



Next StrangerFestival calling: Amsterdam, 14-17 October 2009

After last year's successful kick-off edition, the ECF's StrangerFestival team is bubbling up with ideas for the run-up to the 2009 festival. The team's refined content approach and new ideas promise a great event!

Some tasters:

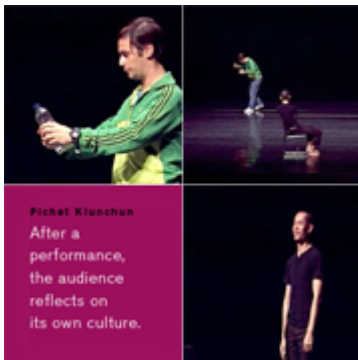
The **official online competition** has now been launched - we want to see as many great videos uploaded as possible. Deadline: August 15, 2009. The best hundred or so videos will earn their makers a place in this year's **StrangerAcademy**, the place to be to improve your video and storytelling skills. Doors open in Amsterdam from 14-17 October.

We are very happy that last year's best, featured in the touring **StrangerExhibition**, are finding great venues for screening: most recently, the prestigious Pera Museum in Istanbul.

The first **workshops** are also up and running in Europe and beyond. For all about StrangerFestival, workshop dates, the touring exhibition, etc., go to:



<http://www.strangerfestival.com>



Reliving the highlights of the first ROUTES Award 2008

Brussels, December 9th: ECF presents the first annual ROUTES Princess Margriet Awards for Cultural Diversity to cultural theorist Stuart Hall and choreographers Jérôme Bel and Pichet Klunchun. Now you can sample or - if you were there on the night - relive ROUTES with a new booklet we have compiled, which captures the strong voices and beautiful images of this delightful ceremony. Go to <http://www.eurocult.org/we-focus-on/routes-award/> and download the pdf.

<http://www.eurocult.org/we-focus-on/routes-award/>



▶ Prague's Forum for Creative Europe - A look back

'What's new, pussycat?' asks ECF Director Gottfried Wagner, as he casts a sceptical eye over proceedings at the creativity conference in Prague on 25-27 March. One weighty contribution worth viewing was **Vaclav Havel's**, 'almost overheard, despite the applause'. Read in full Gottfried Wagner's résumé at: http://www.eurocult.org/news-events/?article_id=85

The Czech artist David Cerny also spoke wisely amid the hype, pointing out that we have to learn to be creative 'together', not 'against'.

LabforCulture.org covered the whole event with a live blog. So for a full picture of what went on, including Havel's speech, go to:

<http://www.labforculture.org/en/labforculture/blog/43229>



▶ Czech Made?

This comic project from the Czech Forum of the ECF has a serious side: it explores the complex lives of migrant workers in the Czech Republic. The comics were inspired by stories told by migrant workers in the course of research interviews. Now translated into English, the comics will be on display in the European Parliament building in Strasbourg from 4 to 7 May.

More info at:

http://www.eurocult.org/news-events/?article_id=88

▶ LabforCulture.org's specials this month

As well as live-blog coverage of the Prague creativity conference, this month's specials feature LabforCulture's Research in Focus: **Cultural blogging in Europe**. Find out who is blogging out there, and why - their motivations and reflections. Media researcher Annette Wolfsberger dives into the scene and meets those heading up cultural discourse online.

<http://www.labforculture.org/en/Users/Site-Users/Site-Members/LabforCulture/LabforCulture-blog/The-Why-and-Who-Cultural-blogging-in-Europe>

LabforCulture is also following **Roadworks**, a touring truck guerrilla outfit working with the Dutch band, Voicst, and artists' collective, Natwerk. See through the lens of photographer Martijn de Vries as he accompanies the artists on their journey: a Photo Blog with sound from the end-of-April performances at Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb.

<http://www.labforculture.org/en/labforculture/blogitem/44174>

What's your view on the financial crisis? Following the vivid reactions after the publication of Helmut Anheier's article *How*



can the cultural sector survive the financial crisis? the discussion on the topic continues online at:

<http://www.labforculture.org/en/Culture-News/Documents/Financial-crisis-online-report>



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Congratulations to our President

We would like to congratulate our President, HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, on her appointment as UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development. Princess Laurentien has long been a passionate champion of the fight against illiteracy, both nationally and internationally. Among other things, she founded the Reading & Writing Foundation which has attracted a good deal of attention for literacy issues in The Netherlands. More on this at the Reading & Writing Foundation's site:

<http://www.lezenenschrijven.nl/en/home/>

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please write to Mascha Ihwe, mihwe@eurocult.org or Lise Mathol, lmathol@eurocult.org.

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The European Cultural Foundation thanks the following institutions for their longstanding support: Prince Bernhard Cultural Foundation, de BankGiroLoterij en De Lotto. The Foundation would like to thank the following partners in ECF initiatives: European Commission, HIVOS, Foundation Open Society Institute, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-The Netherlands-DCO, Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina, Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, Foundation Open Society Institute, Open Society for Albania, European Community, Nordic Council of Ministers, Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumfond, Stichting NCDO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-The Netherlands-Matra, VandenEnde Foundation, Evens Foundation, Helsingin Sanomat Foundation, Allianz Kulturstiftung, Prins Claus Fonds, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation, Rabobank, Boeing. LabforCulture is a partnership initiative of the European Cultural Foundation and would like to thank the following organisations for their support: The European Union - Directorate General Education and Culture, Kulturstiftung Des Bundes (with partner: Deutsches InformationsZentrum Kulturförderung, DIZK), Robert Bosch Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences, Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs, Spanish Cultural Ministry, Fritt Ord Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Luxemburg Ministry of Culture, and the Cypriot Ministry of Education and Culture.



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