

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

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Ultima 2016 Circus Collectif Malunés vzw

The jury had little difficulty coming to an overall agreement and puts Collectif Malunés vzw forward as the winner of the Culture Prize for Circus 2016. The jury thus confirms its general position of choosing 'the circus artist' for the second edition of the Culture Prize for Circus. The jury also believes it is important to award this circus prize to a circus organisation or artist that can use it in order to move forward.

For Collectif Malunés or Les Malunés (as the members of the collective are sometimes known in circus circles), 2015 and 2016 were years in which they were fully absorbed by their new creation 'Forever, Happily...!', a big top show. This risky investment went hand-in-hand with the determination and courage to make that one big dream come true: namely travelling together as a collective with a tent and working together for the circus.

The names Arne Sabbe and Simon Bruyninckx quickly came up as the Flemish circus artists in the company and thus the best known by the jury. The jury sees them as two 'bulldozers' who form the frontline and generate a lot of emotion and healthy energy. However, the jury emphasises that as well as Arne and Simon, there are many other young people on stage and in the wings who are getting chances and working very hard. They all have a whole journey ahead of them and can harness the strength of a collective in order to succeed in their objective. Their boldness and ambition, their ability to overcome pitfalls and their persistence, their search and cooperation model (a collective as the answer to an increasingly individualised society) are an example for other young people and inspired a lot of respect from the jury. The jury thus describes the collective's journey as inspirational and powerful. A striking characteristic of Collectif Malunés's work is the attention they devote to both circus technique and artistry. The nomadic aspect of the newest creation thus ensures an extra dynamic which turns each location where the tent settles into a different place. The Flemish circus sector held its breath throughout the long and difficult creation process. Today the great calendar of shows, with opportunities to spread in Flanders and beyond, bodes very well.

According to the jury, this modern, young and promising circus company which drew inspiration from traditional circus, is embedded in everything that happens in the Flemish circus landscape today. With the Culture Prize for Circus, the jury hopes to give this collective a boost and wants to encourage these young people, who are still searching, to go further. Each acknowledgement as a group, as a structure, can bring them even closer together.

In awarding the Culture Prize for Circus to Collectif Malunés vzw, the jury also aims to support them with their continued professionalisation. Finally, the jury hopes that this prize can open doors to allow the work of Malunés to be better known and influence future performance opportunities in Belgium and abroad.