kazerne, Expo Photo Friction CC Mechelen, tour on the Dijle, Sint-Rombouts visit on the tower, brewery visit Het Anker, ...

Organising Partners

Lunalia is the Festival of Flanders Mechelen's new spring festival, the successor to Mechelen Hears Voices. The name refers both to the Mechelen legend of the 'Maneblussers' (luna), and to the fascinating universe of the human voice (lia). In times of alleged 'fake news', this international festival of voices goes in search of voices that have something genuine to say. It is not just about 'lovely songs' - instead it explores every aspect of speaking, singing, hesitant, strident or very soft human voices. Expect a festival of timeless vocal music with the power of the full moon.

FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS: Classical music festivals all over Flanders and Brussels Flanders' magnificent architectural heritage offers particularly great potential as a setting for musical events. For more than five decades, the Festival of Flanders has been making good use of this heritage to fill people of all ages with enthusiasm for classical music. By supporting young Flemish artists and taking a leading role in pioneering trends, the organisation contributes to Flanders' reputation as a centre for culture. Eight festivals with an international allure (in Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Kortrijk, Limburg, Mechelen and Flemish Brabant) have developed their own activities in completely unique ways. With varying emphases in the different regions, the festivals cover the entire classical repertoire from the Middle Ages to the present day, with excursions into traditional world music. Altogether, they offer high-quality music in the form of more than 550 productions and educational projects in more than 80 towns and cities, providing a considerable artistic, tourist and economic impulse for the region.

The Festival Academy, an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA), offers various training formats on festival management to young, dynamic and passionate festival makers worldwide. The Festival Academy aims to share, exchange and construct know-how on festival management. All training formats touch upon all artistic disciplines. It empowers a new generation of emerging leaders and generates new professional opportunities for festival makers. This way, The Festival Academy develops and sustains a network of festival leaders of the future. Capacity building and internationalisation are at The Festival Academy's core. The Festival Academy considers the art and the artists as the essence of festivals. Starting from this conviction, topics such as audience participation, quality of presentation, sustainability, budgetary orthodoxy, social impact and community engagement are all on the agenda. The training programmes within The Festival Academy are one of EFA's core activities.

The European Festivals Association (EFA) unites distinguished music, dance, theatre and multidisciplinary arts festivals from Europe and beyond since 1952. Today, the European Festivals Association (EFA) connects about 100 festivals and festival associations in 40 countries. EFA members are the core element that make the Association an open, influential, international place for any festival that wants to be part of a bigger festival community. The European Festivals Association's mission is to unite and represent its member festivals across Europe and the world by contributing to the artistic life of Europe. It acts as the most important platform for arts festivals. EFA members take the joint responsibility that the arts are prioritised offering their platforms to bring the arts to the audiences. Access and participation in culture and the arts is a Human Right. By supporting and enabling artistic creation, production and participation, EFA and its members ensure that this right is made a reality for all citizens. Interaction between festivals, with public authorities and the other stakeholders in the arts are central to EFA's work.

Contacts

Festival of Flanders Mechelen, Lunalia

Zoutwerf 5 2800 Mechelen

mechelen@festival.be

Office telephone: +32 (0)15 26 23 41

Director Jelle Dierickx - jelle@festival.be

Eve (+32 498 28 85 54) – Jelle (+32 483 57 78 12) - Eva (+32 473 31 23 27)

The Festival Academy

(initiative of the European Festivals Association)

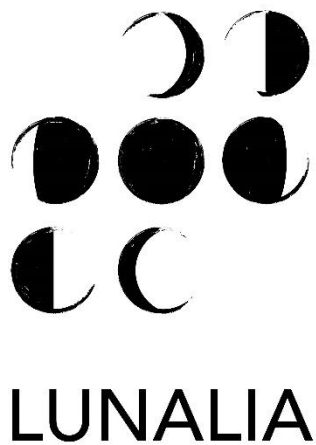
Saintelette Square 17

1000 Brussels, Belgium

Office telephone: +32 2 588 20 46

E-mail: info@thefestivalacademy.eu

Project Manager: Laure Verbruggen - laure@thefestivalacademy.eu / +32 499 18 00 84



The Festival Academy is an initiative of the European Festivals Association (EFA)



The activities in the EFA RISE project are implemented with the support of the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union