

PRESS RELEASE
SVEN GATZ
FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS
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El Circo d'El Fuego wins Flemish Culture Award for Circus 2014

Today, Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented the Antwerp circus school El Circo d'El Fuego (ECDF) with the very first Flemish Culture Award for Circus 2014 during the circus festival PERPLX in Kortrijk-Marke. With this Culture Award, Flanders seeks to praise the circus sector for the substantial contribution it has made over the past years to Flemish cultural policy both home and abroad. The jury greatly admires Extreme Convention, an annual event organised by and for circus people in which ECDF acts as a catalyst.

The non-profitmaking organisation El Circo d'El Fuego (ECDF) is leaving its mark on the circus scene in Flanders. ECDF is so much more than a circus workshop. The jury praises ECDF for its connecting role within the Flemish circus sector, of children and young people, as well as of circus workshops with circus colleges and with the professional circus world. Unlike any other circus school, ECDF in this way secures the next circus generation. The activities of ECDF are fed from the bottom up. With a caring environment, special strength and a great sense of community, 'the Fuegos' succeed in reaching the vulnerable in society.

The jury greatly admires Extreme Convention, an annual event organised by and for circus people in which ECDF acts as a catalyst for Flemish circus arts in and outside Flanders. With the Young Talent Night during the ATLAS Festival, ECDF stages Flemish and international young talent of an artistically and technically high quality. The fact that during ATLAS a renowned foreign company performs, whose artists also teach at the Extreme Convention, is an additional low-threshold opportunity for Convention participants to exchange ideas, find inspiration and meet interesting people.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz: "Because of their expert knowledge, their specific focus on young talent and their energy and creativity, El Circo d'El Fuego more than deserves to win the first Culture Award for Circus. El Circo d'El Fuego proves that circus plays a connecting role and embraces participation."

PERPLX and Circuscentrum

The circus festival PERPLX in Marke is one of the four festivals receiving structural aid under the Circus Flemish Parliament Act for the staging of significant circus arts in Flanders. The ceremony for the presentation of the Culture Award is organised by Circuscentrum, the hub of all circus arts in Flanders. Circuscentrum brings together the entire circus world and the circus policy in a joint project designed to further develop and increase the quality of the Flemish circus.

More information is available at: www.perplx.be – www.circuscentrum.be

Culture Awards Flanders 2014

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past year made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Culture Awards Flanders create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A cash prize of €12,500 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate also receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: www.cultuurprijzen.be