

be
be



be comics
be.brussels

04-07
SEPTEMBRE

7
ER
ER



PRESS KIT



5 to 7 September 2014

Comics are right at home in Brussels, and you can tell!

Our paper heroes are everywhere: bookshops, wall murals, exhibitions, art galleries, television, even Hollywood has fallen under their spell: on 21 October 2011 the world premiere of Steven Spielberg's cinema adaptation of Tintin took place in Brussels whilst the Smurfs, strengthened by their initial success, will be reappearing this summer.

The Comics Festival was created in 2010 by the Brussels-Capital Region as the logical continuation of the comic strip themed year organized in Brussels in 2009.

In 2014, Brussels is going to experience a highly colorful weekend from 5-7 September, with its now famous Comics Festival, but also Comics Night taking place in the Parc de Bruxelles, the Balloon's Day Parade, the Tintin Journal Rally, guided visits and comics exhibitions at the festival and throughout the city.

During this one-off weekend, the Parc de Bruxelles will welcome museums, exhibitions, publishers, bookshops, boutiques and signing sessions.

The Comics Festival 2014

Date : 5- 7 september 2014

Place : Parc de Bruxelles – Palais des Beaux-Arts (BOZAR)

Price : Free

An initiative by the Brussels-Capital Region
with support from the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, the City of Brussels and COCOF
(College of the French Community Commission)
coordinated by VISITBRUSSELS

COMICS FESTIVAL

All aboard at Parc de Bruxelles! Billions of blistering blue barnacles! Comic strips lovers will be able to visit bookshops, publishers, museums, exhibitions, boutiques and numerous animations for both adults and children.

Guest of honour: Turkey

The Comic Strip Festival is turning the spotlight on Turkey! As part of the celebrations to mark 50 years of Turkish immigration to Belgium, the not-for-profit association Plateforme 50 is joining forces with the Comic Strip Festival to put on a special program covering the whole weekend: conferences, book-signing sessions, exhibitions, etc. Comic strips from Turkey will be the guest of honour at the 2014 event!

Activities

Book-signing sessions

More than a hundred authors will be lining up in the Comic Strip Festival marquees to sign your favourite albums and to unveil their latest masterpieces!

Conferences

This year, the Comic Strip Festival is focusing on the history of the Comic Strip as well as the current scene! Dozens of authors and storywriters will be numerous conferences on a very topical general theme: "When reality and the Comic Strip meet".

Exhibitors

Numerous bookshops, comic book dealers and micro-publishers will be there for this third "Comic Strip Festival": sale of new or second-hand comic books, specific merchandising, introductions to new authors, and more. Plenty to delight comic book collectors, experienced bargain-hunters and enthusiasts looking for something new!

Exhibitions

The Comic Strip Festival is also a great time to make the most of the many free exhibitions in the marquees, thanks to the involvement of Brussels' museums (Belgian Comic Strip Center, MOOF, and others), leading Belgian publishing houses (Dupuis, Lombard, Graton, etc.) or independent publishers for you to discover!

Entertaining activities

Plenty of fun and creative activities will delight comic book lovers from 7 to 77 years of age: Cosplay contest, improvised comic-strip shows, children's village ... there'll be something for everyone!

LATE-NIGHT OPENINGS

On Friday and Saturday evening, the Parc de Bruxelles will be a riot of colour to celebrate the comic strip thanks to a brand new Comic Strip Nights concept! Along the walkways and in the middle of the fountains, several sound-and-light shows will enchant young and old alike.

Comics Festival & Late-night openings practically:

Dates:

Comics Festival: Friday 5 to Sunday 7 September

Late-night openings: Friday 5 and Saturday 6 September

Schedule:

Friday: from 15.30 to 22.00 (Comics Night until 23.00 in the Parc de Bruxelles)

Saturday: from 10.00 to 22.00 (Comics Night until 23.00 in the Parc de Bruxelles)

Sunday: from 10.00 to 18.00

Location: Brussels Parc – 1000 Brussels

Price: Free

PARADES

Balloon's Day Parade

For the seventh consecutive year, the Balloon's Day Parade will fill the streets of Brussels to the sound of accompanying fanfares. Escorted by a Police parade and folklore groups, the route taken by the Balloon's Parade will start once again on the Place des Palais, where the public will first of all be able to see the giant balloons representing the different Belgian comic strip characters, ending up at Place De Brouckère.

Balloon's Day Parade practically:

Date: Saturday 7 September

Schedule: Inflation at 10u00, parade between 15:30 and 17:00

Location: Place des Palais/Paleizenplein – 1000 Brussels

Price: Free

Tintin Magazine Rally

Nearly 80 cars and motorbikes depicted in comic strip illustration plates will come to life on Sunday at the Comic Strip Festival! This extraordinary rally will drive around the streets of Brussels before being appraised, on reaching Place des Palais, by a special panel of judges. The cars can then be admired on Place des Palais for the rest of the day.

Tintin Magazine Rally practically:

Date: Sunday 8 September

Schedule:

Departure: 11:00

Arrival and exhibition of the cars: 15:00

Location: Place des Palais/Paleizenplein – 1000 Brussels

Price: Free

MAJOR EXHIBITION: TARDI AND THE GREAT WAR

As part of the events commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the 1914-18 war, Bozar is hosting a big exhibition dedicated to one of the greatest masters of contemporary comic strip, Jacques Tardi. Well-known for the Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec and the Nestor Burma series and for his work on the First World War, in the last thirty years or so he has become a key figure in French language comic strip.

The exhibition Tardi and the Great War draws on two of Tardi's most seminal works dedicated to the war of 1914-18: Putain de guerre! (Goddamn This War!) and C'était la guerre des tranchées (It was the War of the Trenches). The exhibition explores the world of war as observed and related by the author through sketches, drawings and a selection of illustration plates.

Tardi's work as an illustrator on the Great War is also highlighted, whether with the images dreamed up with his wife Dominique Grange for the compilation of songs Des lendemains qui saignent or with a large selection of drawings produced over the years for the press and publishing.

The presentation of the exhibition is based on the idea of stirring emotion in the visitors, by combining strong, symbolic images, shown to advantage by special lighting effects and sound ambiance. A unique immersive and interactive experience for all kinds of audiences!

Exhibition Tardi and the Great War practically:

Dates: From Friday 5 September to Sunday 16 November 2014

Location: BOZAR, Centre for Fine Arts (Terarken): Rue Ravensteinstraat 23 – 1000 Brussels

LAUNCH PARTY

On Thursday 4 September, the Palais des Beaux-Arts (BOZAR) will host the launch part for the Comics Festival! This launch party, which will be attended by professionals from the world of Comics in Brussels, Ministers from Brussels and cultural journalists, will also consist of the opening of the main exhibition at the Palais des Beaux-Arts.

COMIC STRIPS IN BRUSSELS, ALL YEAR AROUND!

www.visitbrussels.be/comics

Brussels is the comic strip capital and never stops proving it. There is no shortage of possibilities: visiting the museums and exhibitions; strolling around the many specialist galleries and bookshops; heading off to discover the 47 comic strip murals located all over Brussels; and even eating and sleeping comics ... there's plenty to do for lovers of the 9th art! Find all the information you need to ensure you get the most out of the Comics Festival on our dedicated website: www.visitbrussels.be/comics

To mark the occasion of the Comic Strip Festival, numerous comic strip venues will be holding specific activities all weekend: book-signing sessions, exhibitions, auctions of comic strip objects, and lots more.

VISITBRUSSELS: sized for comics

VISITBRUSSELS: sized for Tintin

VISITBRUSSELS: sized for Nero

These three mini-maps each offer you a surprising themed journey through Brussels, one following in the footsteps of Tintin, another to discover comic strip murals in Brussels and the last relating to Néron. Three unusual routes that are well worth investigating. These mini-maps are available at a price of €0.50 and in several languages at all reception desks. You can also find them on our site.

Comics for Kids - Discovering comic murals in Brussels

VISITBRUSSELS is offering children the opportunity to discover a number of comic strip murals located throughout the region whilst enjoying the company of the Smurfs. They will come across such characters as Tintin, Ric Hochet, Stam & Pilou, Billy the Cat, Bob and Bobette... The heroes of paper and authors, mostly from Brussels, that they will get to know better through a number of games.

We also offer you the opportunity to discover the VISITBRUSSELS press release sized for comics: http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/es_brochure/868/thematic-kit-sized-for-comics.do

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Where ?

Comics Festival : Parc de Bruxelles - 1000 Brussels

Comics Night : Parc de Bruxelles - 1000 Brussels

Balloon's Day Parade and Tintin Journal Rally: departure & arrival on the Place des Palais/Paleizenplein – 1000 Brussels

When ?

Date : 5-7 September

Schedule:

Friday: from 15:30 to 22:00 (Comics Night until 23.00 in the Parc de Bruxelles)

Saturday: from 10:00 to 22:00 (Comics Night until 23.00 in the Parc de Bruxelles)

Sunday: from 10:00 to 18:00

Public transports:

Bus: 27, 38, 71, 95 (stop ROYALE)

Tram: 92,93 (stop PALAIS)

Metro: line 1 and 5 (stop PARC)

Check the website for more information and the updated program:
www.ComicsFestival.be

PRESS INFORMATION

Press conference

A press point will be organized before the opening cocktail of the Comics Festival on Thursday 4 September at the Centre of Fine Arts (BOZAR).

Online picture library*

<http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/front/user/displayLogin.do>

Login: press@visitbrussels.be

Password: press

Search for: 'comic'

*to comply with copyright, please do not crop the images in of comic strip murals

Press contacts

Alderman Philippe Close's Office: Lidia Gervasi: +32 483 591 831 –
philippe.close@brucity.be

BOZAR: Leen Daems : +32 479 98 66 07 - leen.daems@bozar.be

VISITBRUSSELS: Martha Meeze: +32 486 53 31 81 - m.meeze@visitbrussels.be