

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORT AND MEDIA

BERLIN wins Flemish Culture Award for Performing Arts 2015

Berlin has been recompensed with the Flemish Culture Award for Performing Arts 2015. Flemish Minister for Culture, Sven Gatz, bestowed the prize on the Antwerp theatre company during the Theaterfestival at the Singel today, relaying the jury's plaudits for its unique interdisciplinary artistic approach.

Having become a household name on stages both in Belgium and abroad, Berlin is the brainchild of Bart Baele and Yves Degryse, who founded it, along with Caroline Rochlitz in 2003. The company's varied repertory has lost nothing of its relevance. The starting point for each production is one or other place on earth, which can be a city or a region: Jerusalem, Iqaluit, Bonanza and Moscow have thus provided the scene for their eponymous productions. Images, sound and the story are added by means of reflection and research, which are deepened through the use of different types of media. In its productions, Berlin doesn't shun universal themes, starting from personal and particular experiences and through their sequels contrives to forge relationships between the audience and the actor or the interviewee forthwith, thus blurring the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction and triggering the audience profoundly and intensively.

Or, in the words of Sven Gatz, *'Berlin has no equal when it comes to having the audience experience a special moment. Its documentary approach yields a unique kind of theatre. The way in which Berlin succeeds in making the synthesis of different disciplines can act as an example of the capacity for innovation of Flemish performing arts.'*

Berlin was a guest at big festivals this year, such as the KunstenFestivaldesArts, where it performed ZVIZDAL - Holoceen [#6] – 2016 [Chernobyl - so far so close], which is a filmic portrayal of two individuals in a phantom city and in essence a tale of loneliness and survival, in the aftermath of a failed atomic experiment. 'Perhaps All The Dragons', another production of theirs, was recently delivered on stage at TAZ. In the latter production the same themes are tackled in thirty different collected stories in seventeen languages, with actors and non-actors complementing each other. Both productions are still being toured throughout and outside of Europe.

Berlin insists on expressing its gratitude with an iconic image:



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Background information

Culture Awards Flanders 2015

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Culture Awards Flanders create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A cash prize of 10,000 EUR is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside 20,000 EUR for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate also receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by [Philip Aguirre](#)
www.cultuurprijzen.be

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[Theaterfestival 2016](#)