

Second Flemish invasion at comics festival in Angoulême

FLF reopens 'Flemish pub', brings along five authors and organizes 'soirée flamande'

After last year's success story, the Flemish comic book will again be present at the International Comics Festival in Angoulême (France). The festival takes place from Thursday 28 to Sunday 31 January. The Flemish Literature Fund (FLF) reopens its typically Flemish pub 'Chez les Flamands', where both translated and original Dutch-language work by Flemish artists will be available. At the pub tables, the FLF will be meeting with over thirty foreign publishers and organizers of festivals, Flemish publishers will be selling the foreign rights to their titles and about ten Flemish authors will be signing their works.

Five authors received a travel grant by the FLF to visit the festival: Pieter De Poortere, Jeroen Janssen, Kristof Spaey, Séb C. and Charel Cambré. Others, like Brecht Evens, Randall C., Nix, Judith Vanistendael and Conz, will also travel to Angoulême. Conz will be followed by a television crew of culture magazine Cobra TV, which is broadcasted on Canvas on Sunday evenings.

Nix is nominated for the fourth time for 'Kinky & Cosy, Judith Vanisterndael has a second shot at winning one of the prestigious prizes for the sequel to 'De maagd en de neger' ('The virgin and the negro'). The first book has been translated into French and Italian, and will appear in Spanish in February 2010. A German and an English translation are expected soon.

In 2009, Flanders was guest-of-honour at the Angoulême festival and the Flemish comics scene was hard to miss, not in the least thanks to the exhibition 'Ceci n'est pas la BD flamande'. This resulted in a lot of media attention in Belgium and abroad, as well as in a boost of translation grants for graphic novels. In the past twelve months, with the support of the FLF, 'Jaren van de olifant' ('Years of the Elephant') by Willy Linthout was published in English, 'My boy' by Olivier Schrauwen in Italian, two volumes of 'Boerke' ('Dickie') by Pieter De Poortere in Hungarian, 'Esther' by Kim Duchateau in Italian, 'De maagd en de neger' ('The virgin and the negro') by Judith Vanistendael in Italian and 'Ergens waar je niet wil zijn' ('Somewhere you don't want to be') by Brecht Evens in French. At least five more translations are in the pipeline.

This year, the FLF will build on this success, amongst others with a 'soirée flamande'. On Friday evening, together with the Flemish representation and Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT), the FLF hosts a dinner party at which mainly foreign contacts will attend and the authors will be present and performing. If you would like to join us, please contact us before Wednesday 27 January at elise.vanoosthuysen@vfl.be.

About the Flemish Literature Fund

The Flemish Literature Fund (FLF) is an autonomous governmental institution that promotes Dutch-language literature in Belgium and abroad. The emphasis is on literary production by Flemish authors.

The FLF's foreign policy focuses mainly on translation. The principal instruments are information, documentation and grants. The FLF provides professional advice and is in direct contact with authors, translators, publishers, cultural ambassadors and other parties. It participates in international literary events.

More information

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