

News Relay
from the Consulate General of Belgium in New York
FEBRUARY 2012

Message from the Consul General

Dear All :

The presidential race in the US is heating up. So is the social climate in Belgium. The fundamental debates on both sides are remarkably similar: how can we afford the kind of Government we need? And what kind of Government is that after all? Probably this similarity is largely due to the fact that both the US and Europe face the baby-boomer retirement wave and the ever longer life expectancy.

Of course, politics will be politics. Accusations about 'imposing European socialism on the US' are constantly in the air. A little overblown, aren't they? We who live here can compare, and the differences in social systems remain enormous. Strangely enough, while this debate rages on this side of the Atlantic, many European countries are reforming their social systems to plan for their future sustainability- and unavoidably those changes will attract accusations of 'imposing American capitalism on Europe'.

We all need our demons.

President Obama's State of the Union contained a few ideas which are of high interest to New York. The pressure towards financial regulation remains high – but chances are the details will remain in the freezer till after the presidential election. But the other issue - criminal investigations around the 2008 crash - seems to move on a somewhat faster track. And so, Wall Street will be circling the wagons even more.

The financial challenges to Europe and the Euro are still with us, but the management of the situation also progresses step by step. We are getting used to a part of the US financial press burying the Euro about once a month. Frankly, it reminds me of those religious sects regularly announcing the end of the world, and having to revise the date when it doesn't happen as predicted.

Because of all this, the various transatlantic dialogues are more relevant than ever, not just for the US and the EU, but with global repercussions not to be ignored in Asia, Latin America or elsewhere.

To end on a very practical note.

Having often experienced the difficulties of domestic air travel in the US for medium or short distances, I was hoping that the President would at least mention the High Speed Train projects in the State of the Union. We have been lobbying a lot in various States to be on board for those projects. Sadly, they seem to have disappeared from the priorities, mostly due to the very short-sighted objections of vested interests at the State level.

AMTRAK is still valiantly pursuing the modernization of their Northeastern corridor DC-NY-Boston. Have another twenty-five to thirty years patience, we have been told. So this advice is valid for yet another generation of domestic travelers: Have a couple of good reads on you Kindle when you try to fly from A to B- you're likely to see more airport than you care for.

Take care,
HP

January 10 -
February 11

Marc Van Cauwenbergh - Recent Paintings



*Simon Gallery
48 Bank Street
Morristown,
NJ 07960*

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12-6, Saturday 12-5

For more information: www.simongallery.com
www.marcvancauwenbergh.net

Jan 20 – Feb
18

Shepherd & Derom galleries hosts Margot Gordon and Crispian Riley-Smith, the organizers of Master Drawings New York

Amongst the highlights of their seventh joint exhibition is a recently discovered drawing by Flemish draughtsman Crispijn van de Passe I, known only through prints until now (Faith, circa 1590). The exhibit features, among others, a selection of portrait studies of various periods, including A Young Man in Red Hat, attributed to Lorenzo Lotto by Bernard Berenson.

For more information: www.shepherdgallery.com

*Shepherd &
Derom
Galleries
58 East 79th
Street*

Jan 27 - 29

"Wuthering Heights" at the New Victory Theatre by Theater Artemis from 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands Co-produced by Theater Antigone of Kortrijk, Belgium

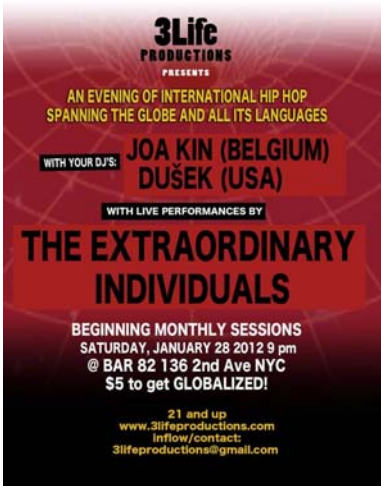
Edgar and Heathcliff have always been Catherine's whole world, and the battle between her heart and her head consumes her. "Choose, choose, and make peace with your choice," her housemaid Nelly urges her in this fearless stage adaptation of Emily Brontë's sweeping love story. Played on a spare set evoking the wild and mysterious nature of the moors, this contemporary production exposes the timeless nature and inescapable power of the classic novel.

"From adolescence to old age: there is not a story that is as famous and universal as that of love that will tear people apart. And this is where the strength of this performance lies, in its appeal across generations." – *De Morgen*

NEW VIC EXTRAS

- Zoem! New Dutch Theater Special Exhibit: Informative

*The New
Victory
Theater
209 W 42nd
Street*

	<p>display about Dutch productions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-Show Talk-Back on Sunday Jan 29 at 3pm - Family Workshop "Fight Choreography" on Saturday Jan 28 at 4:30pm <p>Click here for more information and tickets</p>	
<p><i>Jan 27 - 29</i></p>	<p>In theatres: Rosetta France/Belgium, 1999 Directed by: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne In French with English subtitles</p> <p>"A deserving Palme d'Or winner at Cannes '99, Rosetta is in the same, grim realist mould as the Dardennes' earlier La Promesse; it, too, offers a glimmer of hope through the prospect of friendship. Teenage Rosetta (Dequenne) has it tough: living in a trailer park with her promiscuous, alcoholic mother, she tries to hang on to whatever mundane jobs she can get, but for all her determination and hard work, bad luck and her surly, volatile disposition repeatedly tell against her."</p> <p>For more information and tickets: www.ifccenter.com/films/rosetta</p>	<p><i>IFC Center 323 Sixth Avenue at West Third Street</i></p>
<p><i>January 29, 9pm</i></p>	<p>3Life productions presents an evening of international hip hop with DJs Joa Kin and Dušek</p> <p>E.S.L. is a combination dance party/ethnomusicology experiment combining the best of local and global performers to present a true picture of the hip hop diaspora. Focusing on hip hop/rap in indigenous languages from Flemish to Tagalog to Inuit, music curator Gary Dušek has amassed a cultural reference library that you can breakdance to. Rotating live performance, Djs, and dancers, E.S.L. will be the most cohesive representation of worldwide hip hop in one place at one time.</p>  <p>For more information: www.3lifeproductions.com</p>	<p><i>Bar 82 136 2nd Ave</i></p>

Jan 10 – Feb 29

In collaboration with the Honorary Consul of Belgium for Western Pennsylvania “One Foot in America: The Jewish Emigrants of the Red Star Line and Eugeen Van Mieghem” at the American Jewish Museum.

Resulting from a remarkable convergence of entrepreneurship, widespread social upheaval, and shifts in artistic practice, *One Foot in America* explores the compelling narratives of Jewish immigrants during the late 19th and early 20th century rendered by Belgian artist Eugeen Van Mieghem (1875-1930) as they embarked on the journey from Antwerp to the United States on board of the Red Star Line.



This is the final American venue for the exhibition before it returns to Belgium. “*One Foot in America: The Jewish Emigrants of the Red Star Line and Eugeen Van Mieghem*” was organized by Friends of the Red Star Lines and the Van Mieghem Museum.

Gallery hours: Mo-Thur 7:30am-10pm, Fri 7:30am-6pm, Sat: 1-6pm, Sun: 8am – 6pm
For more information, click [here](#)

*American Jewish Museum
JCC of Greater Pittsburgh
Berger Gallery
5738
Darlington Road*

February 2, 12:45pm

Ice Theatre of New York’s Free City Skate Concert Series at Citi Pond at Bryant Park announced

New York City, NY--Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY), the nation's premier ice dance ensemble added an extra concert to the 26th edition of its City Skate Concert Series at Bryant Park Citi Pond on February 2nd. The performance will feature Ice Theatre of New York in *Winter Suite*, choreographed by Ice Theatre’s new Artistic Director, Douglas Webster.

The remaining concerts in the 2012 City Skate Concert Series will be presented at The Rink at Rockefeller Center on Wednesdays, February 1, February 29, March 14 and April 4 at 1 PM.

This season ITNY will continue its tradition of collaborating with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, as well as exploring relationships with artists from theatre, music and new media disciplines. 2011-2012 season highlights include: ITNY’s 2011 Benefit Gala and Performance honoring Johnny

Citi Pond at Bryant Park

Weir, continued collaborations with Improv Everywhere, Julliard Dance Program and Fashion Week, free performances as part of the City Skate Concert Series at Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park and Queens's World Ice Arena; New Works & Young Artists Series at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan, City Ice Pavilion and World Ice Arena in Queens to serve city school children; special holiday performances at Rockefeller Center, Riverbank State Park, Bryant Park, and Chelsea Piers, and the Winter Festival in Milford, PA.

For more information: www.icetheatre.org

Contact: Jirina Ribbens
212.929.5811
itny@icetheatre.org

*February 2,
6-9pm*

Belgian artist Constance Van Rollegem at Journey Home "Photoscripts – Snapshots of Ephemeral Moments"

*Journey Home
72 Front St.
Between Main
& Washington
Dumbo,
Brooklyn*



Opening reception February 2nd, 6-9pm

Constance van Rollegem's photoscripts are an evolution of the most abstract sense of writing and communication, where what remains is a physical trace of a moment or gesture. She has applied her concepts of gestural writings, layering, transparency and materials used in her paintings to her photoscripts, which are images showing a temporary juxtaposition of the residuals of her own paintings. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group shows in galleries in New York and Brussels.

For more information: www.artance.com

February 3,
6:30pm

Monthly Prietpraat Meet-up

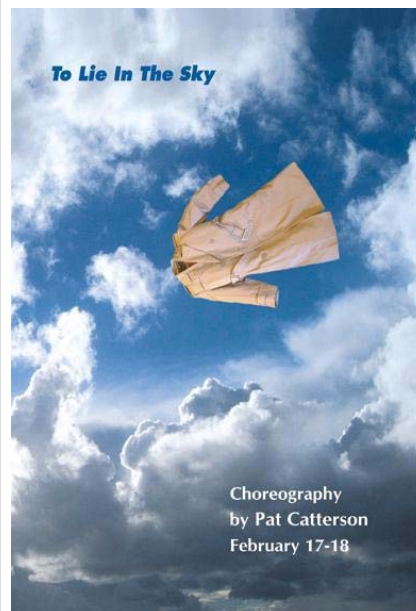


Mark your agendas: it's time for another Prietpraat! Join the group for a cool beer and some sweet talk at the bar! Find them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Bxl East
210 East 51st
Street

February 17
& 18, 8pm

Our very own multitasking colleague from the Consulate, Liesbeth Demaer, is performing on February 17 and 18 in a choreography by Pat Catterson



To Lie In The Sky

Choreography: Pat Catterson

February 17 & 18, 2012

Fri. & Sat. at 8 pm

Dancers: Alexandra Berger, Becky Chaleff, Jesse Dunham, Liesbeth Demaer Ingenito, Maia Ramnath, Samuel Swanton, Suzanne Thomas, Timothy Emmett Lee Ward

Lighting and Décor: Philip W. Sandström

Music: Quentin Chiappetta

Video: Nadia Lesy **Costumes:** Juanita Cardenas

Little Flower Theatre at LaGuardia High School of Music and Art & Performing Arts
100 Amsterdam Avenue, NYC

Adm: \$20, \$15 stdnts/snrs - at the door (cash or check)
Res. & Tickets at Brown Paper Tickets: 800-838-3006
Online at brownpapertickets.com/event/220784

To Lie in the Sky was supported by a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation

LaGuardia
High School of
Music and Art
& Performing
Arts, Little
Flower
Theatre
100
Amsterdam
Avenue

Check out these nominations for the upcoming Academy Awards on February 26!

Nominated for the Best Foreign Film: 'Bullhead' "A Belgian surprise" : check out the [article](#) in the NYT!
Article in [De Standaard](#) "Rundskop vanaf 10 februari al in Amerikaanse zalen"

Nominated for Best Original Score: 'The Artist', winner of 3 Golden Globes, among them Best Original Score. The soundtrack was for the most part performed by the Brussels Philharmonic, as well as the Brussels Jazz Orchestra for some big band performances.

For more information: www.oscars.org

Be4democracy: civil initiative Petition for a federal constituency in Belgium

At the initiative of a young Flemish-Walloon couple, the organizations Shame, Camping 16, and Plan B have joined forces by launching an online petition for a federal electoral district.

The online petition has been launched and collected yet 25 000 signatures (www.be4democracy.be) including Axelle Red, Benoit Poelvoorde, Tom Lanoye, Paul De Grauwe, Etienne de Callatay, Gerard Mortier, Philippe Van Parijs, ...

Article in [De Standaard](#)

Aude-Line Dulière and Jan-Emmanuel De Neve,
Felix De Clerck and Thomas Decreus, Shame,
Quentin Martens, Plan B,
Koen Schoors, Camping 16,
contact@be4democracy.be

For more information: <http://be4democracy.be/>

In the news

« **Les Magritte du Cinema** » will take place in Brussels on February 4 ! Click [here](#) for the list of nominees.

“**Benidorm bastards**” adapted for the US! Click here for the article on deredactie.be

Marcolini chocolates again 100% Belgian! Click [here](#) for the article in l’Echo

Check out the article on **Rouge Tomate** on [essentielle. Be](http://essentielle.be) !

“**New York toen en nu**” **beeldreportage**: click here to check it out (Knack Weekend)

Article in [French Morning](#) on a new phenomenon of “**francophones concentration**” in the city.

<p><i>February 6, 7pm</i></p>	<p><i>Events in the Chicago Area</i></p> <p>"Belgian Brasserie" Annual fundraiser dinner</p> <p>Theme: Mardi Gras Traditions in Flanders (Belgium). With Mrs Liliane Opsomer from the Flanders Tourist Office, NY</p> <p>Belgian Culinary Escapade dinner (tax and tips) + Cash Bar for all drinks. Welcome Drink courtesy of Van Berg & Dewulf</p> <p>Raffle Prizes: Grand Prize R/T Air Fare from Chicago to Brussels + Hotel nights in Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent, + Christian Dior, Fisher Nuts, Duvel USA, Taylor Reese Salon, Chocolatier Piron, Hotel Sofitel, Barrington Home Shoppe.... 1 ticket \$5.00 / 5 tickets for \$20.00</p> <p>RSVP: paulvanhalteren@sbcglobal.net before Feb 2</p> <p>Please mail your check payable to the Honorary Consulate of Belgium to: Paul Van Halteren, 1713 West Beach Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622-2109 before Feb 2, 2012.</p>	<p><i>Leopold Restaurant, 1450 West Chicago Avenue @ Greenvew, Chicago</i></p>
<p><i>February 8, 4:30pm- 8pm</i></p>	<p><i>Events in the New England Area</i></p> <p>18th Annual International Business Forum & Networking Evening organized in collaboration with Global Business Alliance of New England (GBANE, coordinating association) and the New England Chapter of the Belgian American Chamber of Commerce (BELCHAM-NE)</p> <p>"Global Trade & Economic Outlook: Implications for international business in the year ahead" with 2 prominent speakers: Michael Goodman, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Public Policy at UMass Dartmouth. And Geoffrey Somes, Senior Economist with State, Street Global Advisors.</p> <p>Followed by a Networking reception</p> <p>Pre-registration is required on the BABCNE website 45USD per person</p> <p>For more information and other events organized by BASNE: www.basne.org</p>	<p><i>Bingham McCutchen LLP, One Federal Street, Boston, MA</i></p>