

PRESS RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORT AND MEDIA

Maarten Van Cauwenberghe wins Flemish Culture Prize for Cultural Entrepreneurship 2015

Today, the Flemish Minister of Culture, Sven Gatz, presented the Flemish Culture Prize for Cultural Entrepreneurship 2015 to Maarten Van Cauwenberghe during the Colloquium for Cultural Management. The jury praised the winner as a role model for young art organisations. Maarten Van Cauwenberghe is head of Voetvolk and has gained renown both at home and abroad. The seminar was held by the University of Antwerp, under the title 'Collaborating in a local eco-system: the cultural factor'.

To become a big company seems impossible for this generation, but Van Cauwenberghe is able to handle this in a **creative** way. As a **versatile** artist, he deploys many talents together and demonstrates considerable **entrepreneurial spirit** within a small structure. Besides subsidies, he is always aiming to obtain his own resources. As a composer-musician, he is well aware of how to assess needs and has grown to become a very strong business leader who is also tour manager, DJ and so much more. **Opting for the unusual**, and having the courage always to go for something new, sets him up as an example. Sven Gatz: *"I am keen to encourage this kind of entrepreneurship in the art world. Maarten Van Cauwenberghe can, as cultural entrepreneur, provide considerable inspiration to other organisations in their search for supplementary funding, one of the priorities of my policy."*

Voetvolk regularly stages new productions and takes them on extensive tours, while keeping older productions on the agenda. Older productions remain on the schedule. In 2015 Voetvolk put on 76 shows. This summer, the company will première its new creation 'We're pretty fuckin' far from okay' at the Festival of Avignon.

Maarten Van Cauwenberghe: *"Finding a new, alternative business model for a contemporary dance company is one of the aims of the organisation."* That is reflected in the whole approach: working not only on the structure for structure's sake, but on a **flexible company that operates in an environment of relationships** and that grows and shrinks to the rhythm of the projects.

Flanders Culture Prizes 2015

On the recommendation of a jury of experts, the Flemish minister of Culture honours an individual or organisation who has made a significant contribution during the previous season to the cultural landscape in Flanders. Flanders Culture Prizes announce the winner at an important sector event, hence both sector and winner receive attention and appreciation. A sum of 10,000 euro is awarded with a Culture Prize. For the General Culture Merit Award of the Flemish Community for General Culture Merit, the Government of Flanders reserves a sum of 20,000 euro. Each winner receives the bronze statue 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

www.cultuurprijzen.be

Background information

Read

www.cultuurprijzen.be

[Seminar of the Bilsen Fund for Culture Management of the University of Antwerp](#)

[Maarten Van Cauwenberghe](#)

[Voetvolk](#)

[YouTube clip of the winner on the channel of the Culture Prizes of Flanders](#)

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