

**THE ANTWERP EXPERIENCE**



**FEATS 2024**

Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies - **Antwerp**

**HOSPITALITY PACK FEATS 2024**

***ANTWERP 17 – 20 MAY 2024***

Here is the FEATS 2024 ABC with hospitality details. If you cannot find the answers here, then come and see us at the Hospitality Desk in the Zuiderpershuis. We know all about Antwerp! For a short historical overview, see the last 2 pages of this document. Do check out our website nearer to FEATS because some things may have altered or been added (e.g. traffic deviations) – [batsantwerp.be/feats](https://batsantwerp.be/feats)

<b>A</b>		
	<b>Antwerp</b>	The place to be for FEATS from <b>17-20 May 2024</b> . More info on what this beautiful city has to offer on the <a href="#">Visit Antwerp Site</a> .
	<b>Accommodation</b>	We would have liked to use one main FEATS hotel near the theatre. But there are a plethora of hotels available in and around Antwerp. Best deals are found on the various online booking sites such as <a href="https://www.booking.com">www.booking.com</a> and <a href="https://www.trivago.be">www.trivago.be</a> .
	<b>Adjudicator</b>	The FEATS Adjudicator is <b>CHRIS BAGLIN</b> . Chris e has a working knowledge of drama, puppetry, stage magic and direction all of which he brings to his adjudications. He has been an adjudicator for almost a decade and has adjudicated in the Welsh rounds, Nidderdale, Isle of Man, Welwyn Drama Festival, Welwyn Youth, Worcestershire, and the All England Festival amongst others.
	<b>ATM</b>	The nearest cash dispenser to the Theatre is on the Waalse Kaai (same side as the theatre venue). Come out of the Zuiderpershuis, turn left and it's about 40m on your left.
<b>B</b>		
	<b>Bicycles</b>	see <b>Velo</b>
	<b>Box Office</b>	1) <b>ONLINE (OPEN 24/7)</b> : BATS website - <a href="https://batsantwerp.be/feats">batsantwerp.be/feats</a> 2) <b>EMAIL</b> <a href="mailto:theatre@batsantwerp.be">theatre@batsantwerp.be</a> for <b>CREW tickets (participating groups)</b> 3) <b>ON-SITE (OPEN 6 - 8.30 pm)</b> : At the theatre, on performance days, for walk-ins & last minute FEATS visitors.
<b>C</b>		
	<b>Cars</b>	We are hoping to have car-free FEATS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have brought your car, look under P for Parking.</li> <li>• Also, Antwerp is an LEZ. Check under the L.</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>		
	<b>Drinks</b>	Enjoy a drink in the foyer of the Zuiderpershuis before, during or after the MAIN programme and the FRINGE programme.
<b>E</b>		
	<b>Emergency</b>	<b>Dial</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>112</b> in case of an accident and/or fire,</li> <li>• 101 for the police</li> <li>• 1307 for emergency/duty doctor</li> <li>• 0900 10 500 for details of emergency/duty chemist</li> <li>• 070 245 245 anti-poison centre</li> <li>• 070 344 344 card stop (to report lost or stolen debit or credit card)</li> </ul> <b>Hospital</b> The nearest hospitals to the theatre that are open 24/7 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GZA Hospital Campus Sint-Vincentius, Sint-Vincentiusstraat 20, Antwerpen</li> <li>• ZNA Middelheim, Lindendreef 1, Wilrijk</li> </ul>
	<b>Entertainment</b>	After hours you are invited to the foyer of the theatre where you can relax after a full night of theatre with a drink & a chat. And of course we have the FEATS PARTY, which will be held on Sunday 19th May!
<b>F</b>		
	<b>Food and drinks</b>	Drinks are available in the bar of the Zuiderpershuis, but they do not serve snacks. BATS will try to organise a food truck in front of the theatre for the participating groups and FEATS crew.  There are plenty of <a href="#">restaurants and cafés</a> in the vicinity of the theatre. Other great locations (especially if the weather is fine) are around the KMSKA, the Groenplaats and the Grote Markt (Grand Place). Antwerp has a large selection of international restaurants. Most are open for lunch; quite a number start serving from 18.00, others serve hot meals all through the day. (check out the options on <a href="https://www.resto.be">www.resto.be</a> )
	<b>Forum</b>	The Forum will take place in the foyer of the theatre on <b>Monday 20 May 2024, 10 - 11.30 am</b> .

	<b>Fringe</b>	The <a href="#">Fringe</a> will be held on <b>Saturday 18, Sunday 19 and Monday 20 May 2024</b> . The programme will be published on our website and in your programme.
<b>G</b>		
	<b>Gadgets &amp; Memorabilia</b>	All gadgets & FEATS memorabilia can be purchased at the hospitality desk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FEATS 2024 T-Shirt</li> <li>- FEATS/BATS tote bag</li> <li>- BATS lighter, mug, key chain &amp; bottle opener</li> </ul>
	<b>Green Room</b>	Coffee, tea and snacks will be made available to performing groups on their day. One FEATS-crew member will be present to help out if needed.
	<b>Guided walk</b>	There will be 2 <a href="#">guided walks</a> allowing you a more intimate glimpse of Antwerp. They will take place on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> from 2pm until 4pm: <i>The TRADITIONAL tour</i> showing you the classic highlights everyone should see on their first time in Antwerp. Minimum 15 people – maximum 25 people</li> <li>2) <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> from 10.30am until 12.30pm: <i>The ALTERNATIVE tour</i> offering you an alternative view of Antwerp. Minimum 15 people – Maximum 25 people.</li> </ol> <p>Both tours will start at the Zuiderpershuis. To join us on one of these walks, you can sign up at the Hospitality Desk on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Participation cost is €8. Make sure you ensure your spot!</p>
<b>H</b>		
	<b>Hospital</b>	Heaven forbid you should need it! The nearest hospitals to the theatre that are open 24/7 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GZA Hospital Campus Sint-Vincentius, Sint-Vincentiusstraat 20, Antwerpen</li> <li>• ZNA Middelheim, Lindendreef 1, Wilrijk</li> </ul>
	<b>Hospitality Desk</b>	Find out more about FEATS 2024 at the <b>FEATS Hospitality Desk</b> where you can buy a programme, purchase guided walks & raffle tickets, purchase your copy of <i>Liar, by Cléo de Vigne</i> , find information concerning Antwerp tourism options, sign up for guided walks/workshops/specific improv sessions and discover all you need to know and didn't have time to ask before you left home. Hospitality Desk will be situated in the Zuiderpershuis, in the foyer.
	<b>Hosts / Hostesses</b>	The participating groups will have a host/hostess assigned to them for the whole length of their performance day. They will be able to help you with your queries, show you around and most importantly, they will be assisting the participating groups on the day of their performance... They will pretty much be at your beck and call ☺
<b>I</b>		
	<b>Interval</b>	There will be <b>two intervals</b> in the main competition every evening: between the first and second play and between the second and third play. There is no interval after the third play when you are requested to remain in your seats for the Adjudicator.
<b>J</b>		
	<b>Joy</b>	FEATS time again. We hope to see many smiling faces ☺ ☺ ☺
<b>K</b>		
	<b>Knowledge</b>	All you can learn about Antwerp beforehand: <a href="#">Visit Antwerp Website</a>
<b>L</b>		
	<b>LEZ</b>	Basically ALL OF ANTWERP INSIDE THE RING ROAD and part of Linkeroever (the left-bank) is in the <b>Low Emission Zone (LEZ)</b> . We recommend you register your car even if you don't plan to drive into Antwerp as exiting the ring road and taking one wrong turn means you are in the LEZ even though this was not your intention. For more information or to register your car, go to <a href="#">LEZ</a> .
	<b>Leisure</b>	Plenty to do when there's nothing on at FEATS / Fringe: go for a walk along the river Scheldt; walk in a Park; visit a museum; shopping ... Info on <a href="#">Visit Antwerp Website</a>
	<b>Lime Green Shirt for HOSPITALITY CREW</b>	FEATS crew can be recognized by their LIME GREEN FEATS T-shirts. Which you can also purchase at the Hospitality Desk.
<b>M</b>		
	<b>Map(s)</b>	See <a href="#">Google maps</a> for a map of venues, public transport, hotels, etc.

	<b>Market</b>	The famous 'Vogeltjesmarkt' (bird market) is held on the square 'Theaterplein'. You will find the market open on Saturday from 07.00 until 15.00 and on Sunday from 08.00 to 13.00. <i>(Because of the market, access to Parking Arenberg is difficult on Saturday and Sunday morning.)</i> Location: Oudevaartplaats and Graanmarkt, 2000 Antwerp
	<b>Museums</b>	There are many interesting museums in Antwerp. Just a few which are close to the Theatre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">MHKA</a> - 3 minutes walk</li> <li>● <a href="#">FOMU</a> - 5 minutes walk</li> <li>● <a href="#">KMSKA</a> - 8 minutes walk</li> <li>● Etc. check out <a href="#">Visit Antwerp website</a> for a more detailed list of museums and sightseeing highlights.</li> </ul>
<b>N</b>		
	<b>No Smoking</b>	All venues are non-smoking! Since the 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2011 it is forbidden to smoke in public places, including in restaurants & cafés. Smokers are to go outside for their nicotine-shot, and we would like to ask you to consider the neighbours & limit the noise on the streets after 10pm.
<b>O</b>		
	<b>Our Volunteers</b>	Our BATS crew/volunteers can be recognized by their lime green FEATS T-shirt & badge. Should you have any questions, they can either help you or point you in the right direction for help.
<b>P</b>		
	<b>Parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Parking the decor vans</b> See the Technical Data Pack</li> <li>● <b>Parking cars in Antwerp</b> <b>Caution: NO street parking allowed in the centre of Antwerp!!</b> From 1 August onwards, only permit holders can park on the street in the city centre Park for free or cheap at a Park &amp; Ride car park on the outskirts of the city or use the paid public car parks in the city centre. For more information, visit the <a href="#">carefree parking</a> website.</li> <li>● <b>Car parks</b> Many of the paid car parks are currently offering deals to help you to have a carefree visit to Antwerp. For more information visit <a href="#">Interparking</a>, <a href="#">Q-Park</a>, <a href="#">Indigo</a> and <a href="#">Antwerpse Parkings</a>.</li> </ul>
	<b>Party</b>	The <b>Twilight Tales - Masquerade Night at FEATS 2024</b> party will be held in the foyer of the Zuiderpershuis on <b>Saturday 18 May 2024</b> . It will start at <b>23.30 (or right after the adjudication) until 02.00</b> . There will be NO food served, only drinks. Find out how you can prepare for this party, check out <a href="#">our website</a> .
	<b>Programme</b>	The programme can be purchased from the Hospitality Desk or from our volunteers walking around just before the start of the main competition.
	<b>Public Transport</b>	The buses, metro and trams are operated by <b>De Lijn</b> . Tickets can be purchased in newspaper stores, supermarkets, at Antwerp Tourism & Convention or from vending machines near bus and tram stops ( <b>PRE-SALE</b> ) OR through <a href="#">the app</a> . More info on: <a href="https://visit.antwerpen.be/en/info/public-transport">https://visit.antwerpen.be/en/info/public-transport</a>
<b>Q</b>		
	<b>Questions</b>	Any questions you might have can be directed to the Hospitality Desk, situated at the theatre, in the foyer OR you can approach the FEATS crew walking around the venue (in lime green FEATS T-shirts with badge)
<b>R</b>		
	<b>Revelry</b>	As is tradition, we are hosting a party at FEATS, after the adjudication on Sunday 19th May, BUT ... We're skipping the 3 course-meal and just going to the core of this event: socialising with fellow FEATS friends in a relaxed environment --> no extra cost, no signing up - just show up after the last performance, in theme: <a href="#">Twilight Tales: Masquerade Night</a>
<b>S</b>		
	<b>Shopping</b>	The main shopping area is around the Meir. Other areas are: Het Zuid for trendy, designer shops; Kloosterstraat for perusing antiques, De Wilde Zee for off-beat shopping and cute shops, Kammenstraat for even more alternative shopping ... Shops are open on Friday and Saturday from 10.00 to 18.00. They are closed on Sunday and also on Monday 20 May 2024 which is a public holiday (Whit Monday). Antwerp is the Fashion capital of Belgium. Check out the Fashion Museum near the Groenplaats ( <a href="http://www.momu.be">www.momu.be</a> ).

	<b>Sinksenfoor</b>	Whitsun weekend will also be the start of the Antwerp <a href="#">Sinksenfoor</a> - the Antwerp fair. If you want to go wild on 'smoutebollen' (see Yummy) and candyfloss, or try the latest rollercoaster - the Sinksenfoor is for you.					
<b>T</b>							
	<b>Taxi Service</b>	The Antwerp taxis can transport up to four passengers while taxi buses can transport seven to eight passengers for the same price. The official taxis, with a permit from the City of Antwerp, all have an illuminated taxi sign on the roof and a red plate on the front of the car.  Order a taxi by calling the phone numbers of the main taxi companies or use the Apple and Android app, which can be downloaded at <a href="http://www.taxi.eu/en">www.taxi.eu/en</a> .					
	<b>Tickets</b>	<b>Theatre tickets (FEATS)</b> have to be booked directly through our website ( <a href="#">TICKETS</a> ) in the top menu 'Book Tickets'. <table border="1" data-bbox="561 521 1361 689"> <tr> <td><b>FEATS</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Ticket: 25 EUR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Season ticket (4 nights): 80 EUR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cast/crew ticket (3 nights): 60 EUR (book via <a href="#">email</a>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student / 65+ single ticket: 18 EUR</td> </tr> </table>	<b>FEATS</b>	Single Ticket: 25 EUR	Season ticket (4 nights): 80 EUR	Cast/crew ticket (3 nights): 60 EUR (book via <a href="#">email</a> )	Student / 65+ single ticket: 18 EUR
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Student / 65+ single ticket: 18 EUR							
	<b>Timing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>FEATS Festival</b> Friday to Monday : curtain up at 19.30 (2<sup>nd</sup> play 20.40; third play 21.50 approx)</li> <li>- <b>Fringe</b> Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 13.00 to 17.30 (approx)</li> <li>- <b>Hospitality desk</b> Friday: foyer 3 pm until 2<sup>nd</sup> interval Saturday to Monday: foyer 1 pm until 2<sup>nd</sup> interval</li> <li>- <b>The Party</b> Sunday from 23.30 – 02.00</li> <li>- <b>Forum</b> Monday 10.00 - 11.30</li> </ul>					
	<b>Tourist Office</b>	Grote Markt 13, 2000 Antwerp. Open Monday to Saturday 09.00-17.45. Sunday and Whit Monday 09.00-16.45. All other information can be found on the <a href="#">Visit Antwerp Website</a>					
<b>U</b>							
	<b>Underground</b>	There is an underground metro-system in place in Antwerp, as part of the De Lijn tramlines. It's just as easy to use any of the bicycles or taxi services or just walk to your destination. See <a href="#">Public Transport</a> .					
<b>V</b>							
	<b>Velo</b>	All over Antwerp you will notice red city bikes (called 'velo') parked in 'stations'. There are stations every 400 metres. The bikes are easy to steer, suitable for men and women, have three gears and thick tires to avoid getting stuck in the tram rails.  Do you want to cover short distances in the city of Antwerp? Then Velo is handy and fast. Take a Velo near your place of departure. Cross the city and return the bike to a Velo station close to your destination. Ideal in combination with train, tram or bus.  The bikes are available 365 days per year and 24 hours per day. You can easily register on their website for a day or week pass, or a year card.  For a short visit to Antwerp, a day or week pass is ideal. You can order them up to 30 days in advance with a Visa or Mastercard. Users of a day or week pass receive a user code and password. With these codes you can immediately take a bike at any available station. <b>Register beforehand via <a href="http://www.velo-antwerpen.be">www.velo-antwerpen.be</a>. You will receive a code to use for the bikes, valid 24 hours.</b>					
	<b>Venues</b>	<b>ZUIDERPERSHUIS:</b> Timmerwerfstraat 40, 2000 Antwerp [ <a href="#">Google Maps</a> ]					
	<b>Vestiaire</b>	The venue does not have a vestiaire. <b>BATS Antwerp cannot be held accountable for any lost or stolen property!</b>					
<b>W</b>							

	<b>Wi-Fi</b>	Remember that if you're travelling from abroad, charges for using your mobile internet may be quite high. There are however some places in Antwerp where you can enjoy free Wi-Fi: all of the fast food restaurants of McDonald's and Quick, the Foodmaker branches, the public library, ...
<b>X</b>		
	<b>eXtatic</b>	Well those that win awards will be. BATS is also looking forward to a successful edition of FEATS!
<b>Y</b>		
	<b>Yummy</b>	<p>Antwerpers take pride in and have passion for food – true foodies at heart. Many a cuisine buzzword is used here - European, exotic, classic French transformed with a delicate Belgian touch is what to consider on the menu of Antwerp! The biggest concentration of restaurants is in the historic city centre and Antwerpen-Zuid!</p> <p>The city is a <b>culinary journey of surprises for foodies</b>, so much on offer with so little time to sample it all...if you prefer sweets, try the typical <b>Antwerpse Handjes</b> (Antwerp Hands – hand-shaped cookies or chocolates commemorating the legendary Brabo). The city's inhabitants love <b>worstenbrood</b> (sausage rolls) or <b>appelbollen</b> (ball-shaped apple pastries) as well as the <b>roggeverdoemeke</b>, a delicious rye bread with lots of raisins. Several stores in Antwerp sell locally made pralines or chocolate. During the carnivals and festive markets, the delicacy to nibble on is <b>smoutebollen</b> (fritters) and <b>warm waffles</b>. Drinking is another of life's arts. The De Koninck Brewery is known for its amber-hued <b>Bolleke beer</b> but brews several others too. At 't Pakhuis brewery, follow the brewing process of 'Antwerps blond', 'Antwerps bruin' and of 'den Bangelijke'. As a nightcap '<b>Elixir d'Anvers</b>', is a 'healthy' digestive liqueur containing 32 herbs and spices, and loyally distilled in the traditional way since 1863. In the old days Elixir 'd Anvers was given to the police horses as a remedy for colic.</p> <p>We will be happy to give you a taste of the highly regarded Belgian cuisine (said to be the French cuisine perfected) at the Party!</p>
<b>Z</b>		
	<b>Zuiderpershuis</b>	We are extremely excited to have secured the use of the Zuiderpershuis complex, which features all we need for a festival: a theatre and dressing-room space, rooms for Fringe performance and a Green Room, as well as a bar and various courtyards for meetings and socialising. The venue and its location in the heart of Antwerp all add to the attraction of FEATS 2024.
	<b>Zzzz</b>	Make sure you're well rested for this Antwerp Experience! There will be plenty to do and see. We look forward to welcoming you in May 2024!



# A short overview of **Antwerp** through the ages

Antwerp has long been an important city in the Low Countries both economically and culturally, especially before the Spanish Fury of the Dutch Revolt. It is located on the right (eastern) bank of the river Scheldt, which is linked to the North Sea by the estuary Westerschelde. The city has one of the largest seaports in Europe.

Its name is derived from “aan-werpen” which means “to moor”, a clear reference to its key position by the Scheldt and its link to the North Sea. The folk etymology on the other hand is based on the legend of Brabo, a roman soldier who defeated the mythical giant Antigoon, chopped off his hand and flung it in the river (in Dutch “hand-werpen”).



Brabo-statue on the Grote Markt



Historically Antwerp had its origins in a Gallo-Roman vicus civilization. In 1008 AD Antwerp received its “town seal” and was first registered with rights reserved for a town. Over the years, town walls were added as a protection and a water network of open sewers was created that also acted as access points into the town from the river. These were later (in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) covered up, but are from time to time still accessible with a guide.

Map of Antwerp, 1642

The oldest remaining building is “Het Steen”, a stone fort built between 1200 and 1225, which served as a prison from 1303 until 1827. It is located right next to the river, in the heart of the city centre.



Het Steen

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century Antwerp steadily grew in size and population. By the end of the Middle Ages Antwerp became a town of great political importance thanks to its key location by the river and its size. The main commercial wares passing through the city at the time were wool from England, metals from Germany and spices from Portugal. As a result more foreign merchants started to settle themselves in this growing city.

By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> and during the 16<sup>th</sup> century Antwerp grew into the economic and scientific power in Europe, North of the Alps. It was the second largest city in Western Europe (surpassed only by Paris) with a population of 100 000. The harbour became the biggest of the Western world and as a result Antwerp attracted a large number of international merchants.



Apart from the economic boost, Antwerp saw an intellectual growth thanks to the scientific printing company erected by Christoffel Plantin (as of 1555) which became the leader of the printing trade, and is now a museum and UNESCO heritage-site. Antwerp knew economic supremacy and was also the centre of the world for humanistic thinking and renaissance construction (see town hall). Antwerp became a pioneer in cartography, geography and technological developments. This GOLDEN AGE lasted until 1585, where Antwerp dominated Western Europe in economic, intellectual, scientific and cultural fields.

The Golden Age came to a violent end due to the religious turmoil of that time. In 1566 radical Protestants ransacked churches and demolished religious artefacts in the “Beeldenstorm”. In 1576 Spanish (catholic) troops sacked Antwerp as a result; the Duke of Parma recuperated the town in 1585. As a reaction the Dutch blocked the passageway between the North Sea and the Scheldt, resulting in the final end of the Golden Age. Many free thinkers, intellectuals, Calvinist merchants fled to the North which was the start of the Dutch Golden age with Amsterdam taking over from Antwerp as the leading city in Western Europe.

Antwerp became the centre of the Catholic Reformation and remained a leader in cultural, religious and political matters for the Spanish Netherlands. This was the time of Rubens, Van Dijck, Jordaens and Teniers. Many of the Baroque buildings were erected in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the style of the contra-reformists.

In the (late) 18<sup>th</sup> century, the French took the supremacy over from the Spanish. In 1792 the blockade of the river was lifted and Antwerp resurrected its maritime economy. Napoleonic times saw Antwerp evolve into a war-harbour (the beginning of today's harbour) which strengthened its economy. After the French, Flanders was reunited with its northern neighbour, the Netherlands,

but this ended with the Belgian Independence in 1830. This evolution allowed for a further industrial, economic and cultural development of Antwerp with the creation of new districts and the straightening of the river Scheldt, destroying the town's remnants from the Middle Ages. With the covering up of the city's inner-waterways, the Antwerp people became estranged from their life on/by the water. The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw economic growth (into small town factories), cultural change (new theatres, the Antwerp Zoo) and political evolution (alternation between liberals, Catholics and Flemish-minded).

During both World Wars life in Antwerp came to a halt. But during the Interbellum Antwerp flourished again and became an important player on international level both economically (harbour) and culturally (literature, theatre). Socialists gained influence as well as the awareness of the "Flemish Identity".

Antwerp got safely through most of World War II, up until the liberation by the allies in September 1944. The Antwerp harbour was of strategic importance so the Germans bombed it vigorously with their "flying bombs", the V1 and V2. During 6 months more bombs were dropped on Antwerp than on the whole of London!

After the war, Antwerp grew into the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city of Belgium and the largest in Flanders. The Antwerp harbour is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in Europe, and currently still holds a top 10 position in the world. As it continues to grow and expand and evolve however, Antwerp remembers and respects its rich history which brought it to where we are now.





# Appendix

Bus & tram map of antwerp. (Online version, [click here](#))

