

FESTIVAL DE LIÈGE

A FESTIVAL THAT QUESTIONS THE PRESENT

True to the vision we set 22 years ago, this twelfth edition of the Liège Festival, like its predecessors, remains obstinately innovative and engaged.

This year again, we assert our strong desire to delve into the heart of our epoch, and to cast a critical and sharp eye on our times.

For three weeks, we invite you to join us on a long journey of beautiful and authentic adventures through the discovery of performances and artists from all over the world. The Liège festival as the beating heart of the Ardent City: A meeting point for strong and singular approaches, artists of international repute, a forum for creation, adventures, debate, confrontation, a place of discovery and a window wide open onto our world.

This year, the Liège Festival professes its long-standing ambition of revealing new territories, opening up to new languages and different sensibilities with unique artists who share a fierce determination to question the present.

While, over the years, the Liège Festival has secured the loyalty of a vast audience, it has also provided opportunities to forge strong links with artists leading to stimulating partnerships. As a consequence, we will have the pleasure of welcoming again artists to whom we are very much attached, such as Joël Pommerat, Fabrice Murgia, Zora Snake or the Chinese artist Wen Hui who was acclaimed during the first edition of the Festival in 2001.

We will also discover new faces: the Brazilian artist Janaina Leite, the Italians from Sotterraneo or Teatro Del Carretto, the Greek Pantelis Dentakis... just to mention a few.

The Festival will also feature companies and artists from the French community of Belgium such as Céline Beigbeder, Nicolas Bruno, Celine Chariot, Ecarlate la Compagnie, Sophie Linsmaux and Aurelio Mergola, Une Tribu Collectif... Young French-speaking Belgian artists will also be featured at the Winter Focus Factory—three weekends dedicated to emergent artists—and show us their fascinating projects in the making.

But the Liège Festival is not limited to these three ardent weeks, it also aims to be a thriving House of Performing Arts, a dynamic player in the city's cultural life.

Throughout the year, the Festival hosts several events in the Manège Fonck venues, other festivals as well as companies in residence whose work it supports in various ways. Finally, to consolidate its territorial roots, the Festival has entered into a partnership with the Liège culture centres (Les Chiroux, the Chénée, Ourthe et Meuse and Jupille-Wandre cultural centres) with which it has organised the coming of the show *Flesh* by the Still Life company.

All in all, the Liège Festival is a state of mind. A resolutely demanding artistic endeavour, yet always inclusive and festive. On stage where we will experience moments of pure joy and emotion born of the magic of live performance. Off stage, as well, with the wild after parties in the magical venues of the Manège Fonck, its meeting places and convivial atmosphere which is one of the Festival's trademarks.

This year, the Liège Festival will once again boldly carry out its mission to grant the public the gift of artistic expression in all of its delightful diversity.

And, as we are fond of repeating, long and joyously may the theatre live and change the world...

The Liège Festival Team
