

wallonia and brussels

winter 2017 **wab** magazine

Discover a region that combines
technical knowhow with quality of life

THE MAN IN THE MASK

DJ KID NOIZE STORMS THE
ELECTRO-SYNTHPOP SCENE

- How Wallonia is riding the e-health revolution
- Six local companies celebrate export awards



Editorial

To kick off 2017, we present an updated Wab magazine, with a fresh design and new features. These include a profile series in which we spotlight a person playing an important role in shaping the region's future. First up is Nathalie Maillet, new director of the Spa-Francorchamps race track. The high-octane position is just the latest challenge for the visionary architect and race driver; read about her plans to make the legendary Formula One circuit a digital experience as well as an international showcase for Wallonia. This strategy is part of the Digital Wallonia scheme, and in our main feature we discover the e-health innovations that are transforming health in the region.

It's also all change at Charleroi Danses, the Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles' choreography centre. Before Vincent Thirion signed off as director, he explained how the dance company came to be formed almost 25 years ago. Annie Bozzini has now taken the reins, ushering in a new era. Another addition to our magazine is a portrait of an expat working in Brussels: first, an Irish human rights advocate who has chosen the Belgian and EU capital as her home. Enjoy the read!

Wallonia and Brussels - Contact

AWEX Wallonia Export-Investment Agency
www.awex.be

WBI Wallonie-Bruxelles International
www.wbi.be

Welcome Offices
www.investinwallonia.be



Editor Sarah Crew

Deputy editor Sally Tipper

Reporters: Mari Eccles, Andy Furniere, Karen McHugh, Senne Starckx
Linda A Thompson, Georgio Valentino

Art director Patricia Brossel

Managing director Hans De Loore

AWEX/WBI and Ackroyd Publications

Pascale Delcomminette – AWEX/WBI

Marie-Catherine Duchêne

AWEX, Place Saintelette 2, 1080 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: 00.32(0)2.421.85.76, **Fax:** 00.32(0)2.421.83.93

Email: mc.duchene@awex.be



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Cover: DJ Kid Noize

Contents: Charleroi Danse performs at Wallonia's export awards (top); Ice Mountain paintball activity (centre); film Capelito at Anima (bottom)



François Lenoir / Reuters

Winter wonders

A young sledger makes the most of the winter weather in a Brussels park. The region woke to a white new year as 2017 dawned, with drivers warned to limit travel to essential journeys due to nasty conditions on the roads



SUNGLASSES START-UP HAS WORLD IN ITS SIGHTS

La Louvière company Pyke, a successful brand of sunglasses for kids, has Japan, France and Spain in its sights as it prepares to expand abroad. BabyPyke, launched in December 2015, is a range of locally made sunglasses in eight colours for the under-threes, priced at €49. They are currently available from about 30 sales points in Wallonia and Brussels, the Pyke website and Amazon. Former financial consultant Isabelle Van Steenkiste founded the company after a futile search for sunglasses for her nephew. A Walloon Region grant of €12,500 helped her test and develop her product, and in 2016 the company raised funds via Sambrinvest and private investors from the Be Angels network.

pyke-sunglasses.com



PICTURE THIS: A 3D PRINTER IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

Lix is an innovative 3D printing pen (left) that draws plastic objects in thin air. Hainaut start-up Lixpen is behind the first device of its kind to resemble the shape and size of a regular pen. It works like a compact 3D printer: an electric heater melts the plastic, which then cools as it comes out of the end of the pen, like a cake-icer. It's intended for architects, designers and anybody interested in 3D printing. Experienced users can produce rigid and sophisticated shapes. The pen is powered by standard USB ports or electrical mains and was launched on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter. It costs €140.

lixpen.com

TOURISM GOES GOURMET

Following last year's focus on bike tourism, Wallonia is now focusing on attracting tourists through fine dining. Gastronomy in the region is characterised by its diversity and quality, and the theme aims to help numerous businesses promote their specialities. Discover a full calendar of events and activities at belgique-tourisme.be. Meanwhile, four new sites have been added to Wallonia's outstanding heritage list. They are the thermal installations in Spa, the Grand Théâtre in Verviers, the Basilica Notre-Dame de Bon-Secours in Peruwelz, and the Stade des jeux and Théâtre de Verdure at Namur Citadel.

MAKING FARM MANAGEMENT SIMPLER AT HOME AND ABROAD

Agricultural IT service Louvigny is successfully expanding its invoice software programme to agricultural businesses abroad. With growth of 300% in five years, LEA is now being used in France, Luxembourg and Switzerland, as well as Belgium. The Luxembourg province start-up consists of computer programme LEA-Manager and an app, LEA-Mobile. Workers' data is encoded on to a smartphone, so a company can immediately invoice a client. The programme already enables businesses to access information about maintenance, labour, fuel delivery and other services and will soon be able to track each vehicle used in real time.

louvigny.be

HOME IS WHERE THE SMART IS

Namur start-up Home Based has developed a smart home electronic system, Soline, which reacts to vocal, visual and touch commands. Developed in response to the growing need of an ageing population, the platform enables electrical equipment to be switched on and off from anywhere in the home or the garden.

home-based.eu

BUSINESS IN BRIEF



Innovation start-up **Quimesis** has launched a solar panel cleaning robot, the latest in a line of innovations. Based at Axisparc in Mont-Saint-Guibert, the company transforms its customers' innovation projects into working products. Among its other projects are smart home facilitator Lylo, golf ball collecting robot Ballpicker, and Nodalview, which creates 360-degree images. Quimesis is a team of young engineers specialised in robotics, smart devices and the internet of things.

quimesis.be

Phosphate specialist **EcoPhos** has signed an agreement to help build an animal food factory in Egypt. The Louvain-la-Neuve company, which employs 270 people, is currently building a production site in Dunkirk, northern France, at an estimated cost of €75 million. It has also invested €10 million in a centre of excellence in Bulgaria. The company was launched 20 years ago by student Mohamed Takhim. Its expertise is in recycling and recuperating phosphates for fertilizer and animal food.

ecophos.com



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nathalie Maillet

The French eco-architect who became director of Spa-Francorchamps racing circuit last summer is an experienced racing driver who has competed in the European Nascar series. Having previously lived in Luxembourg, she is now based in Rochefort, south of Namur



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This job is an intersection of my two passions, motor racing and architecture

What was your reaction when you were approached for the job selection?

It was a surprise, but I quickly presented a new strategy for the circuit as part of the selection process. What a challenge! This job is an intersection of my two passions, motor racing and architecture, so it suited me perfectly. It also concerned what has been called the greatest circuit in the world, a mythical track I've raced on myself. It's a prestigious international showcase and contributes to the development of the region. I couldn't refuse to be part of that.

You were born into a family of racing drivers, yet didn't get behind the wheel until you were 33. Why was this?

First of all my studies, and then my professional life, which led me to live in England for a number of years. I come from a family that was already involved in the sport, but it's a relatively expensive activity, so to begin with my wish of becoming a driver wasn't really considered. But when I got behind the wheel on my return from England, you couldn't escape the fact that I was made for it. I met my husband, Franz, who was also in the business, and it followed on from there. That was the beginning of a 10 years careers as a racing driver.

What was your first experience of racing at Francorchamps?

It was an unforgettable experience, of course, and I would still say that even if I wasn't the director of the circuit! Which driver doesn't get goose bumps in the steep climb to take the Raidillon or the Bruxelles double bend? This track has seen some incredible races, and the greatest drivers have praised it.

How do you plan to attract a wider audience?

We need to go beyond the limits of the track. I would like it to be a top touristic destination like Bruges, or the Atomium and Manneken Pis in Brussels. Our global strategy is 100% digital, using technology to break down boundaries, turning the track into a tourist trail and a virtual world. We have a project for digital helmets that will be dispersed all around the track, recounting its almost 100 years of history. It will be possible for everyone to drive a virtual car and to rent the track in real time, or get on board with your favourite driver halfway through a race thanks to an app.

How will you boost the local economy?

The circuit is a showcase for Wallonia. Via the new strategy, we want to participate in the region's economic redeployment, exporting an image of excellence around the world. It's necessary to encourage exchange between Wallonia and the rest of the world, and new visitors will boost the

local economy and the region. Motorsport, culture and tourism are at a real crossroads as regards digitalisation, which is the main theme of all our projects. In the coming years, Spa-Francorchamps will become a 100% connected circuit, allowing the public to discover new services and experiences. There'll be free wifi throughout the site and an app to present the new services. And we are part of the region's digital strategy, Digital Wallonia.

Has there been any negative reaction to your appointment, like sexism for example?

Sexism is not limited to motorsport; it can be there in all professional domains. I don't think I've particularly been a victim in my sector, even if it's true that it's essentially a male world. And there are women in responsible positions in the sport, even if there's still a way to go. Sexism in sport, like in life generally, is simply an old-fashioned attitude by people who perhaps have difficulty understanding that times have changed. It's necessary to fight this day by day and in all aspects of life. Honestly, I have not experienced a sexist reaction to my appointment. But I come from the motorsport world, I'm a driver, I've won races. I know what I'm talking about! And I'm also not someone who is going to be affected by this kind of attitude: everyone knows that.

World class

Wallonia rewards companies spreading local excellence across the globe

By Linda A Thompson



• Grand Prix winners

A handful of companies with outstanding track records in export were recently pushed into the limelight by the Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency (AWEX). In front of a 300-strong audience at a ceremony at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Charleroi, six companies – from a biotech firm to an aeronautic enterprise – received the agency's Wallonia Export Award. The ceremony included performances by Charleroi Danses (see page 23).

The honours celebrate companies that have helped spread Walloon excellence and know-how abroad by increasing exports of their products or by breaking into difficult markets. The two-yearly competition, already in its 15th edition, received 40 submissions this year, the second-highest number ever.

PhysIOL, a Liège-based company that develops, produces and sells intraocular lenses to treat presbyopia and cataracts, took home the coveted main prize – Le Grand Prix Wallonie à l'Exportation. According to export manager François-Xavier Lahaye, the company's export success springs from a combination of factors – its innovative quality product, its priority-setting and its high-quality service.

"It is necessary to be close to your markets, listen to the needs and be flexible," he says, noting that the company started exporting to Belgium's neighbouring countries first to build a strong foundation as well as brand recognition. Thanks to the company's distribution network, PhysIOL lenses are today available in more than 60 countries around the world. Still, one of the company's goals for 2017, Lahaye says, is to strengthen its business relationships in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East via its agents based in Singapore, Belo Horizonte and Beirut, while a long-term goal remains to break into

two huge, but very different countries – the US and China.

AE Valves, which manufactures industrial valves for the LNG and petrochemical sector, received the award for Large-Scale Exports. Based in Petit-Rechain in Liège province, the company was created in 2010 when its founders set out to modernise the design of industrial valves.

"We invented and developed a new design that gave our clients an advantage at the technical and security level," manager Serge Gerome says. Since its founding year, AE Valves has successively doubled its turnover every year, with a €28 million turnover in 2016. The US currently accounts for the company's biggest export market, but its valves can also be found in Singapore, Norway, China, India and Canada.

Eurogentec, a Liège-based biotech firm that specialises in genomics and proteomics, won the award for European Exports. One of the first University of Liège spinoffs, Eurogentec

was established in 1985 and today provides services and products to the life sciences industry. It has, for instance, developed its own technology to produce DNA plasmids: a new type of DNA that has resulted in a new generation of more efficient vaccines.

"This exclusive technology provides a wide-open door to the global pharmaceutical industry," executive vice president Lieven Janssens said in a press release. The company, which reported a turnover of €44 million in 2015, has expanded its footprint abroad through a distribution network and Eurogentec subsidiaries in France, the UK and Germany, as well as through acquiring other companies. Since 2013, the company has realised 90% of its turnover abroad every year, and it is one of the rare Belgian companies to have won approval from the US FDA consumer protection agency.

OncoDNA, which specialises in precision medicine for anti-cancer treatments and helps doctors find new treatment options for patients with advanced cancer, won the Springboard Award for Large-Scale Exports. Based in



• OncoDNA anti-cancer treatment



• Behind the scene at AE Valves

Gosselies in Hainaut, the company recently made headlines when it raised €7.7 million from its shareholders as well as a new group of investors.

Though it was founded only in 2013, OncoDNA has already partnered with more than 200 healthcare institutions in 60 countries, while OncoSHARE, a network that allows doctors, patients and relatives to exchange information, is now the world's largest cancer community, with 10,000 members. The relationships OncoDNA has built up with its distributors across the world have been key to the company's export success, says spokesperson Orane Amant. "Our distributors represent us in the territories they oversee; they are our ambassadors," she says, adding that the company's international development is also the fruit of long-term efforts, its prospecting activities as well as market studies it has completed.

Meanwhile, Market-IP, based in Naninne near Namur, brought home the Springboard Award for Europe, which rewards companies on the verge of reaching an average export quota of 70%. This technology company produces geographic optimisation services and technological solutions that help improve business mobility management. According to marketing and quality manager Sarah Laval, the key to Market-IP's export success was the "European quality" of its products, which she says is highly valued outside Belgium's borders. In the coming years, Laval says, the company wants to help its business partners increase its sales figures and bolster Market-IP's position in those markets where it is already active. "Northern Africa has been in developments for two years now; we intend to strengthen our presence on the continent in those places where the demand for mobility management is more and more mature," she says.

Finally, Gosselies-based Sonaca Group, received a special mention from the jury of export specialists. Sonaca develops, manufactures and assembles advanced aerospace structures for commercial and military use, as well as for the space industry. The company has production facilities in China, Europe, North and South America and today employs 2,500 people. With an annual turnover of €400 million, 99% of which is realised abroad, and a client roster that includes such big names as Airbus, Embraer, Dassault Aviation and Bombardier. Sonaca has charted a stellar export path.

Earlier this year, Sonaca also received an €8.5 million loan from the European Bank for Development and Reconstruction to build a new plant in Romania. CEO Bernard Delvaux says Sonaca develops high-quality products, with its clients. "A client chooses us because we guarantee the quality and trustworthiness he is looking for," he says.



That's a wrap

Celabor offers expert analysis to SMEs on nutrition, packaging and textiles

By Senne Starckx

The Pays de Herve is a popular area for a day out for the citizens of nearby Liège and Verviers. The rolling green pastoral landscape is a reminder of the trade that was for years the economic motor of the region. Indeed, the land here was world-famous for its textile industry, based on sheep's wool.

A large part of that textile industry disappeared in the second half of the 20th century, but other economic activities have come up in its place. That evolution has also shaped Celabor, a scientific and technical services centre based at Chaineux industrial park near Verviers.

"Our current organisational structure goes back to 1995, when Celabor was re-established on the foundations of the Celac laboratory," says general manager Yves Houet. "You could say that we threw open the centre's narrow focus on textiles to let in the expertise and knowhow from other disciplines."

Celabor's mission is to support the industry – in particular SMEs – to grow and

become better entrepreneurs. Its 40+ staff include scientists, doctors, engineers, graduates and technicians; in short, a multidisciplinary team that companies can come to if they want to see their own technological innovation encouraged or to stimulate the development of new products and processes.

"The R&D service for private companies is a major part of our business model," says Houet. "This corresponds to about 50% of our total revenues. The other half we earn by participating in R&D programmes financed by various regional, inter-regional, national and international bodies – for example the Walloon region and the EU."

One of Celabor's biggest assets, apart from its human capital, is the high-tech laboratory that it operates in Chaineux. "Thanks to the high performance and responsiveness of Celabor and the ISO17025 accreditation of our lab, we can run a large number of analyses and tests," says Houet. "Testing samples, whether they come from foods, chemicals, materials or organics,

often requires expensive equipment and high-level expertise. Many SMEs can't afford this, so it's our duty to help them."

Food technology is a cornerstone of today's R&D at Celabor. Its agri-food department provides skills and tools for companies in the sector of both human nutrition and animal feed. Chemical analyses play an important role here. Houet: "The food industry is in a state of flux. Healthy foods are on the rise. Consumers are demanding more products without gluten, sugars or fats. Retailers like Delhaize and Carrefour are looking for ways to prolong the best-before date in a healthy and sustainable manner, and producers are also interested in this to increase their capacity for export. Thanks to our ultra-precise analyses, our scientists can help the local food industry reinvent itself."

Apart from the nutritional aspect of food, Celabor is also looking at better ways to extract high-value components from, for example, plants or even waste streams. These components can be used in food supple-

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The R&D service for private companies is a major part of our business model

Yves Houet

ments, cosmetics or even medicines. The extraction department has a technological platform – unique in Wallonia – based on green processes like supercritical fluids, which is also able to scale up more common processes in its Atex room. “This is a test hall full of extraction machinery, which we use to optimise extraction processes and to prepare natural ingredients for food supplements, cosmetics and so on.”

Most of the food and drinks we buy at the supermarket are packaged in plastic, cardboard or other materials. Celabor also helps SMEs in the packaging sector to resolve problems relating to the choice of materials and raw materials, processes, production methods and waste. “We are currently studying plastics that have a selective permeability to oxygen and CO₂ – the reason fizzy drinks in plastic recipients

can’t be stored as long as they can in glass bottles,” Houet explains. “On top of that, we’re studying how plastics react with the foods they contain. Indeed, materials we use for packaging can contain additives like phthalates or bisphenol, which can have a detrimental effect on human health.”

Finally, there’s the textile department – a throwback to the not-so-distant past. “The textile industry is currently in the prime of its life due to specific innovations that have occurred in recent years,” says Houet. “Smart clothing, for example, or superb materials used in non-clothing applications. Our team is small, but thanks to our knowhow and our knowledge of expert appraisals and specific studies, we are recognised by the professionals in the sector.”

celabor.be



• Thermoforming of a container

Hot data

Academy shows SMEs how to get to grips with information

By Mari Eccles

Big data. Data mining. The internet of things. These are the lucrative concepts SMEs will need to understand if they want to compete in the modern marketplace. And help is at hand in the form of a new centre in Wallonia that aims to untangle the jargon and get small businesses and jobseekers using information to their advantage.

Based in Gosselies near Charleroi, the Data Academy, which opened last October, is a training centre that provides structured courses on data management and analysis. It is, says manager Pierre Lelong, the first initiative of its kind in francophone Belgium, and was created to help businesses understand the assets they are sitting on.

“Companies don’t make the most of the data they have, and they don’t know what they can and can’t use,” Lelong says of the motivation for creating the courses.

The Academy has four main streams, focusing on various roles – chief data officer, data scientist, analyst and big data consultant, which teaches students to build databases. “You don’t necessarily need a degree,” Lelong says.

The training programme comes from the team behind Technofutur, which has been running courses in web development for nearly 20 years. The move to expand was spurred by the team’s belief that data is “more valuable than gold or silver”.



CSP ra2studio - creative.belgaimage.be

It’s a mindset that’s shared by some of the world’s biggest companies. Those with the resources and technical knowhow have been mining data for years – sorting through databases to find patterns or relationships.

Google’s business model relies on massive amounts of data, and EU investigators are even probing the company over potential competitive advantages that it might gain from so much information. But SMEs can lose out if they neglect valuable information, and Lelong believes the courses will make businesses more competitive. “The response we’ve received from them has been very positive,” he says.

While some sectors – like energy and banking – are beginning to use big data, most information held by companies is unused, he says. Estimates by the BigStor-

age European training network show 72% of data held by companies is unused, with that figure only likely to grow; a 2016 study by IBM shows 90% of the world’s data was created in the preceding two years.

It’s not just SMEs that can benefit from picking up these skills – jobseekers could profit too. A 2016 study by LinkedIn saw employers name data analysis proficiency as among their most sought-after skills. And data mining, which the Academy offers as one of more than 40 standalone courses, was cited by employers in half of the surveyed countries as the top skill they look for in new recruits.

The Academy is now accepting students for its 2017 courses.

technofutur.be

Best foot forward

Brazilian footwear specialist chooses Wallonia for northern expansion

By Mari Eccles

Samba, sun and soccer may not be the first things that spring to mind when you think of Wallonia. But a little piece of Brazil has settled in Belgium, after the São Paulo-based footwear maker Alpargatas chose Liège as its newest European base. It became the first occupant of a warehouse at the Trilogiport platform, in the north of the city, in October.

The company behind Havaianas sandals began a European expansion in 2008 and already has a southern base in Marseille. When searching for a northern spot, the company looked at the Netherlands and northern France. But in the end, it plumped for Wallonia. It was the location that won it.

“Liège is in the heart of Europe – it’s a city that is extremely privileged in its geographical situation,” says Hervé Pinot, Alpargatas’ general manager in western Europe. “It gives us the opportunity to deliver to all of our customers in north-

ern France, in the UK, Benelux, Germany and the Scandinavian countries,” he says.

Wallonia’s location makes it a logistic hotspot, according to a study by property agents Cushman & Wakefield. The multi-platform Trilogiport is selling itself as a leading trading area as a result; it has 56 million inhabitants in a radius of 250km, while more than 60% of European purchasing power is within 500km.

While the location may be a draw, that’s not the only reason Alpargatas decided to set up at the Trilogiport. “The quality and density of the infrastructures has also been very important in our choice – we will be able to quickly supply outlets in northern Europe,” Pinot explains.

The partnership was agreed between the Brazilian company, the port, the Walloon Export and Investment Agency (AWEX), logistics company Tempo Log Belgium and WDP, a player in the Benelux logistics property market. Tempo Log Belgium, the Belgian subsidiary of the French logistics provider Tempo One, will oversee the expansion at the Trilogiport.

Opened in 2015 after three years of construction, Trilogiport is a water-rail-road platform that allows boats of up to 9,000 tons to pass through its opening, and is connected to the ports of Antwerp, Rotterdam and Dunkirk. As well as the warehouses, there is also a tertiary service area and an environmental integration zone on site.

“The environmental dimension is part of the values of Alpargatas and is essential to us,” says Roderic van Praet d’Amerloo, operations director at Alpargatas EMEA. With factories in Brazil and Argentina, 580 stores around the world and exports to 106 countries, any potential to cut costs for Alpargatas while expanding is also clearly a draw.

“What costs us the most, economically and ecologically, is transport,” he says.





MEET THE BRUSSELS EXPAT



Alva Finn, from Ireland, is a policy manager at Brussels-based NGO Mental Health Europe, an umbrella group that advocates around mental health and the rights of those with mental health problems

“I’ve worked in human rights for five years. I’m passionate about refugee and asylum issues, mental health, de-institutionalisation, children’s and women’s rights and the rights of people with disabilities. Before joining Mental Health Europe, I worked as a human rights attaché for the Irish mission to the UN in Geneva.

Like lots of Irish people I know, I came to Belgium to do a stage in one of the EU institutions in 2012. I’ve lived on and off in Brussels since then. I met my partner at the end of my stage during my first year in Brussels and it was one of the reasons I wanted to stay and build a life here. My family live in Ireland and the US, and although I don’t get to see them as much as I would like, we get together quite often thanks to the good transport connection between Brussels and Dublin. I’ve lived in a lot of cities, from Cairo to Melbourne to Amsterdam. For me, Brussels has the right balance for my life:

there are always things to do, I have a great apartment, the city is big enough to feel like a city but small enough to feel like home. Taxes are high but so is the standard of living. I also enjoy trying – and sometimes struggling – to speak French.

At MHE I am responsible for directing our policy and advocating around mental health and human rights. I research policy and write MHE’s positions, and I’m constantly following what’s happening in the EU so we can advocate for our positions effectively. This can be challenging, because people have so many misconceptions about mental health. However, one of the things I love the most about my job is engaging with our members; they are passionate people who want change, and it’s inspiring to see their determination. MHE’s vision is for a Europe where people with mental health problems live as full citizens with access to good services and support, where positive mental health and well-being are given priority on the European health and social agenda, and where meaningful participation for people with mental health problems is guaranteed.

Advocating around mental health and the rights of people with mental health problems can be difficult in the current climate, because Europe is facing huge problems and there is an understandable tendency to focus on those problems. This means that, unfortunately, mental health and human rights can slip down the agenda, even though they are important to many Europeans. I am still hopeful for the future, though, because there are so many passionate activists working and living in Brussels.”

mhe-sme.org
twitter.com/MHESME

Take e-care

Digital innovations are updating healthcare in Wallonia

By Andy Furniere

The digital revolution is changing all aspects of our society, and the healthcare sector is no exception. Wallonia is already riding the digital wave through many e-health initiatives and is preparing a strategy to further streamline its policy.

A milestone in Belgium's e-health policy was the start of a national plan in 2013. It went through an important update in 2015 and lists 20 action points, among them the training of healthcare professionals and electronic prescriptions. To better organise its participation in this action plan, the Walloon government is preparing a comprehensive regional e-health strategy.

The principal responsible organisations are the government's new healthcare agency, AViQ and the Digital Wallonia platform, which is making the region better connected and smarter.

"It's essential to improve the relationships between the various players in Wallonia's e-health field, like hospitals and companies," says André Vandenberghe about the new strategy. "We need more structured meetings and working groups, to clearly define the priorities in the region and set up concrete actions."

Vandenberghe, chief information officer at the CHU de Charleroi hospital, knows the advantages of cooperation very well. He's the driving force behind the Réseau Santé Wallon

(RSW), a network coordinating the exchange of electronic medical records between all general hospitals in Wallonia. Gradually, psychiatric hospitals are also being integrated into the network.

The RSW is one of many players in the Walloon e-health ecosystem, which has been developing since the start of the new millennium. One of the region's most recent projects is that of the Wallonia e-health Living Lab (WeLL), based at the Liège science park, started by a consortium – including the RSW – with government support at the start of 2015. By involving various parties, the WeLL encourages the development of healthcare technology adjusted to specific needs.

"We aim to stimulate the economy, encourage knowledge development and improve our society," explains WeLL's coordinator, Lara Vigneron. The WeLL accepts proposals for e-health innovation from all sectors. If an idea is promising, the living lab organises workshops with potential users like patients or elderly people, healthcare professionals and digital experts. Through this co-creation process, a prototype is created. The WeLL also provides more customised services.

Over the course of two years, this approach has resulted in nine prototypes. Among them are a website and voucher system for mothers suffering from post-natal depression (see Q&A with Justine Slomian, p19). The living lab also helped to create an app that im-





CSP Stephane Kapi - creative.belgaimage.be

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We aim to stimulate the economy,
encourage knowledge development and
improve our society

Lara Vigneron



proves the communication of mental health patients with healthcare professionals and the people around them.

To inspire youngsters, the WeLL set up the Cocktail Challenge, a contest in which masters students from various backgrounds – engineering, web development, industrial design – work together to develop e-health innovations tailored to the needs of potential users.

The first edition, held in April last year, focused on innovations for people with a disability. The winning team, called Banana's, developed a concept for an app that helps people to do their shopping (see Q&A with Vincent Fonsny, p20).

While the WeLL is relatively new, there are also Walloon players with considerable experience in e-health, including Cetic applied ICT research centre at the Aérople science park in Charleroi. Cetic was established in 2001 by the universities of Namur, Louvain-la-Neuve and Mons with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund.

“We help companies, especially SMEs, to develop innovations by providing ICT support or by setting up a wide research project with a consortium,” says Damien Hubaux, Cetic's general manager. The centre's projects can rely on up to 50% government subsidies.

The e-health innovation spurred on by Cetic is based on the general philosophy of the ‘four Ps’: meaning that technology should be increasingly participatory, personalised, preventive and predictive. E-health tools should empower patients to manage their own health, provide help tailored to specific needs, prevent diseases and predict health risks. Cetic's main target groups are the elderly and patients with chronic diseases.

Cetic's first e-health project, started in 2007, was the Oldes EU project to ease the life of the elderly at home through remote assistance and e-services at home. To help people with chronic diseases take their medication correctly, the consortium behind the Seampat project is creating an app allowing patients to tick off which pills they have taken and en-

HAPPY FAMILIES

With the help of WeLL, midwife Justine Slomian (pictured) is developing a website and voucher system to support women with postnatal depression. The project is part of her PhD at the University of Liège.



Why have you focused on post-natal depression?

In my work as a midwife, it was hard to notice much about how new mothers were feeling, as they only stay in hospital for about three days. But studies show that many mothers feel down after childbirth and that this feeling can develop into depression. I wanted to know more about this psychological problem, which is still a taboo subject. New mothers are expected to always be happy about their baby.

What are the main needs of new mothers?

I identified four major needs: they want information, practical help, psychological support and to share experiences. With the Happy Mum team, we are working on creating an information website and a gift voucher system to meet these needs.

How can the website help prevent postnatal depression?

There are all sorts of blogs and websites providing information, but as yet no central website that assembles reliable advice. The website will also include testimonies, to show that postnatal depression is not rare. And we will provide links to refer people to healthcare professionals.

How does the gift voucher system work?

We are developing a website and app that allows family and friends to offer practical support as a gift to new mothers. It will facilitate mothers to receive help with things such as cooking or picking up other children. People offering support will receive reminders via email or SMS and a thank you message afterwards. This kind of service is necessary as mothers can't necessarily rely on family support in the same way as in the past.

ables their doctors to check this info. Through the e-Patch project, companies are developing a patch that can be worn on the arm and sends out an alert if patients have fallen.

An especially ambitious project, started recently, is the mHealth initiative. The goal of the project, supported by the EU, is to create an intelligent platform that unites and analyses data from various sources such as medical records, sensors and devices. By interpreting this mass of data, the platform should be able to provide personalised care and predict complications.

Initiatives such as mHealth can profit from the wealth of data amassed by the RSW. Previously, Vandenberghe carried out pioneering work in electronic medical records at the CHU de Charleroi. "All records and notes were created on paper when I started in 2000," he says. "By 2018, all departments should be able to work completely digitally."

Vandenberghe is also focusing on improving the quality of electronic records. Through the Sumehr project, for example, doctors are encouraged to create summaries of medical records with all the essential information. "This will help doctors to quickly find an adjusted treatment when a patient is hospitalised, for example by avoiding medicine that could trigger an allergic reaction or which takes into account their psychological condition," explains Vandenberghe.

Patients will also increasingly be enabled to monitor and contribute to their records. "They can for example keep a journal about their condition and limit the access of certain doctors to their records," says Vandenberghe. "The patient's role is changing, which will transform the relationship they have with doctors."

Doctors have to be trained for this digital revolution as their academic education doesn't usually prepare them for the e-health revolution. Apart from internal training in hospitals, doctors can also get training through the E-santé Wallonie platform set up by the Belgian medical insurance agency Inami and the Walloon government. The national e-health plan stipulates that universities should integrate e-health in their education programmes, which is now gradually being done.

Healthcare professionals and ICT specialists who want to understand the healthcare sector can also register for training at the specialised EM2C institute, an education centre providing 18-month executive masters programmes. EM2C brings professionals up to date with the latest digital innovations in healthcare, teaches them about organisational aspects and promotes leadership and entrepreneurship.

The programme director of the EM2C is Thierry Vermeeren, who is also a professor at the

University of Namur and managing director of e-health consultancy firm OZ Consulting. "The government and hospitals should invest more in e-health training, but also in infrastructure and governance," he says.

To improve the exchange of experiences and knowhow between those involved in healthcare, Vermeeren founded the Patient Numérique network, which covers Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Patient Numérique organises regular seminars and masterclasses with high-profile speakers.

"In the coming years, e-health innovations will radically change our healthcare sector," Vermeeren says. He believes tele-monitoring will help more patients and elderly people to live at home longer; that prediction tools will use DNA and lifestyle factors to prevent diseases; and that robots will become real players in hospitals and nursing homes. OZ Consulting is involved in a large-scale project preparing a robot called Pepper to help patients and healthcare professionals.

reseausantewallon.be
well-livinglab.be
aviq.be
cetic.be

SUPERMARKET SWEEP

Vincent Fonsny, a masters student in aerospace engineering at the University of Liège, won the WeLL Cocktail Challenge with the Banana's team. The team is developing an app that helps people with a mental or audiovisual disability to do their shopping more independently.

How will you help people to shop?

Our app will provide information about a product when you scan the barcode on the package. It can, among other things, tell whether a product contains gluten, substances a person is allergic to or additives they want to avoid. It can also advise them on other products that are more suitable. This can be useful for people with difficulty reading the information on packaging or with understanding or remembering certain information. It will also help people without a disability, as they will no longer have to concentrate on the small letters in which this information tends to be printed.

What phase are you in now?

We are developing the app at the VentureLab incubator in Liège. I am focusing mainly on the programming part while my other three team members deal with the design, web development and management. The app, called Let's Shop Banana's, should be available by the summer.

facebook.com/letsshopbananas



• Indoor free-fall skydiving

Action station

There's more than just snow at Ice Mountain Adventure Park

By Sarah Crew

Ice Mountain Adventure Park is a haven for thrill-seekers. Since the centre opened in 1999, thousands of snow devotees have zipped up their ski jackets and descended its indoor slopes. Activities such as paintballing, laser gaming and aerial climbing now provide year-round appeal, and the park's latest venture – indoor free-fall skydiving – is another big attraction.

“We are now one of the biggest players in one-day tourism in Wallonia,” says owner Stéphane Fievez, an entrepreneur and budding

helicopter pilot. “While there are other places to skydive in Belgium, our place is unique because we are a complete adventure park.”

Not content with a record figure of 350,000 visitors last year, Fievez has set his sights on reaching 500,000 in 2017. “While our location is not necessarily close for everyone, it's also not far for everyone. We have visitors from France as well as Belgium,” he says.

Comines-Warneton is a western outpost of Wallonia, between Kortrijk and Ypres.

Locally born Fievez chose the site for his ambitious project as it was one of the few willing to give the green light to the 40m-high installation. The soaring structure dominates the surrounding flat countryside.

Driving into the park, you discover the paintball, laser and aerial climbing grounds under and around the ski slopes. As you enter the lobby bar, your first sight is a tall transparent tube in which two helmeted and suited figures are defying gravity in the wind tunnel. The flyer, accompanied by a trained

instructor, is on a team-building exercise from France. Colleagues film his experience as the instructor helps him remain level.

“We work with a lot of companies and there are also a lot of first-time flyers who come for fun,” says Fievez. “It’s good to have your first experience in a simulator, as you’re more stable than when you drop out of a plane. Even with pro flyers, there is always an instructor on standby for safety.”

Beyond the lobby, there’s a ski and snowboard shop, a reception desk for the various activities and a rental shop for ski and snowboard equipment. At the foot of the ski slopes are two restaurants, seating 600. Along with their panoramic views, they offer all the trimmings of an alpine vacation. The rustic wooden chalet with its open fires are a suitable setting to enjoy specialities from the Savoy region of France, including raclette, fondue and tartiflette, as well as various warming mulled wines and grog. As the restaurant facilities are open to outsiders, many locals come in winter to join the holiday atmosphere.

Aside from being a fun family day out, the indoor snow centre provides the perfect opportunity for a pre-season warm up or to sample skiing or snowboarding for the first time. The main slope is 210m long, includes an acrobatic fun park and is served by a T-bar lift. A second 85m slope has a gentler gradient for those learning to ski, with a magic carpet surface lift. Both have 60cm of fresh snow.

The Ice Mountain team have made a concerted effort to transform the park into a year-round destination. “Last summer we opened an outdoor chalet with a large seating area and barbecue. Combined with the outdoor activities, it makes us relevant in the summer,” explains Chris Verghote who is responsible for marketing and communication.

He underlines the importance of evolving as a tourist destination and offering good value. “We have launched day packages where you pay once and can do activities all day,” he says. “If parents aren’t taking part they don’t have to pay, but can just enjoy watching their children. It’s a unique offer; an experience that is adventurous, not passive.”

The park runs holiday camps for children and ski lessons for school groups, as well as organising birthday and communion parties. It also has potential to host large events for up to 1,000 people. On the corporate front, there is a full range of business incentives and facilities. “Companies are mainly looking for a combination of seminars and fun activities,” Verghote says.

Employing an equivalent of 50 full-time workers, rising to 70 in the winter, Ice Mountain plays an important role in the local economy. Staff are all required to be bilingual, French and Dutch. “We have been to see the mayor of Comines, telling him what we do and how we draw tourists to the area as well as create jobs,” says Fievez.

“I like to do new things,” he adds. “Now that we have the skydiving, I’m looking for something else. If you don’t do new things, one day the customer will forget you.”

ice-mountain.com





Let's dance

Through the performing arts, Charleroi Danse has helped to breathe new life into its often-overlooked home town

By Karen McHugh

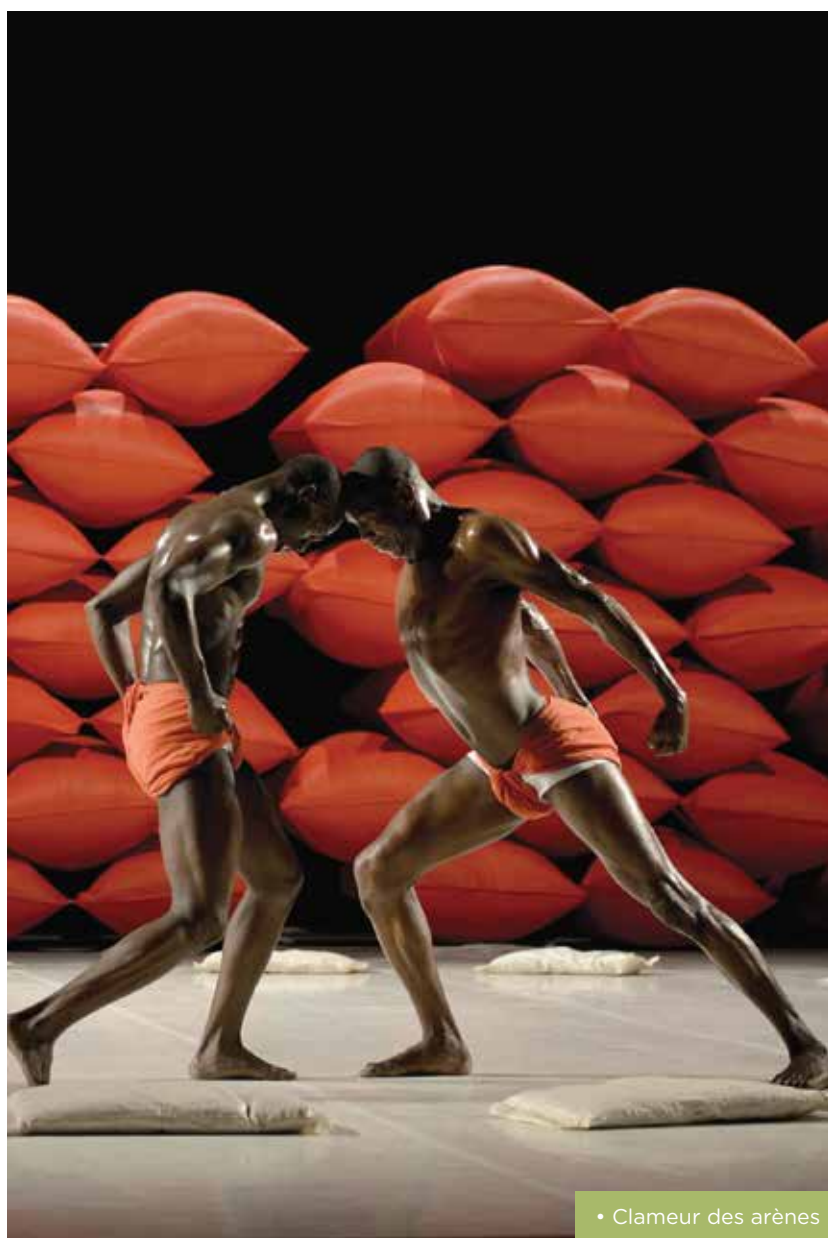
A centre of choreography in the heart of Wallonia, Charleroi Danse was born with ambition. Back in 1992, the region decided to transform the Royal Ballet of Wallonia from its more formal roots into its modern-day incarnation, making it Belgium's first contemporary dance company.

"The culture minister was looking at what was happening in Europe at the time, with the royal ballet companies and neoclassical dance," explains Vincent Thirion, who was the organisation's general manager and artistic director until the end of 2016. "He wanted to focus on creating a centre for choreography for the artists of Belgium's French community, but in a more contemporary manner."

The first head of the centre was multidisciplinary director Frederic Flamand, who led the new modern dance institution in its pioneering first decade until 2004, when he was named director of the National Ballet of Marseille. After a call for a new director, Thirion took over the helm in 2005, steering it towards new artistic horizons alongside associate artists Michèle Anne De Mey, Thierry De Mey and Pierre Droulers.

Charleroi Danse has two bases – Les Ecuries or The Stables in Charleroi, which has three newly renovated studios and a theatre, and La Raffinerie (The Refinery) in Brussels, which also hosts productions. Here, artists can work on their choreography and showcase their creations.

The organisation offers residencies to choreographers from Belgium's French-speaking



Marc Coudrais

• Clameur des arènes



Aniek Luyten

• Fractal

What to see in 2017

All performances in Charleroi unless otherwise stated

- **27 JANUARY** CLAMEUR DES ARÈNES
- **1 & 2 FEBRUARY** STROKE (BRUSSELS)
- **3 & 4 FEBRUARY** GONE IN A HEARTBEAT
- **17 & 18 FEBRUARY** FRACTAL
- **24 & 25 FEBRUARY** CLOUDS AND THINKING (BRUSSELS)
- **14 MARCH** RAIN
- **17 & 18 MARCH** DÉJÀ-VU
- **17 & 18 MARCH** TO THE UNBORN
- **29 APRIL** IO SONO ROCCO



Charleroi Danse

• Vincent Thirion

Community, providing administrative and technical support, as well as the use of its premises and opportunities for their artistic productions to be viewed on an international scene.

There is also a training programme for professional dancers with classes every day, many of them given by choreographers or artists in residence. The dancers and choreographers come from all over the world, says Thirion. "In

Charleroi and in Brussels you have all the nationalities," he says. "That's the power of dance – there's no language barrier."

Charleroi Danses also works with schools in the two cities, whereby children take classes and can perform their shows at the centre. It's one of the ways the organisation has been able to give something back to the region, bringing a new dynamic to the Charleroi area.

"We're able to offer a season of shows to people but also we've brought an international atmosphere to the area, and we've welcomed many professionals from abroad," says Thirion. The artists coming to work at the centre haven't always heard of the region's economic difficulties, and he believes this allows the idea that everything is possible.

"It gives an important place to Charleroi in the world of contemporary dance, and it allows people to discover this city," he says. "I think we can be proud that Charleroi Danses has participated in some way in the renewal of this region, which was previously a bit abandoned."

Thirion looks at art and culture as a means of overcoming the economic struggles Charleroi has gone through. "It's a way to affect this post-industrial space in a productive way. I'm very proud that these professional dancers are finding their way to Charleroi Danses."

Over the years the company has achieved many successes, with recent production *Kiss and Cry* – a unique concept involving two hands acting out a love story – performing 350 dates across the world. The organisation has also taken part in a festival of contemporary dance in Morocco and has toured its productions across Europe, the US and Canada.

Thirion now sets his sights on a new challenge as director of the Cultural Centre of La Louvière. The new director, Annie Bozzini, from France, is a former journalist and director of the monthly review *Pour la danse*. She comes to Charleroi fresh from 20 years' experience directing Toulouse's CDC choreography centre and has a mandate for five years.

charleroi-danses.be



Thibault Grégoire

A desire to create

Louise Vanneste is a dancer and choreographer in residence at Charleroi Danses. She grew up in Limelette, in Walloon Brabant. "I was four when I started dancing," she recalls. "My mother is really fond of dance and she took me to a dance class – and very, very quickly I loved it. When I was ten I decided I wanted to do secondary school with a dance option."

She compares the life of a dancer with that of a choreographer, acknowledging that neither is easy. "I decided fairly early to be a choreographer. It's a little bit different from being a dancer, but it can be hard." She still dances in her own pieces and when she goes on tour.

Vanneste studied in New York under respected postmodernist dancer Trisha Brown, and happened to be there in September 2001 when the Twin Towers were attacked. "In New York, I had a lot of time alone," she says. "As I didn't know anybody, I wrote a lot, I thought a lot. The desire to create something really appeared at that point."

She credits Charleroi Danses as a vital support. "These last four years I've been in residence with Charleroi Danses, I've had financial, technical and administrative assistance. I've had the opportunity to work at the studios and they have helped me with finance. Charleroi Danses is very important for choreographers here in Belgium."

Her own company is called *Rising Horses*, created in 2012. "The name comes from the body of the horse," she explains. "I find this animal very enigmatic. It's totally opposite to a human and at the same time something similar. And the horse is very mysterious. The rising part refers to the movement, and a little bit of reaction."

Vanneste's plans for the coming year include a duet called *Thérians*, and she will be touring her piece *Gone in a Heartbeat*.



1



N Noel

2



J Renault

3



4



Christophe Coënon

5



Mini Archi



6



What's new

Local designers represent Belgium is Design brand at Parisian interior deco fair

By Georgio Valentino

The Parisian trade fair Maison&Objet is one of Europe's biggest and most prestigious design showcases. The biannual event is devoted chiefly to interior decoration, though its scope widens with each passing year. Above all, M&O is about the contemporary: new brands and new designers innovating new products to make modern living that much more liveable.

It's not just a European event, either. The latest edition, in January, welcomed thousands of exhibitors from more than 60 countries. All eight halls of Villepinte Exhibition Centre, in the northern suburbs of the French capital, were brimming with global design, from Australian porcelain to Malian jewellery to Argentinian textiles (as well as the usual Italian furniture and Scandinavian deco).

Belgium's robust design sector was represented by more than 150 vendors, but only six of these boasted the Belgium is Design seal of approval. The label unites various regional design associations for greater national and international visibility. This edition of the fair found Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode (WBDM) in the driver's seat; it selected a half-dozen brands to embody the best of local design. Candidates from Wallonia and Brussels were chosen based on their innovative products being ready for export and their international business development strategy. The products also needed to

correspond to the fair's NOW! Design à vivre stand. They were selected by a jury from WBDM and other design professionals.

For Ateliers J&J, the event was a milestone. The fledgling Brussels furniture workshop – founded in 2012 by two young self-taught designers – had never done M&O before. Ateliers J&J was the ideal find for the design scouts at WBDM. Not only is every piece assembled on site, but they are all constructed from local wood and metal. The aesthetic is contemporary, with wood panels joined by minimalist tubular steel.

What's more, Ateliers J&J are making design accessible. The duo are currently presenting their new outdoor line, comprised of tables, seating and shelving that are as affordable as they are durable and aesthetically pleasing.

Tenue de Ville is another up-and-coming Brussels brand that sported the Belgium is Design label at M&O. Founder Alexia de Ville de Goyet designs whimsical wall coverings inspired by flora, fauna and abstract reverie. She recently unveiled her third and latest wallpaper line, Balsam, which shares the exotic overtones of its predecessors, City Garden and Ode. De Ville's technique combines time-honoured crafts like engraving with the latest digital technology. All products are produced locally, in limited series and according to the strictest environmental standards.

The Belgium is Design label is for legacy brands as well as start-ups. There are few Belgian brands with as much legacy as Kewlox, which traces its roots back to 1958 – the

year that the Brussels World's Fair and its iconic Atomium put Belgium on the map. In that seminal year, company lore holds, an English designer named Kewley pioneered a process of interlocking units that required no glue, nails or screws: the Kew-lock. The patent was acquired the following year by Belgian entrepreneur Maurice Le Clercq and applied to modular furniture.

Kewlox has expanded across Western Europe in recent years, thanks to its appeal to a new generation of consumers. When Kewlox began production in the early 1960s, the values embodied in its products were niche concerns; today, ecological sustainability and local engagement (not to mention longevity and user-friendliness) are very much in demand.

The other three Belgium is Design brands have similar stories. Whether long-established or up-and-coming, all contribute to the thriving eco-system that is Belgium's design industry. There was Julien Renault's Board collection designed for Atmosphere & Bois Home, a furniture line constructed of recycled Canadian barn wood and wagon floors. Mini Archi makes contemporary ethical furniture by young architects inspired by children's toys, including a modular house and a swing side table. And there's contemporary textile collective NoMoreTwist. With this delegation, spanning genres and generations, Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode proved once more that Belgium really is design.

wbdm.be/belgiumisdesign.be

1 Ateliers J&J 2 NoMoreTwist
3 Atmosphere & Bois 4 Kewlox
5 Tenue de Ville 6 Mini Archi





ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Charleroi DJ Kid Noize may perform in an ape mask, but he's fast becoming a familiar face on the international stage: the electro-synthpop wizard has been a support act for Stromae, Faithless and The Prodigy among others. His debut album, *Dream Culture*, was released last autumn, and the 35-year-old plays a sold-out show at Brussels venue Ancienne Belgique in February, with other spring dates in Liège and Charleroi. He adopted his ape persona in 2012, via a prosthetic that requires the deft hands of a make-up artist, and set up his Black Gizah Records a year later. Born in Anderlecht in Brussels as Greg Avau, Kid Noize describes his chosen hometown as a new Berlin.

kidnoize.com





Les films de Preau



Igor Gonzalo Sanz/Beiga



EXHIBITION

JEANLOUP SIEFF: LES ANNÉES LUMIÈRE

1

"We live in colour, but black and white makes us think," said the French fashion photographer Jeanloup Sieff (1933-2000). Although he once travelled to the Borinage area of Hainaut to document the life of miners in an award-winning report, the Magnum photographer forged his career in a more glamorous world, publishing portraits of the biggest entertainment stars and models for Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. His first major exhibition in Belgium shows how he used his wide-angle camera to dramatic effect, revealing a darker truth behind the glittering surface.

. UNTIL 7 MAY, MUSÉE DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE, CHARLEROI
museephoto.be



FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL DE LIÈGE ②

This international theatre, dance and music festival lights up the provincial capital every two years, staging productions from all corners of the globe as well as home-grown offerings. Its focus is on interrogating contemporary society, and all performances are in their original version (with surtitles). Among them, *Ha Tahfénéwais!* (pictured), a Belgian play that questions current psychiatric practices with humour, poetry and pertinence.

• 27 JANUARY-FEBRUARY 18
MANÈGE & OTHER VENUES, LIÈGE

festivaldeliege.be

FILM

ANIMA ③

The Brussels Animation Film Festival Anima returns for another 10-day showcase of family-friendly films. Between the competition and themed programmes, the number of screenings runs into the dozens. Among this year's highlights is Bafta Children's nominee *Stick Man*, a whimsical short film animated by Belgian artist Jeroen Jaspert. The festival also features exhibitions, masterclasses, concerts, DJ sets and plenty of opportunities to meet the filmmakers. Last year some 50 animators and directors were on hand to share their insights.

• 24 FEBRUARY-5 MARCH
FLAGEY, BRUSSELS

animafestival.be

EVENT

CARNIVAL ④

It's carnival season in Wallonia. If you're heading to one of the many towns celebrating the ancient festival, beware old ladies wielding scissors and masked men lobbing oranges and onions. On the eve of Lent, folklore societies are preparing to primp and preen their precious costumes before hitting the streets in a custom that dates back thousands of years. The most famous is Binche, which was recognised by Unesco in 2003, while Malmedy and Stavelot in Liège province host carnival parties with their own distinct flavour.

• 6-9 FEBRUARY, MALMEDY
• 26-28 FEBRUARY, BINCHE
• 25-27 MARCH, STAVELOT

belgiumthelaceto.be

INSIDE ANIMA

Doris Cleven is director of Anima, an annual festival founded in 1981 that celebrates animation in all its forms. The 10-day event includes features, children's movies, student and professional productions.

"Animation is traditionally perceived as being about children's films, but over the years we have shown that it is also for adults," she says. "First-time visitors are surprised by the diversity of films being screened. Animation has considerably evolved and allows greater freedom and imagination; one example at the festival this year is the New Zealand long feature 25 April, a docu-drama about the history of Gallipoli."

At the centre of Anima's programme are the films entered in national and international competitions, she explains. The organisation received about 1,600 long and short films, from which they selected 144. "This is the artistic element of the festival and one that shows the genre's latest trends. It's difficult to pick out highlights, but among the long features, director Jean-François Laguionie presents *Louise en Hiver*, a film for adults. We are also showing the new Bill Plympton dark comedy, *Revengeance*."

And there are two Japanese previews, *In This Corner of the World* by Sunao Katabuchi, which shows daily life before Hiroshima, and the similarly highly anticipated *Your Name* by Makoto Shinkai, a film aimed at young adults and adolescents.

One of the festival's main events is *Nuit Animée*, which has screenings for a wide audience. This year's theme is psychedelia, and Japanese artist will be VJ-ing. And there is the high-tech event *Experience*, in which viewers can watch animations via virtual reality.

animafestival.be



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First-time visitors
are surprised by
the diversity of
films

Feel inspired



Wallonia, a world of opportunities

1250 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
in 14 years

400 M CONSUMERS
reachable
WITHIN ONE DAY

Very high density of
UNIVERSITIES and higher
education establishments



6 COMPETITIVENESS
CLUSTERS in
LEADING-EDGE sectors

an exceptional
**QUALITY
OF LIFE**



Highly skilled
AVAILABLE
WORKFORCE



70% — of business
turnover comes
from **EXPORTS**



Wallonia.be