

LEEWARDEN-FRIESLAND 2018
EUROPEAN CAPITAL
OF CULTURE

FRIESLAND STYLE 



YEAR MAGAZINE





ING proud main sponsor
Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018
European Capital of Culture





Set your watch to Friesland time!

Friesland is a special place – a little coastal province, which braves the winds and waves of the North Sea, and proudly speaks its own language. Things happen in a surprising way here, and 2018 is proof of this. As European Capital of Culture 2018 Friesland and its capital, Leeuwarden, are putting their stamp on The Netherlands. They are being an example of how we can dream differently, act differently, and embrace difference to enrich our lives. An example of how to shape a better future not just for Friesland, but for The Netherlands, Europe, and beyond.

The programme in 2018 reflects the urgencies of an agricultural region, where city and countryside, native and new-comer must work together. The programme therefore offers surprising combinations: artists with bio-diversity, theatre with immigration, festivals as a lab for sustainable innovation. It's not art for art's sake, but art as the medium for change, the artist working within communities to shape a new environment. A rich banquet of a programme created by a grassroots movement, which in Friesland is called *iepen mienskip* – an open sense of community – and the foundation stone of our programme. People shaping the future through the medium of a European capital of culture.

Friesland came together to make this programme. Literally thousands of people. Quite a reinvention of the role that art and community can play in our world today.

The programme has a strong European and international dimension, and is extraordinarily rich for the culture lover, as well as the ecological and social activist. World renowned street theatre company, Royal de Luxe, visit The Netherlands with their Giants for the first time. Eleven top international artists have been commissioned for the biggest fountain building project the country has ever seen. World theatre comes to Leeuwarden in *Strangers on Stage*. Comprehensive exhibitions explore De Stijl, Dadaism, Escher and the ever-mysterious Mata Hari.

Explore these and many more events. Head around the province and see what gems lie there for you. Join our banquet of ideas. Take your place at the table – and set your watch to Friesland time!

On behalf of all the thinkers and doers,
Team Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018

A woman with long, wavy, light-colored hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a vibrant red, sleeveless, ribbed dress. Her right hand is extended forward, palm up, as if reaching out. The background is a complex, golden mechanical structure, likely a clock or a watch movement, featuring large gears and circular plates with Roman numerals and month abbreviations (e.g., NOV, DEC, JAN, FEB, MAR). The lighting is warm, highlighting the metallic sheen of the clock and the woman's features.

**HEARST DE KLOKKEN
DE TAKOMST ROPT OM DY**

**DO YOU HEAR THE BELLS
THE FUTURE IS CALLING YOU**



2018.nl/en/openingweekend
26 & 27 January Friesland & Leeuwarden

Made possible with the support from ING and
the Ir. Abe Bonnema Stichting fund

We can't start without you

THE OPENING WEEKEND

Cycle, run, train or skate! Be there on 26th and 27th January. The Opening Weekend not only marks the start of a great cultural year, but also a time in which everyone can make a difference for each other. *Sûnder dy kinne we net begjinne.*

Ira Judkovskaja (artistic director at local theatre company Tryater) and Tatiana Pratley are in charge of an intimate, impressive and, above all else, united opening. It's true that the Tryater team and other professionals are collaborating with people who have been involved in the openings of Olympic Games, but it's definitely not going to be a bombastic parade and a bang on a gong. Judkovskaja: 'In Friesland we've already begun creating an open society.' Prejudices become questions. Creators from around the world are invited. Residents are working for a more diverse landscape. Anyone who feels secluded is given space; anyone who has a talent is given a stage. 'That is exactly what you'll feel during the opening weekend. *Hjir is wat geande* (something is happening here).'

So when will that *iepen mienskip* (open sense of community) have succeeded? Judkovskaja has asked that question to many of those involved. The answer? 'When we learn to really listen to each other. That is the central focus during the opening, starting on Friday evening. All the museums in Friesland, and the inhabitants as well, will be opening their doors to tell you the story they would like to take with them into the future – and why. People are already excited to find out what they'll experience that night.'

On the Saturday we'll zoom in on the city of Leeuwarden. 'During the day you'll wander between impressions of the entire year's programme, both indoors and outside.' In the evening, the excitement will increase. Everyone will come together in the squares in Leeuwarden, under huge Oldehove towers. Professionals and amateurs will fill the squares with theatre, dance, songs and music. And each location will be connected to each other through timed music and projections. 'You're listening, watching and are part of the whole.'

The prelude is the song *Seis oere thús* (Home at six), performed by the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra (NNO), the singer Nynke Laverman, you as a visitor, and all the other people around you. 'A call to sink your teeth into a new time.' The whole of Friesland will raise its voice. Judkovskaja: 'All the village and city clocks will sound at the same time. It's going to be an incredible challenge and take some very precise timing, but even more than that, it'll be a musical firework display for everyone, everywhere in the province. I'm going to enjoy it.' ♥

Be part of The Opening Weekend or watch it live on 27th January on NPO1.
2018.nl/en/openingweekend

PHOTO IMAZZO

SEIS OERE THÚS / HOME BY SIX

Kom dyn nêst út jonge
It nêst waarm fan ferline
Skuor iepen de gerdinen
Spring derút de dei is nij
Hearst de klokken
De takomst ropt om dy

Mei juster achterop
Hast altyd tsjin 'e wyn yn
Doar dysels opnij te finen
Flean dyn eigen skaad foarby
En fluitsje
Fluitsje dy wer nij

En de klokken se sjonge
Se sjonge foar ús
Seis oere thús
Seis oere thús
En de klokken se sjonge
Allinne foar ús
Flean de wrâld yn myn jonge
Seis oere thús

De fearten fol mei âlde kij
Dy't oeral wat fan fine
Lit de sinne foar dy skine
Hear de fûgels, do bist frij
Fiel de grûn fiel dy bûn
Foar altyd ferbûn oan dy

En de klokken se sjonge
Se sjonge foar ús
Seis oere thús
Seis oere thús
En de klokken se sjonge
Allinne foar ús
Flean de wrâld yn myn jonge

En fertel my watsto net witst
En ik folgje en ik folgje
Ferjit fan wa'sto der ien bist
Want ik ken dy
Nim my mei yn dyn dreamen
Nei wêrsto noch net bist
Set dyn tosken yn in nije tiid
Set dyn tosken yn in nije tiid

Koar:
En de klokken sjonge foar ús
Seis oere thús
Seis oere thús
Set dyn tosken yn in nije tiid

Solo:
Op lange skonken skiednis stiest
De bonken fan wa'st juster wiest
Mar de kleuren binn' ferwosken
Set dyn tosken yn in nije tiid
Set dyn tosken yn in nije tiid

Fertel my wa'sto hjoed bist
En ik sis dy dat it goed is
Datst my allang yn 't bloed sitst
Datst my allang yn 't bloed sitst

Ik wol witte wat dyn dream is
Wa'st allegear noch mear bist
Ast al it âlde stean litst
Ast al it âlde stean litst
Om te fleanen om te fleanen om te fleanen

Time to rise and shine boy
From your warm bed of the past
Open the curtains fast
Jump up the day is new
Hear the bells toll
The future's calling you

With yesterday on your back
You'll struggle against the wind
Dare to find yourself again
Let your shadow wait for you
And whistle
Whistle yourself new

And the bells they are singing
They're singing to us
Home by six
Home by six
And the bells they are singing
Only to us
Spread your wings my boy
Home by six

Down a crowded memory lane
Old voices tell you what to do
Let the sun shine down on you
Hear the birds you are free
Feel the ground feel the bond
Bound forever bound to you

And the bells they are singing
They're singing to us
Home by six
Home by six
And the bells they are singing
Only to us
Spread your wings my boy

And tell me what you don't know
And I will follow I will follow
Forget the kin where you fit in
For I know you
Take me with you in your dreams
To where you long to go
Sink your teeth into a new time
Sink your teeth into a new time

Choir:
And the bells are singing to us
Home by six
Home by six
Sink your teeth into a new time

Lead:
You walk on legs of history
The bones of who you used to be
But the colours have all faded
Sink your teeth into a new time
Sink your teeth into a new time

Tell me who you are today
And I will tell you it's okay
You are in my blood to stay
You are in my blood to stay

Let me know what your dream is
All that you may become
If you leave what's old and done
If you leave what's old and done
So you can fly so you can fly so you can fly

DARE TO DREAM

Nim my mei yn dyn dreamen
Nei wêrsto noch net bist



Our ambitions are idiosyncratic and boundless. We dare to dream big and cross borders, together with national and European artists. *Gjin kwelder is ús te djip en gjin terp ús te heech.* Great deeds are born of small initiatives. We're not only dreaming about later on, we're making the European future now, on the spot.



THE GIANTS OF ROYAL DE LUXE



PHOTO SERGE KOUTCHINSKY / ROYAL DE LUXE



2018.nl/en/thegiants
17 – 19 August Leeuwarden

This project is supported by the City of Nantes and the French Ministry of Culture and Communication through Royal de Luxe. The project is made possible by sponsors ING and De Haan Advocaten & Notarissen

The Giants of Royal de Luxe have never been to The Netherlands before. The French street theatre company attracts millions of visitors around the world with its huge marionettes. This is a first for a simple city, a city that has learned to think much bigger and which, in 2018, offers so much room for imagination and emotion. 'People in the streets of London were crying because The Giants were leaving, and you will cry too.'

Leeuwarden, look up! Look up high!

International producer Claudia Woolgar tells this with dramatic gestures and a huge smile. She is just back from Le Havre, where The Giants of Royal de Luxe stayed for three days. 'It was strange and touching at the same time. They snore. They breathe. They eat their breakfast. They have to pee along the way ... You live with them in the city, for three days. From toddlers and teenagers to pensioners, they all want to see how these huge people move. You'll grow attached to them and you'll want them to stay.'

The Giants will walk – physically operated by dozens of people from the Royal de Luxe theatre company – through the small streets in the centre of Leeuwarden, but they can also be found in the surrounding neighbourhoods. 'The Giants take you to places in the city where you haven't been before and move you in ways you never felt before.' Will The Giants be able to find each other during those three days? If they do, spectators will undoubtedly be touched. 'Yes, they are big. But they are also delicate, kind, human. Giants are scary in many stories but these are not. They are just like us.'

Where does Royal de Luxe get its inspiration? 'Through the fact that imagination and being touched emotionally are accessible to everyone. Everything is possible. Both physically and emotionally. The Giants are so huge that you can see them coming from wherever you are. From your wheelchair on the street, on your dad's shoulders, but also from your balcony or roof terrace', says Woolgar with her finger on the route map. 'And touching others also happens because you have so many people – who you don't know – sharing a sense of awe and disbelief. A person living in a house in one area of Leeuwarden will often take a different route through the city than a visitor from the countryside. Now you're with each other sharing in the wonder, in all kinds of different places. That connects people.'

On the third day, bring along your giant handkerchief ... Woolgar: 'The Parade of The Giants is the best, a real spectacle shared with each other. We will say a sad goodbye, but above all celebrate the Giants' first visit to this small country and – wow! – to Leeuwarden!' ♥

Will you be here too? View all the information here and book a night's stay.
2018.nl/en/thegiants



11 FOUNTAINS

International water debates

It's on! You can now do the cultural Route of all Routes. In 2018, in every one of the eleven Frisian cities, you will discover a unique fountain, a fountain designed by international artists. **ALE BOK**, a member of one of the cities' fountain committees, reflects on the fountain in Sneek.

'We've known great prosperity in the city with good trade relations with Germany and wealthy families such as the Brenninkmeijers and the Poiesz family. But Sneek has also known adversity. The artist has been inspired by this.'

'A man in a nice suit holds the Horn of Plenty whilst trying to balance on a rotating ball. You never know what the future will hold.'

'Yes, there were lots of discussions about priorities and taste. That's what art in a public space does – everyone has an opinion about it.'

'Our Fountain Committee includes young people, older people, businessmen and women, artists, teachers, and financial experts. People from all walks of life in our community have come together for this project.'

'From a beautiful wooden platform, accessible by steps, you get a view of the city's Waterpoort and of the fountain. It is a 'must-see' for cultural tourists, and can easily be combined with a city walking tour and a visit to the Fries Scheepvaartmuseum (Frisian Ship Transport Museum)'





Come on! This is Workum's idea for its *Elfstedentocht*. Local theatre company De Paupers believe that a fountain can also be designed and made by the inhabitants themselves. The result is the Pauper Fountain. Or, as the locals call it, the Penis Fountain. Artist **HENK DE BOER** had the original idea for this project – and everyone can be a member by contributing something.

'It's a theme with so many possibilities – we've had a lot of fun together. Pass on the idea because it will be a big hit at parties. Before you know it you'll be ten jokes and ten ideas down the road!'

'It's a fountain made up of large and small wooden penises which move, and it even includes a WC. It's a magical place. If you pee in the WC, the fountain spouts and you spout in unison. An artwork for everyone and fun for all ages.'

Become a 'member' by contributing to the crowd funding campaign. You'll then receive your very own penis.

'Ever since the idea was launched, I've been getting daily reactions. One person wants to bake penis-cakes, another wind-vanes. We already have volunteers to look after the WC which is at its centre, and other villages and towns want to host the fountain for a while.'

'We're doing it by ourselves and for ourselves. It's what we've been doing for years in performances and projects with De Paupers and the locals. Do you have a talent or a simple hobby? Then we can work that into our performance. That's where the word *mienskip* came from, right?'

'What the artwork is about is how the bullies and big dicks forget that they can't do anything without the little dicks. This is how society actually works.'

'It's not vulgar at all, really – it's about getting up and doing something. Turning your criticism into a creative statement.'

'It's great that we're now included in the main programme for LF2018. That's exactly how it should be: a place for everything and everyone.'

Want a splash without a pee? You can find out everything about the *Pauper Fountain* and its accompanying performance here: 2018.nl/en/thepauperfountain





Each of the eleven cities has their own international artwork, and a story to match. Travel through these stories, from an astronaut in the Middle Ages into a cold winter, from dreaming children into the unifying force of flowers.

The 11Fountains project has been realised in partnership with the Province of Friesland and the municipalities of the eleven cities, and with the support of ING. The Dokkum fountain has been made possible by support from the Mondriaan Fonds



LEEWARDEN

'In Friesland', says Jaume Plensa (Spain) 'water evaporates from the ground in the morning to create misty fields.' He has designed two children's heads several metres tall which look at each other above the mist. The fountain is located in the renovated area around the railway station. Together, they dream about the future and remind the people who live in Leeuwarden, as well as visitors, of their own dreams.



DOKKUM

The basic form of the fountain in Dokkum which was created by Birthe Leemeijer (The Netherlands) recalls a photo taken by photographer Bert Koch in 1963. The photo was taken during that famously cold winter - when even the North Sea froze - and it shows how an ice sculpture had formed in the receding sea water. The fountain also refers to Dokkum's past when it was once an important harbour city with an open channel to the sea.



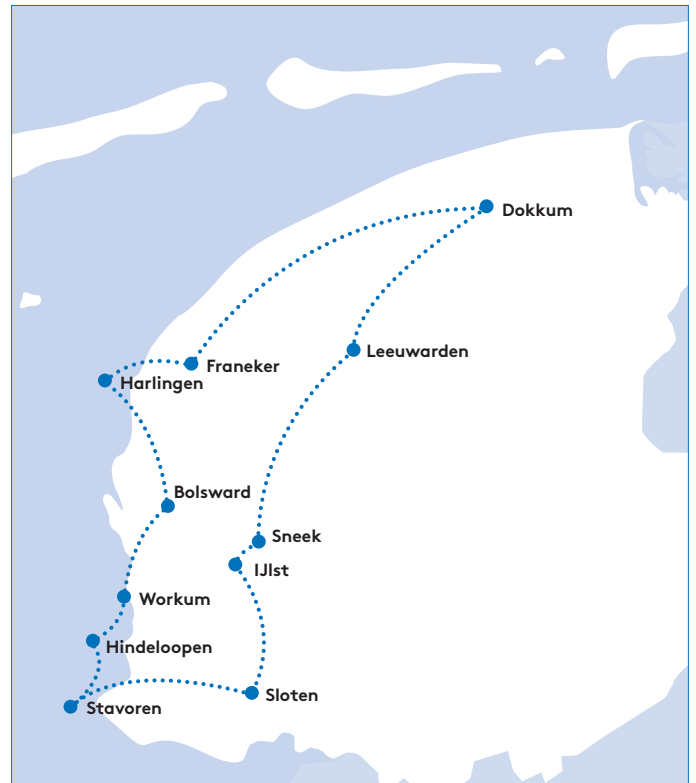
IJLST

Shinji Ohmaki (Japan): 'During my visit to IJlst I was struck by how much the history and culture of the people living here are connected to the surrounding water and the natural environment in general. What particularly fascinated me was the gradual development of the city from the water, and the importance of the plants growing around the local mansions. I saw a link here with an old style of Japanese flower arranging called Tachibana in which the flower arrangement symbolises the eternal connection between people and their natural environment.'



SLOTEN

Lucy & Jorge Orta (Great Britain and Argentina): 'Wherever you are in Sloten, you feel close to its people and how they live: windows open wide, laundry flapping in the breeze to dry, homemade baked goodies cooling on a window sill, benches outside in front of the windows. The *Kievit Fontein* (Lapwing Fountain) tells something about this shared everyday life. The lapwing on the hand of the girl, who is standing on the shoulders of a boy, refers to a tradition which is specific to Friesland. But the fountain also has a universal message. It refers to something that people in The Netherlands have in abundance but which is never taken for granted in other parts of the world: water! Water is the source of all life.'



PHOTOS TEAM HORSTHUIS

FRANEKER

Jean-Michel Othoniel (France): 'When I visited Franeker I was struck by its unique medieval look and the human scale of the city. I discovered that Franeker was once a university city that had welcomed many leading scholars, and it was the birthplace of Jan Hendrik Oort, one of the most important astronomers of the 20th century. My design pays homage to Oort for his description of the galactic halo, a group of stars orbiting the Milky Way that bear his name: the Oort Cloud.'

**Do the full splashing Route of all Routes and visit all 11Fountains!
2018.nl/en/11fountains**



Look what I can do!

ADJE LAMBERTSZ



PHOTO IMAZZO

Sjoukje and Alon go to the Wiarda School. They heard about Mayor Lamberts from Leeuwarden who 'long, long ago' – in the 16th century – decided that there had to be a big festival for children. And the festival will be held again in 2018! Sjoukje thinks Mr Lamberts was cool. Because of him, she's going to learn acrobatics and her classmate will get wings.

Culture Coach Onno, in his coloured shirt, can take it easy. Sjoukje, Elske, Jesse and Alon have already come up with their act. 'This is what happens when everything goes OK and children have a say in things, instead of adults,' he says with a grin. Sjoukje doesn't miss a word he says. 'We get graded on language and maths, but not when we make something new or fold little paper aeroplanes.' She nods to Jesse who's happily doing the folding. The little aeroplane flies over the table in a huge arc, its nose diving through the air. It worked!

I'M GOOD AT THIS

What are you good at, or what would you like to show others? This question is being asked at all 9 and 10-year-olds in primary schools in Leeuwarden. 'When I asked Jesse this question he said he didn't know. He thought he had to be able to do something really special. But just look at how much fun he's having. That simple pleasure and pride are what Adje Lamberts had in mind,' says Onno. 'Every school is following in his footsteps by developing a circus show. A selection of these will be performed for the general public during the Adje Circus in the Winkelpark De Centrale. Special lessons will be given, and kids from all the neighbourhoods can take part. They'll be hoisted into the air, they'll dare to do new things, and learn to dream out loud. Some might ride a scooter or balance in a living pyramid, while others will work behind the scenes on the set. Each of those 14,000 children and young people can do something.'

During this conversation, Alon is entirely focused on his masterpiece. A little man in a whopper of a circus tent appears from out of the tip of his pencil. He only looks up when Onno suggests that Jesse make some really big paper aeroplanes, which could fly to the sound of music. 'OK, then I'll want to paint them. That's something I'm good at.'

EVERYDAY OBJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Simple little tricks combined with old-fashioned circus acts: special in today's world of YouTube heroes and selfies? Onno: 'Absolutely. We – and I also mean they themselves – expect a lot from children. But riding a bike without training wheels also deserves a place in the spotlight.' Elske wants to perform in the show. 'Then I'll be a strict teacher who says that folding paper aeroplanes isn't necessary and that the children have to stop daydreaming.' Jildou: 'And then we'll do it anyway. We can do anything we want.'

Nod. Whizz. Bang. Cheer. Ladies and gentlemen: the circus is coming to town! ♥

Come to the Adje Festival!
2018.nl/en/adjelambertsz



PHOTO JACOB VAN ESSEN

LÚD International sound-art

New York, Riga and... Rijs! That's where you'll find exhibitions consisting entirely of sound-art. Rijs lies in the rolling, wooded landscape of Gaasterland, a region in the southwest of Friesland. The hills, vast deciduous forests, tremendous views across the IJsselmeer lake, and the very cliffs themselves make this a special place in The Netherlands.

It's an exciting and versatile environment, where a new sound will be heard in 2018. Art club Gaasterland is organising a large exhibition for several months, and this time they won't be using visual arts. Board member Anne Hakes: 'We're going to do something completely different, a party for local residents and visitors. Exhibitions containing only sound-art can be found in a few major foreign cities, but not in an environment like this. A magnificent place, with soundscapes and stories.'

That sound will be coming from all directions and can be found in different places. 'Alongside local and national sound art, we will also be hosting international artists. You can take a long or short walk through the woods, along the IJsselmeer, the Castle Garden and many other special places. This exhibition is also very suitable for the blind and the visually impaired – a wonderful unforeseen addition.' ♥

Sound interesting? LÚD is free to visit. Check out 2018.nl/en/lud



PLACES OF HOPE

Excited for the future!

Live in your own nature reserve. Purchase a windmill with your neighbours that provides the entire village with power. Eat locally grown mushrooms.

This may sound far off, but the truth is that throughout The Netherlands various pioneers are reinventing the world they live in. More in harmony with nature and with each other. These are very different people – from the head of a water authority board to a supermarket businessman – and what they do often happens in unexpected places.

The exhibition *Places of Hope* is an initiative of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment which takes you to these places of the future. You'll meet dozens of inspirational landmakers and their projects - projects which provide hope and inspiration for a sustainable future. That future starts in Leeuwarden, and in the North Netherlands, where man and nature, city and countryside, are inextricably linked. *Places of Hope* can be seen in the historical Kanselarij on Turfmarkt. ♥

Marvel, talk and look! 2018.nl/en/placesofhope



PHOTO RUBEN VAN VLIET

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE

Homesick before you even arrive

For three days *Welcome to The Village* is the greatest village in Europe. In this musical, theatrical, innovative and culinary mini-society, everything is being done to make the world a better, more beautiful and more aware place. A summer festival where pop culture rules and everything just makes sense. Backstage, as well as front.

According to artistic director, Sjoerd Bootsma, it's a small festival with big ambitions. 'During the UN summit in New York in 2015, 193 world leaders formulated the Sustainable Development Goals: a seventeen-point document encompassing sustainable goals. These goals are what inspires *Welcome to The Village*. During the festival, we function as a small-scale society, coming up with solutions for challenges facing the entire world in our temporary festival lab: we want a sustainable society in which everyone can play a role. And we do this with international artists as well as local chefs and people from the surrounding area.'

Social festival

An example of this inclusive world? Dancing together to acts like Franz Ferdinand or Typhoon is crazy. Franz Ferdinand's best-known song is *Take Me Out* – a phrase that becomes a reality every year for over 200 festival participants with a disability, older people, and people on benefit. Bootsma: 'If you can hook a line of flags together or hang up a light bulb, you can also help design the festival grounds. We'll be really happy to have you here and you've earned your ticket.' Typhoon's motto *Lobi da basi* (love is the boss) seems to seep through the backstage tent.

Food for thought

And the sustainable world? If, as a festival, you say that food needs to be sustainable and logical, you can set up



PHOTOS HANS JELLEMA, JANTINA TALSMA, MARC HENRI QUERÉ

ten organic food trucks. Finished? No way. You need to set an example every edition and open a discussion, believes Bootsma and his entire team. 'Free-range ponies were slaughtered for the 2017 edition. Normally, these are processed as cheap offal in frikandellen (a typical Dutch sausage). But now people pay a reasonable price for tender red meat. It prompted a huge amount of discussion about the value of meat, both online and on the festival grounds.'

Clothes from cigarette filters

Sustainable innovations are created in the innovation project *DORP*, where clever minds from around the world gather. Because a temporary village, in which people party, camp, eat, use the toilets for three days, is a paradise for inventors and entrepreneurs who dream of an

energy-neutral world. The world doesn't get any better from symbolic waste separation. 'So they use the festival to test their cricket burgers, edible spoons, clothes made from cigarette filters, cardboard tents, furniture made from traffic signs, and other influential innovations. If it works here at the festival, chances are it'll work elsewhere, too.'

Newcomers

Integration also works perfectly in a micro society such as this one. Aziza Brahim appears on the stage. She grew up in an Algerian refugee camp and is now a successful singer. Bootsma: 'Backstage and onstage there are people with similar refugee stories, newcomers to Friesland. They represent 10% of the huge number of volunteers at the festival.' Social entrepreneur Hooman Nassimi: 'Sjoerd asked

me how we could work together. And whether the newcomers each needed a buddy. Do you know what these people went through and what route they followed to get here? They'll be perfectly fine at a festival, I laughed. New friendships are forged, certificates for work experience signed - but most of all, these people are seen as whole once again. And that is what makes an inclusive micro society.' ♥

Already homesick? Get a taste on 2018.nl/en/welcometothevillage



The number of musical groups, bands, singers and musicians in Friesland is staggering. In 2018 they will join together to form an ongoing story from music: *Never Ending Orchestra*.

A thousand and one concerts, throughout the province. *Never Ending Orchestra* (NEO) invites the members of musical *mienskip* to enjoy music and help others, as much as possible, to enjoy music too. 'Friesland is bursting with musicians, marching bands, singers. Together with Friesland Pop, CityProms, OMF (the Music Association of Friesland) and Poppodium Neushoorn, we are working towards 2018. That year will be one big stage for all the talents we have here,' says project leader Margriet Gerritsma of Keunstwurk.

NEO Spots

Those talents will surprise themselves and others, Gerritsma predicts. 'We are used, for example, to hearing brass music being played on an indoor stage by a band, but the Broken Brass Ensemble is proving that brass bands can also

be a huge hit at festivals and appeal to new audiences. We recently had hip hop from the Bilgaard quarter of Leeuwarden performing right in the midst of the shoppers. That twist is something you will be seeing a lot more of in 2018.' Amateurs are brought together with regional musical heroes, such as Iris Kroes, to make special crossovers with existing projects. You'll be seeing NEO at festivals, for example CityProms or Welcome to The Village, but also in village squares and community centres. 'I think it'll be great to go to somewhere like Holwerd or Cornwerd, and turn the village upside down with an unexpected collaboration. Such surprises are only possible thanks to all the representatives of the Frisian music world. Now, and after 2018, that will mean an enormous boost for musical Friesland.'

NEO Care

Never Ending Orchestra is for everyone, no matter what your age or taste in music. It is also for people who, due to particular circumstances, are unlikely to encounter music often, but who could actually really use the joy or consolation that music provides. 'That is why you will also find a NEO stage in, for example, hospitals, nursing homes, shelters and rehabilitation centres.'

NEO LWD

From May to September, it'll be impossible to miss it in Leeuwarden. Pop, classical, urban, choirs, punk, opera, quartets, music theatre, brass bands: everything goes. Concerts in the park, on the canals or a special music production somewhere in a neighbourhood: no place is too strange. ♥

Experience the Never Ending Orchestra everywhere, check out 2018.nl/en/neo



Spectacular balancing act

FINESTRA APERTA



On the historical monastery hill of Smalle Ee near the city of Drachten, *Finestra Aperta* tells us about the search for balance in a location known for being the largest bamboo dome in Europe. The art of living together, packed into a purely visual, musical circus show.

lepen mienskip, the Frisian way of life, appears in numerous shows in 2018. In text, image and dance. The most spectacular one can be seen in Smalle Ee: through the air over ropes, cages and crossbars. Performers defy both gravity and your imagination, led by an unpredictable force: music. Together with the audience seven acrobats and five musicians search for balance and support. But as soon as you think you're in balance, someone always stumbles. Artistic director Anne Zwaga, from the theatre company Blau Hynder, has created this production with the theatre De Lawei and Boost Productions: 'This circus and musical performance has a multitude of layers. It's for all ages and nationalities, and exceptional in many

Experience *Finestra Aperta* and jump to 2018.nl/en/finestraaperta

ways. The landscape and the route to the bamboo dome, the acrobatics, the huge structure that moves through the space, professional musicians such as Egon Kracht who will raise your spirits with powerful chords and sound. But also the thought behind all this: we are constantly looking for balance.'

Excitement together

Living together means looking out for one another, and, at the same time, giving each other space. This turns out to be the golden approach in Frisian villages and neighbourhoods, but also for the makers of *Finestra Aperta*. The title means 'open window'. 'There is always one inside and one outside, the one and the other. Keeping the relationship in balance can be very demanding', says Zwaga.

According to circus director Lennie Visser (Boost Productions), it requires, above all else, technical control. 'Setting up this huge hanging-mobile structure, making sure that the acrobatic choreography is correct, and doing so in a space which ensures everyone has a good view is a huge puzzle.' Not only for the performers, but for those outside as well. 'You're surrounded by nature and natural materials, in the end the landscape also plays a surprising role.'

The team needs to be able to build upon each other, literally and figuratively. Visser: 'I hope that we can show that it's about trust. And that we can encourage interaction. The production is therefore done with local residents. A bow can easily be made using bamboo. This makes it a project about people who, together, make beautiful things.' ♥



The M-word explained once and for all

Doch mar gewoan. In other words, just act normal. That sentence is tattooed on the forehead of every Frisian. The biggest misunderstanding outside the region is that you'll only meet stiff, boring people. Silent faces behind closed gates. But no, the Frisians open their gates to everyone.

With each other, for each other and across from one another. This is called *iepen mienskip*, if you want to give it a name. An open sense of community. We became a European Capital of Culture with it, but feel free to forget the term after reading this. The Frisians never say it out loud. We just go ahead and

crochet the largest blanket in the world with others in Europe. We make shows together. Build bridges between social classes. Bring together a right-wing voter and an asylum seeker during a volunteer service ... who now eat pancakes together. We just go ahead and do it. ♥

During 2018 hundreds of Frisians are working together on performances and projects. Meet a few of them from *Welcome to The Village*.

BEN

'Everyone worked up a sweat for the first edition of *Welcome to The Village* - for a beer and a barbecue! Now I have my own company as a freelancer, something I've wanted for a very long time. That shed with volunteers has developed into a temporary village full of eccentric people gaining work experience, building



a mega network and making friends for life. What's really special are the social projects. You get to know so many other people, it has changed my life.'



MAARTEN

'How many 18-year-olds can put office management and financial assistant on their CV? Your age does not matter here. If you want to join and create your own opportunities, you get all the confidence and space to develop yourself. Participating in a music venue and festival gives you six years of experience in one year.'

PAULA

'It is a relief to really be seen, instead of writing five cover letters a week and getting no response. From the welfare office, I coordinate the studio Chameleon, where we do craftwork with women from all over the world. We get



weekend tickets for the festival which we've made things for. Seeing ladies from Suriname dancing and laughing at the festival site is the best payback, it gives me the courage to continue with my work.'



BASSIL

'I have built a sustainable jacuzzi. Installed light cords. Helped with painting. Learned the language. Met new people. Made friends. Got ideas for furthering my education here. Having fled from Syria, I can think of no finer place than Leeuwarden. Here I can do and learn anything.'

GETTY

'I connect a wide variety of target groups by using culture. People put their otherwise unrecognised talent to use for things like the UITFestival, 8th Day and *Welcome to The Village*. The elderly make designs. Nerds use their precision for technical things. Newcomers are asked about their



skills. That creates self-confidence, new contacts, sometimes even a job and a much richer programme. I have the best job of 2018.'



MRS. HOBMA

'83 years old and at a festival! Who'd have thought it? We've even been to the site and I've seen it with my own eyes. I don't have many years left, but the new generation enjoys my creativity. And I enjoy theirs. I think it's fantastic.'



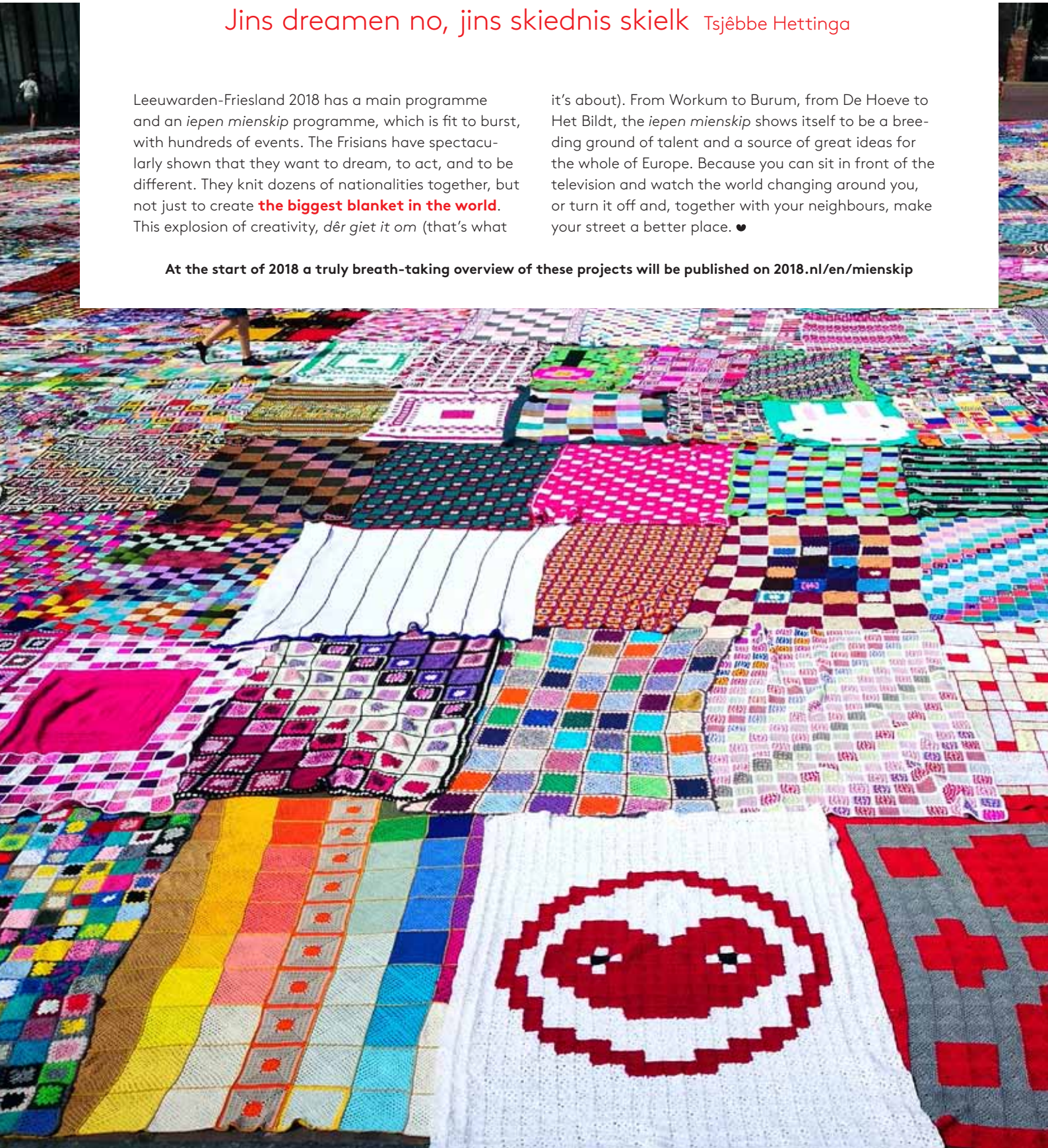
IEPEN MIENSKIP PROGRAMME

Jins dreamen no, jins skiednis skielk Tsjêbbe Hettinga

Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018 has a main programme and an *iepen mienskip* programme, which is fit to burst, with hundreds of events. The Frisians have spectacularly shown that they want to dream, to act, and to be different. They knit dozens of nationalities together, but not just to create **the biggest blanket in the world**. This explosion of creativity, *dêr giet it om* (that's what

it's about). From Workum to Burum, from De Hoeve to Het Bildt, the *iepen mienskip* shows itself to be a breeding ground of talent and a source of great ideas for the whole of Europe. Because you can sit in front of the television and watch the world changing around you, or turn it off and, together with your neighbours, make your street a better place. ♥

At the start of 2018 a truly breath-taking overview of these projects will be published on 2018.nl/en/mienskip





Foaming sentences

During the first weekend of August Harlingen is the most important harbour city in the world. Sailors and writers from the four corners of the compass will make it their destination. And visitors will ride the waves on the beauty of ships and poetry.

The most beautiful tall ships in the world will sail an adventurous route in 2018. Adventurous not only because they will follow a special route over the seas, but because half of the crew are between the ages of 15 and 25. Amongst the violence of the waves, the creaking planks and the unrelenting push and pull of the water, fears are conquered, young people learn about other cultures, and friendships are forged for life.

Trainee Hylke had a brilliant time on board. 'At one point the captain left complete control of the ship to us. That

was a crazy feeling. *How tall are you?* Everyone on board will be asked that question in 2018. I'll be there and I'll see you on the quay at the finale!

The race begins in Sunderland and goes to Stavanger via Esbjerg. After two weeks all the ships will come to the finish – the city of Harlingen.

The crew will meet a bustling city with some 300,000 visitors. Quays full of amazement and wonder. Sailors from all over the world. Shanty songs about universal themes such as freedom, desire and melancholy.



A Unique Literature Festival

Over the weekend the beauty of the ships will be combined with the beauty of literature. From 3 – 5 August, during the Tall Ships Races, is the Literature Festival *The Sea! The Sea!* The festival will be full of surprises, with lectures in special places and an introduction to poetry and language which will be accessible to all. And of course the festival is dedicated to the sea and the role that the sea plays in our lives. *The Sea! The Sea!* is part of *Lân fan taal*. ♥

Wind and words in the sails! 2018.nl/en/tallshipsraces • 2018.nl/en/theseathesea

DARE TO ACT

Skuor iepen de gardinen
Spring derút de dei is nij



Ja wy kinne! From the Frisian *lânskip* you will see that Europe can be greener, more diverse, more sustainable and circular. Farmers, artists, residents and researchers are having an impact – getting off the sofa and taking care of each other. This year and for many years to come. We form our landscape with life. Because *wa't bang is foar in wiet pak, komt nea oer de sleat* ('those afraid to get wet will never cross the ditch').



HOPE FROM HÚNS

FARM OF THE WORLD

The Jedi in *Star Wars 1: The Phantom Menace* wore clothing made from her organic coloured fabrics. She has made art which has filled rooms in the Rijksmuseum, the Fries Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Her largest piece of art will soon be hanging in the library of the University of Pennsylvania. But artist **CLAUDY JONGSTRA**'s biggest work is done on a farm that's a ten-minute drive from Leeuwarden. Where hoes are transformed into light sabres and young people become citizens of the world.

Making everyone feel at ease. Jongstra's partner, Claudia Busson, does it from the moment you arrive at the farm. 'Just have a look around. I'm still a bit busy. Claudy will be here soon.' And away she goes. *De Kreake* is a farm in Húns. Reassuring rustling trees, crunching gravel path. A white house with a little blue door. Anyone feeling a bit stressed should spend five minutes here.

The studio has the same effect. A still-warm wood-burning oven, the smell of wool, light coming in that no Instagram filter can beat and again, that feeling of being at ease. Two women work here with a bunch of enthusiastic helpers on the *Farm of the World* project and open a door to a much larger world. Diverse, local, international, organic and together.

Jongstra: 'Since 2014 we've been busy rediscovering the qualities of the farm and the land and how to use that diversity. This is about transition. All around us we see farmers who want to work in a natural and sustainable way but who are stuck in the system. Here



DETAIL FROM THE WORK
AKZONOBEL HONEYSUCKLE BLUE(S) GARDEN

we take the time and create the space to show how farming can be different. We have a sheep meadow, a vegetable garden, an apple orchard, pastures and a cornfield. This place was already inhabited in 1717. I read and researched to learn about what the land needs and how we can shape that into a model for sustainable-revenue.'

FROM RED BULL TO WATER

At *de Kreake* they ask that same question about the young people who work and learn on the farm. What do they need and how can they contribute to the world? In the morning the boys and girls work in the garden, where colours for the art and food are harvested. In the afternoon they make a meal and then it's time for the artistic part of the day. 'When they started they drank Red Bull, they didn't like cooking and had no knowledge of the world and its riches. Now they prefer drinking water with delicious herbs, they love to prepare fresh food from the garden, we have passionate discussions every week about a new crop, and they speak English with



CLAUDY JONGSTRA (LEFT) AND CLAUDIA BUSSON PHOTOS IMAZZO

'We feel so supported here; this would never have got off the ground in the big cities.'

Jongstra's students. They are no longer clients, but citizens of the world. Every thing and everyone has a role on this earth. Hogweed can be a medicine, indigo a natural nail varnish.'

This organic care model has also made an impression on the Ministry of Social Affairs. There is not only a photo exhibition of *Farm of the World*; similar projects in other regions are also being developed. Jongstra nods approvingly. 'Think big!'

Thinking big, in huge felt wall hangings in places with global stature – but also in ambitions in that small village, Húns. 'We make ceramics from local clay with the young people, which must, of course, appear at the Dutch Design Week. A chef from the Netflix hit series *Chef's Table* is a friend of ours, and I would like to link them to this project. The whole world

is welcome in 2018, and we will open the door every Thursday for visitors to participate. And the door is always open, because enthusiastic helpers from Australia sometimes show up unexpectedly, or students from China and Ghana.'

Local and international collaboration can only be successful in Friesland, according to Jongstra. 'We feel so supported here; this would never have got off the ground in the big cities. There is so much quality and attention to quality here, even the outdoor game by volunteers is worked out to the smallest detail.' Busson: 'The farmers in the area have become my best friends. They help me, even when I say that they absolutely cannot use any *Roundup* in their gardens, ha ha. I don't always know what I want to do, but they are all so patient and interested.'

AKZONOBEL HONEYSUCKLE BLUE(S) GARDEN

When Jongstra and Busson won a silver prize for their 'painting plants' garden at the UK's Chelsea Flower Show – the most prestigious garden exhibition in

the world – the warmest congratulations came from the neighbourhood. 'We got an SMS: 'congratulations from duo Corfri'. Who? They both grin. 'Neighbourhood men who always want to help, Cor and Frits.'

At the Chelsea Flower Show garden, which was called the *AkzoNobel Honeysuckle Blue(s) Garden*, visitors were to be found lying on their stomachs with tweezers between the paint plants and weeds ... But not only Queen Elizabeth has the honour of visiting the garden – everyone is welcome in 2018 and they can go to the Blokhuispoort in Leeuwarden to admire it. 'Look at that bouquet on the table. The simple beauty, everything in nature has a function. It's the same with people. Here it is all about being who you are.' ♥

Also visit Jongstra's Waste-NO Waste exhibition in the former Suikerunie factory in Groningen.

Feel welcome in Húns or visit the AkzoNobel Honeysuckle Blue(s) Garden in Leeuwarden. 2018.nl/en/farmoftheworld



Everybody can
be a (Bildt)star!

POTATOES GO WILD

IMAGE BILDSE AARDAPPELDAGEN

They travel all over the world and are called Desirée, Red Scarlett and Bildtstar. They can be spotted in five star restaurants or in your stew at home.

In 2018, the municipality of Het Bildt honours its home-grown celebrities and lets you taste the flavour of the past and the future. Numerous projects in 2018 express fascination for and pride in

spuds, tubers, taters, potatoes. Welcome to this area just north of Leeuwarden, which emerged as an alluvial salt marsh in around 1300 and was dammed in 1505: Het Bildt. 513 years later and this is the place where eleven thousand 'Bilkerts' live, an idiosyncratic people with their own language and identity.

You're also welcome to the numerous potato barns, where a host of artists are inspired by that wacky, round, starchy thing. Welcome to a large site-specific performance with views over the vast farm fields. In June! This is when Het Bildt

**the land provides like the sea
not crates but wagons full
of potatoes in bright sunlight
rumbling along oudebildtdijk**

Geart Tigchelaar — Poetic Potatoes

really shines and is at its most beautiful. Pull up a chair along with 4,000 other visitors, eat surprising potato dishes and harvest new stories and insights. And let yourself be seduced to Leeuwarden, where the new Bildt generation connects with its homeland in a special exhibition in the city.

Head Teacher Coos from It Fonnemint primary school, Sint Annaparochie:

'In this project, boys and girls in Het Bildt are discovering their roots. Eyes widen when the farmer shows his machines, jaws drop at the story about the potatoes that travel all over Europe. It makes the children proud and excited. They're really enthused by the poems which have been written about this, and by the collages, both of which will be exhibited in the city of Leeuwarden. There is a chance that their potato stamp work will be seen by the world. For us, this is a real impetus to do much more in the future, even after 2018, with the Bildt language and the area's products.' ♥

**Do you want to discover how the
ordinary potato has inspired poetry?
2018.nl/en/potatoesgowild**

**The years of potato trade with Valletta –
the other European Capital of Culture in
2018 – have produced beautiful projects
between the two regions. You can find
more information about our collaboration
here: 2018.nl/en/valletta**



IMAGE MART BIEMANS

Friesian horses and breaching dykes

DE STORMRUITER

De Stormruiter is a spectacular performance about the eternal struggle against water. Starring a hundred Friesian horses.

Imagine a music-theatre performance with an elegant and shining Friesian horse in the main role. Now multiply that by a hundred. Welcome to *De Stormruiter*: a musical theatre production filled with galloping horses and breaching dykes.

De Stormruiter is an adaptation of the epic novella *Der Schimmelreiter*, written by German author Theodor Storm. The story revolves around Hauke Haien, a head-strong and somewhat overconfident master of the dykes who wishes to build a dyke that will stand up to the seas. He buys a white stallion from a Gypsy woman and proceeds to round up workers on the dyke. But the dyke breaks and the waters engulf young Hauke and his stallion.

MASTERPIECE

'It's a story about taming', says director Jos Thie. 'Hauke believes he can control and shape the nature around him. The question as to whether this is possible, this struggle, still takes place today. *Der Schimmelreiter* is a brilliant tale, a masterpiece set against the backdrop of Northern Friesland and its dykes.'

But *De Stormruiter* is not just about Hauke and his ventures in 1750. It's also the history of the now world-renowned Friesian horse breed. 'Popularity grew during that period, the origin most likely a cross between the farmer's horse and hot-blooded Spanish horses. Is it possible that this warm-blooded stallion – which *Der Schimmelreiter* rides – is the

forefather of the Friesian horse?' Thie weaves these stories together in this spectacular horse show.

The Friesian horse, of course, plays the leading role, but other famous co-stars include Ellen ten Damme and Freark Smink. De Wereldband and two choirs will add an additional level to the piece and enrich the riveting staging.

SHATTERING FUTURE

Thie: 'The themes in *De Stormruiter* are surprisingly contemporary. However high we build our dykes, there is always a risk of a devastating flood that could shatter our future.' ♥

Don't want to miss the Friesian horse-actors? *De Stormruiter* can be seen in the autumn of 2018, from the 8 September to the 7 October in the WTC Expo in Leeuwarden. 2018.nl/en/stormruiter



THE WADDEN REGION AS A STAGE



'DIJK VAN EEN WIJF' - IMAGE NIENKE BROKKE

SENSE OF PLACE

First Terschelling, an island off the northern coast of Friesland, was his stage. Now it's the entire UNESCO heritage region, the Wadden. **JOOP MULDER** has stopped being director of the Terschelling-based Oerol Festival – but not with creating art in the Wadden region.

'When I take foreigners to the Wadden region, their jaws drop. They are so impressed by the dike which seems to run in one endless line. Razor sharp. You don't see that anywhere else in the world.' Joop Mulder perks up when he talks about the Wadden region.

As a young man, Mulder went to Terschelling to 'study the Wadden landscape'. After 35 years of Oerol - the festival he founded and of which he was artistic director - he says he's still not done with his studies. He's now unleashing his curiosity and creativity on the entire Wadden region. When Mulder went to coastal villages in North Friesland for a small-scale project, he discovered wonderful stories about the area, such as those about the terp (a man-made hill)

'The sea water washed away that part of the village. Powerful stuff.'

villages. 'There is a church which stands by the dike in the terp village of Wierum, but, of course, it was once in the centre of the village. The sea water washed away that part of the village. Powerful stuff.'

It was the beginning of *Sense of Place*, a project with large-scale artworks and landscape architecture. Mulder is working on the project with dozens of renowned artists such as Daan Roosegaarde, as well as with designers and scientists. There weren't any dikes in the time of the terps, explains Mulder. 'Each village on a terp used to have its own identity. Think of them as small islands. You can still sometimes notice the idiosyncrasy of the villagers, focused as they still often are on themselves.'

More than twenty villages are now taking part in *Sense of Place*. Mulder calls it a ten-year programme, which will eventually give rise to over fifty art projects.



JOOP MULDER – PHOTO ANKE TEUNISSEN

Nothing takes place without consultation with the residents. 'I talk to the people and listen to their wishes.' That's how an outer-dike terp called *Terp fan de Takomst* (Terp of the Future) arose in Blije. It's a meeting place where you can experience the landscape of Blije to the full, with a path to the mudflats. 'Three weeks ago we set up a party tent in the middle of Blije's village square. There were pots of coffee and biscuits.' The residents were invited to ask Mulder and the creators questions. 'This gives Blije a landscape artwork which suits its identity.'

For other projects Mulder makes regular visits to the local pub to hear what's going on. This is how he discovered that the residents of Wierum dreamt of a beach or other such place to swim. But the Wadden is a World Heritage site and making changes to its landscape is forbidden. There is now a *Sense of Place* plan for a swimming pool in the sea, at the end of the pier.

Dijk van een Wijf

At Holwerd, a giant image of a woman, more than a hundred metres long, will be created from the grass and the dike, *Dijk van een Wijf*. 'She is the patroness of the North.' *Camera Batavia* will be created in Ternaard, five kilometres away. A mirror ball, in which the whole landscape is reflected in 360 degrees, will be placed in a wooden tower, situated on a dike.

A special bicycle route is being developed for visitors, which will take them along the artworks. '*Sense of Place* is not for sissies. Get on your bike, even if it's raining. Because the Frisian landscape is best experienced on bike or on foot.' Mulder hopes to use his work not only to show the beauty of the Wadden region, but also to boost the local economy. Northeast Friesland has a shrinking population and the government expects northwest Friesland to also head in that direction.

It's not just the Frisian coastal villages that are excited about participating in Mulder's project – the entire Wadden coast is excited, from Texel to Groningen. Coastal villages in Germany and Denmark are also eager to submit project ideas.

Sense of Place remains under the direction of Mulder but he fervently hopes that the residents will continue portraying the historical, cultural and ecological wealth of the Wadden region after 2018. ♥

**Want to get a breath of fresh air and look further? Put together your ideal day in the Wadden region:
2018.nl/en/senseofplace**

Want to enjoy nature from the comfort of your chair? Experience the première of WAD: 2018.nl/en/wad



Frisians go green

It's a bizarre and near-impossible project. Yet here it is. Friesland will travel fossil-free for two weeks. The *Elfwegentocht* (Eleven Way Tour) is part of a huge 'green' transition in the province. And as a visitor, you'll go back home fully charged.

If you've ever sat next to Bouwe de Boer at a party, the chances are that your roof is covered in solar panels and you'll travel green in 2018. Bouncing around with enthusiasm: 'This is the greatest energy project ever!'

In 2018, with *Fossil-Free Friesland* (Fossylfrij Fryslân), the province unveils its gem sustainability projects to the world. 'This province boasts, per capita, the highest

Wubbo Ockels said 'if you're going to introduce a route, it has to be the Elfstedentocht'

FOSSIL-FREE FRIESLAND

number in electric transport vehicles, the most bio-gas, number of solar panels, energy cooperatives and energy-neutral houses. This year will further exceed expectations.'

De Boer, as an energy-coordinator in the Leeuwarden municipality, is working with partners such as Arriva, the NS (the Dutch railway operator), Friesland Campina, Tesla, BMW, Mitsubishi and Snappcar to achieve the impossible. For two whole weeks travel will be fossil-free in Friesland. 'Together with Urgenda (the organisation for innovation and sustainability in The Netherlands) and all the other participants, we will show that this is possible.'

Sinne boat race and the highway to the future

There's much, much more. In July the largest solar boat race in the world will take place along the Eleven Cities of Friesland. 'When the race was first set up, Wubbo Ockels (the first Dutchman in space) said: if you're going to introduce a route, it has to be the Elfstedentocht (the

eleven city tour round Friesland).' CNN has already covered earlier editions of this heroic solar boat race. 'Because it is almost impossible, with overland routes sometimes required for the boats. And yet we pulled it off. That is exactly the mentality that will prevail in Friesland, just like when a hundred local business people agreed to travel to work fossil-free, or when, during a lecture in a small village by Dutch politician Diederik Samsom, everybody stood up when asked who wanted to participate in the project. We'll do it.'

To celebrate, the road between Drachten and Leeuwarden will be closed off for a parade of futuristic vehicles on 14 July. You can go on green expeditions through Leeuwarden, using electric transport to a unique park with all the latest innovations. 'In the course of three hours you'll be entirely charged up!' ♥

Do it with us! Come to the solar boat race, take a sustainable tour, or watch the futuristic parade.

2018.nl/en/fossilfreefriesland



The Wadden region is worthy of The Night Watch

Family parties? They'll have to wait. All the days with a spring tide are in his diary. And is there likely to be a waterspout? Then everything else will just have to wait. **RUBEN SMIT** – known for the hit nature film *De Nieuwe Wildernis* (The New Wilderness) – is working on a new masterpiece. He probably has saltwater in his veins and sand between his teeth. Because he and his crew are making **WAD**.

A day in the Wadden region feels like a week-long holiday. But as relaxed as you may become as a visitor under the constantly fascinating skies, with the murmur of the sea and the twittering of the birds, all the other creatures experience the sheer ferocity of the area. 'It's a daily struggle for survival for everything in the Wadden region'. It's a bizarre phenomenon. Mussels cling to the edge of the mussel bed, young animals must be protected, a weather front can be decisive. And then there's us, clumsy humans.'

Smit walks right between – not on – the nests and eggs so that we can see what seals, mussels, shore crabs and birds experience. 'We're making a film for all the senses. You hear, see, feel and smell what it's like to be a grey seal. However beautiful the animals are, it's a hard-knock life for that group! They live in harems and if you enter that group as a young male seal, you will be attacked by the leader. You experience that from the animal's point of view. In all the scenes we use the latest camera techniques to really delve



RUBEN SMIT

WAD

SURVIVING ON THE EDGE OF LAND AND WATER

into the lives of these animals. You feel like you're really in the middle of the sand and water when you watch the film.'

Experience WAD in the cinema

Exciting, informative, compelling. If *De Nieuwe Wildernis* is anything to go by, we can expect Smit's film to be a breathtaking experience. You can see **WAD** in the cinema in the autumn of 2018. An interactive online experience is being developed, children and young people will take part in a nationwide educational project and there will also be a four-part TV series. 'We've been far too antisocial in our treatment of the Wadden region. It is our



only natural World Heritage site and yet we still drill for gas there? That's incomprehensible. If the soil drops a centimetre due to gas drilling, it would mean the end of an entire population of red knots. Animals are becoming extinct because of us.'

'We're all aware of the cultural and economic value of Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. My legacy with this immense project is that we recognise the enormous wealth of the Wadden region, with its many lifeforms and economic opportunities such as ecotourism. That's why my social life has to take a back seat for a while.' ♥

Want to see *The Night Watch of Friesland*? 2018.nl/en/wad

Can't get enough of the Wadden region? Cycle and admire along with Joop Mulder (formerly of the Oerol Festival) in the huge *Sense of Place* project. 2018.nl/en/senseofplace



The Frisian landscape speaks up

KING OF THE MEADOWS



PHOTO ERIKJAN KOOPMANS

A pity, really, that you no longer see any cows in the meadow. It's also appalling that there are so few meadow birds and that some European farmers have to give up farming. But why is that? Couldn't things be different? Stop all this collective helplessness about intensive farming and make a difference yourself. Get to know the black-tailed godwit, and be enchanted by wind instruments.

It's safe to say that composer and musician Sytze Pruiksmā is a bird-freak. They're even on his T-shirt. About ten years ago he and his wife went to live in a house among the meadows. 'Isn't it beautiful here?', asked the neighbour. 'Of course', said Pruiksmā, 'but I don't hear any birds or see any bees and butterflies. Do you?' 'Gosh no', said the neighbour. She immediately removed a few tiles from her garden in order to make room for flowers. 'Speaking out works', he finds.

This is exactly what Pruiksmā does as one of the initiators of *King of the Meadows* (Kening fan 'e Greide). This citizen's initiative includes debates, performing music

and telling stories about the diversity of the Dutch landscape. And also raises awareness about the disappearing meadow birds. 'It's having an enormous impact', says Pruiksmā. 'If the birds migrate earlier from here, this will affect the harvest in Africa and there will be no income for families. This is why researchers, farmers, dairy companies, artists and other rural dwellers all over the globe have joined together to work on a new balance between people and nature.' In 2018 we will let their story be seen and heard through no fewer than 2000 amateur musicians and dancers in a production of *Conference of the Birds*, performed in the landscape near Leeuwarden.

Things have to change

Many farmers feel trapped even though their hearts are telling them to promote a rich landscape and biodiversity. It was 2011 when farmer Steven realised: 'dit moat oars (something must change)'. He was a dairy farmer and had two options. He saw himself either 'drowning in manure' or not earning anything from his milk due to ever-falling milk prices. He went from eighty dairy cows to forty beef cattle and hasn't used fertiliser on the land since.

Biodiversity on his farm has clearly increased and the soil doesn't have to work so very hard to maintain its balance. His life as a farmer has become more diverse. He now has a farm shop next to the stable. People can order online using the De Streekboer regional cooperative. This sort of change isn't easy. Van der Zee has a thousand ideas, but he often lacks the financing and manpower. 'They're not going to rub their hands with glee at the bank when you arrive with a story about circular farming', he grumbles.



PHOTO HANS PIETERSMA



PHOTO SARIS EN DEN ENGELSMAN

New opportunities and inspiration

He vents his frustration by playing a wind instrument. Van der Zee plays a bass instrument with the Jouster Fanfare. That's how he got to know Pruikisma: the Jouster Fanfare participated in *Birds & Brass*, a musical tribute to the Frisian landscape under the leadership of Pruikisma. This was the prelude to *Conference of the Birds*. 'The meadow birds are dying out because their young aren't being given enough opportunities to survive. Let's not let that happen to all the orchestras in

Friesland. Look, that's what LF2018 is also about,' says Pruikisma. 'It's not just about *mienskip* – the fact that we're getting to know each other like the orchestras did – it's also about discovering how much wealth surrounds us here and the fact that we're all seeing, feeling, hearing, smelling and tasting it again. That's what all those visitors are going to experience, whether it's during a music performance or a dinner in a meadow.' ♥

Dive into the Frisian landscape and experience diversity in a way that you'll never forget. 2018.nl/en/kingofthemedadows

WHAT WILL YOU EXPERIENCE?

NEW YEAR'S CONCERT 2018

What could be better than seeing 2018 in with the Nederlands Blazers Ensemble at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw and on NPO1? What does the black-tailed godwit do to awaken your musical passion?

CONFERENCE OF THE BIRDS

A spectacular open-air musical dance and theatre production near Leeuwarden. Ever experienced the sound of 2000 wind instruments? Scheduled for multiple performances in July 2018. Together with the Theatre Company NNT, Club Guy & Roni, and Frisian music societies.

THE BIG BLACK-TAILED GODWIT SHOW

Become a black-tailed godwit in this thrilling multimedia exhibition experience. The kids will love it! From the end of January in Natuurmuseum Fryslân in Leeuwarden.

KING OF THE MEADOWS

A unique theatrical production about the dilemmas on farms through the eyes of the black-tailed godwit. Performed at various farms throughout The Netherlands.

AWAKENING LANDSCAPE

Experience the landscape in a 12-hour journey of discovery. From dusk to dawn. Enjoy regional food, experience culture, sleep overnight in a meadow and wake up to the magic of a brand-new day.

EXPEDITION

Go on an expedition to discover the story of the landscape. Take the *King of the Meadows Cycling Route* and watch birds from special bird huts. Or attend themed debates and follow the black-tailed godwit Amalia on her flight from Africa to The Netherlands.



PHOTO HELEEN HAIJTEMA & TRYNTSJE NAUTA

Hydrating highlights

WATERCONNECTING 2018

Sightseeing in Friesland is 80% looking at water. In 2018 we'll be doing a lot more than just swimming, sailing and paddle boarding. Time to stop in at the WaterBar.

CHEERS IN A WHITE LAB COAT

A café in the shape of a water molecule? Now that's worth seeing! From the Leeuwarden city centre all it takes is a 15-minute walk to get to the Wetsus WaterCampus where specialists in water technology from all over the world get together to research and test new concepts. In September 2018 the European Water Tech Week will focus on research; during the opening weekend the WaterCampus doors will be open to show you the latest discoveries. On the WaterCampus you'll also find the WaterBar: the heart of the Waterprogramme in 2018. Here you'll meet not just students, but

also local residents who conduct experiments growing crops on salt marshes and in wadis. You can plan amazing water trips. 'There are special routes: you can go on foot, by boat, car or bicycle. They will take you along the old river running through Leeuwarden as well as to iconic water works throughout Friesland', says Anke Lodder of WaterConnecting 2018. By taking one of these many interactive routes, you'll get the chance to see the highest terp in Friesland and the huge Woudagemaal pumping station that attracts thousands of visitors every year. 'We've created these water trips to appeal to various groups; some for history buffs, others will be fun for teenagers.'

ROOSEGAARDE AND THE HAPPY FISH PROJECT

Fish were recently given their own route to inland waters. The Afsluitdijk (the motorway damming the Zuiderzee, a salt water inlet of the North Sea, which turned it into the fresh water lake of

the IJsselmeer) was already a miracle of technology. But the *Happy Fish Project* – a real fish migration canal – is now making it possible for around 350 million fish to swim from saltwater to fresh water every year. This is crucial; otherwise fish populations would quickly decline. In 2018 the Afsluitdijk is the location for the work of artist and inventor Daan Roosegaarde. Would you rather stay in the city? Starting 29 April the *Week van ons Water* (Our Water Week) will be launched by students producing fashion and art from Plastic Soup. Countless little boats and creative people will get together for the WaterParade: a typically Frisian *must-see*. ♥

So how about a drink in the WaterBar and let yourself be amazed by Friesland Waterland? 2018.nl/en/waterconnecting

Interested in the *Happy Fish* and other projects that promote biodiversity? 2018.nl/en/kingofthemedadows



SILENCE OF THE BEES

Because it's bumbling

How do you have a bad news conversation with the world population when they don't see the problem? Ladies and gentlemen, please take a seat. Our bees are dying. This will lead to a reduction in over three quarters of our agricultural produce. Hello? In Buitenpost this message is delivered with greater impact and creativity through a combination of culture and science.

De Kruidhof, Friesland's Hortus Botanicus, will literally be the landing site of the *Silence of the Bees* project in 2018. Here the silence of the bees will be broken with special projects. *B-r(h)apsodie* for instance, where children and young people will collect the sounds of bumblebee communities. A Bumblebee Rhapsody will be composed by students of the Pop Culture Academy in Leeuwarden and the Institut für Musik in Oldenburg, with a simultaneous performance in De Kruidhof, Oldenburg, and Emden on 21 June 2018. There will also be oratorios at the same three locations in 2018, and great sculptures which immerse visitors in music created by bees. ♥

Swarm to 2018.nl/en/silenceofthebees

WELSTAAT & INTO NATURE

Colonies of Benevolence

Possibly the most experimental form of *iepen mienskip* is to be found just over the border of Friesland: in the former *Colonies of Benevolence* (Koloniën van Weldadigheid), situated in Frederiksoord-Wilhelminaoord and Veenhuizen in the province of Drenthe.

They were founded 200 years ago, based on the idealistic motive of helping the poor from the cities, by educating them and teaching them to work together. Well-meant small *mienships*, and definitely not always voluntary. Of the seven colonies, four were forced colonies with institutions.

In Frederiksoord you can see the musical *Welstaat*. Spectators and residents will take part in the show by stepping into the shoes of a pauper about to settle in a colony.

Also in Frederiksoord is the exhibition *Into Nature, Out of Darkness*, featuring works by international visual artists set in a typical colony landscape. Their art looks at the tension between man and nature, light and dark, control and freedom. ♥

For more information go to
2018.nl/en/coloniesofbenevolence



Culture as a catalyst for change

THE JOURNEY

The refugee centre in the village of Sint Annaparochie has been there since 2003. The refugees do their shopping in the village and sometimes order something from the snack bar. But real integration and interaction with the locals only started recently. Nobody had talked much about it either. Not until *The Journey* (De Reis) began.

How can someone be a total stranger at the start of the day and a lifelong friend at the end? Culture. How can a village turn a declining population into an heroic work of art? Culture. How could a high-impact renovation of a neighbourhood lead to a festive encounter with others who live alone? Culture. These are just some of the examples that tell the story of *The Journey*, a project which serves as a catalyst for change by means of cultural interventions in villages and neighbourhoods. Within this framework the input of artists encourages the ideas and talents of community members to take flight. *The Journey* started as a community art project and is continuing on its way. Discovering, learning, and being challenged to both do and create things together: once *The Journey* has been made, a community or region will never be the same again.



Haring & Hummus

Go back in time to Sint Annaparochie in 2016. Sint Annaparochie, a village which is part of the Municipality of Het Bildt, has its own little satellite village. This is the refugee centre; it has a high turnover of residents but the one constant factor is their visibility when they go shopping. A number of people living in Het Bildt were unhappy with this 'never to be mentioned' separation between people. They wanted to change it.

The makers of *Haring & Hummus* (Herring & Hummus) were brought to Sint Annaparochie as part of *The Journey*. Brainstorming sessions with a theatre maker and a psychologist directly addressed the similarities and differences between the refugees and the villagers. After a number of these sessions, a hundred participants from the refugee centre and the village got together to be involved in *De Kloof* (Bridging the Gap) – a theatrical walk from the refugee centre to the centre of the village. Integration papers were swapped for phonetic lyrics, and reserved people – who seemed to have lost everything – discovered their talent for acting during rehearsals.

On the day of the walk the village's blanket of ignorance and shyness disappeared. Hands were shaken. Stories about food and homelands were shared. Finally arms were raised in an emotional rendition of the closing verse of a famous 1970s popular Dutch song, as everyone sung together 'Sing, struggle, weep, pray, laugh, work and admire.' No longer just 'cultural acupuncture', this had now made a real and permanent impression on the collective brain. The choir still exists, as do the friendships made back then.

Indonesian layer cake

The high-impact demolition and renovation of a neighbourhood in Leeuwarden, with streets named after Indonesian islands, intrigued visual artist and photographer Siska Alkema. A demographic map of Leeuwarden also revealed that around 60 percent of the eastern side of this neighbourhood was made up of people living alone.

Alkema and a fellow artist decided to bring these people and their memories together in the form of a 'story route'. Around 80 participants took a walk through streets and alleyways in an event that featured stories told in sitting rooms, music, visual art, photography, dance and poetry. Members of the public could listen to these stories, stories told in people's homes. Where the bakery once stood everyone was treated to Indonesian layer cake and stories about the bakery, all told in the style of the local community.



PHOTOS NATALIA BALANINA

From a declining population to an impressive parade

The next stage of *The Journey*: the countryside. Municipal construction regulations preventing any more construction of houses in the village of De Hoeve, had led residents to worry about the village’s quality of life. Theatre maker, Willy van Assen, brought these concerns under the spot-light by creating a large-scale artwork, with the villagers, which symbolised the village’s desire for growth. Accompanied by a parade full of song and dance, the resulting artwork was festively unveiled in October 2016.

The artwork will remain on display until the end of 2018, the year in which De Hoeve will declare itself

‘the Village of Culture’, and also the year in which a whole series of new *The Journey* projects will be revealed.

European exchange

In 2018 seven Frisian projects, such as projects that are part of *The Journey*, will get the chance to be part of the European exchange programme, *Tandem Exchange*. In the programme, they will work with similar initiatives from around Europe. A great opportunity to share knowledge and gain international experience. ♥

Be inspired at 2018.nl/en/thejourney



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE?

Every year, since 1985, the European Union has given two cities the chance to present a broad cultural programme as a European Capital of Culture. After Amsterdam and Rotterdam, 2018 is the year in which Leeuwarden-Friesland can present itself on a European level.

Cultural collaboration as a turning point

'It's an exciting journey, which started in 2012. A journey during which we looked at what binds our city and our province with Europe. Whether it is the sustainability of culture and nature, a better balance between city and countryside, or more understanding of what diversity means for society, these are all themes which our city and our province have in common with regions in northern England as well as in the deep south of Italy. And they play a crucial role in our future', says Jelle Burggraaff, who is responsible for the programme connections with Europe.

'With the motto of *iepen mienskip* we've spent the past few years constantly shifting our perspective from our own borders outwards towards Europe. With the participation of more than 300 international artists, producers, schools, festivals, communities, networks, cities and regions - from all over Europe and far beyond - we can say that we are a real European Capital of Culture. In this sense Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018 really is a turning point. And we have absolutely seized the opportunity to position ourselves as an exciting, cultural, interesting region in Europe.'

Whether this is with birdwatchers from Portugal, labourers from Poland, or with a group of artists from Birmingham, Leeuwarden-Friesland has, over the past few years, brought people together. People who also want to continue working together into the future to create great cultural projects. Burggraaff: 'Being a European Capital of Culture has given us so many wonderful opportunities to get involved in networks in which we will remain active into the future.'

VALLETTA 2018

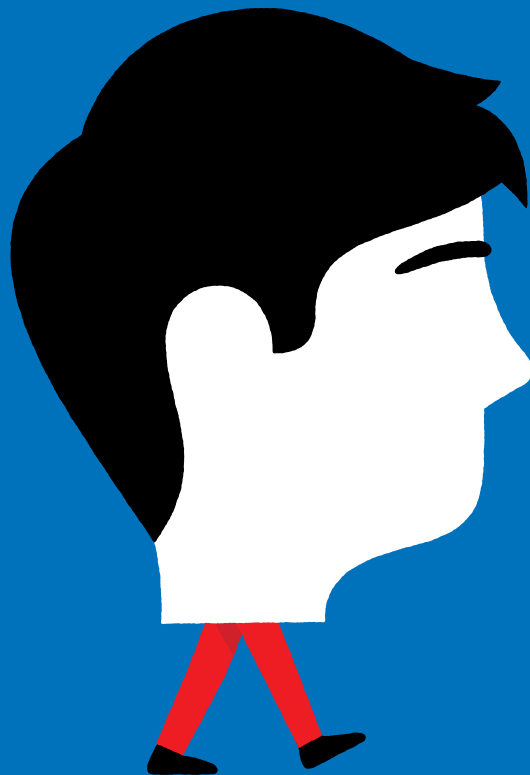
Valletta, capital of Malta, is also European Capital of Culture in 2018. A wonderful reason to bridge the 2018 kilometres between us and to enter into partnerships.

- Friesland and Malta have one thing in common: potatoes. Since 1850 there have been close trade links, which will have a beautiful cultural dimension next year in a multilingual literary publication: Poetic Potatoes.
- Opera Spanga's production, Aida, will be produced not only in Friesland but also in Malta, in Valletta's open air Teatru Rjal. The set will be made by a mixed group of Frisian and Maltese students.
- The Maltese composer and director Ruben Zahra is coming to Friesland for a five-day workshop with children from Leeuwarden and Sneek. With universal stories from the different cultures as an inspiration, they will create the show KIRANA.
- Children and young people from Leeuwarden, Valletta and Aarhus (European Capital of Culture in 2017) get the chance to make films about their own life in Look@Me.
- With the help of 3D technology, Leanne Wijnsma captures underground spaces, such as the 15th century caves under the Valletta court and the Popbunker in Leeuwarden. Via these digitalised spaces visitors can crawl from Leeuwarden to Valletta.

For more information visit 2018.nl/en/valletta

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Fertel my wa'sto hjoed bist
en ik sis dat it goed is



We'll throw you – with great affection – into a warm bath of multilingualism, spectacular sports and captivating folk tales. We dance, play music, debate and learn our way through prejudices. You'll feel a world citizen after wordless performances or after a discovery tour through the Lân fan taal. *Oars wêze hat noch nea sa moai west* (Being different has never been this beautiful).



The whole world,
up close and personal

STRANGERS ON STAGE

IVGI&GREBEN

A white residential area. Happy middle-class families. All well-educated, aware that the debate has hardened in The Netherlands, and that not everyone should be tarred with the same brush. And yet the neighbour (there's always one) sends his dog after a Moroccan who's passing by on a bicycle. 'Because he doesn't belong here'. This story was told at a party in the neighbour's neighbour's house. And he is embarrassed, because he works with the Capital of Culture 2018 every day – an organisation where the community is open and unbiased. Right?

Programmer Jeffrey Meulman recognises the situation described. 'The more unknown others are to you, the greater your fear.' Which is why he finds it important to offer powerful programming about 'other people' in 2018: *Strangers on Stage*, in which you will encounter the whole world, up close and personal. Not with heavy debates, but with visual, accessible and often festive performances. From international stand-up comedians to a circus performance where balls and confetti fly around you. A line-up of internationally renowned theatre. 'You won't find this in the big cities in The Netherlands; you need to cross over the Frisian border.'

'The performances are ultimately not about the stranger on stage. They're about you. Your own attitude towards other people, new ideas and cultures which are foreign to you. And no, Friesland is not a melting pot like Rotterdam. But it's precisely in those places where you have little contact with others that

you are less able to put the differences in perspective. That is why there is just as much urgency for a Londoner as for someone from Smallingerland (an area in Friesland).'

Both of which can co-exist perfectly in *Phobiarama*. 'Dries Verhoeven has created a haunted house that plays on the fears that are deep inside us. Instilled by politicians, by the media. It takes you on an intense and bizarre ride, making it clear what the outside world is throwing at you.'

Meulman also has high expectations of *Monkey Mind*, which is presented in the context of the Frisian Dance Days and in which three of the five dancers have Down Syndrome. 'The boundaries between so-called 'normal' and 'abnormal' are intentionally broken', according to the Flemish press.

'What's coming to Leeuwarden this year is unprecedented. I'm certain young and old alike will adore *Slava's Snowshow*,



DE EUROCOMMISSARIS



WUNDERBAUM



PLUTO

where everyone is part of a huge spectacle. In the end you realise that it's about the loner versus the homogeneous group. The *mienskip* or community, if you like'.

A large number of performances will have their European premières in the theatre De Harmonie – an apt name. Meulman looks forward to *Alien Documentary*. 'Actually, the show is about three Irish theatre technicians. These men all have a side which is unknown to the others; and so they are *aliens* to each other. If you don't talk to other people, you naturally become strangers.'

And if you never go to the theatre? 'We've thought of that too. We'll be going into neighbourhood cafés with Wunderbaum. The neighbour's neighbour will also want to go', laughs Meulman. The title is striking, they're performing *White Male Privilege*. Precisely about that privileged neighbour's position. ♥



SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM STRANGERS ON STAGE

IVGI&GREBEN We are in trouble

In 'We Are In Trouble' the Israeli-Dutch choreographic duo IVGI&GREBEN shows a group of men and women. They seem to be looking for a place to rest or maybe to start a new life. But their overwhelming past drives them on. With the world première of *We Are in Trouble*, choreographer Johan Greben returns, after years of working worldwide, to his hometown of Leeuwarden.

and personal stories come together in surreal scenes. Infectious motion theatre and compelling vocals result in a poetic dream-like performance.

Heroes with humour Three-day festival by Jan Jaap van der Wal

Specially created for the European Capital of Culture 2018, the Leeuwarden-born comedian Jan Jaap van der Wal has put together a festival programme, along with six European comedians, centred around the theme of The Joke. In addition to English-language performances, there is an extensive fringe programme that playfully examines the essence of humour. Also addressed are the differences between senses of humour within Europe.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui & Bunkamura Theatre Cocoon Pluto

The world famous Flemish Moroccan choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has created a sensational performance based on the popular Japanese manga comic strips: *Pluto*. A story about Osamu Tezuka's *Astro Boy*, *The Greatest Robot on Earth*. A robot detective gets involved in a curious case. Robot bodies and the corpses of people are found. While he tries to solve the case, it seems increasingly likely that a robot himself has the murders on his conscience.

Slava's Snowshow

Slava is no ordinary clown. He is the Russian Clown Legend, founder of the Academy of Fools and the creator of the famous *Slava's Snowshow*. Being a clown is a life philosophy for him. *Slava's Snowshow* is a universal and timeless theatrical event that will enchant everyone and has excited the imagination of millions of people in dozens of countries and hundreds of cities. The spontaneity, energy and magic of the show have not diminished over the years. Far from it!

Aurélien Bory ESPÆCE

This visual presentation owes its name to an intriguing essay title by the French author Georges Perec: *Espèces d'espaces* (Species of spaces). It's not the void that is central, but what is around that void. Five performers on stage are confronted by a wall that seems to be alive. World history

For the full programme go to 2018.nl/en/strangersonstage

Bursting a filter bubble each week

A room full of heavy-metal fans talking about sexism in their subculture. For real? Yep. Anything goes in the weekly talkshow by *Iepen UP* in music venue Neushoorn.



PHOTO JAAP SCHEEREN AND BOB VAN DER VLISST

IEPEN UP

Host and programmer Jacco de Boer combines a tattoo-covered body with the Christian faith, love for metal with sweet tunes, a metropolitan mindset with a soft spot for the countryside and plenty more apparent contradictions. A fine combination with project coordinator Matthea de Jong. They are both fascinated by subcultures and differences.

De Jong: 'In *Iepen UP* we are finding out how all those people can get to know and understand each other better.' That's why they're launching a weekly programme, from the end of 2017, which literally ventures in all directions, as long as they ultimately come together: *Iepen UP Live*.

De Boer: 'We talk about everything from Trump, racism and other current events, to topics on the social agenda. How can we live together, which subgroups exist in our city and how can we ensure that we meet each other more often, understand each other better?'

You don't have open discussions in a closed room with velvet curtains and a dried-up bouquet of flowers on the table. 'We stream live straight from café Neushoorn via regional broadcasting channel

Omrop Fryslân, everyone and anyone can join in.' And by 'everyone', we don't mean rows of eloquent parliamentary-fetishists, but really everyone. 'We literally pick young people off the street. Boys and girls who never thought they'd stand in front of an audience, but who share a genuine interest in, and have a fresh perspective on, society. Excellent brainstormers from an entirely different culture compared with what you normally see on stage.'

Iepen mienskip translates to an open sense of community. De Jong: 'Sounds great, but how do we achieve this? Think of fervent discussions about refugees, racism, climate change, democracy and freedom. *Iepen UP* challenges everyone to really think about how we can and want to live together in a world that is rapidly changing. We're doing this every Wednesday throughout the year in different locations with *Iepen UP Live*, as well as with eighteen young media creators, break-out sessions, urban performances, and of course, collaboration with the *Befrijdingsfestival Fryslân* (Frisian Liberation Festival). And don't miss the *ReOpening*. Then we'll showcase the results of the research with guests from all over Europe.' ♥

Get involved in *Iepen UP*: 2018.nl/en/iepenup



A journalist and a theatremaker did their shopping at a Kurdish supermarket. They had their hair braided at an African salon. They ate cookies in a Russian supermarket. And they asked questions. They finally got to hear the real stories behind the counter ... and they are making a multimedia theatre performance about it in 2018.

Look in your
African hairdresser's
mirror more often

WORLD CITIZENS OF THE VOORSTREEK

Ira Judkovskaja is the artistic director of Leeuwarden-based Tryater theatre company. A Russian Frisian. Or the other way around. Ever-curious about other cultures. And idiosyncratic. Because she doesn't agree with the assumption that 'the multicultural society is a failure'. *Says who?* Kirsten van Santen is the art editor of the local newspaper, the Leeuwarder Courant. She sees new performances and events every week. But sees too little of her fellow city residents to know how they really experience the day. Neither of them knew that you can sit like a prisoner in a shop, drowning financially and without anyone to take over. They did not know that people had experienced the trafficking of women, or the Vietnam War. 'My eye-opener was that a very religious Muslim from Kobani could be married to a liberal Berber. My prejudice went out the window, in the middle of the snack bar,' said Van Santen. Family ties, traumas, ambitions, but above all enormous resilience. Universal subjects that apply to us all. Nothing bad.'



PHOTO FLORIAN CATS

'Multicultural society exists. Right under your nose. On the Voorstreek (a street in Leeuwarden). We went on a world trip around our own city. I often take my Tryater colleagues with me, to step over the threshold, to hear the stories of those unknown people', says Judkovskaja. The Leeuwarder Courant will make multimedia articles about the project, and Tryater will turn the interviews into a musical and multilingual performance.

'We are constantly working in Frisian and other languages at Tryater. With this project we are going one step further. We've taken all the stories word for word, including grunts. Every foreign accent works as an instrument, making you listen much more closely and so really get to know each other. That's exactly what you, as the visitor, deserve.' ♥

In 2018 Tryater is inspired by *iepen mienskip* – so many cultures and stories together in one Friesland and Europe. Feel welcomed in the countryside in *Small Town Europe* or meet *World Citizens of the Voorstreek* in Leeuwarden.

2018.nl/en/worldcitizensofthevoorstreek

2018.nl/en/smalltowneurope

The secret origins of 'Dutch' ceramics

MIGRATING CERAMICS

For Dutch people, the Frisians have an odd way of asking where you came from. Instead of asking, 'Where do you come from?', they ask 'Where did you come away from?' With a name like Delftware, the answer is obvious. Or is it?

TEXT: FRIES MUSEUM

The exhibition *Migrating Ceramics* exposes the secrets and faraway origins of Dutch ceramics. There's more to it than you might think. Its roots don't lie in The Netherlands. Ceramics from abroad were reshaped into something new, made into a successful commodity and then exported to other countries. Around the year 1600, the Dutch East India Company introduced The Netherlands to porcelain. This blue on white porcelain from China quickly became all the rage and was very expensive. Dutch potteries, often located in and around Delft, started imitating the look of porcelain by glazing earthenware white: a technique used in Italy. These imitations were so good that they were exported throughout Europe and Asia. Delftware – also known as Delft Blue – was born!

During the 19th century, Dutch potteries again copied a technique originating in another country – only this time, English creamware – and turned it into a success story. Later they successfully produced ceramics in art nouveau and art deco styles. Both had their origins abroad, but were quickly embraced by Dutch artists and designers and processed into a Dutch version.

Dozens of new pottery factories produced this 'renewed earthenware' and gained international acclaim from it. Today Dutch Design is the world-renown export product from The Netherlands. The creative approach of the designers, working with traditional ceramic companies, proved to be a successful formula – resulting in ground-breaking products. ♥

The exhibition *Migrating Ceramics* will open in June 2018 at Keramiekmuseum Princessehof (Princessehof National Museum of Ceramics) in Leeuwarden.
2018.nl/en/migratingceramics



PYRAMIDS OF MAKKUM (STUDIOJOB), COLL. KERAMIEKMUSEUM PRINCESSEHOF



Understanding cultivation in
the lightest of all locations

LOST IN THE GREENHOUSE



What makes the Frisian village of Sexbierum so unique? Director and theatremaker Titus Tiel Groenestege now knows that the lightest location in The Netherlands can be found here. And it is under that very light that the music theatre company, Orkater, is creating – from a dark story – a musical whodunit with a message. All in collaboration with local musicians and the theatres De Lawei and De Koornbeurs.

‘Pole found dead in a ditch.’ A pithy and raw headline in a newspaper four years ago. 25-year-old Wojtek drowned behind a petrol station in the Frisian city of

Franeker. And in 2018 he is the face of the thousands of young Poles who work, for a short time, in The Netherlands. But who drown, figuratively, in the status quo. Poland is not a country for young people. Whoever read the Wojtek piece in the local paper, the Leeuwarder Courant, got a sense of this hopelessness. Wojtek was trained in information and communications technology, but ended up back home in the countryside in south-east Poland. His father earned €350 as an electrician. Per month. So the young Pole left for Western Europe. Not because he wanted to stay there, but because he wanted to earn money for a new future in Poland. ‘This is a brick for my future house, he thought every day. In the vegetable greenhouse in Sexbierum a former vet told us that she earns more than her professor father does in Poland,’ explains Tiel Groenestege.

With the Polish-Dutch actor, Redbad Klijnstra, he searched for months, far and wide, in order to finally cast actors for the 2018 show.

Smutek. Sad, anyway. That one word haunts the journey from the unmade roads of Wojtek’s Polish village to Friesland. Hundreds of Polish workers pick vegetables every day in greenhouses in Sexbierum. Wojtek worked, with others for a seafood company in Harlingen. Every day they wondered, in their little houses on the holiday park, if there was work. Going to the gym or the local bar to integrate with the locals was beyond their means. Back home Poland was becoming increasingly expensive, and yet at the same time these young people realised that their home country was not giving them a chance for a better future. A status quo between the peppers and shellfish. ‘They didn’t want to say this out loud, because then it’s true’, recounts Tiel Groenestege. ‘They feel that the Dutch think they’re stealing their jobs, that they can never earn enough to break out of this situation. And that they no longer belong in their homeland.’

In April and May 2018 this will be said out loud. By a Polish and Dutch company. A love story between the peppers. A whodunnit at a unique location. A coming together of the stories and workplaces of these workers. And it’s all in a huge greenhouse, where 35 years of experience in the theatre go out the window. Tiel Groenestege: ‘It’s a huge challenge to make a musical theatre show set in such an impossibly big greenhouse. We often make shows on location, but then we hang lights and know how to create the setting. Now we need to not only cultivate the atmosphere but also to understand both sides – that’s what it feels like. It’s fantastic and very exciting.’ ♥

Want to experience *Lost in the Greenhouse*? Visit the link for more information and tickets. 2018.nl/en/lostinthegreenhouse

ALICE IN WORD-LAND

LÂN FAN TAAL

Welcome to the Oldehoofsterkerkhof and the Prinsentuin in Leeuwarden, the territory of *Lân fan taal* (land of language). It is *de frijsteat for all languages yn de wrâld*. In 2018 a foreign language is no longer *frjêmd, difcil* or *brawychus*, but enriching and fun. You will be welcomed as a local in the multilingual visitor centre OBE and can happily lose yourself in new words. Experience Tim Etchells' art piece and discover all the different things there are to do.

This is merely a taste of what to expect. Visit 2018.nl/en/lanfantaal for the full overview.

PHOTOS TRYNTSJE NAUTA & HELEEN HAIJTEMA

SMALL LANGUAGES, BIG GESTURES

The **Talenvaviljoen** (Language Pavilion) in the Prinsentuin is located under the skirts of two female figures. After all it's about your 'mother tongue'. Inside lesser known languages from Europe as well as minority languages in Leeuwarden are central and very much on the menu. *Hoor Friesland* will arrange hearing-impaired hosts at the pavilion. Language is, after all, more than speech. So don't just think about what you want to order, but how.

PLAYING IN THOUSANDS OF LANGUAGES

In 2018 the Prinsentuin in Leeuwarden will be transformed into the **Talentuin** (Language Garden), a great experience for children from 0 to 12 years, their older brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. Playground equipment, interactive compositions, exciting routes, and plenty more!

FRYSKE PASSY FOR MATTHÄUS

Composer and lyricist Peter Sibbenga has been commissioned by the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra (NNO) to compose a Frisian version of the **St Matthew Passion**, the *ferneamde* (famous) oratorio by Johann Sebastian Bach. *It Dúts lit 'm goed oersetse nei it liniche Frysk!* (German is easily translated into Frisian!) The Frisian *St Matthew Passion* will be performed by the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Netherlands Concert Choir, complemented with Frisian singers.



GAME THUNDERBOLT!

With a brand-new game **US: LAN FAN TAAL** unravel an ancient mystery! It is 1867. Cornelis over de Linden discovers a runic manuscript about a 4,000-year-old Frisian civilisation. But is it genuine or a total hoax? Use your smartphone as a (language) weapon and find the answers! The game is for anyone over 12 years.

LANDLESS, LANGUAGE IS HOME

Let yourself be embraced by *Heymishkeyt* (feeling at home) and join in **Yiddish Waves**. The language and stories of a people without a country, consisting of German, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Bulgarian and Hebrew words. *Yiddish Waves* invites people from the many different cultures that enrich Leeuwarden to come together. In March experience *Lernen* (to learn) and celebrate *Simche* (feast) with Arab musicians and Frisian poets, along with the mothers and daughters of the Vrijheidswijk district. There will be music and language workshops, readings, exhibitions, film screenings and city walks during the day. In the afternoon and evenings, you can enjoy concerts and performances.

UNHEARD OF WONDERS

Sign language and communication between the hearing and the hearing-impaired are essential elements of *Lân fan taal*. On **World Deaf Day** (29 September), there is a multi-sensory experience for hearing and deaf audiences. The evening comes alive with the cultural festival *Mute Sounds*, good vibrations all over!

LANGUAGE CARAVAN

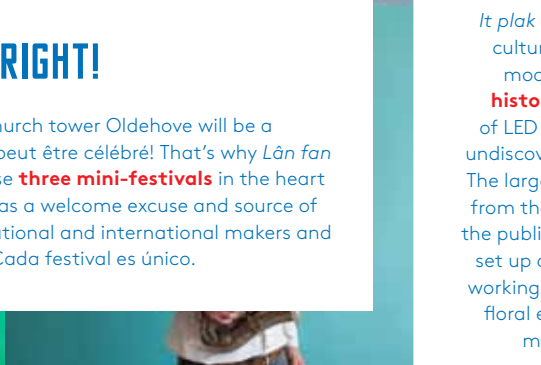
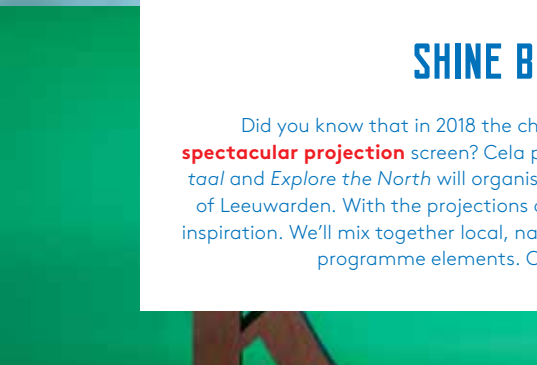
In 2018, *Lân fan taal* moves around the province of Friesland with its travelling festival the **Taalkaravaan** (Language Caravan). In Harlingen the caravan will join in *The Tall Ships Races*. Literary festival *The Sea! The Sea!* pays homage to the sea, which has its very own language.

RICH TREASURY OF LANGUAGE

It plak om te wêzen (the place to be) for every culture and literature fanatic is Tresoar, the modern storage and **treasury of Frisian history**. A glimpse into its wealth: on a wall of LED screens, Tresoar shines the spotlight on undiscovered Frisian treasures with *Treasure Wall*. The large vault where special Frisian manuscripts from the Middle Ages are stored, will be open to the public. By means of *visuele poëzie*, Tresoar will set up a visual expedition into the idiosyncratic workings of language – with experimental poets' floral excursions into territories new, and text morphing into image and vice versa.

SHINE BRIGHT!

Did you know that in 2018 the church tower Oldehove will be a **spectacular projection** screen? Cela peut être célébré! That's why *Lân fan taal* and *Explore the North* will organise **three mini-festivals** in the heart of Leeuwarden. With the projections as a welcome excuse and source of inspiration. We'll mix together local, national and international makers and programme elements. Cada festival es único.





It would be a bizarre sight if filmed from a drone: tens of thousands of people walking like a long ribbon right through Friesland. So what is this strange procession? The *Slachtemarathon 2018* will be an unforgettable trip for both participants and villagers alike.

SLACHTEMARATHON 2018

The *Slachte* meanders from the Wadden Sea into the very heart of Friesland: a dream about a dyke which stretches from the villages of Oosterbierum to Raerd. Every four years lovers of sport and culture walk along this dyke in the *Slachtemarathon*, a 42 kilometres route packed full with culture and good company. The 2018 edition will be a very special one – more than twice as long and through every single village along the route. It will be an intense experience for the hikers: not only because of their blisters but also because they will be embraced along every kilometre by community art, artworks in the landscape, music, literature, dance, theatre, the natural environment ... and the Frisians themselves.

This will be hospitality *Friesland Style*. 'Coming home' will get a new meaning when you spend the night in one of five villages halfway along the route. In people's homes, on a pop-up camping site, in a barn or a village hall. On that special night, the five host villages will transform into festival villages, each with its own atmosphere and line-up of events.

Participation and *iepen mienskip* are the main themes for the *Slachtemarathon 2018*. Artists and villagers work together to make it the most beautiful experience, everyone's talent is put to good use as all the villagers work as a team to make their village festival the best ever. If you're walking the route you'll be part of one big group – everyone laughing together at cabaret performances, and then, a few kilometres further on, touched by the sounds of wind instruments. If the drone flying above had an 'enjoyment-thermometer', it would explode into the red of the Frisian flag during this two-day spectacle. ♥

Everyone in Friesland has heard of the *Slachtemarathon*. Tickets for the last edition were sold out in no time. Would you like to take part, or just visit this exciting cultural scene? Wander down to 2018.nl/en/slachtemarathon

A 92 km experience



8TH DAY

A lawyers' theatre show and a mattress domino effect in Leeuwarden



Anyone wandering unsuspectingly through Leeuwarden on 8 July will definitely be in for a surprise. On that day the city centre will be one big human machine. All as a result of Marten Winters' *8th Day*.

On 8 July, visual artist Marten Winters will get hundreds – maybe even thousands – of people in action. Each of them will be showing various kinds of art projects they've devised themselves to create links in a gigantic human chain reaction: *8th Day*.

'It's going to be a spectacle produced by the man on the street, that features creativity and improvisation', says Winters. All of these 'ordinary' people are from the local neighbourhood but most of them don't even know each other. They live in or near Leeuwarden or come to work in the city.

8th Day wraps up serious issues about life with humour

Some law firms, for instance, will be teaming up to tell a story about justice and injustice by giving a performance in front of the courthouse. And they themselves are the actors. Down the street, the COA (the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers) and other organisations will tell a story about feelings of security and displacement – including, yes, a gigantic mattress domino effect. These are serious themes artistically packaged with humour. There will be dozens of performances, exhibitions and artworks.

Heechterp-Schieringen

There is one condition. 'Each of the human links in this chain reaction will have to be connected to each other.' To achieve this, the people involved in all of

these various projects will have to talk to each other. That's how they'll get to know each other and mini-communities will be formed.'

People unacquainted with each other will also be working together during preparations for an 8th Day art piece. That's also true of Heechterp-Schieringen, a neighbourhood with a range of problems, which will use an ingenious water wheel construction to propel a caravan during *8th Day*. Developing this caravan will be a joint effort involving the people living in the neighbourhood, social institutions and schools. After the art project the caravan will be used as a community centre in the neighbourhood. 'Talk about community!'

8th Day is about how people influence each other and the impact they want to have on each other. Winters: 'The route through Leeuwarden will form a figure of eight, similar to the symbol of infinity.' *8th Day* is also about life itself. The makers will be weaving themes into their art pieces – such as the law firms with their performance about injustice – themes which we all have to deal with: birth and death, celebrating special occasions, and being in love, but also the role of the media and public opinion, daring to be altruistic.'

8th Day team will help them develop these themes. But a human chain reaction is actually impossible to direct down to every last detail. 'All of us will be in for a big surprise on that day. And you can still get involved.' ♥

Do you want to get involved or just watch? 2018.nl/en/8thday



THRILLER IN THE CHURCH

UNDER THE TOWER

Frisian churches harbour pearls of stories. Inspiring stories, age-old stories, passionate stories, or even downright thrillers. *Under the Tower* portrays 32 of the most beautiful of them.

Director Jos Thie attended an impressive funeral ceremony in the Grote Kerk in Leeuwarden and thought: 'This type of dramatic building must house so many stories.' Friesland boasts as many as 770 churches. Thie gathered together a team, including the actress Tamara Schoppert and the playwright Bouke Oldenhof, and started searching. The stories poured in; they received over eighty of them. Stories about a Frisian princess, drowned friendships, a miracle doctor, battles in the Eighty Years' War, and stories about regular people. And so *Under the Tower* was born. Art manifestations around churches in which artists collaborate with entire Frisian villages.

THE POCKET COMB

'The sexton of the Langezwaag church always carried a little comb in his pocket,' explains Tamara Schoppert. 'Churchgoers were allowed to comb their hair with it when they stepped off their bikes looking wind-tossed.' A beautiful anecdote, in Schoppert's eyes, touched as she is by the community-building nature of that one little comb. This tiny story was the source of inspiration for *Haren in de wind* (Hair in the Wind) a huge open-air installation near the church of Langezwaag. The villagers have created it and are very proud of it. This is how *Under the Tower* sees entire villages working together. 'Music and amateur associations are very happy to help tell their story under the tower, as are village clubs, primary schools and sports clubs,' recounts Schoppert.

BOKSUM

One such village that has joined hands is Boksum, a terp (a man-made hill) village with a population of about 400. Boksum suffered heavily during a battle with the Spanish in 1586. Otto Clant, the flag-bearer of the spontaneously established Frisian army, took the flag under his arm and hid in the Sint Margareta church. The Spanish found him and because he refused to hand over the flag, he did not survive. This story will be told through video mapping, huge video images projected onto the church. The theatre club of Boksum, *De Stringpraters*, will perform *De slach by Boxum* (The Battle Of Boksum). The play was specially written for the occasion, and the local choir and a collective orchestra from Boksum, Deinum and Blessum will play translated battle songs. At least a quarter of Boksum's population is involved. Mark van Houten is one of the initiators and lives in the village. 'One of my neighbours knows all about the history of Boksum, another is an animator, and yet another is a light and sound engineer. *Under the Tower* brings the village together. People are flourishing; they do what they are good at. It is a really nice side-effect.'



SHELTE'S HELMET

Schettens, a terp village with a population of 300, has also enthusiastically joined in. Their 'under the tower' story revolves around a helmet, which hung in the village church for centuries. In 2016 it was discovered that in the Eighty Years' War it was worn by the Frisian soldier Schelte van Aysma, who came from Schettens. The village has transformed this story into the musical theatre performance *Skeltemania*. The Excelsior Schraard orchestra is involved, together with amateur actors from the village and the church.

IEPEN MIENSKIP

In Wommels, clients of Tywerthiem, an institution that provides care for the disabled, have seized the initiative and created a musical theatre performance. The people of Tywerthiem are not only co-writing *De Profylfoto fan Klaas* (Klaas' Profile Photo), but are also the actors, stage builders or ticket sellers. 'The whole village is taking part', says Janneke Okkens. 'The dance club, the choir, the theatre club. What makes it extra special is that the clients from the *mienskip* itself are taking the initiative.'

Back to theatre maker Tamara Schoppert. She did not believe she could count on so many enthusiastic people. It's made her curious, too. 'Whenever I drive past a church these days, I think, what happened here?' ♥

Would you also like to witness an exciting story from the church?
2018.nl/en/underthetower



MARIJKE MUOI

And the Grote Kerk in Leeuwarden, which is where *Under the Tower* was conceived? At the end of January the church itself will be the set for an interactive theatre performance. The audience will not sit on a bench but be part of the play and stroll through the church in groups. The show is called *Marijke Muoi* and is about the eponymous Frisian princess, who was more formally known as Maria-Louise van Hessen-Kassel. She was the mother of the governor William IV. Two of her skulls are buried in the church. Two skulls? Yes. Radicals entered the church by force in 1795, destroyed everything and broke open the graves of the Nassau family. Marijke Muoi's skull was used as a football. Long after it had been reburied, someone delivered a parcel to the church, which contained another piece of the Frisian princess' skull. This now also lies in her grave. The theatre show *Marijke Muoi* is about anger and politics and brings Marijke's historic story into the present day: how do we want to be governed in 21st-century Europe? *Marijke Muoi* was written by church historian and theatre maker Bouke Oldenhof, is directed by Sjoeke Marije Wallendal, and is performed by actors from all over Europe.



This is how
we roll in
Europe

1ST TAFISA EUROPEAN SPORTS FOR ALL GAMES



There are Europeans who have turned rolling cheese wheels into a sport. It's true. There are also people who use a huge pole to jump across water. In another country people are fanatically playing *shuffleboard*. All these fascinating European amateur sports will be brought together at the first *TAFISA European Sports for All Games* in 2018. And you can join in.

Summer in Friesland is marked by culture-sports. The entire province travels to the dyke to watch the *Skûtsjesilen* (traditional sailing competition) with binoculars. Tickets for the Frisian handball classic *De PC* are sold out in no time, even though we have to sit on wooden benches and the opening speech takes an hour. *Fierljeppers* are cheered on as they fly through the air in an exciting

summer competition. We have our own sports and associated traditions, but we're not unique in this in Europe. Who knows the rules and fun of *pelote* or *pandolo*? Or *hurling*? They are small-scale sports, but they are intimately related to culture and region. Often they are combined with art, such as the martial arts and dragon boat racing. Wonderful to watch, even better to participate in and experience in your own village. Well, it giet oan! (It's on!) In the week of 3 August some twenty countries will travel to Friesland to demonstrate their cultural sports, not just in the city but at sport clubs in small villages. 'Foreign teams travel to Friesland at their own cost and spend the night at the home of Frisians,' explains Anne Jochum de Vries on behalf of the organiser *Sport Fryslân*. 'Traditional sports will be in the spotlight. Friesland will demonstrate *fierljeppen*, *skûtsjesilen* and *kaatsen*. But we will also make space for modern sports like free running and wheelchair basketball.'

1-0 for moving

Winning is not important this summer – but participating definitely is. 'The *European Sports For All Games*' is the grand finale of a programme intended to get all Frisians moving. The knowledge we gain will be shared during a large conference. In the week in which all these sports come together, we will inspire locals and visitors to enjoy sports even more. And to celebrate that together. The opening and closing ceremonies will be a huge spectacle.'

The *European Sports For All Games* is organised by Sport Fryslân under the auspices of TAFISA, the global organisation that advocates amateur sports and collaborates closely with both the NOC*NSF and the World Health Organisation. ♥

Curious about these exotic cultural sports? Roll over to 2018.nl/en/esfag



A Thousand-and-One musical concerts

AT THE WATERGATE



PHOTO LAURA KEIZER

A musical coup in Sneek! Seven thousand young musicians take over the city.

Immerse yourself in live music performed by Europe's youngest generation of musicians. Three whole days of jazz, pop, rock, classical and symphonic music from everywhere in Europe. You can hear it along the canal, in a sloop, on a paddle board, or simply sitting in a comfortable seat in a theatre. This is *At The Watergate*, a three-day music festival in Sneek with more than a thousand live concerts. During the Ascension Day weekend, you could call Sneek 'the second European

Capital of Culture': thousands of young musicians and music school students from 26 European countries will be flocking to this city with its iconic Waterpoort (Watergate). These young people will be performing in a band, ensemble, symphony orchestra or in a choir.

If jazz isn't your thing, just stroll to the next street where you can hear another musical genre: Sneek and its nearby villages will provide no fewer than 49 outdoor and indoor musical venues.

Interested in enjoying live music during the Ascension Day weekend?
2018.nl/en/atthewatergate

Floating dining tables

Seven thousand performing musicians from the ages of 12 and 25 also means 7,000 hungry mouths to feed. Lieuwe Toren, *At the Watergate's* festival director: 'We're going to have pontoons in the canals – floating restaurants so the participants can eat while enjoying each other's company. It's our way of creating a musical mini-community.'

Sneek itself as a stage for music

Organisations in Sneek as well as the locals themselves will be involved in creating this mini-community; secondary schools will be used as inns, and even surrounding villages will house the young musicians. The music teachers from the various countries, along with their group, will be matched with a local host or hostess.

In Sneek it can be different

This musical event isn't just a one-off. *At the Watergate* is actually the thirteenth edition of the European Youth Musical Festival. Cities such as Budapest, Barcelona and Trondheim have hosted it before Sneek.

'The fact that all of it will be held in and around Sneek makes this edition really special,' says Toren. 'The way it was organised before meant that many of the young people didn't even meet one another during the festival. They were spread over a large region and didn't perform at the same time. In Sneek we want to let everyone see this can be different. That young people can meet each other and really do something together. With music as their common language.' ♥



OPERA SPANGA

Spanga holds up a mirror up to the world

A revamped classic: that's *Aida* by Opera Spanga in 2018. An opera about war, hate, love and forgiveness. Age-old themes presented with new insights.

In Giuseppe Verdi's classical opera *Aida*, love comes into conflict with war. God is put before the chariot and murder and plunder take place in His name. Corina

van Eijk, artistic director of the Opera Spanga company, believes that *Aida* has become relevant again with global conflicts like the wars in Syria, Yemen and Nigeria.

Food for thought

That is why Opera Spanga will be presenting its own version of *Aida* in 2018. The company shows that wars belong to the past and there are only losers. One thing Opera Spanga can be trusted to deliver: the company is famous for its creation of theatrical experiences that offer new insights and food for thought to its audiences.

The location – the village of Spanga with a population of 200 in Weststellingwerf

– contributes to its success. The community plays an active part and in addition to experienced professionals, young talents and semi-professionals are welcomed to the stage.

In 2018, international talents will also be part of the company since Spanga will be performing in Valletta, the capital of Malta. With Leeuwarden-Friesland, Valletta will be European Capital of Culture in 2018. In this context, Spanga is collaborating on the design of *Aida* with the students and teachers of MCast, the Malta Institute of Creative Arts, and D'Drive, the design department of the Friesland College in Leeuwarden. The opera will be performed at the beautiful Royal Opera House of Valletta on 13 and 15 September 2018.

De Rottige Meente as a stage

Opera Spanga has organised a fringe programme in addition to the opera: *De Rottige Meente as a stage*. This programme also shows us how useless and disastrous hate, revenge and war are. Among other things, it consists of three newly composed triumphal marches in collaboration with the cultural capital De Hoeve, a photo exhibition by Noorderlicht, a theatrical digital experiment, *The Lab for Hidden Humanity*, in partnership with the University of Amsterdam, and an exhibition by the artist Dirk Kerst Koopmans. ♥



Let yourself be swept along by Opera Spanga and look differently, from Frisian lands, at the world beyond.
2018.nl/en/operaspanga



ORANJEWOUDFESTIVAL

Heavenly classic with a twist

International musicians who tempt classical music lovers to visit Friesland; concerts both above and below ground; the heavenly heart of the festival, De Proeftuin ... 'If you want to be part of something special, you must come to Oranjewoud.'

Whoever's heard pianist Yoram Ish-Hurwitz play live, will also know how he talks: sensitive, to the point, and fast. As the artistic director of the *Oranjewoud Festival* he is preparing an extra long festival edition for 2018, where *silver generation* visitors will feel just as at home as hipsters and families with children.

Allegro con brio. 'Passionate classical music lovers will be able to enjoy top musicians from all over Europe, such as Jean-Guihen Queyras, Francesco Tristano, Erik Bosgraaf, and Noa Wildschut, while we also offer a stage to inveterate obstructionists like Nigel Kennedy. Do you like surprises? The programme is packed full with collaborations, performances and forms rarely found at classical concerts. So yes, bring your swimsuit along for an underwater concert with special floating helmets, and talk to your neighbour during a silent concert.'

Midnight concerto

Sotto voce. 'During the *Nacht van het Park* (Night of the Park), you will enter a fairytale garden of miniconcerts and pop-up performances. Towards midnight everyone will gather for the Midnight Concert. An international group of young musicians will perform *Unremembered* by Sarah Kirkland Snider, a fascinating piece that moves between magic and reality. Perfect for the night time.'

Music brings people together

If you remember anything, it will be the heavenly mood. *Legato.* 'The festival links classical music with other genres and extraordinary locations, the old with the new, and people with each other. Whether you are looking for a beautifully relaxed weekend in a wonderful environment, searching for inspiring experiences or inner expansion, you'll find it at the Oranjewoud Festival.' ♥

For a taste of what's to come, go to 2018.nl/en/oranjewoudfestival



A night-time theatre
experience in complete
darkness

SJEN YN IT TSJUSTER



PHOTO REYER BOXEM / HOLLANDSE HOOGTE

In the village of Burgwerd, you literally and figuratively walk in the footsteps of the blind Frisian poet Tsjêbbe Hettinga. Surrendering to all your senses, led by imagination and the people around you.

Tsjêbbe Hettinga (1949-2013) made his debut in 1970 and grew to be a highly respected and beloved poet both in and beyond Friesland. Whether you are Frisian or not, his songlike poems and earthy texts touch everyone.

Hettinga described his memories of Burgwerd, the village where he was born, in the poem *It doarp Always Ready*. It is a beautiful, long, lyrical poem about the countryside of his youth. Nine narrative verses interspersed with the chorus with increasing repetition, like a mantra.

*Jonge, lytse jonge.
Rop my,
Rop my, werom,
werom.*

In 2018 Burgwerd pays homage to 'their' Tsjêbbe and will let visitors feel how he experienced his youth, through poetry, music and theatre. Adventurous, lyrical. Sixty years ago Burgwerd was a small farming village. The evenings and nights were pitch dark. People read their books by the dim light of a lamp. The world was only as big as the distance you could walk or cycle.

Tsjêbbe's desire to expand his world grew stronger. In his mind there were no boundaries. His imagination was fed by the dark. This darkness played a big role in Tsjêbbe's life. His eye disorder was diagnosed at an early age. As he grew older, his daytime vision deteriorated. Later, as his eye disease grew worse,

his physical world became smaller and smaller. What remained was the world his mind's eye could see. Many groups have come together, along with the population of Burgwerd, for *Sjen yn it Tsjuster*, including STULLP (the Foundation for the Realisation of Location Literature Projects), BUOG (a group set up to devise and deliver unusual events), and Dorpsbelang (an association which focuses on matters of importance to villages). Together they will pay homage with a series of activities. 'We'll start in the church with the lights on. As the church bells toll, the entire village will grow dark. You will be led not only by your other senses, but also by the people around you. You will walk the entire route with your hand on the shoulder of the person before you. A gesture that is deeply touching, especially for anyone who saw Hettinga do the same for years. ♥

Experience Burgwerd.
Go to 2018.nl/en/sjenynittsjuster



PHOTO FLORIAN CATS



PHOTO TRYNTSJE NAUTA

SMALL TOWN EUROPE

The myth of the countryside unravelled

Matter-of-fact, hard-working, smart farmer or simply naive. Rural residents from Germany, Ukraine and Friesland fall under these labels in 18th century poems and 19th century literature. But what defines the true character of the European villager today? Tryater answers that abiding question in *Small Town Europe* (Dorp Europa).

When the media or others talk about 'Europeans' we usually think of people in the big cities. Sophisticated women wearing the latest fashions on their way to work, or men in two-piece suits with trendy beards. A newspaper tucked under the arm. Take-away coffee, absorbed by busy traffic and employed in the service sector. But a large part of the European population still live in the countryside. Who are they?

During the autumn, Frisian theatre company Tryater will travel around the villages of Friesland with a colourful performance. Each day in a new place with new stories. Original scripts will alternate with texts from world literature in which players, musicians and dancers capture the soul of the countryside. ♥

Tryater takes its inspiration in 2018 from the *iepen mienskip*, with an abundance of cultures and stories from Friesland and Europe. *Small Town Europa* welcomes you to the countryside and introduces you to *World Citizens of the Voorstreek* in Leeuwarden.

2018.nl/en/smalltowneurope

2018.nl/en/worldcitizensofthefoorstreek

IEPEN DOAR(P)

The freedom to pee in your own garden

The village of Veenwoudsterwal may have only 128 houses but there's a special story behind every door. Documentary filmmaker Sjoerd Litjens grew up in this village and returned to create a portrait of each of its households.

Why did you decide on a portrait of a whole village?

'It's so typical of Friesland, the province with the highest village density in The Netherlands. All it has besides houses is a pub; the local school is in another village. We asked everyone what *iepen mienskip* meant to them. And everyone has a worthwhile story to tell. This also proved true during the many hours we spent on interviews in the village. They all had their own ideas about community, culture and the nature around them.'

What did you notice once you came back?

'The openness of people. And that a lot gets organised here; even though many people live alone, each of them feels safe and secure in their village. I also noticed how committed people are to their garden and the space around their house. One person expressed this perfectly: 'Here I have the freedom to pee in my own garden.' I knew exactly what he meant.' ♥

Iepen Doar(p) is an audiovisual documentary project. Sjoerd Litjens, Sippy Tigchelaar and Hester Heite made the audio portraits. Tryntsje Nauta and Marieke Kijk in de Vegte took the photos. Starting in January 2018, one portrait will be issued (and a door in the village 'opened') every day for 128 consecutive days at www.iependoarp.eu, on social media and by the regional broadcasting company Omrop Fryslân.

To see all the stories, go to 2018.nl/en/iependoarp



Chances are that a prison officer will be sitting next to you during the theatre piece *Holstmeer* by theatre company De Jonge Republiek. The production is partly set in the prison of Leeuwarden.

Theatre in prison

HOLSTMEER

On the outskirts of the city, on the Holstmeerweg in Leeuwarden, there are three buildings. A prison, Fier and, right in the middle, a police station. Fier is the national expertise and treatment centre for victims of violence. In Leeuwarden there are specialist shelter facilities for young women.

Holstmeer centres around these men and women, a theatre production conceptualised by journalist Auke Zeldenrust. And that makes this exciting for both the audience and the actors. *Holstmeer* takes place in prison, in Fier and in the police station. The lead roles in this theatrical trilogy are played by the detainees and the Fier-women themselves, together with two professional actors, Caroline Mgata and Eelco Venema. All under the directorship of Silvia Andringa from the theatre company De Jonge Republiek.

Auke Zeldenrust, who wrote a book about life behind bars, aims to show that these men and women also belong to the *iepen mienskip*. 'In my experience, they are often subject to prejudice. For example, people think that these young girls are victims of a lover, that they're naive and easily seduced.' Zeldenrust hopes that these prejudices will collapse after the theatre play.

Facing freedom

'People must hand in their phones and any metal objects, and legitimate ID is required', says director Silvia Andringa. 'As a member of the audience, you will then feel what it's like to surrender your privacy, your identity and at the same time fend for yourself.'



PHOTO UDO THIJSEN

The theatre trilogy *Holstmeer* opens closed worlds

The audience will travel to the Holstmeerweg by bus from Leeuwarden city centre. Some of the audience are led to watch the show about the girls in Fier, other members are led to the prison. Then they swop over. The detainees and Fier-girls play two fictional life stories which are loosely based on their own experiences.

The third part of the performance, by professional actors, takes place at the police station. 'The stories come together during this part and it concludes with how large and confrontational a step it is to face freedom', says Andringa.

'I hope that the audience will realise that we're the same in so many ways. Even if our paths completely diverge, the girls from Fier and the men from prison differ in their life choices, but as human beings we are fundamentally alike.' ♥

2018.nl/en/holstmeer



Not dancing is not an option

FRISIAN DANCE DAYS

To people who say they have no rhythm. To the talented and the teachers who persevere. To those who never get asked. To the amateurs who make parties much more fun. To teenagers who find it exhilarating. To breakdancers and ballerinas. To people with Parkinson's disease. May we have this dance with you?

One, two, three, four. If you put all the Frisian dance projects together, you'd get a wonderful line-up. Three hundred dance teachers, the dance training at the Friesland College, the Jeugd Dans Opleiding Fryslân (a 3-year dance programme for young people), the Duende dance company, a Dance Battle for schools, a dance project for Parkinson's patients and lonely people. And these are just a few. They want even more dancing in their province.

In 2018 this wish will come true during the *Frisian Dance Days*, four days with performances, get-togethers and workshops. Jenny Nijkamp (from Kunstcade, a Leeuwarden-wide educative organisation) and Hannelore Duynstee (from Keunstwurk – a province-wide educative organisation) are the artistic directors for the festival. 'For us, this year is the start of a richer environment for dance. There should be a lot more dancing going on. People don't have enough opportunities – or encouragement

– to let themselves go and make something beautiful together. Some people say they can't dance. Well, this festival is the perfect thing for them. After all, anyone can dance.'

TAKE TO THE FLOOR

Friesland would like to follow in the footsteps of other countries when it comes to having its own dance world. Nijkamp: 'In England people with a handicap can enrol in a programme to become a dance instructor. There they are known as *differently-abled people* instead of disabled people.' The Flemish production *Monkey Mind* – included in the *Strangers on Stage* programme – will be a good demonstration of the talents of *differently-abled people* with Down syndrome.

Children and young people will be challenged to take to the floor during *Dance Battle XL*. With workshops and online challenges they will get involved in how dancers in the urban scene are giving each other lots of encouragement and improving their moves. The ones with the most talent will perform before a large audience during the grand finale. The Frisian dance world itself can participate in 4x8: The best 4 x 8-second choreographies will be forged into the ultimate 2018 Dance, which you'll see everywhere this year.

DANCE PARTY

Jeans, a sequin-covered jacket or a 1950s petticoat; during the big final *Dance Party*, all ages, backgrounds, colours, cultures and life experiences will be out on the dance floor together. The foyer of De Harmonie theatre in Leeuwarden will be one big ballroom. Anyone there who still says they can't dance will definitely be asked to dance by Nijkamp and Duynstee. *Wolkom yn Fryslân: the floor is yours.* ♥

The festival will be in October, but here's your chance to waltz through the programme. 2018.nl/en/frisiandancedays

Interested in other unique *Strangers on Stage* performances? 2018.nl/en/strangersonstage



JAN WIEGERS, MUSIC HALL



JOHAN CHRISTIAN DAHL, AUSBRUCH DES VESUVI IM DEZEMBER, 1824

100 YEARS OF DE PLOEG

Unconventional Northerners

Not only Frisians like to reinvent themselves. The neighbouring province of Groningen also has its own counterpart movement, De Ploeg (The Plough). And the Groninger Museum is hosting an exhibition of the work of these unique artists.

1918 – a group of young artists in Groningen have detached themselves from the established order and formed the Kunstkring De Ploeg. This little band of visual artists, musicians and writers thought it was about time to plow up (ploegen) the art scene in the city.

The Groninger Museum is paying tribute to these pioneers in a comprehensive retrospective. The exhibition will feature hundreds of paintings, drawings, and graphics by such members of De Ploeg as Jan Wiegiers, Johan Dijkstra and Jan Altink. Also included are works by the 'established order' from the same period so that visitors can see how De Ploeg set itself apart. There are also works by Vincent van Gogh and German expressionist Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, both of whom had a huge influence on members of De Ploeg. In addition to the exhibition, the 100 jaar De Ploeg Foundation (a foundation dedicated to celebrating the 100th anniversary of De Ploeg) is also organising symposia, musical performances, and pedestrian tourist routes in the city and province of Groningen, among other activities. ♥

2018.nl/en/100yearsofdeploeg

ROMANTICISM IN THE NORTH

Love for the Landscape

Have you already been impressed by Friesland's landscapes and blue skies during your visit to our province? Landscape paintings became increasingly dramatic during the Romantic era. The Groninger Museum reveals all.

Paintings of landscapes were extremely popular during the Romantic era (1800-1850). The northern European painters of the Romantic era had a real feel for drama. Their favourite subjects included raging seas, imposing mountains, volcanic explosions and serene fields.

The Groninger Museum is presenting these dramatic landscapes in the first international exhibition of landscape painting: *Romanticism in the North – from Friedrich to Turner*. The exhibition will include almost a hundred works from Dutch, German, Scandinavian and British artists such as as Turner, Caspar David Friedrich and Johan Christian Dahl. Their paintings still appeal to our imagination but it was also during this period that certain movements developed which would determine the direction of modern art. Painters began to look inwards for inspiration and to express their inner thoughts. As a result, the landscapes they painted are just as varied as the range of human emotions. The work of Dutch artists from the Romantic era comes from Barend Koekekoek, Wijnand Nuijen and Andreas Schelfhout. ♥

Want to breathe some Romantic air?

2018.nl/en/romanticisminthenorth



PHOTO RUBEN VAN VLIET



JOSJE HATTINK – DE OPSTERLANDSE BERGEN, PHOTO SERIES 2016

ART COLLECTIVE VHDG

Art from a milk truck

A high threshold smashed as a symbolic gesture. That's right. The very act of opening the Voorheen de Gemeente (VHDG) project space sends a clear message. Freed from 'high brow' obstacles you can come in contact with international art, and enjoy surprising new experiences.

Do yourself a favour. Walk straight down to Haniasteeg in Leeuwarden, and into the VHDG. The alleyway – full of creative students and graffiti – will have an impact on everyone. You'll leave amazed, touched and impressed. First by artists from Cyprus and Japan, who capture the very 'spirit of the place' in a stimulating presentation. And then by *HEDEN*, a themed exposition which takes place in the evenings and where you can chat with the creators themselves. Manipulation, voices, absurdism... at VHDG anything goes.

And not just there. There is a journey to yet more surprises. The VHDG milk truck is striking, converted as it is into a moving 'artist-in-residence' location. The artists Flora Reznik and Teun Vonk were the first drivers of the bus. And because it is restricted to 25 kilometres an hour, they could only cross Friesland using small lanes. This led to some unexpected encounters and exciting new work, such as a video installation with a Frisian motor club and a dance piece on a foggy meadow with a funeral association. ♥

Surprise yourself. Check out 2018.nl/en/vhdg

2ND TRIENNIAL BEETSTERZWAAG

'Almende' between the balls of butter

Every year artists come to Beetsterzwaag, invited by Kunsthuis SYB (the gallery of Frisian artist Sybren Hellinga, who died in 2000). In 2018 the village will be holding its Second Triennial.

On the main street is a little old historic house where, until 1986, according to a secret recipe, Schroor's Frisian *boterballetjes* (butter shaped into balls) were made. For many years now it has been the home of a number of artists who work and exhibit their art here for six weeks.

In 2018, it's The Hague artist Josje Hattink's turn. 'I wanted to know how the removal of large areas of soil – which used to be peat – changes the landscape. Because of sand extraction in the area, it looks like somewhere from outer space.' With her art project, which gives peat workshops to people living near Beetsterzwaag, she wants to reveal to local people the historic ground they live on. Frenchman, Eric Giraudet de Boudemange is just one of dozens of artists who have stayed here. The Second Triennial of Beetsterzwaag will consist of work by artists and former residents. Public spaces in Beetsterzwaag will serve as gallery space. 'Such as? The tropical greenhouses across the street. The café. The church', says Geerlings. How does a community deal with land? A key question in 2018 – the theme of the second triennial is therefore *almende*, a term for common ground. ♥

2018.nl/en/thesecondtriennial



PHOTO ANNEMARIE BERGFELD

THE COLORFIELD PERFORMANCE

Paintbrushes unite

The cannon in the fortress town of Sloten is ready for action. In 2018 paint will be used instead of gunpowder to create a battlefield of colour. Artists from throughout Europe will arrive here to work on an impressive project: *The Colorfield Performance*.

Its originator and organizer, Dirk Hakze: 'Everyone thinks the world revolves around him or herself.' Smiling: 'But artists are extreme in this regard. Well, they'll get all the freedom they want to create a work in the Frisian landscape. The only restrictions are that it has to be painted in one day on a panel and may not contain any black.'

From May to September, 499 artists will work on the project in groups. 'Everything will be supplied. They will get a cart with their palette of selected colours, and with their bag in hand, they can leap into the landscape.'

All these finished panels will then be assembled to make a huge triangular pointillist painting. 'If you're standing near the cannon, the view is fantastic. We did this before at the Oerol Festival; this site in Sloten offers new possibilities. Tourists can park their car or moor their boat and watch this spectacle taking place.'

The triangle form wasn't just a random choice. 'The triangle is the symbol of the French Revolution, an event that actually laid the framework for Europe. Now that so many countries have been working together in peace, this should be celebrated.' ♥

Would you like to experience this colourful European gathering?
2018.nl/en/thecolorfieldperformance

SAILING ON THE GRASS

Friesland as seen by outsiders

Frisians see a boat glide over an aqueduct in the summer for the umpteenth time and think nothing of it. Outsiders, on the other hand, have to look twice because they think that what they've just seen is a boat sailing on the grass. This is what *Sailing on the Grass* is about: after all, looking at yourself through the eyes of others is much more interesting.

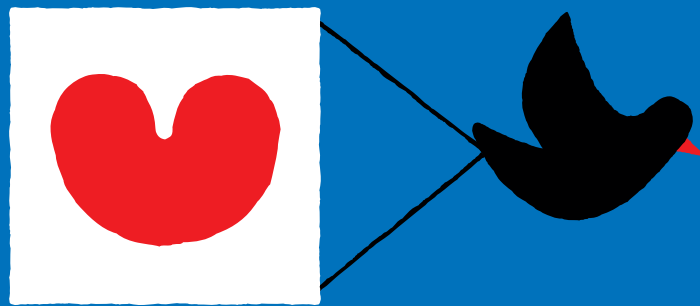
For this project, based on a concept by Klaas Toering, talented international film directors have been invited to come to Friesland and zoom in on its landscape, the Frisians and how they live with each other. They will then work with Frisian film makers on a documentary series shown during the Northern Film Festival.

In the first phase of the project Pau Ortiz, a Spanish director, will investigate how Friesland deals with refugee families. Is the open community actually all that open? And Andrea Pellerani, a Swiss director, will follow Jan and Barbara, a married couple who fish between the boundary of the Wadden Sea and the mainland. Novice film makers can also participate in a special educational programme giving them the chance to make an international film. ♥

Follow all the developments at 2018.nl/en/sailingonthegrass and take a look at the Northern Film Festival's programme at 2018.nl/en/nff

ROYAL FRIESIAN

Doar dysels opnij te finen
Flean dyn eigen skaad foarby



Wy binne grutsk! We are proud of people who make the impossible possible, like M.C. Escher. We turn the spotlight on locals who explore their boundaries, with Mata Hari as an exotic example. Children and villagers look bravely in the camera, Dr8888 is colourfully flirting with you, Dadadaring you. Cherished Frisian headliners are joined by new generations and new icons.

The page features a vibrant red background decorated with stylized blue eyes and legs in blue trousers and black shoes. These elements are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some appearing to peek over the edges of white rectangular panels. The eyes are large and expressive, with black pupils and white highlights. The legs are shown in various walking or standing poses, adding a sense of movement and rhythm to the design.

Frisian identity: the movie

What exactly is Frisian culture and identity? What story will visitors encounter with the European Capital of Culture 2018? And why is it more than logical that the Northerners won the title? Beerenburg on the left, Frisian cheese board on the right. Lights out. Screen on. Here we go ...

Before the band starts, a spoiler alert: Frisians have lived happily for a long time. But they have a history that really lends itself to a historical blockbuster. 'We have lost everything so often and have had to reinvent ourselves.' Bert Looper is Director of Tresoar, the Frisian history centre, but would no doubt have been a storyteller around a campfire five centuries ago. 'Hah yes, I use that *five centuries ago*-principle a lot; it helps me think of what sort of province we wanted to be and what plans we made at the time. You look back, but you also analyse the future of the province.'

Welcome to that Friesland, which, according to Looper, has a lot in common with Facebook, Uber and Tesla. 'Those companies have had a *Massive Transformative Purpose* from the beginning, and so have we.'

You say?

'A higher purpose in order to radically change something, to improve the world. We Frisians were already working on that in 1300.'

Heroic music. In a time ...

'A period in which the blanket of a national centralised authority was unfolding over Europe. Dukes and counts were in power everywhere. In Friesland we looked at each other and said: We don't want that here! We created a free state, with short lines of communication between politicians. And it worked; our ideology became our best weapon.'

And now the first bad guy makes an appearance ...

'This stopped in 1498. Friesland was then conquered by Albert of Saxony. This brought an end to Frisian freedom, the Frisian language and Frisian law. An end to everything that made us unique. So we had to find a new status in the Dutch Republic. And we succeeded! With our ports, a university in Franeker with great thinkers, the North Sea and Baltic trade ... We were the owners and operators of the future. That gave us a tremendous boost.'



But: rise, shine and sink ...

'With the fall of Napoleon in the 19th century, Friesland lost its beautiful autonomous role within the Republic. The unitary state became a reality and Friesland was suddenly on the periphery. We lost a great deal. But the Frisians looked to the future. Who did we want to be? What made us different? The enormous political loss was offset by the construction of a new, strong identity. We achieved that through our rich history and language, which were given a dominant role.'

'The ideals of the Frisian Movement which were created in the 19th century were almost entirely taken over by provincial politics after World War II. This was intensified by 'Kneppelfreed', which was the fierce battle for the use of the Frisian language in court. Throughout the long ensuing period afterwards, political and cultural discussions arose, in which supporters and opponents pondered one question: do we need to preserve the Frisian culture exclusively – with a firm lid on it – or let it loose, with the danger of being left with nothing but a tourist experience?'

And was it the latter? After all for many years tourists have seen the same sailing Skûtsjes, loaves of sugar bread at the bakery, Frisian hand ball players and canal vaulters...

'A lot of Frisian traditions still remain and are still going strong. But our identity has become too static in recent times. We preserved what we already had and that was that. Did our children still use correct Frisian grammar? Did we still have purely Frisian literature? Were people still dancing in traditional costume? The culture was preserved, we wanted to keep everything exactly as it was. But by short-sightedly doing what we always did, we never progressed further.'

And so ...

'During the battle to become the European Capital of Culture we realised that we have to loudly declare our dreams to the world and say what kind of province we want to be. What cultural, economic, social and sustainable ambitions we have together as Frisians, and what solutions we offer to other regions. So it feels – to me at least – like we're flinging ourselves into an open European arena, rather than reading poems to each other in our own language in small rooms.'

A successful remake?

'We are building a new Frisian university, sharing our knowledge about water and agriculture with the whole world, and inviting everyone to think with us and get involved. We have taken on the largest *Massive Transformative Purpose* in the history of Friesland.'



The Fries Museum presents the largest Mata Hari exhibition ever. Join her as she travels from her native city of Leeuwarden to the Dutch East Indies, where fate follows in her footsteps. Relive her glorious rise to fame in the Parisian dance theatres and discover the web of intrigue in which she became entangled during the First World War.

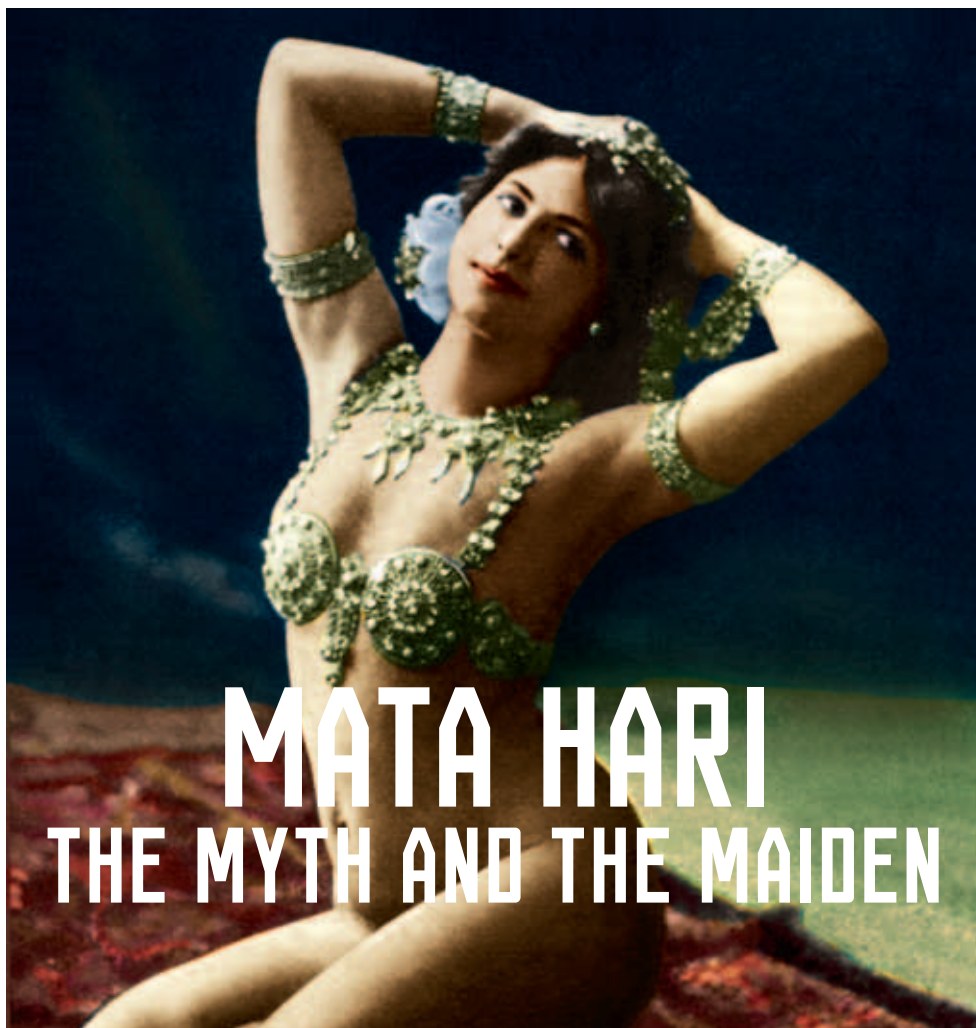
Spying on the life of Mata Hari

TEXT: FRIES MUSEUM

At the age of 29, the Frisian girl Margaretha was a true sensation in Paris. As Mata Hari, she enchanted high society audiences with her exotic dancing in which she slowly bared her body. The newspapers simply could not get enough of her. For ten successful years her name was synonymous with sensuality and glamour. But her countless affairs with uniformed men, and her travels through Europe during the First World War, drew the suspicion of the French secret service. In early 1917 she was arrested on suspicion of spying for the Germans. Mata Hari was executed on 15 October that same year by a French firing squad in the woods near Paris.

THE MYTH

After her death Mata Hari took on mythic proportions. Her life is the subject of books and touches the imagination of people worldwide. Movie stars like Greta Garbo, Sylvia Kristel and Marlene Dietrich played the role of Mata Hari. She was a style icon, a sex symbol and a femme fatale. But very few people are aware that behind this world-famous icon was a girl from Friesland.



MATA HARI

THE MYTH AND THE MAIDEN

MATA HARI IN PARIS 1905. COLL. FRIES MUSEUM

THE MAIDEN

How did the daughter of a well-to-do Leeuwarden milliner grow into an international myth? Where did her penchant for men in uniform come from? Why did her marriage fail and how did fate entangle Margaretha in the Dutch East Indies? What role did motherhood play in her life? What compelled her to seek salvation in Paris? Was she a fantasist or a spy – and if so, did she work for the Germans, the French, or both?

One hundred and fifty authentic objects from The Netherlands and beyond tell her story in the largest Mata Hari exhibition ever. Personal belongings, photos, scrapbooks, letters and military files, many never exhibited before, shed new light on the girl behind the myth. ♥

What's your image of Mata Hari after searching through this great collection? 2018.nl/en/matahari



There's never been another artist who has inspired so many different kinds of people as M.C. Escher. Maths nerds, art lovers, hippies, the Rolling Stones and tattoo addicts: like a multi-sided 3D-cube, they've all fallen for the man who made impossibly beautiful work.



M.C. ESCHER'S 'DAY AND NIGHT' ©THE M.C. ESCHER COMPANY BV

The art of the impossible

Meet Maurits Cornelis Escher (1898-1972). *Mauk* to his friends. Serious face. Pointy beard. At first glance this Leeuwarden-born artist looks like a maths professor. But anyone visiting the Fries Museum in 2018 will be surprised by this timeless and adventure-loving Houdini.

JOURNEY WITH THE GRAND MASTER OF ILLUSION

'The exhibition on display in 2018 is designed as a three-dimensional biography: it lets you journey with Escher on his physical and mental travels,' says its curator, Judith Spijksma. 'You'll get to see the sketches and the notes he made while travelling, which later inspired his work. Influenced by the hills of Italy, he experimented with striking vanishing points and compilations of images. The result was enchanting optical illusions that were impossible to understand.'

Only those who attempt the absurd will achieve the impossible. – M.C. Escher

One of his most famous works is *Day and Night* – white birds fly out of the daylight and into the night, and black birds do the opposite. Both formed by the other's shape and yet also, together, constituting the plots of farmland in the landscape below. It's fascinating, beautiful, but, above all, impossible.

At first glance Escher's work appears logical and realistic, but it always involves impossibilities: a stairway leads neither up nor down; a floor appears to be a wall. As he himself said: *'I cannot help but mess with our undeniable certainties'*. These 'undeniable certainties' were the starting point for *Phantom Limb: Art Beyond Escher*. On the third floor of the Fries Museum contemporary artists will present works and installations which will play with concepts such as contrast, light, order, patterns, perspective and space. They position you in a world which looks impossible.

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The protest generation of the 60s saw Escher's work as really 'far out'. The repetitions in his work were perfect for use in ultraviolet light and were sometimes even renamed. So his work *Dream* was rechristened *Bad trip*. Although he had little in common with this protest generation, Escher could see the funny side of it. So what happened with The Rolling Stones? In 1969 they came up against Escher, the perfectionist. *'Dear Maurits'*, wrote Mick Jagger. *'I am most eager to reproduce one of your works on the cover-sleeve.'* Escher let him know in no uncertain terms that he didn't feel like it, especially given his overly-free greeting in the letter. *'By the way, please tell Mr. Jagger I am not Maurits to him, but 'Very sincerely M.C. Escher'.* ♥

Go on a trip with Escher.
2018.nl/en/eschersjourney

Papegaaienbuurt

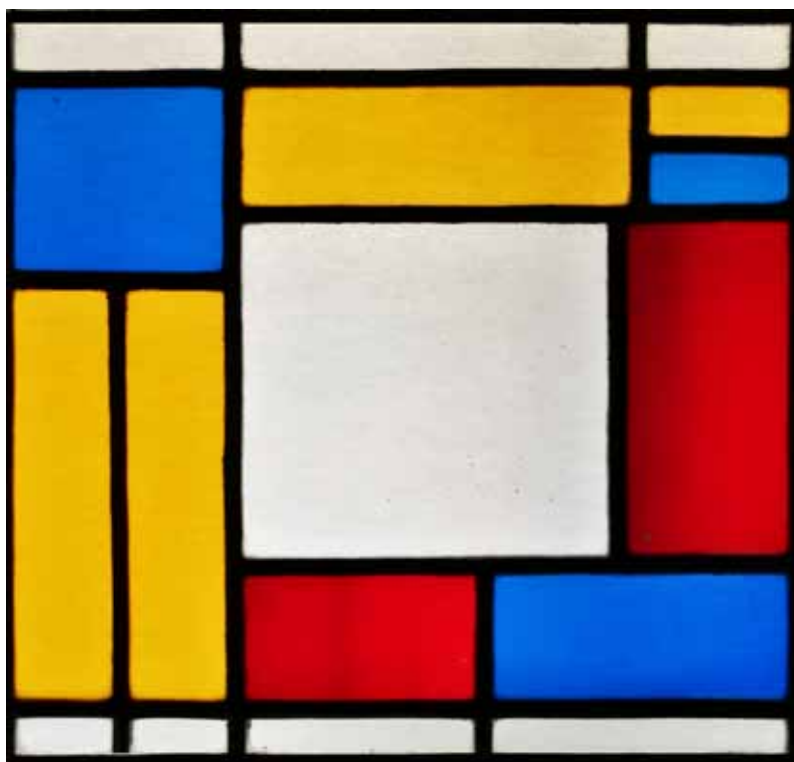
Using the brothers from Drachten's network, Van Doesburg secured his first major commission in Drachten: designing 16 middle-class homes in the Papegaaienbuurt (the *Parrot Neighbourhood*). It proved to be Van Doesburg's breakthrough. He wanted to build concrete buildings painted in primary colours, with flat roofs, steel and glass. All strictly according to the De Stijl book. But Drachten found this a little too revolutionary.

So there was a compromise. No concrete and steel, and no flat roofs, but the primary colours were approved. 'That was incredibly revolutionary for its time', says Paulo Martina, Director of Museum Drachten. 'This three-dimensional De Stijl artwork simply did not match the culture of the time, with its obsession with dark brown furniture, dark green and white window frames. In fact many of the houses were painted over within a few years.'

Director Martina has fought hard for a museum building with exactly the same colours, with exactly the same interior and exterior as Van Doesburg's first design. With replicas of the chairs by Thijs Rinsema. And he has succeeded. The De Stijl house can be visited in 2018 in Drachten's Papegaaienbuurt neighbourhood. A world première.

And the Rinsema brothers? 'They still remained unknown as revolutionary, modern artists, even to Drachten residents', says Martina. 'They were just seen as those good, if somewhat peculiar, shoemakers. Until now.' ♥

Enthusiastic? Then welcome to Drachten!
2018.nl/en/dadaindr8888



CEES RIENKS DE BOER, DETAIL STAINED GLASS 1932



KURT SCHWITTERS, EXPERIMENTAL POEM WITH NUMBERS AND LETTERS 1923

In 2018, Drachten immerses itself in De Stijl and Dada with a comprehensive programme both in and outside the Museum. Highlights include the museum house on the Torenstraat, as well as a Dadaist poetry ball and fashion show. And anyone walking through Drachten in 2018 won't be able to miss the De Stijl-inspired works of art. A revolution in colour – for example the light and colour show in the streets of Drachten which, from the air, will form an abstract work of art.



NORTHERN FILM FESTIVAL & NEW GENERATION

Rising talent on the silver screen

The 2018 edition of the Northern Film Festival is a special one: the new generation of filmmakers is showing its stuff. Even the very smallest among them.

November. The month of freezing rain, scarves and winter coats. It's the perfect time to relax into a cinema seat and binge-watch the best European films. Feel like arthouse, or simply a feel-good movie? Both are possible. For five full days, as a matter of fact. During the Northern Film Festival in Leeuwarden. But that's not all. Before the NFF begins, there is a new programme: *NEW GENERATION*. Film talents, actors, critics, filmmakers and students can meet, see each other's work and participate in workshops and master classes. *NEW GENERATION* also has an educational touch: students – even very young ones – are introduced to the world of film by special youth performances and suitable educational resources.

PRIZES

NEW GENERATION will merge into the Northern Film Festival. There's a big focus on the cultural year in the 2018 edition. The various film projects of LF2018, such as *Look@Me* and *Sailing on the Grass*, will be premiering at the festival. Of course, the film festival would not be a film festival without prizes. This year the winner of the annual *New Competition* will have their film screened at the festival. And the winner will also tour to other European film festivals. But first, let's binge-watch some European films in Leeuwarden. ♥

Looking forward to November yet?

2018.nl/en/nff

2018.nl/en/sailingonthegrass



LOOK@ME

Primary school children from Leeuwarden have filmed their lives. Not for a vlog (video blog) or Snapchat, but for an actual film. They have done this for the Kunstkade project *Look@Me*, an educational programme in which children learnt how to record their own stories on video.

Young filmmakers from the primary schools De Eestroom and Oud Oost in Leeuwarden recorded their extraordinary stories with the help of a professional filmmaker and film and media students from D'Drive Friesland College. The works of the young filmmakers can be seen at the Northern Film Festival.

2018.nl/en/lookatme

2018.nl/en/explorethenorth
22 – 24 November Leeuwarden

2018.nl/en/reopening
November Friesland

EXPLORE THE NORTH

Festival for wanderers,
dreamers and thinkers

Frost at clog height, dew on empty clothes-
lines, flowers of ice on the windshield. Winter
hits hard in the historic heart of Leeuwarden.
The perfect time for a festival that warms your
inner soul.

The heart of Leeuwarden forms the beautiful stage
for *Explore the North*, gathering together the best
Frisian, national and European writers, musicians,
dancers and actors. Artists and performers from far
away and from around the corner – but ideally in
combination – come to Leeuwarden in November to
showcase their latest works, and to make new ones.
Now it's up to you to take a diversion into this spider
web of alleyways and literature, churches and music.
The team behind *Explore the North* is more than just
the productive brain behind the festival. They are
also responsible for shows from *Lân fan taal* (Land
of Language) in the Prinsentuin park in Leeuwarden,
and three minifestivals throughout the year. ♥

Musical and poetic fire can be found on the
Explore the North site – warm yourself up with
a beautiful line-up. 2018.nl/en/explorethenorth

REOPENING

A magical
November

The last weeks of 2018 do not herald the end of
a cultural year and *iepen mienskip*, but a new
beginning. Welcome to the ReOpening!

2018 promises to be a fantastic cultural year. But
whereas some fires burn out as the end approaches,
Leeuwarden-Friesland anticipates yet another high-
point in the autumn. We will celebrate the wonderful
moments we have experienced together and look
forward to what is to come. We will start the year
afresh.

A FESTIVAL FULL OF SURPRISES

How are we going to do this? By making November
a magical month. Artists, musicians and theatre-
makers from throughout Europe will come together
in Leeuwarden. Together with the Frisians, they will
vibrantly and creatively show what daring to dream,
to act and to be different has revealed. *Iepen* (open)!
Heart-warming projects will be highlighted, success-
es in sustainability and recycling will be celebrated,
differences will be welcomed and the streets will blow
with a fresh wind full of shared solutions to European
challenges. *Explore the North* and the *Northern Film
Festival* will welcome artists for a wealth of perform-
ances. November will be a festival of surprises for
everyone. ♥

Sûnder dy kinne wy net opnij begjinne (without you
we can't begin) – follow online to make November an
unforgettable ReOpening. 2018.nl/en/reopening



YEAR CALENDAR 2018

This is a brief overview of the year in which Leeuwarden-Friesland is the European Capital of Culture. The programme is subject to change. For events with an asterisk* we have only indicated the general period. For exact dates and the most up to date and comprehensive calendar, go to 2018.nl/en

JANUARY

14/10/17 – 02/04/18: Leeuwarden
Mata Hari, the myth and the maiden

09/12/17 – 06/05/18: Groningen
Romanticism in the North

01/01 and on-going: throughout Friesland
The Journey

Year-round: Leeuwarden
Waterbar
WATERCONNECTING 2018

Year-round: throughout Friesland
Art Collective VHDG

01/01 – 06/01: IJlst
De Frijtinker
UNDER THE TOWER

Year-round: iependoarp.eu
Iepen Doar(p)

01/01: Amsterdam
03/01: Leeuwarden
New Year's Concert
KING OF THE MEADOWS

Year-round: throughout Friesland
The Pauper Fountain

03/01 and on-going: Leeuwarden
Iepen UP Live
IEPEN UP

23/01 – 17/03: Leeuwarden
Marijke Muoi, Revolution in Friesland
UNDER THE TOWER

26/01/18 – 06/01/19: Leeuwarden
Phantom Limb: Art Beyond Escher

25/01 – 02/09: Leeuwarden
Het Grote Grutto Theater
KING OF THE MEADOWS

25/01 and on-going: Buitenpost
Silence of the Bees

26/01 and on-going: throughout Friesland
Lân fan taal

26/01 and on-going: Leeuwarden
Opening OBE (Visitors' centre)
& Tim Etchells Expo & Travel Office
LÂN FAN TAAL

26/01: Heerenveen
The World of Mata Hari

26/01: throughout Friesland
27/01: Leeuwarden
The Opening Weekend

27/01 – 01/07: throughout Friesland
Sjong! Zing! Sing!
LÂN FAN TAAL

28/01 – 08/04: Drachten
Beyond Dada & De Stijl Part 1
DADA IN DR8888

31/01: Leeuwarden
Aurora Nova
STRANGERS ON STAGE

FEBRUARY

In February: Drachten
Lightroute in Stijlcolours,
Museumplein in Stijl
DADA IN DR8888

02/02: Leeuwarden
Première Projection 1 Oldehove
LÂN FAN TAAL

02/02 – 04/02: Leeuwarden
Minifestival 1
LÂN FAN TAAL

03/02 & 04/02: Leeuwarden
IVGI&GREBEN
STRANGERS ON STAGE

10/02 – 15/04: Leeuwarden
Holstmeer

15/02 – 17/02: Leeuwarden
Bunkamura Theatre Cocoon
STRANGERS ON STAGE

21/02 and on-going: throughout Friesland
The Frisian Diaspora
LÂN FAN TAAL

21/02 – 28/02: Mantgum
De man dy't hout dûnsje liet
UNDER THE TOWER

22/02 and on-going: Leeuwarden
DNALWD2018 / DNA Liwwadden Tour
LÂN FAN TAAL

MARCH

01/03 – 04/03: Leeuwarden
Yiddish Waves Festival

02/03 – 26/04: throughout Friesland *
Karawane
LÂN FAN TAAL

16/03 & 17/03: Burgwerd
Sjen yn it Tsjuster

22/03 – 30/3: Friesland & Groningen *
North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra
Frisian St Matthew Passion
LÂN FAN TAAL

26/03 – 28/10: Leeuwarden
Liwwadders!
LÂN FAN TAAL

30/03 – 28/10: Leeuwarden
Language Garden & Pavilion
LÂN FAN TAAL

30/03: Franeker
Poetic Potatoes Book Launch
POTATOES GO WILD

31/03 – 30/09: Leeuwarden
AkzoNobel Honeysuckle Blue(s) Garden
FARM OF THE WORLD



APRIL

In April: Arum *

Bakzeuntjes
UNDER THE TOWER

04/04 – 25/11: Leeuwarden
Places of Hope

05/04, 03/05, 05/07, 05/09, 04/10: Húns *
Farm to Table
FARM OF THE WORLD

07/04 – 28/04: Wiuwert *
Anna Maria
UNDER THE TOWER

12/04, 10/05, 12/07, 13/09, 11/10: Húns *
Care
FARM OF THE WORLD

13/04: Leeuwarden
Première Projection 2 Oldehove
LÂN FAN TAAL

13/04 & 14/04: Burgwerd
Sjen yn it Tsjuster

13/04 – 15/04: Leeuwarden
Minifestival 2
LÂN FAN TAAL

13/04 – 21/10: Langezwaag *
Haren in de wind
UNDER THE TOWER

19/04 – 20/05: Sexbierum *
Orkater – Lost in the Greenhouse

19/04, 17/05, 19/07, 20/09, 18/10: Húns *
Natural Colours
FARM OF THE WORLD

20/04 – 20/05: Leeuwarden *
World Citizens of the Voorstreek

20/04 – 02/09: Het Bildt *
Gewassenveld
POTATOES GO WILD

22/04 – 08/07: Drachten
Kind van Mondriaan: Siep van den Berg
DADA IN DR8888

22/04: Leeuwarden
mugmetdegoudentand
STRANGERS ON STAGE

23/04 – 26/04: Leeuwarden
Multilingualism Conference
LÂN FAN TAAL

26/04, 24/05, 28/06, 26/07,
27/09, 25/10: Húns *
Food for Thought
FARM OF THE WORLD

28/04 – 28/10: Leeuwarden
Escher's Journey

28/04 and on-going: Leeuwarden *
Water Parade
WATERCONNECTING 2018

29/04 – 06/05: Leeuwarden
Our Water Week
WATERCONNECTING 2018

30/04 – 30/09: Ameland
Het Wad roept
SENSE OF PLACE

30/04 – 30/09: Schiermonnikoog
Natuurmonumenten
SENSE OF PLACE

30/04 – 30/09: Vlieland
Zee van terrassen
SENSE OF PLACE

MAY

From May to August:
throughout The Netherlands *
Awakening Landscape
KING OF THE MEADOWS

From May and on-going:
throughout Friesland *
Never Ending Orchestra

From May: throughout Friesland
Experience routes
WATERCONNECTING 2018

During May: Berlikum
De klokken fan Berltsum
UNDER THE TOWER

May & June: Hindeloopen *
Het Fluitschip
UNDER THE TOWER

01/05 and on-going: Holwerd
Dijk van een Wijf
SENSE OF PLACE

01/05 – 31/09: Marrum *
Dobbepaarden
SENSE OF PLACE

01/05 – 31/09: Wierum
Camera Batavia
SENSE OF PLACE

01/05 – 31/09: Holwerd
Waiting for high water
SENSE OF PLACE

04/05: Leeuwarden
Commemoration
IN COLLABORATION WITH YIDDISH WAVES

04/05 & 05/05: Drachten
The Language Caravan
LÂN FAN TAAL

From 05/05: throughout Friesland
Iepen UP

05/05: Leeuwarden
Frisian Liberation Festival
IN COLLABORATION WITH IEPEN UP
& YIDDISH WAVES

05/05 – 01/07: Groningen
Waste-NO Waste
FARM OF THE WORLD

09/05 – 11/05: Sneek
At the Watergate

09/05 – 11/05: Leeuwarden
Una McKeivitt
STRANGERS ON STAGE

15/05 – 30/09: Sloten
The Colorfield Performance

16/05 – 18/05: Leeuwarden
Manual Cinema
STRANGERS ON STAGE

18/05 and on-going:
in the 11 cities of Friesland
11Fountains

18/05 – 27/05: Wetsens
Sint Vitus Passie
UNDER THE TOWER

23/05: Leeuwarden
Liet XXL
IN COLLABORATION WITH LÂN FAN TAAL

25/05 & 26/05: Leeuwarden
Circus Adje & Frisian Street Festival
ADJE LAMBERTSZ

25/05 – 27/05: Ameland
Storytelling Festival Expedition Ameland
LÂN FAN TAAL

25/05 – 27/05: Sandfirden
De 7 fan Sânfurd
UNDER THE TOWER

25/05 – 27/05 & 05/10 – 20/10: Ryptsjerk *
Yn it Skaad fan 'e Toer
UNDER THE TOWER



25/05: in various locations
Culture Route
 SENSE OF PLACE

26/05 – 04/11: Groningen
100 years of De Ploeg

JUNE

In June & July: throughout
 The Netherlands
Koning van het Grasland
 KING OF THE MEADOWS

In June: Katlijk
De klok en het meisje
 UNDER THE TOWER

01/06 – 10/06: Oranjewoud
The Language Caravan
 LÂN FAN TAAL

01/06 – 15/07: Leeuwarden & Valletta
Subterranean Matter
 VALLETTA2018

01/06 – 10/06: Oranjewoud
Oranjewoud Festival

01/06 & 02/06: Workum
Een Jammerlijck Klaachlied
 UNDER THE TOWER

01/06 – 30-09: Lemmer *
Wat zag de Lemster Toer?
 UNDER THE TOWER

02/06 – 01/07: Smalle Ee
Finestra Aperta

02/06 – 30/06/19: Leeuwarden
Migrating Ceramics

04/06 and on-going: Terschelling
Wadland
 SENSE OF PLACE

07/06 – 17/06: Goutum *
Het heilige hert van Cambuur
 UNDER THE TOWER

12/06: Leeuwarden
Wunderbaum
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

15/06 – 24/06: Terschelling
Oerol Festival

15/06 – 24/06: Oerol/Terschelling
The Language Caravan
 LÂN FAN TAAL

16/06 – 24/06: Oerol/Terschelling *
World Citizens of the Voorstreek

16/06: Húns
Open Day: Market
 FARM OF THE WORLD

18/06 – 24/06: Paesens-Moddergat
Three Points of the Compass
 SENSE OF PLACE

20/06 and on-going: Drachten
Poetry Route
 DADA IN DR8888

20/06 – 22/06: Leeuwarden
Heroes with Humour:
European Comedy Festival
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

21/06 – 15/07: Het Bildt
Fruchtbere Grônd
 POTATOES GO WILD

21/06 & 22/06: Het Bildt
Symposium: Is there a future
for food production in the region?
 POTATOES GO WILD

22/06 & 23/06: Leeuwarden
Aurélien Bory
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

23/06: Het Bildt
Eating with the Farmer XL
 POTATOES GO WILD

23/06: Jistrum
It paad fan de Wûnderdokter
 UNDER THE TOWER

23/06: Leeuwarden
National Poetry Circles
 LÂN FAN TAAL

29/06 – 08/07: Reduzum *
Oeds fan fierwei
 UNDER THE TOWER

29/06 – 01/07: Het Bildt
Altyd Seumer
 POTATOES GO WILD

29/06 – 01/07: Leeuwarden
City Proms

JULY

In July: throughout Friesland
Dutch Solar Challenge
 FOSSIL-FREE FRIESLAND

01/07 – 16/09: in and around Frederiksoord
Into Nature: Out of Darkness
 COLONIES OF BENEVOLENCE

01/07 – 14/07: throughout Friesland
Eleven Way Tour
 FOSSIL-FREE FRIESLAND

08/07: Leeuwarden
8th Day

10/07 – 19/07: Leeuwarden
Conference of the Birds
 KING OF THE MEADOWS

14/07: throughout Friesland
Futuristic Parade (Eleven Way Tour)
 FOSSIL-FREE FRIESLAND

19/07 – 22/07: Leeuwarden
Welcome to The Village

22/07 – 30/09: Drachten
Beyond Dada & De Stijl Part 2
 DADA IN DR8888

23/07 – 06/08: Tytsjerk *
Fertellendeweis
 UNDER THE TOWER

24/07 – 13/08: Spanga *
Opera Spanga

27/07: Leeuwarden
Première Projection 3 Oldehove
 LÂN FAN TAAL

28/07 – 18/08: throughout Friesland
1st TAFISA European Sports for All Games

28/07 – 18/08: throughout Friesland
Skûtsjesilen (SKS & IFKS) / Keatswike /
WK Fries Dammen
 1ST TAFISA EUROPEAN SPORTS
 FOR ALL GAMES

AUGUST

In August: Olde- en Nijeberkoop
De verdwenen peerden
 UNDER THE TOWER

03/08 – 05/08: Harlingen
The Sea! The Sea!

03/08 – 06/08: Harlingen
The Tall Ships Races Harlingen

03/08 – 06/08: Harlingen
The Language Caravan
 LÂN FAN TAAL

04/08 – 06/10: Huizum *
Slauerhoff In Memoriam Patris
 UNDER THE TOWER



13/08 – 31/08: Hoorn, Terschelling *
Een nacht in de Sint Janskerk
 UNDER THE TOWER

15/08 – 14/10: Rijs
Lûd

17/08 – 19/08: Leeuwarden
The Giants of Royal de Luxe

20/08 – 31/08: Blije
Terp of the Future
 SENSE OF PLACE

31/08 & 01/09: from Raerd to Oosterbierum
Slachtemarathon 2018

SEPTEMBER

In September: Schettens *
Skeltmania
 UNDER THE TOWER

In September: Harlingen *
Op de Terp Almenum
 UNDER THE TOWER

05/09 – 09/09: Leeuwarden
Slava's Snowshow
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

08/09 – 07/10: Leeuwarden *
De Stormruiter

06/09 – 09/09: Dokkum
The Language Caravan
 LÂN FAN TAAL

06/09 – 09/09: Beetsterzwaag
**The Second Triennial
 of Beetsterzwaag**

07/09 & 08/09: Burgwerd
Sjen yn it Tsjuster

13/09 – 23/09: Frederiksoord
Kameroerahuis – Welstaat
 COLONIES OF BENEVOLENCE

19/09 – 23/09: Haskerdijken
Dodo fan Haska
 UNDER THE TOWER

20/09 – 27/09: Leeuwarden
European Water Tech Week
 WATERCONNECTING 2018

22/09: Wommels
De profylfoto fan Klaas
 UNDER THE TOWER

29/09: Leeuwarden
A party for the deaf
 IN COLLABORATION WITH LÂN FAN TAAL

29/09: Leeuwarden
Rose Stories & Het Nationale Theater
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

30/09: from Hijum to Leeuwarden
Lûd fan de Middelsee
 UNDER THE TOWER

OCTOBER

Autumn: Leeuwarden *
WAD

In October: Kortezwaag *
De klok moet werom!
 UNDER THE TOWER

04/10 – 07/10: Leeuwarden
Frisian Dance Days
 IN COLLABORATION WITH
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

05/10: Leeuwarden
Nederlands Dans Theater
 FRISIAN DANCE DAYS

05/10: Leeuwarden
Première Projection 4 Oldehove
 LÂN FAN TAAL

05/10 – 07/10: Leeuwarden
Minifestival 3
 LÂN FAN TAAL

05/10 – 20/10: Ryptsjerk *
Yn it Skaad fan 'e Toer
 UNDER THE TOWER

05/10 & 06/10: Ter Idzard
De tael van et hatte
 UNDER THE TOWER

05/10 & 06/10: Nijlân
Merakels fan Nijlân
 UNDER THE TOWER

06/10: Leeuwarden
Les ballets C de la B
 FRISIAN DANCE DAYS

06/10: Drachten
Dada Fashion Bal / Dada Poetryslam
 DADA IN DR8888

08/10: Leeuwarden
Dance Battle XL
 FRISIAN DANCE DAYS

12/10 – 14/10: Drachten
Drachten in Stijl XL
 DADA IN DR8888

12/10 – 16/12: Leeuwarden *
Small Town Europe – Tryater

13/10: Húns
Open Day: Market
 FARM OF THE WORLD

14/10 – 13/01/19: Drachten
**Frisian Expressionism:
 Not Afraid of the New**
 DADA IN DR8888

15/10 – 05/01/19: Leeuwarden
Kûnstsinnige Eerappels
 POTATOES GO WILD

19/10 & 20/10: Leeuwarden
KIRANA
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

19/10 – 10/11: Boksum *
De Slach by Boxum
 UNDER THE TOWER

26/10: Leeuwarden
Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
 NEVER ENDING ORCHESTRA

26/10 & 27/10: Sneek
KIRANA
 STRANGERS ON STAGE

NOVEMBER

In November: Drachten
Luzinterruptus
 DADA IN DR8888

05/11 – 09/11: Leeuwarden
New Generation
 NORTHERN FILM FESTIVAL

07/11 – 11/11: Leeuwarden
Northern Film Festival

07/11 – 11/11: Leeuwarden
Look@Me & Sailing on the Grass
 DURING THE NORTHERN FILM FESTIVAL

09/11 – 18/11: Minnertsgea
De Bestimming
 UNDER THE TOWER

11/11: Wergea
Tusken Twa Tuorren
 UNDER THE TOWER

22/11 – 24/11: Leeuwarden
Explore the North

November: throughout Friesland
ReOpening



Tige tank! Team 2018 would like thank everyone in Friesland and all those who have been involved in the project for, together, making Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018 happen.

UP TO DATE INFORMATION AT 2018.NL/EN

This magazine lays out the main programme for Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018 through its story lines. Up to date and detailed information can be found on our website, 2018.nl/en. There you will find the calendar of events, programme information, details about how to buy tickets, accommodation, practical information, and much more.

INFORMATION CENTRE

Would you rather speak to someone over a cup of coffee? Absolutely!

Just visit:

2018-Information centre
Blokhuisplein 40
8911 LJ Leeuwarden
The Netherlands
Tel.: + 31 (0) 58 751 2018
info@2018.nl

For specific ticket purchase questions, please email tickets@friesland.nl

OUR LATEST NEWS!

Stay up to date with the latest news about the programme and practical information: sign up for the newsletter via 2018.nl/en/newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Share your favourite moments online with #LF2018.

APP

The official LF2018-app is your perfect guide to Leeuwarden and Friesland. Here you will find up to date programme information, location by location, and you can put together your personal programme schedule and get tips for staying in the vicinity. From 1st January 2018, the LF2018 app will be available to download for free onto your iPhone or android phone via the Apple App and in Google Play Stores – check it out on LF2018.

JOIN IN!

Without you we cannot begin! Because, for Leeuwarden-Friesland 2018, we do it together! There are lots of ways to join in, as a member of the Club2018, through Frijstiper (as a volunteer) or as an ambassador. Just click on 2018.nl/en and you'll find out how to get involved! *Oant gau!*

IMPRINT INFORMATION

Publication date: 3 October 2017
Publication run: 30,000

Texts: Marijke Roskam, Nynke Sietsma & Walter Monster
Graphic Design: Barbara Jonkers
Cover: Kessels Kramer
Translation: Claudia Woolgar and AVB Vertaling
Printer: Grafische Groep Van der Eems

Subject to changes and printing errors. No rights can be derived from the contents of this publication. Stichting Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 has endeavoured to find out all rights-holders. Those who still claim to be eligible to be contacted, should contact us (info@2018.nl). The information contained in this publication is correct as of 1st September 2017, and is as obtained from the executive organisations. For the most up-to-date information on the programme, please visit 2018.nl/en.

Stichting Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018
Blokhuisplein 40
8911 LJ Leeuwarden
The Netherlands
Tel.: + 31 (0)58 751 2018
info@2018.nl
www.2018.nl/en

2018.NL/EN

PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND FUNDS

MAIN SPONSORS



BUSINESS PARTNERS



CO-SPONSORS



INITIATORS



FUNDS



Many other national, provincial and regional funds have made these projects possible. At this stage these are, among others ...

Blockbusterfonds / BNG Cultuurfonds / Bouwcultuurfonds Friesland / BPD Cultuurfonds / Diorapthe / Erasmus+ / European Cultural Foundation / Fonds Podiumkunsten / Fonds21 / Iepen Mienskipfûns / Janivo stichting / Leader / Meindersma Sybenga stichting / Mondriaanfonds / Old Burger Weeshuis / Provinciale afdeling Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds / PW Janssen's Friesche stichting / Ritske Boelema Gasthuis / Stichting Anthony Gasthuis / Stimuleringsfonds voor de media / Turing Foundation / Van der Meer Boerema stichting / VSB Fonds / Waddenfonds

This information is correct at the time of going to press (summer 2017). Fundraising will continue throughout 2018.

Arriva ferbynt

Hûs en wurk
Stasjon en teater
Stêd en museum

Arriva ferbynt minsken

Beppe en beppesizzer
Freon en freondinne
Jong en âld

Arriva ferbynt it noarden

Fan Ljouwert oant Grins
Mei Geldermalsen en Maastricht
Mei hiel Nederlân

Arriva ferbynt Nederlân

Mei Europa, fan Berlyn oant Madrid
En wer werom mei Fryslân
Mei Ljouwert, mei kultuer

Arriva ferbynt LF2018

For Dutch or
English text:



Leauwarden
Fryslân
2018

European
Capital of
Culture



Leeuwarden
Fryslân
2018

European
Capital of
Culture

A SHARED INVESTMENT, A SHARED START



LEEUWARDER
ONDERNEMERS
FONDS SAMEN
INVESTEREN
OM TE INITIËREN

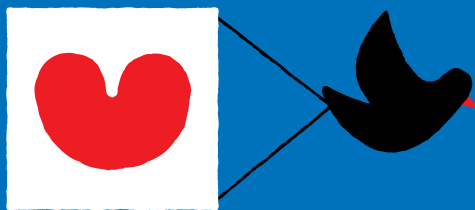


The LOF is one of the main sponsors of LF2018, demonstrating the importance of LF2018 to Leeuwarden's business community. The program is as much an economic stimulus as an opportunity for all Leeuwarder entrepreneurs, supported of course by the LOF.

We will also examine ways to continue the success of 2018 – the so-called Economic Legacy. We won't be doing this alone, but

together with the business community, the government and the residents. Only through a collective effort can we ensure that Leeuwarden is a city that people love to live in, to visit, and to work - now and (more importantly) for years to come.

Hence our motto – A SHARED INVESTMENT, A SHARED START. Today within the framework of LF2018. And in the future for city and district.



Presenting partners

