



PRESS RELEASE  
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FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS  
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## RITCS Drama Course wins Flemish Culture Award for Performing Arts 2014

Today, Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented the RITCS Drama Course with the Flemish Culture Award for Performing Arts 2014 during the Theatre Festival at the Kaaaitheater in Brussels. The jury praises the select group of lecturers, who year after year groom talented creators and makers learning to embed societal, social and cultural trends in artistic practice.

The RITCS (Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema & Sound, a School of Arts attached to the Erasmus University College Brussels) started off as a small school in 1962 under the name Higher National Institute for Theatre and Cultural Dissemination. Today, it has become an internationally renowned school where 700 students follow professionally- or academically-oriented courses in audiovisual or performing arts. The Stage Management course (lighting, sound, scenography and stage mechanics, production) is an integrated part of the Drama Course.

According to the jury, "the major strength of the RITCS Drama Course lies in its ability to keep reinventing itself. This award is also an accolade for the numerous creators and makers who trained there." A graduated creator or maker can best be characterised as both an artistic and a social researcher. The course also offers opportunities to students who are less proficient in Dutch. The diversity of languages and forms of expression helps shape the DNA of the course which maintains a close link with the performing arts sector. The lecturers are mostly engaged in performing arts or have achieved a great deal in this field.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz said: "For more than half a century the RITCS has been a seeding ground for creative talent in the world of film, animated film, television, radio, documentary, literature and theatre. Each one of them disseminates Flanders' creative craftsmanship throughout the world."

### ***The Theatre Festival***

*Each year, the Theatre Festival selects the most prominent performances of the past season. This Festival thus marks the end of the past season and the beginning of the new one. From 3 through 13 September the Theatre Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary in Brussels with an extra large selection, packed houses and a busy side-programme. For festival director Hendrik De Smedt, himself a graduate of the RITCS Drama Course, this recognition of the RITCS is the icing on the cake.*

*You can live-stream or catch up on the presentation of the Culture Award through the live stream website of the Kaaitheater <http://livestream.com/kaaitheater>.*

*More information is available at [www.theaterfestival.be](http://www.theaterfestival.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 Flemish Culture Awards 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.

For more information, please visit: [www.cultuurprijzen.be](http://www.cultuurprijzen.be).