

INSPIRING YOU TO REACH YOUR DREAMS

#20 / OCTOBER 2010

Together

magazine

COOL CULTURE

JACK VETTRIANO
An artist speaks

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SENSUAL SECRETS
Introducing
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Stéphane Ratel



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If the purpose of living is to enrich the lives of others, the purpose of *Together* is to enrich yours.

In each edition, we aim to achieve this by providing you with inspirational content to help you reach your dreams. We feel sure that you have all moved past the customary back-to-work blues – 2010 still has a lot of excitement to offer, and we hope that our usual mixture of features on self-development, culture, fashion, politics, events, as well as our customary exclusive interviews in which stars share the secrets of their success, will put that little bit of extra spice in your life.

In this edition, allow us to inspire you with our meetings with world-famous artist **Jack** (*The Singing Butler*) **Vettriano** and motoring Maestro **Stéphane Ratel**, who has recently launched FIA GT1 racing, and let the new star of our popular **Sensual Secrets** column, **Belle de Bruxelles**, tantalize you with her insights into the world of *l'amour*.

Let's not forget our customary cool competition – *Together* teams up with renowned gentlemen's fabrics manufacturer, **Scabal**, to offer our lucky winner a made-to-measure suit. Trust us, it never felt so good to look so good.

Another scoop for this edition? From now on, you can be inspired every day by checking out our new and much-improved online offerings at www.togethertmag.eu, which website editor **Jeremy Slater** and Brussels-based **Morris & Chapman** have honed to perfection to complement our magazine, with daily updates on all the latest entertainment, fashion, dining out and gossip in the capital of Europe and beyond – do drop us a line and let us know what you think, won't you?

And so, it remains only for *Together* to thank you for joining us once again – we wish you very happy reading. ☺



David Mc Gowan
Publisher

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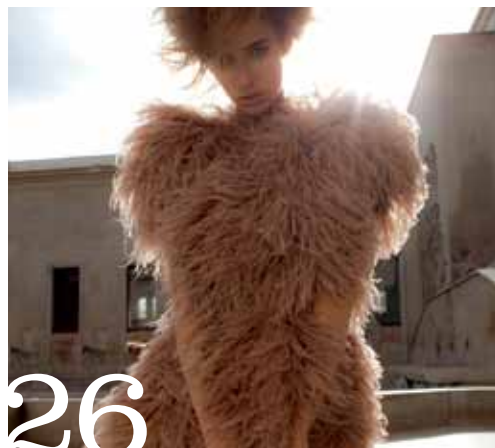
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14



26

	3	EDITORIAL Enriching entertainment	8	COMPETITION Suits you, sir!
	6	FORWARD TOGETHER From Nice to Versailles and Venice	10	PEOPLE IN BRUSSELS Stars and statesmen
COOL CULTURE	14	FOR ART'S SAKE Jack to a King	46	GO GET IT! Positive returns
	18	INTERVIEW Stéphane Ratel: The driving force	48	HEALTHY TOGETHER Nutrition: What you need to know
	22	POINT OF VIEW What dreams may come?	50	MUST-HAVES The pursuit of 'app'-iness
	26	DRESS TO IMPRESS Cultural Beauty Big Apple Belges	54	GOING PLACES Hotel Negresco: Mythical luxury Hôtel la Pérouse: Calming, charming A marvel in Marabella Silver sailing
	40	INTERVIEW Scent of a woman		
	44	SENSUAL SECRETS The pleasure of anticipation		
REPORTAGE	64	POINT OF VIEW Coin of the realm?	78	INTERVIEW Duly noted
	68	MONEY With apologies to Lewis Carroll	80	DIARY An independent view Going back to their roots It's Mahler time <i>Together's</i> 'To Do' list
	70	EAT TOGETHER 'Musseling' in	92	FRESH OPENINGS The latest additions
	72	PLACES TO BE Famous times Saxe appeal The kindest cut of all	96	BOOK REVIEW Read <i>Together</i>
			98	LE CHAT

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5. VENICE (I)

Our reportage from the Venice film festival...

6. VENICE (II)

...and more of the same. 📺

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At the heart of the group's activities is the fabric collection. This is where the real DNA and the origins of the company are to be found. Indeed, since its inception Scabal has never stopped pushing the boundaries of finesse, diversity and quality in designing and weaving.

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'Pure Worsted Vicuña' woven here, before being individually packed in luxury boxes with a certificate of authenticity.

As Scabal CEO Gregor Thissen explains: *"All of us at Scabal live and breathe cloth. We put all our efforts in maintaining our European bases and the quality standards that have made our reputation. In a market that has for many years lived with off-shore productions and marketing brands, this has not always been easy, but consistency and stubbornness have proved to be right."* For more information, go to www.scabal.com

THE PRIZE

Together has teamed up with Scabal to offer one gentleman the chance to win a superb made-to-measure suit and three silk ties – the lucky winner will be pampered and measured at Scabal's headquarters in Brussels, before taking receipt of his superb suit just three weeks later. To enter, all you have to do is send us your answers to the two simple questions below, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to info@togethermedia.eu, labelling your email Scabal Competition. The deadline for all entries is 30th November 2010, when the winner will be selected at random. Good luck!

(i) Where in London is Scabal's flagship store to be found?

a. Bond Street

b. Savile Row

c. Piccadilly Circus

(ii) What is the title of the lead story on www.togethermag.eu today? ☛

*Competition organized under the supervision of a bailiff. Full rules available on request. Organizer: **Together Magazine**, Boulevard Saint-Michel 47, 1040 Brussels.*



DID YOU KNOW?

Scabal fabrics, synonymous with prestige and refinement, are worn by the rich and famous including politicians, businessman, royalty, sport stars and actors such as Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise, Michael Jordan, David Beckham, Robbie Williams, Hosni Mubarak, Vladimir Putin, Barack Obama, Daniel Craig. Scabal has also been used in major motion pictures such as *The Aviator*, *The Tailor of Panama*, *Titanic*, *Casino Royale*, *Men in Black*, *The Untouchables*, *Wall Street* and all three *Godfather* films...

Stars and statesmen

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

Who's been, who's on their way.

MICHEL PLATINI

UEFA President Michel Platini met European Commission Vice-President and Competition Commissioner Joaquín Almunia and Employment, Social Affairs and Social Inclusion Commissioner László Andor in Brussels on 15th September. With Commissioner Almunia, discussions centred on financial fair play and media rights in football, while with Commissioner Andor, Platini focused on the importance of training and protection of minors. Platini said: "I was especially happy to find so much common ground on financial fair play, the protection of minors and the specificity of sport. All the meetings were very productive and encouraging for excellent future co-operation in concrete terms. It was also nice to find fellow football fans at the European Commission!"



VIKTOR YANUKOVICH

Ukraine's newly elected President Viktor Yanukovich visited Brussels on 15th September. During talks with European Commission President José Manuel Barroso, Yanukovich stressed that Ukraine will be a trusted partner for the EU and, concerning the problems with gas delivery, he added: "This will never happen in the history of Ukraine's relations with the EU and Russia."



JOE COCKER

Joe Cocker will play Forest National in Brussels on 12th October – with his inimitable raspy voice, has become a rock 'n' roll monument. Following a three-year break, Joe is back on tour, this time with *Hard Knocks*, his brand-new album produced by Matt Serletic.



SHERYL CROW

Sheryl Crow will also be hitting the Forest National soon, on 19th October. A singer, songwriter and actress, after nearly two decades of acclaimed performances, Crow is once again touring Europe and will follow the capital of Europe with dates in Hamburg and Cologne. 🎸



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“As the soil, however rich it may be, cannot be productive without cultivation, so the mind without culture can never produce good fruit.”

– **Seneca (3BC-65AD)**

Greek philosopher, statesman and dramatist

“Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.”

– **John Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 – 1832)**

German playwright, novelist and dramatist

“Culture: the cry of men in face of their destiny.”

– **Albert Camus (1913 – 1960))**

French-Algerian author and philosopher

“If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him.”

– **John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)**

US President

“Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?”

– **Ernest Gaines (1933-)**

American author

COOL
CULTURE

Jack to a King

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

Methil-born Scottish painter Jack Vettriano (originally Jack Hoggan), he of *The Singing Butler* (1992) and many others, is a modern-day artistic phenomenon, *suis generis*. He takes time out from his busy schedule to talk with *Together*.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: Jack, thank you for taking the time to talk to us. Starting at the beginning: You changed your name quite

early – was there a particular reason for this? Are there any of your earlier ‘non-Vettriano’ works still in circulation?

JV: As people are aware, I am a self-taught artist. I never had the luxury of art school but instead I used to visit my local public gallery, Kirkcaldy Museum & Art Gallery and study the paintings. I doubt the curators can remember a skinny 30 year old with long curly hair and a moustache, but I would visit often and stay for hours to look at the magnificent collection of

paintings of McTaggart and *The Glasgow Boys* trying to work out how they did it. I trained myself to paint by copying other artists. That was how I learned, by copying. I put all these different styles in a pot and

there was a certain alchemy that took place and it created my individual style. I started painting at 21, in 1973, and it wasn't until 1989 that I decided to see if I could make a living and changed my surname – it is my mother's maiden name. It was a way of moving on from my early work and starting fresh. There are probably lots of Hoggans hanging on the walls of the houses in my local town but I haven't kept track of them.

Your latest exhibition, *Days of Wine and Roses*, attracted more than 45,000 visitors in its five-week run – quite a feat. Are there any plans to take it ‘on the road’?

Thank you. I was absolutely thrilled that so many people came out to see it, especially as it was in my home town. *Days of Wine and Roses* will be exhibited in a brand new gallery called ‘Heartbreak’ in London this autumn from 30th September to 31st October.



The Weight
© Jack Vettriano



The Studio 2
© Fredi Marcarini



Left:
Only The
Deepest Red
© Jack Vettriano

Right:
Paintbrushes
© Fredi Marcarini



Sir Terence Conran once compared you favourably to Edward Hopper, for your aptitude for ‘doing something different’. Do you consciously strive for this, or are you still the Jack Vettriano who painted *The Singing Butler* all those years ago? *I paint because I have stories to tell. Painting allows me to be the master of ceremonies, narrator and leading man all at once if I want, or to disappear into the background as the unseen voyeur. I have described my work as “a cross between old railway posters and the covers of pulp fiction novels” and I paint what pleases and moves me. Like any other artist, my style changes and develops over the years. I painted The Singing Butler in 1992 and what inspires me now is very different. I’m very proud of The Singing Butler and how successful it has been but I prefer the interiors work more.*

Despite public acclaim that borders on adoration, the art world and its critics still

don’t seem to ‘get’ what sort of appeal a Vettriano painting has. If the general public can understand it, is there a problem? *I am an outsider in so far as I do not have one connection in the art world. I taught myself to paint in a back room and maybe some critics think that is a bad pedigree. But so be it. I am grateful that the public continue to enjoy my work and that’s it. I think it’s best to take what you get with grace and humility.*

I mentioned *The Singing Butler* earlier. One thing has always puzzled me – the title. Rather than singing, he seems to be cowering from a pretty fierce seaside wind. So why the title? *The couple are dancing but there isn’t a gramophone or string quartet to accompany them. That’s why the butler is singing – he provides the music so they can dance. If you have ever been to Scotland, you’ll know that the wind is fierce but it doesn’t stop you from doing anything!*

‘I DON’T HIDE FROM THE FACT THAT I ONLY PAINT WOMEN WHO I FIND ATTRACTIVE AND MY IDEAL IS BRUNETTE, ABOUT 5FT 4IN WITH SHAPELY LEGS.’

You have been accused – often, it seems – of painting chauvinistic themes, women as playthings for men. I feel that the women have all the power. One of my personal favourites, *Only The Deepest Red*, clearly shows a woman who is

very self-assured. How do you respond to the ‘chauvinist’ tag?

The ‘chauvinist’ tag has always puzzled me because I couldn’t live without women. They are the stronger sex. I’m indebted to them for providing me with inspiration for all my work and I have always sought the company of women over men. This is not purely a sexual endeavour; as companions, they possess a range of qualities that far outweigh those of mere men.

Many of the women in your paintings are of a similar type or stature. Who are your muses?

My muses are friends, lovers and women who have influenced my life. I have always thought it was better to paint a woman in her thirties if only because she has a better grasp of the world I am trying to create. I don’t hide from the fact that I only paint women who I find attractive and my ideal is

brunette, about 5ft 4in with shapely legs. There have been three women whom have played an important role in my life, whom gave me courage, ideas and affection. I don’t find it at all difficult to find models, but that’s very different from a muse. With a model, you have the idea, and then you get them to pose. With a muse it’s more about their personality, life experiences, and that’s when I really start to feel inspired.

What do you think of Banksy’s take on *The Singing Butler* – the one paraphrasing yours with people clearing up nuclear waste in the background? *I was flattered that someone such as Banksy would consider me worthy of attention.*

Many of your early paintings seem to be evocative of a certain era – the 40s and 50s. Was there a reason, or did you just like the ‘feel’ of that era?

I can remember growing up seeing my parents put on their suit and dress and get ready for a night out. The gramophone would be playing and I just thought they were the most glamorous people I had ever seen. It’s probably why I am so keen on the television series Mad Men, because it depicts an era when women still wore stockings every day and knew the power of red lipstick over men.

Lastly, the question we ask of all our respondents: What, would you say, is the secret to your success?

I worked hard, and I must have got the timing right. There’s something about my work that seems to make people engage with it, which is great as I really only ever paint what interests me. I was lucky too that my pictures lend themselves to reproduction. The birthday cards and posters have given me exposure to a vast audience – including top-level collectors – who might never have heard of me otherwise. 🍷

www.jackvettriano.com

Days of Wine
and Roses
© Jack Vettriano



Stéphane Ratel: The driving force

WRITER: JAMES DREW

Together's editors Colin Moors and James Drew had the privilege of an exclusive invitation to Spa Francorchamps over the summer, to witness a new racing phenomenon, the FIA GT1 World Championship.

French entrepreneur and CEO of SRO Motorsports Group, Stéphane Ratel, 46, the long-time promoter of GT racing, has devoted the past year to the creation of a new world championship, which evolved from the European-based FIA GT Championship and was launched in Paris on 1st March. Colin and I were there, on 30th July and 1st

'AS A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, WE WANT TO VISIT THE WORLD'

Stéphane about his plans for the future of racing. As a backdrop to our discussions, Stéphane had announced on 30th July the latest target markets for the FIA GT1 World Championship calendar, and the

prospect of a new brand joining the starting grid in 2011.

Discussions are advanced with promoters in North America and China to host a round of the series – that would take GT1 racing to five continents around the globe – Asia/Middle East, Europe, North America, Africa and South America.

"Our main objective is to continue the globalization of the championship," Ratel explained. "As a world championship, we want to visit the world. We want to bring the championship to the biggest markets, the fastest-expanding markets and all of the main markets such as the US. Next year, we are making a priority of taking GT1 to North America, and we have excellent contacts in the US and Canada.

"Our second market, the fastest growing market on the planet, is China. We have extremely good contacts in China and we are working hard to take the championship there.

"We believe that most of our existing events will continue, but in the future it is no secret that we will reduce the number of events in Europe in order to have more events overseas."

Take it away, Stéphane!



© FIA GT1

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: First of all, Stéphane, thank you for the extraordinary opportunity of joining your race meeting here today.

With the GT1's approval by the FIA, how do you think it will compete with Formula One racing?

SR: Well, Formula One is already at such a level, we cannot pretend that we will be

competing with it, but we are also in the process of promoting the cars themselves, the luxury brands that participate in GT1, but which are nevertheless brands that people feel are more accessible than Formula One vehicles. In addition, of course, we want to provide great entertainment, the cars are very balanced performers, so it's very competitive, and comes down completely to the

skill of the drivers. That is what I believe will appeal to enthusiasts – a lot of action and the short format.

You've also spoken about making your championship far more 'media friendly' – could you explain this in a little more detail?

Well, again, we can't pretend that we will be able to compete with Formula One in terms of coverage, we're obviously not going to be shown on the BBC for a while, but we are developing the possibilities of being on French sports channels, and working as much as we can with new media, making sure that we have as much live coverage as is possible on the

internet – we are the 'luxury sports brand' of motor racing, so we want to bring our concept to as many potential buyers as possible, as well as attracting youngsters with interactive video games and so on.

So, your aim would be to stress the fact that, although these are obviously supreme vehicles, there is nevertheless a greater level of accessibility to them, yes?

Yes, well, GT1 is a concept where we blended the clarity of Formula One, the shorter format, and the balanced performance of the vehicles, so there is no technical competition, it's simply up to the drivers to win!

Stéphane, I think it's fair to say that we are both somewhat envious of the fact that you probably have the best life in the world. Together's standard question, to finish – what would you say are the secrets of your success?

Yes, well, I love my life, there is no doubt about that! [laughs] It isn't perhaps as rewarding financially as it might be, as outside Formula One there isn't a lot of money, but it's an incredibly exciting environment, no question. Like everything else in life, my success has come with sticking with something that I am convinced is good and worthwhile, and not letting any doubts hold any dominion over me. What else can I say?

Not much to add, indeed, except to urge our readers to watch out for Stéphane and FIA GT1 – they'll be tearing round a corner near you very soon, we have no doubt. ☺

www.total24hours.com
www.gt1world.com

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What dreams may come?

WRITER: PAUL STUMP



Together's Mission Statement? 'Inspiring You To Reach Your Dreams'. But the concept of 'living the dream' has changed dramatically in recent years, as our writer explains.

DREAMS – WHAT SORT OF BEEF CAN ANYONE HAVE WITH DREAMS?

ability to vulgarly spend ("I'm going to spend, spend, spend!") a fabulous windfall (in a still grubbily post-austerity UK) that was popularly referred to as 'beyond one's wildest dreams'?

British-born readers of a certain age might remember the brassy blonde Yorkshire housewife Viv Nicholson, the Premium Bonds winner in 1963, who famously gloried in her

Who could, try as one might, forget Robbie Williams, in accents of purest Stoke-on-Trent, reacting to his signature of a particularly remunerative recording contract, with the hollered words: 'I'm rich! Rich beyond my wildest dreams!' And for many decades, before the 'credit crunch' was even a phrase, dreams were principally those of material avarice. Whatever, dreams were a big deal. But now they may have become just too big a deal in what passes for the adult world of today.

WEARING WORDS

Take the very word dreams. The British author, broadcaster and cultural critic Jonathan Meades, one of the most acute and scathing observers of our time, put it best in an article for *Intelligent Life* magazine in the spring of 2009: "Words are as subject to fashion as morals and lapels, politics and popular music. Today's merely tiresome coinage is tomorrow's infuriatingly ubiquitous cliché. Journalese thrives on cliché. It is the jargon of the linguistically insentient whose job is to smother page upon page with words. And there are more pages than ever, and more screens, and thus more marginally literate word-operatives struggling to smother them. Where would they be without the following, the props of their desperate trade? Genius, guru, hub, legend, driver (meaning cause), challenging, controversial... and the newly transitive verbs to impact, to source. Where, above all, would they be without iconic?"



To this litany of (over)usages I would add dreams. Dreams have been a part of human written and spoken discourse since the first

'REACHING FOR YOUR DREAMS' HAS BECOME AS CATCHPENNY AND CLICHÉD A USAGE AS 'AT THE END OF THE DAY'

greatest artistic endeavours in history might have remained unmade without them, whether as inspiration or subject matter.

caveman realized that he had a subconscious, and that it played weird tricks on him in his sleep. Martin Amis, in his novel *Money*, describes the way that sleep "pulls the wool over your eyes in that deceitful way it has". Sigmund Freud might have remained an anonymous Viennese doctor without them, and a substantial portion of the

One thinks of Philip K Dick's sci-fi fable *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* (which became Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*), or the sublime scene in Wagner's 1810 opera *Lohengrin* where the heroine, Elsa von Brabant, dreams of rescue by the titular knight errant, who duly arrives in a boat pulled by a swan. Dreams – what sort of beef can anyone have with dreams? They are simple things; as Freud explains, they are the projection of unconscious wishes and fantasies onto the subconscious during sleep; harmless and quite natural. One may as well rail against gravity. In the Middle Ages, they distrusted dreams and dreamers – a real-life Elsa might have been accused of witchery and dragged off to the stake.



Viv Nicholson,
the Premium Bonds winner in 1963

IGNORANCE AND INFANTILISM

However, this writer's plaint is not against dreams or the idea of dreams – rather, the way in which the word has undergone that change and the way they have become the shopsoiled currency of some of humanity's less appealing 21st-century traits of acquisitiveness and mass ignorance and infantilism. 'Reaching for your dreams' has become as catchpenny and clichéd a usage as 'at the end of the day'. Tellingly, French has no such problem; 'reve' retains its place in the language now much as it did a century ago. Likewise with the Flemish 'Droom' and the German 'Traum'. To reduce 'dreams' to a linguistic cliché is idle; to believe in them, as one might a fairy tale – the two are often compared – is dangerous. Believing in dreams to reap benefits is, or should be, a fallacy we leave behind with the nursery literature of "wizards, friendly dragons, sentient heavenly bodies, anthropomorphic trains and other characters not subject to the rules of narrative causality" as noted in a particularly funny post, 'You Can Be Anything You Want', in the 4th June 2003 issue of the online satirical newspaper, *The Onion*. Here, we see dreams as

appropriated by the language and thought-processes of the aspirational obsessions of late capitalism, which seeks to render as irrelevant real-life obstacles to success (famine, flood, leveraged buy-outs) as irrelevant in the face of apparently limitless individual capacities.

More and more people, however, if the words of talent-show winners and athletes are to be believed, are still buying into this complex; which has this writer dreaming fondly but perhaps vainly of a day when the world grows up.

Paul Stump is a professional writer and critic specializing in the arts and contemporary issues. He has worked for BBC Radio and written for *The Guardian*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Time Out*, *New Statesman*, *Harpers & Queen* and other magazines and newspapers. He has appeared on BBC4 and his first book, *The Music's All That Matters*, is republished by Harbour Books later this year. ☺



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DRESS TO IMPRESS

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Ostrich-feather dress:
SONIA RYKIEL



Total look:
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Bracelet:
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Dress:
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Bracelet:
MAÏS IL EST OU LE SOLEIL?

Tights, Falke Shoes:
GEOX



DRESS TO IMPRESS



Total look:
PAULE KA



Body Puma:
RUDOLF DASSLER

Trousers:
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Bag:
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Boots:
IKKS

DRESS TO IMPRESS



Ostrich-feather dress:
SONIA RYKIEL



Dress:
PAULE KA
Bracelet:
TWICE IS NICE
Pochette:
FILIPPA K
Shoes:
ROBERT CLERGERIE



Total look:
MAIS IL EST OU LE SOLEIL?



Dress:
PAULE KA

Big Apple Belges

WRITER: DELPHINE STEFENS

Our fashion diva reports.

The Mercedes-Benz New York Fashion Week may have moved from Bryant Park to Lincoln Center, but some things remained unchanged, such as Diane von Furstenberg's usual slot. The Belgian-American designer's Goddess Spring Collection 2011 was inspired by Isadora Duncan and was as fresh, classic and feminine as ever. Von Furstenberg has always been about female power and freedom and therefore aims for clothes that are easy to wear and move in.

Besides the never-out-of-style combination of black and white, the palette includes shades of camel, tobacco, khaki and grey contrasted with a wide range of colors such as indigo blue, key-lime green, brick

red or purple. The prints are bold and geometric. The fabrics are light and soft and come in variations of silk, jersey and crêpe. Bottoms come in various lengths, high-waisted and cropped at the ankle or, for the brave goddess in you, hot pants.

'FUN YET FEMININE'

Jumpsuits are still fashionable and surprisingly stylish at DVF.

Indeed, a favourite look may very well be the clever evolution of the wrap dress into



© Marc Tops

a wrap jumpsuit and, of course plenty of 'fun yet feminine' dresses for both day and night time. Regarding the latter, next summer, a goddess's wardrobe may not be complete without a gold silk lamé gown or a black silk plissé goddess wrap.

La Cambre Mode(s) and Modo Brussels's travelling exhibition celebrating Brussels fashion wrapped up in mid-September to travel from New York to Shanghai.

The show, supported by Brussels Export, featured designs from La Cambre's students as well as established designers such as Annemie Verbeke, Carine Gilson, Cathy Pill, Isabelle Lenfant, Jessie Lecomte, Sandrina Fasoli and Christophe Coppens. The latter is best-known for his custom-made millinery cherished by both celebrities and royalty. His Birdman-Birdwoman winter 2010-2011 collection debuted at Droog New York, and is as elegant as it is original. The truly fabulous fashion accessories inspired by exotic birds include wool and felt hats, velvet caps, woven silk scarves, necklaces and brooches which add that *je ne sais quoi* to create a perfect look. The collection is also on display until 17th October at Droog Amsterdam.





© By2 photographers

GO-GO DELVEAUX!

In this *Mad Men*-inspired fashion era, a perfect look also requires a perfect handbag. Barneys New York is now the exclusive carrier of Delvaux in the US, the finest luxury leather goods. Barneys, which also carries Ann Demeulemeester, Maison Martin Margiela and Dries Van Noten, has one window on the corner of Madison Avenue and 61st Street entirely devoted to the expert craftsmanship of the warrant holder to the Court of Belgium. Inside, four elegant showcase displays on the main floor prominently exhibit classics from the Heritage Collection such as the Givry of 1977, the Tempête of 1967 or the Brillant of 1958 in an beautiful oversized and supple edition. One may be so mesmerized by the beauty of it all that a saleswoman is likely to seem the siren and her sales pitch the siren's song. Stay tuned for more enchanting fashion news! ☺



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Scent of a woman

Emily DiDonato is the dazzling, flashing-eyed beauty who was chosen by Giorgio Armani to represent his new fragrance, Acqua Di Gioia – she talks to *Together*.



Emily DiDonato, 19, is an American model of Irish and Italian ancestry who grew up in a small town in Orange County in upstate New York. After a family friend encouraged her to pursue modelling, she signed with Request Model Management in 2008 and booked jobs as the face of Guess for spring 2009, and was a model in Ralph Lauren's 'Rugby' spring 2009 campaign. Prior to the 2009 New York Fashion Week, Vogue Germany dubbed her 'top newcomer' then, during 2010, she has become the face of Giorgio Armani's new fragrance.

Together: So, how does it feel to be the woman chosen by Giorgio Armani to represent his new fragrance, Emily?

ED: I'm really excited about this as Mr. Armani is a legend in the fashion industry and his fragrances are world famous. In fact I really felt it was an honour to be chosen for this role.

How would you describe it?

Acqua di Gioia means 'Water of Joy' in Italian, and that is how I feel about the fragrance – that wearing it is a joyful experience. It makes me feel energized and so full of life.

What does a women's fragrance represent for you?

Fragrances are really special things. They can change the way you feel about yourself. They are like an outfit – you put one on and it makes you feel a certain way. Women develop deep relationships with their fragrances too. A favourite fragrance is a very personal thing that can become a real part of your character.

In which way you think to reflect the concept of this fragrance?

Acqua di Gioia is all about nature and sensuality. It's also about femininity. When we were doing the shoot, we were in a fantastic natural setting by the sea and I really felt free and alive.





Which note of this fragrance represents you best?

Acqua di Gioia is very fresh yet deep – and that's definitely me. I like to think I'm a little mysterious!

Which was the moment of the shooting when you really felt to be part of this project and the concept of the fragrance?

When I was walking through the forest, it was extremely humid – misty, almost – and it felt like being in another dimension. I felt completely at one with nature and completely uninhibited. It was a great feeling.

Check out Emily DiDonato's starring role, and learn more about *Together's* special collaboration with Armani, at www.togethertmag.eu

www.giorgioarmaniparfums.com

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The pleasure of anticipation

WRITER: BELLE DE BRUXELLES

Our new columnist, Belle de Bruxelles, laments the lost art of keeping something back.

Remember the butterflies in your stomach, a flutter of dread and hope, when you made that phone call, asking your crush on a first date? Followed by the anxiety mixed with excitement of where to go and what to wear and that wonderful moment when the day arrives and you see each other again.

and would never have considered such a move in the sober light of day.

I had my eye on a guy for several months. When we finally got chatting at a party, one margarita after another heralded an all too early start to the passion (read drunken fumble), killing off any chance of romance even though he too, I was reliably informed, had admired me from afar.

How different it would have been if we had only talked and ended the evening arranging a first date. No embarrassment the next day; only the anticipation of what was yet to come. How many other requited passions and yet unrequited romances are there out there?

DISCRETION AND DARING

On the date itself, there's no need to be deliberately mysterious (that's just annoying and tedious). But there's also no need to spill out your life story, talk up your achievements, discuss previous partners or your penchant for, could we say, more exotic styles of love-making.

I've spent evenings with men desperate to impress (one even tried to tell me he had produced some films; turned out he had chucked a few bucks at an amateur video), men who bring their emotional baggage from their evil exes and those who bluntly ask to spend the night together.

I saw a young couple out on their first date recently. The nervous, shy glances, the hands moving towards each other after conversation and perhaps some wine had been flowing, and the happiness glowing in their faces that, for the object of their desires, the feeling was mutual.

NEVER WHEN SOBER?

Yet the reality is that many relationships start (or most likely never get off the ground) with the easier route of an alcohol-fuelled night. No risk there. You can always claim if your advance is rejected you were drunk

One of the most beautiful dates I ever had was with a fellow journalist who I saw sporadically at press conferences. We went out for a drink and when we reached his metro stop, which was just before mine, he pecked me on the lips, blushed and dived out of the carriage.

I felt like Liesel in *The Sound of Music* (1965) when the telegram boy finally kisses her before darting off in a similar style. That total 'whoopie' moment of 'he actually likes me' was worth a thousand passionate, raunchy kisses. It also told me he was nervous and didn't want to risk pushing me.

FOR ME, HAVING A DEEP EMOTIONAL BOND THAT GROWS OUT OF FRIENDSHIP AND PASSION IS THE MAGIC COMBINATION

When I finally met my husband, I swear it was only the expectation that kept me going. We could talk all evening about everything and nothing, usually prompting knowing winks between our friends, and yet we didn't even reach the hand-holding stage by the end of our first date.

But I knew I wanted more and not because I like the chase (and who doesn't? Men, you are not the only ones who like a challenge) but because in the time we had spent getting to know each

other, I could see there was potential for that rare mix of love required for a long-term relationship.

SIX DEGREES OF ATTRACTION

According to psychologist John Lee, there are six categories of love: the passionate kind of Eros; the conquest love of Ludus; Storge, which grows out of friendship; Pragma, a love driven by need; Mania (yes, think Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction* (1987); and altruistic love known as Agape.

Scientists say that men have a tendency towards the playful love of Ludus whereas women look more for friendship and are pragmatic. For me, having a deep emotional bond that grows out of friendship and passion is the magic combination.

But as well as using those early days to find out more about each other before the 'can't-keep-your-hands-off-each-other' phase, there's so much excitement in waiting, albeit a painstaking wait at times. As one friend put it, "the not quite knowing is torture but it makes you feel alive".

In the words of Thomas Hardy's female protagonist in his novel *The Return of the Native* when she finds herself unexpectedly alone on the moors with her lover: "Pleasure not known beforehand is half wasted; to anticipate it is to double it." 🍷



Positive returns

WRITER: NATASHA ABUDARHAM

Summer was over before it started, your holidays are never long enough and Christmas has already reared its head – and it's only just turned October. Your head is down for the next two-and-a-half months, and you're not sure you can last that long. Here at *Together*, we understand. Not convinced? Read on.

I know the feeling all too well. But, there's something about autumn that sets the tone for new beginnings and I like to look at September as though it's the start of a new year. This means setting myself up for success and getting off on the right foot. Here are some great tips to help you re-invent your autumn and lift your spirits before the new year really is on your doorstep.

THIS MOMENT IS THE ONLY MOMENT YOU KNOW YOU HAVE FOR SURE, SO ENJOY IT, HAVE FUN AND SPEND TIME DOING WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU

Having a morning routine will stand you in good stead for anything that comes at you

during the day. Wake up in plenty of time to include a short walk, stretching or time at the gym. Give yourself enough time to sit down and have breakfast in a relaxed fashion. So many people rush this part of the day and wonder why the rest of the day ends up the same. Be smart, and set yourself up for success.

FOCUS, FOCUS

Plan your focused sessions the night before, so you are ready to get to it as soon as you get to the office. Work in 50-minute increments, focusing your time on one thing. Make sure you have no disturbances, no emails and that your phone is switched off. Set your alarm and work diligently for 50 minutes, stop as soon as you hear the alarm and don't finish what you are doing. Take a break for ten minutes, move out of your office, go for a walk, grab a drink. Follow this with another focused session for 50 minutes, then take your next break - this time for 30 minutes. Keep going like this and you'll get more done in a day than most get done in a week. And you'll soon notice that being a busy fool is far too time consuming and demotivating.

HONOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & RELAXATION

Work is work and home time is home time. You owe it to yourself, your family and friends to have a break from work when you're not there. It's important that you allow yourself to switch off.

BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR MORNING



When you're on your deathbed, you're not likely to wish you had spent more time at work. This moment is the only moment you know you have for sure, so enjoy it, have fun and spend time doing what matters most to you.

TAKE 21 DAYS

You might be surprised at how much time is spent during the day focusing on criticism, blame and gossip and how it drains you of energy. It is believed to take 21 days to change a habit. This means you do the same thing every day for 21 days. If you miss a day, then you have to start again. This is probably going to be one of the hardest challenges you could set yourself, but the rewards will be well worth it.

No criticism, no gossip, no blame, in fact no negative language at all, at home and at work. This means no complaining to others and no complaining to yourself. During this time, take a really good look at yourself and allow that new positive energy to come into the space that used to be filled with negativity.

MAKE YOUR OFFICE YOURS

Pictures on the wall, a cushion on your chair, flowers on the table. Keep it tidy and organized, a place that motivates you and inspires you. When you're in a space that makes you feel good, your energy levels rise and your head becomes clearer, making way for more focus, motivation and inspiration. ☺

Nutrition: What you need to know

WRITER: LUCAS KOHLBERG

Many of us do our regular cardio exercises or push weights and the results are coming, but not fast enough. So, what are we doing wrong?



Basically, losing or maintaining bodyweight when working out comes down to your intake of calories (Kcal). If you consume more Kcal than your body burns, you will gain bodyweight. If you consume fewer Kcal than your body burns, you will lose bodyweight.

There are diets that tell you what to eat and what not to eat, but what is really important is to

understand the facts about the three macro-nutrients. First, the **carbohydrates**, the energy for your mind and body. Examples are pasta, rice, potatoes, bread, fruits. Second, **proteins**; your building blocks - such as chicken, meat, fish, milk and eggs. Third: **fats**, also a source of energy (olive oil, butter, nuts and avocados, for example). You need all three macro nutrients to function properly, but the key question is how much of each and when to eat them.

SIMPLER THAN IT SOUNDS

Depending on your goals, you can estimate how much of each you will need. It might sound a bit complicated at first, but stay with me. Find out your basal metabolic rate (BMR) – there are many good metabolic rate calculators that will tell you how much you burn every day. Let's take myself as an example: I am 35 years old, weigh 90 kilos and do five 60-minute training sessions every week. Remember, the more active you are, the more Kcal you burn. If I do a test, my metabolic-rate result is around 2400 Kcal. If I want to increase my bodyweight I should eat 250-400 Kcal more each day. If I want to lose bodyweight I should eat around 250 to 500 fewer Kcal each day. If I want to maintain my weight, I need to eat around 2400 Kcal per day.

My current aim is to lose five kilos, so I need to learn what my type of food contains in term of Kcal. Take two to three weeks to learn about food and Kcal, then you can always do a rough estimation. Keep your meals balanced and varied, and you can't go wrong.

THE RIGHT BALANCE

If you like your carbohydrates (which most of us do) take 60 per cent of your total Kcal per day, add 25 per cent from protein and 15 per cent from fat or choose from 40 per cent carbs, 40 per cent protein and 20 per cent fat. You can play around with the carbs and protein but try not to eat more than 30 per cent fat. If you want to lose weight make sure you get carbohydrates that give you long term energy like oats, rice, pasta, couscous, high-bran cereals and wholegrain bread. For optimum health, select a wide variety of vegetables and fruits. This helps to ensure an adequate intake of vitamins and minerals.

Another important thing is also to take in the carbohydrates earlier in the day (breakfast, lunch) when you need energy and focus more on protein with salad and vegetables in the evening when you need less energy.

WHAT ABOUT ALCOHOL?

One bottle of wine is around 750 Kcal, a litre of beer is around 350 Kcal. If you really want to lose weight, sorry, but you should not drink more than a couple of glasses per week. Your Kcal should come from regular food to give you the necessary energy and building blocks.

REMEMBER:

- 1. Nutrition is as important as your workout to get in shape. Pay equal attention to both.**
- 2. The main thing is to eat what you like, but to keep it balanced and depending on your goals, keep the portions more or less right. If you eat lean you can eat much more each day without exceeding your daily Kcal level.**
- 3. You need all three macro-nutrients, but have a good breakfast and lunch with a higher proportion of carbs, but reverse in the second part of the day. ☺**



The pursuit of 'app'-iness

WRITER: COLIN MOORS

Our man goes mobile with his Apple.



I am a hardcore geek, and I fully understand how divisive this is going to be, so for all the anti-Apple readers, I will be extolling the virtues of the best and brightest applications for Android mobile devices next time, so no death threats, please. Here is a roundup of some useful and maybe fun applications for the iPod, iPhone or iPad (or all three). All are free, so feel free to try them out on a no-risk basis.

FACEBOOK

If you don't at least *know* what Facebook is, you should probably hand back your mobile device and buy a Filofax. The Facebook mobile app is very much what you'd see on your computer screen, but by necessity a little more compact. You can update your status, post inane trivia about your cat/child/car or whatever the latest object of your adoration is and generally

mess around as you would at work, but with the benefit of being able to post a status like 'Me and Sherpa Tensing are, like, sooo at the top of Everest, lol ;-)'.

GOOGLE MOBILE APP

As you would expect from Google, this is a tight and tidy little app that does huge things. Behind the subtle blue button is a raft of the applications you'll know and love. If you don't yet know and love them, there's a very real possibility you soon will. Naturally, Google's famous search is there, but some of the other components are as useful, if not more so. Read your mail, check and edit your online documents, look up you friends' addresses and see a picture of their house and directions to it. There's also voice search, task lists, an RSS news feed reader, a translator and much more, all at the low, low price of zero.

SKYPE

Good old Skype – a personal favourite. All the features of the desktop version appear to be here. Skype, for the uninitiated, is an app that allows you to make calls to others who have Skype installed for free. Wherever they are in the world, if they have Skype and a connection to the internet, the call is free. If they haven't got Skype, you can call their land lines or mobiles at some very attractive rates. Provided you can hook up to a decent Wi-Fi link or similar, the sound and call quality is very good, and the only downside is that if you are an iPod user, you'll need to get a set of headphones with a built-in mic, or walk around looking like Uhura with your Bluetooth earpiece. Skype will also handle free calls over 3G, but do check your operator's data rates before making that 2-hour call to your beloved from Minsk.

METRO

From the industry heavyweights to one I have kept in my possession since the early days of the HP Pocket PC. Metro is the brainchild of a couple of guys in France. A simple idea, but so well executed, you'll wonder what you ever did without it. Metro

gives directions for metropolitan public transport systems – some 400 different cities worldwide at the last count. After installing the app in the usual fashion, simply connect it via 3G, Wi-Fi, EDGE or whatever and grab the data file for whatever city you happen to be in. Not only can you go from stop to stop, but they also include sites of interest. If you ask it how to get from Schuman roundabout here in Brussels to the Atomium, it'll give you directions to the nearest transport stop and will also provide a list of attractions nearby. All for free.

EVERNOTE

Here's one you may also never have heard of. Bear in mind, also, that this is still an essentially free app, but there is a 'premium' version that allows you to synchronize various file formats to your device too. My pro tip is to keep Evernote free and use Dropbox (www.dropbox.com) for your files. Evernote will keep notes for you. Sounds dull, but it'll keep them in picture, voice or good old text format and synchronize them all automatically when you next attach your device to your computer. Simple as that. ☺





In need of inspiration?

This month on www.togethmag.eu

20

Exclusive winter weekend
getaway ideas

10

Most **beautiful** Belgian
men & women

5

Reasons Brussels is not boring

1

New website you cannot
afford to miss

Hotel Negresco: Mythical luxury

WRITER: ARMAND RICHELET-KLEINBERG

Perhaps France's most renowned luxury hotel, Negresco must be seen to be believed.

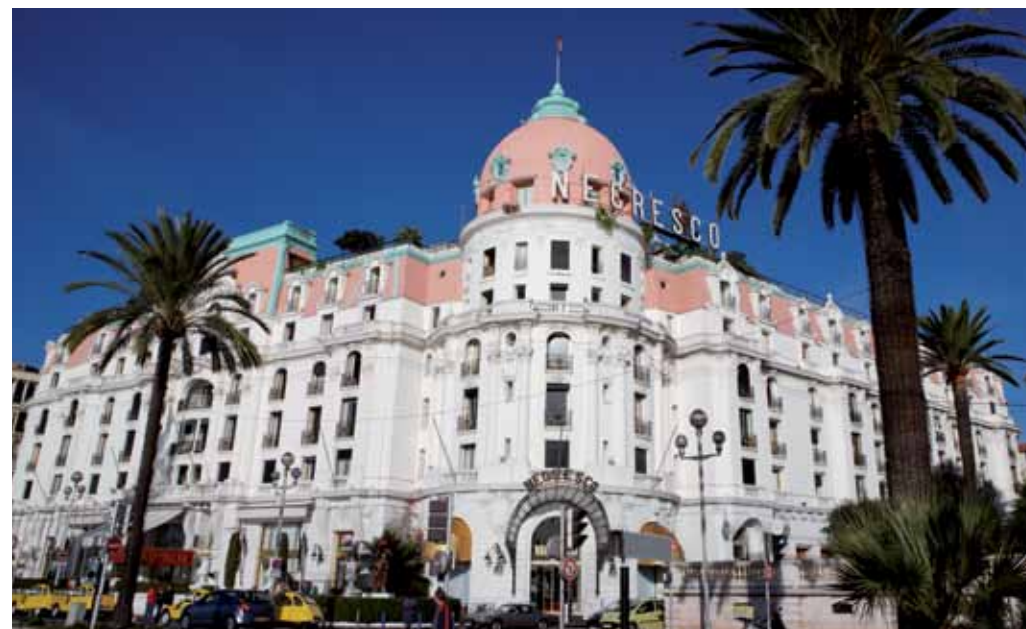


It was at the beginning of July 2010 in Nice, and I was fortunate enough to have been invited to the reopening of the recently renovated Hotel Negresco. Champagne goblet in hand, with the compliments of the hotel's owner, Madame Jeanne d'Augier, I settled back in a chair dating back to Louis XV, to enjoy the evening.

To be found "between the sky and the Mediterranean" Hotel Negresco was first opened in 1912 in Nice. Its immaculate white brickwork is the pride of the Niçois and the delight of its many distinguished visitors over the years, including Jeanne Moreau, Edith Piaf, Jean Cocteau, Charlie Chaplin and Queen Elizabeth II. If Negresco is renowned for its superb architecture and its wonderful receptions, it owes its legend, glamour and heart to its mistress and owner Jeanne d'Augier. Her secret? Generosity of spirit.

ABOUNDING WITH ART

The de luxe hotel abounds with numerous masterpieces that its owner simply wished to share with her clients - thus, you may contemplate the works of artists such as Dali, Nike, Moretti and Sosno in refined privacy, with more than five centuries of art




spread among the hundreds of draped tableaux that decorate the walls.

The hotel's fifth floor was rebuilt during its recent restoration, and reorganized in order to offer more space, more luxury and more pleasure. Madame d'Augier has herself designed a very modern decor and equipped Negresco's rooms with the latest technological advances, allowing guests to enjoy a sensual bath at the perfect temperature between cocktails and dinner.

GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

But let us return to the official reception and, with Romany, traditional and jazz music forming the backdrop to the evening's culinary wonders, allow me to impart a little secret - Madame d'Augier's family only acquired the Negresco originally because the lift shaft of the establishment corresponded exactly to her invalid mother's wheelchair dimensions. Sounds strange? Not when you understand that Madame d'Augier's concerns are for the well-being of every guest.

We're some way distant from the artificiality found in some large hotel chains. Every customer is treated first as an individual,

second as a friend. As I told you, generosity is Madame d'Augier's secret, and it is for that very reason she has bequeathed Hotel Negresco to philanthropic organizations. To enjoy Together's visit to this superb hotel, the gala evening and interviews with Madame d'Augier and other dignitaries, go to www.togethmag.eu 

Hôtel Negresco

Promenade des Anglais, 37
06000 Nice

T. +33 (0)4 9316 6400

www.hotel-negresco-nice.com



Hôtel la Pérouse: Calming, charming

WRITER: ARMAND RICHELET-KLEINBERG



How would you enjoy celebrating the 150th anniversary of Nice staying in a hotel with decor that could inspire a novel and peerless cuisine? Yes? Then allow us to guide you to Hôtel la Pérouse – the ideal destination for the epicurean and the contemplative traveller.

To be found near Nice's beautiful beaches with incredible panoramic views, Hôtel la Pérouse offers comfort and facilities to restore both body and mind.

HEAVENLY STAY

Decorated in a charming, delicate fashion, the rooms, in which every morning is like Sunday morning, are a real treat for those who love snatching 40 winks, with their large, soft pillows filled with real feathers. The hotel has also every facility to make your stay heavenly; from its swimming pool beneath a cliff, a Jacuzzi and summer garden to its charming restaurant, with a menu that could have been designed by Marcel Pagnol, such is its Provençal feel. If you love seafood, it's impossible not to find a restaurant that you will love in Nice. Most importantly, the hotel staff are very charming and attentive - a priceless luxury these days - and that's why the hotel is filled, year in, year out, with clients who return. Thus, in la Pérouse, there is a cordial, family atmosphere which is never intrusive. Does the name of the hotel and its decor perhaps evoke voyages and adventure? You are not mistaken - Jean-François La Pérouse is an adventurer about whom the book *Voyage Around the World By Astrolabe and Compass* was written, so you are in the company of greats. 📍

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A marvel in Marabella

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR



Situated in the beautiful coastal region of Marabella in the south of Spain, Hotel Meliá La Quinta Golf & Spa offers a luxurious and relaxing getaway destination.

Located just next to Malaga airport, the hotel provides an ideal opportunity for a quick break, especially for golf enthusiasts.

GOLF HEAVEN

There are three 9-hole courses that comprise the Golf & Country Club. The courses cover a wide range of skill levels, with San Pedro (course A) slightly less challenging than Guadaiza (course C), which is in turn slightly less challenging than course B, Ronda. Narrow fairways and challenging greens punctuate the Ronda course that's enclosed by luxurious

Spanish homes. The less experience might try their hand at the two additional courses, which feature more open fairways and shorter holes. The golf course also provides tuition from former European Tour member Manuel Piñero, whose accomplishments include several appearances in prestigious events such as the Ryder Cup.

SPA AND AWAY

And golf isn't all that the resort offers – Hotel Meliá's spa, influenced by Arabic and Andalusian traditions in the area, offers a wide array of amenities and activities, featuring more than eight treatment rooms, a Mediterranean sauna, aromatic steam room, cascade and sensorial showers, hydrotherapy pool and a manicure-pedicure room. For even more pampering, the spa also offers eye and lip care, aromatic body scrub and an extensive list of massage services including: hot stone massages, luxury full body massages and Mediterranean Aromasoul ritual massages. As if that wasn't enough, the spa accommodates guests for an assortment of skin care services like lifts and mud wraps.

So, whether it's a refreshing break on the links, or indulging in the luxuries of spa treatment, Hotel Meliá is an ideal, relaxing destination. 🍷

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Silver sailing

WRITER: JÉRÔME STÉFANSKI



The swimming pool on board Silver Spirit, the flagship of Silversea's fleet

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FACT: HOW SURREAL

A replica of Salvador Dali's favourite holiday spot, and one which he lived near for much of his life – Cadaqués – is to be recreated, complete with a replica of his home, a converted fisherman's cottage with a huge egg sculpture. The developers intend to begin work this month or next on the natural coastline of Xiamen Bay, chosen for its similarities to the Spanish coastline. The idea, apparently, is to recreate the whole town, right down to the whitewashed buildings, the narrow streets and the small flotilla of boats in the bay. The aim of this grand undertaking is to allow the Chinese to 'experience Spain and its culture' without having to endure the long haul flight.

FIGURE: 15,000

That's how many holidaymakers the town is expected to accommodate. If that wasn't surreal enough, there's already a city called Dali in China.

REPORTAGE

Coin of the realm?

WRITER: CILLIAN DONNELLY

The euro, the EU's common currency, is nothing if not contentious. Since its inception, it has provoked controversy – about the loss of sovereignty, the limits of pan-nationalism, and the limits of an independent monetary system. Together examines its past, present and future.

For integrationists, it is the ultimate expression of international co-operation, for Eurosceptics it is nothing less than conclusive proof that the EU is intent on the complete eradication of the nation state.

The euro was conceived as part of the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, and finally circulated ten years later in 12 member states (plus some dependents, such as Monaco and the Vatican). Since then, six more member states have joined the club, with Estonia due in January 2011.

INSURGENCY OR INSULATION?

Those who are opposed to the single currency – and that opposition comes from both the left and right – point to the fact that important economic decisions are taken by the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt (another bugbear for the British contingent); and it is true that the ECB has a restrictive impact on national finance ministries, but the counter argument remains that an independent financial institution insulates currency markets from political upheaval, should it erupt.

The main argument for the euro is that it allows goods and services to transfer easily between borders; perhaps best typified by the argument that internal European holidaying would from now on be done with ease, no fiddly currency exchanges in the same way there would be no more border check points. Currency exchange rates and fluctuations would now be a thing of the past, as investment in a neighbouring country would effectively be the same thing as investing at home, but with the added benefit of a new market expansion.

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This sounds idyllic, but not everyone is convinced. When the 2008 financial crisis kicked in, the demise of the single currency was gleefully predicted by cynics. It was easy, they said; Italy could go back to the lira with the minimum of fuss, citing the example of the Czech-Slovak currency split. Since then, economic collapses in Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain have added to the hand-rubbing fervour.

CHANGING FORTUNES

Over the summer, however, the European economy has picked up somewhat; Greece remains a worry, but Portugal has picked up and German growth is on the rise. EU intervention in economic affairs seems to be justified; those much-vaunted austerity packages appeared to have worked.

But those austerity packages, in reality a diktat on how individual countries can manage budgets, public spending and labour relations, miss out on the individuality of their respective targets, each EU member state has grown up in different circumstances with different

political cultures and economic governance traditions. How can a centralized body manage all these disparate elements?

PERFORMANCE PRESSURE

At this juncture, the EU is confident that its economic policy, largely endorsed by its members, can stave off a major financial collapse. But with holdouts such as Sweden and the UK – the former cautiously eying Denmark's on-off stance, the latter refusing to bail out participants in a currency system itself refuses to be a part of – frustrating the European ideal of a complete single currency (as well as a strengthened global reserve currency) the centralized powers cannot be wholly confident right now.

Imposed budget cuts and new powers of scrutiny may pressure the euro into a certain kind of functionality, but with upward growth by no means guaranteed in the coming months, and with civil unrest increasingly turning towards economic overlords, European leaders must surely be aware that the omnipotence of the euro is far from assured. ☹

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With apologies to Lewis Carroll

WRITER: GRAHAM REID

Our financial expert is worryingly poetic upon his return, but his advice is still very sound.

"You are old, father Graham," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white
And yet you incessantly leap out of bed
To come to work – even at night?"

"In my youth," said the sage, and he shook his grey locks
"I spent all I earned in a trice
Slow horses, fast women, Italian socks –
It really was naughty but nice."

"Did you save for the future?" the young man asked,
"And what was the system selected?"
"Did you save for your pension and had you a plan
To be sure that your rights were protected?"

"I believed all they told me," his father replied
"I trusted my banker no end."
"Until his ideas became sales – not advice –
And my confidence gradually waned."

"But when did you change" the young man asked
"And did it all happen at once?"

"A flash of perception, investment deception?"
"Or did it come only by chance?"

"The things I now know were not quickly acquired,"
Said his father "I learned through mistake,"
That portfolio balance is really the thing
To limit the risks that you take."

"I now have a plan to spread it around,
And diversify up to the hilt."
"I don't want to risk a new stock-market crash
That will wipe out the nest-egg I've built."

"So where do I start?" The next question came
"And where can I go for advice?"
"I'm surprised you don't know yet," his father replied
"The secret is in Overijse." ☪

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'Musseling' in

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Only the very best for *Together* readers.



CHEZ LEON

For more than 100 years, Chez Leon has sat next to the Grand'Place, serving an array of uniquely crafted dishes. More than anything though, the restaurant has served mussels: mussels battered in white wine; mussels cooked with tomatoes, sweet peppers and garlic; even mussels flavoured with cherry beer.

No Belgian cuisine would be complete without frites and beer, and the restaurant provides both with their masterful house recipes.

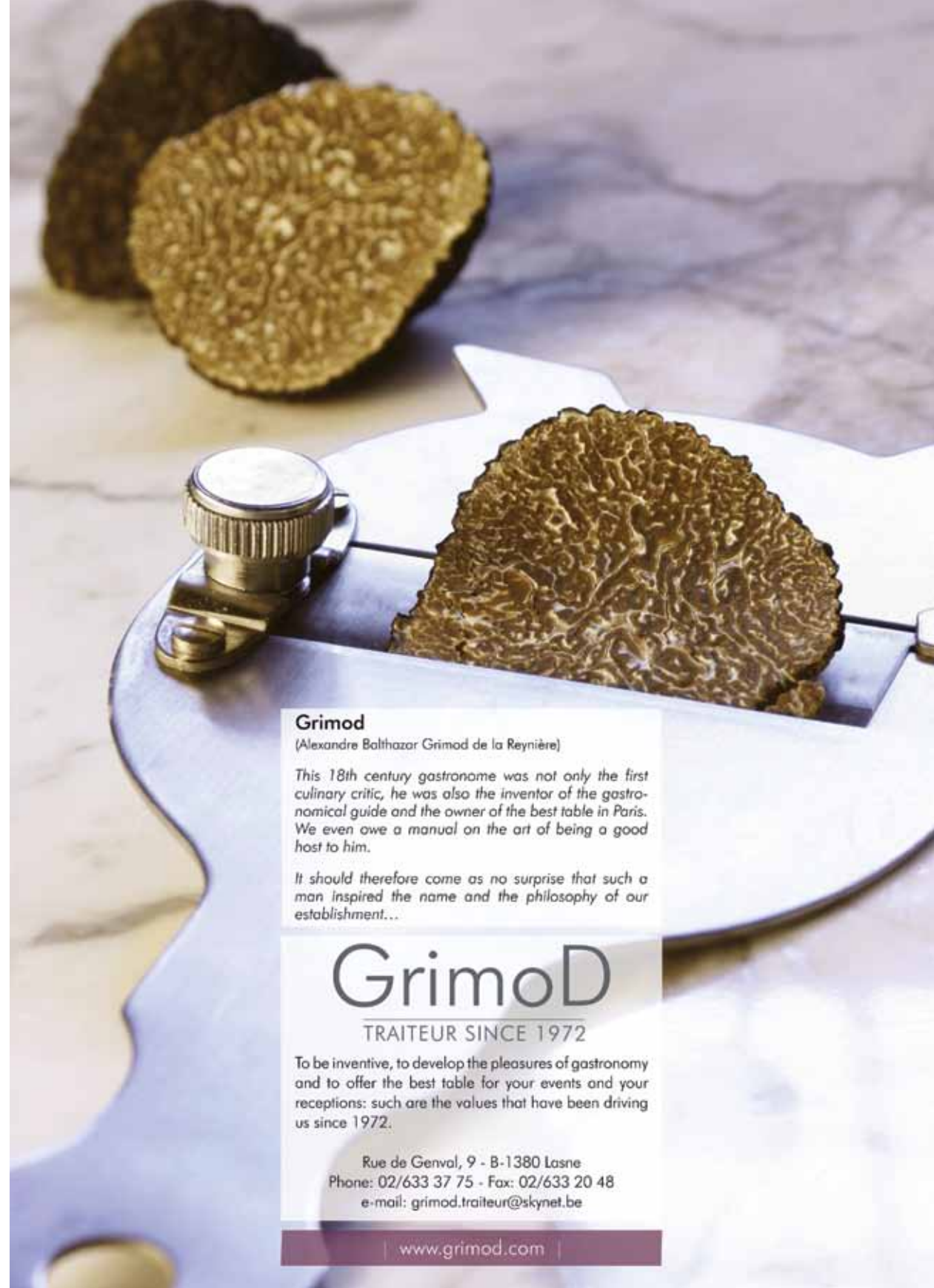
In recent years (relative that is, given its history) the restaurant has expanded internationally, including dozens of Chez

Leon's scattered around France. With the restaurant's luxurious reputation and their size (they can accommodate more than 200 patrons), Chez Leon can seem daunting – but it's not. The restaurant has never lost its homely atmosphere due to quick service, amiable waiters and, perhaps most down-to-earth of all, paper tablecloths.

After all, it's the little things that matter. Like mussels. 🍷

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(Alexandre Balthazar Grimod de la Reynière)

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Famous times

WRITER: FEDERICO GRANDESSO

The cream of recent jet-set events.



The 36th edition of the **Deauville American Festival** took place between 3-12th September. This year, more than 100 films were presented at **Deauville International Centre (C.I.D)**, **Casino's Cinema** and **Cinema Le Morny**.

Annette Bening steps out of the festival's official vehicle, the Renault Laguna at the 36th Deauville American Film Festival (Photo by Stephane Kossmann)



The **Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week** in New York took place from 9th to 16th September in the Lincoln Center where, under the gaze of fashion icon Anne Wintour, there were eight days of exciting shows and parties. **Ralph Lauren** presented the Spring Collection 2011, which inspired by a chic western mood - lots of cowgirl jackets, frayed fringes and updated pioneer dresses balanced with a rustic aesthetic on softer, more feminine shapes. Interesting accessories were also presented, such as brown suede bowler hats, sand-coloured sandals with woven chain heels and Navajo-inspired crossbody hobo bags. The show ended in triumph with some billowy floor length gowns.

Designer Ralph Lauren walks the runway at the Ralph Lauren Spring 2011 Fashion Show during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York. (Photo by Jemal Countess/Getty Images for Mercedes-Benz)



Mumm Champagne celebrated with renowned explorer **Mike Horn** as part of the Mumm Explorer Experience from the 8th to 11th September, during which a privileged few (including the two lucky winners of Mumm's international online photography competition) were invited to an exceptional two-day, one-night nomadic experience in the world's largest desert, the Gobi. The fourth Mumm Explorer Experience was part of a series of gala dinners organized by Mumm and adventurer Mike Horn since 2008.

© Etienne de Malglaive / AFP CORPORATE

Martini and the Italian GP

On 12th September, **Martini** organized an exciting F1 GP event in Italy, at which **Fernando Alonso** finally beat **Jenson Button** and **Lewis Hamilton**'s retirement formed the backdrop to a breathtaking Italian Grand Prix, in Monza. Ferrari needed a convincing performance after a difficult weekend in **Spa Francorchamps Belgium** last time around, and took heart from their qualifying pace which put both drivers in the top three on the grid. Having opted to keep his F-duct wing, Button's car had a downforce advantage that helped him to make an electrifying start and wrest the lead from Alonso. In a confused first lap, Alonso clipped the wing of Button's McLaren, then moments later Hamilton tangled wheels with **Felipe Massa**, breaking an axle and ending his race immediately. 🏁

© Marini press office



Saxe appeal

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Whether it was putting on playful shows for his parents as a child or doing a one-man routine at his college impersonating teachers and directors, Olivier Saxe has always wanted to be a performer.



Saxe, now 41, arranges an assortment of shows, which he calls animations – events tailored towards bringing people together, often through food, light shows and music. On 21st July, Saxe put on one of his animations in St. Tropez, in front of thousands of Belgians, Les Belges a Saint Tropez. Like all of his shows, Saxe controlled every detail in St. Tropez, even down to what type of salt was on the tables. “It’s my baby,” said the Brussels native.

Saxe has been performing at the festival for years, but says that one moment always emerges as his favourite – the national anthem. “When we sing the national anthem,” Saxe explains “everyone is singing along and has their hand on their heart.”

Although Saxe has always thought of himself as a performer, his success hasn’t always been so pronounced. In July of 1992, Saxe was in St. Tropez under very different circumstances. With only a wireless microphone and a pianist, Saxe played on the streets for money. Flash forward 18 years, and Saxe now has his own company, performing as many as 15 shows per month - these range from business functions to bar mitzvahs, with Saxe tailoring each event to meet the specific needs of whoever hires him.

More than anything, Saxe’s events stress unity, and it was this sense of togetherness that he provided in St. Tropez. 🇵🇷

‘WHEN WE SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, EVERYONE IS SINGING ALONG AND HAS THEIR HAND ON THEIR HEART’

A CELEBRATION

What makes St. Tropez so special for Saxe, however, is not just the city – which he describes as a mythic village – but the type of experience that the Belgians enjoy. During his celebration, he says, the strife of politics and language barriers that often divide Belgium are never discussed.

Instead, people come together to celebrate the country’s positive aspects.



The kindest cut of all

WRITER: ANDY CARLING



Hair is one of the most insubordinate parts of the human body - it grows too much in youth and, as you get older, starts going a funny colour and begins to disappear. Could you imagine the chaos if any of our other body parts behaved like that? Thankfully, Alexandre de Paris is there to take our correspondent in hand.

I've always been suspicious of hair. As a child, I learned that it was something that needed to be dealt with firmly. My first haircuts were performed by my mother, who had the art of cutting as I squirmed in the chair, trying to escape.

IT WASN'T A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE, SITTING IN FRONT OF A DIRTY MIRROR AS A STRANGE MAN POKED ABOUT YOUR HEAD WHILST CHAIN SMOKING, BEING STARED AT BY MINOR ROYALTY

When I got a little older and it was more difficult to keep me restrained while wielding the scissors, and with an ever-increasing likelihood that she would cause an injury sufficient to alert the child welfare people, I was packed off to a professional. A barber. This is where my relationship with my hair became much stranger.

MEET THE PROFESSIONALS

The barbers I was sent to had one thing in common; price. The first one I went to, until I was around 16, had a small narrow salon in a cellar. I noticed something very strange about it. Every surface was covered in photos and news

clippings of Prince Andrew, the Queen's second eldest son. I asked the barber about it and he sang his praises for the half hour it took him to cut my hair, but I still didn't get it. Now I am older, I can recognize homoerotic fixation, although the choice of Randy Andy is still a mystery. To Fergie as well, I expect.

It wasn't a pleasant experience, sitting in front of a dirty mirror as a strange man poked about your head whilst chain smoking, being stared at by minor royalty.

I later moved to a village with only one barber. Most locals happily travelled far away to get their hair cut, but I was more loyal to local tradesmen. The barber, Johnny, was certainly a man of conviction. Several in fact. Apparently all related to missing items of ladies underwear from clotheslines.

He had a simple approach to his trade. When you sat in the chair, he would ask, "Much off?" A yes would mean a number two cut, a no would make him, reluctantly, bring out a number three razor. He approached his task as a farmer approaches sheep shearing. Apart from the concern about animal welfare.

Not only did he actually hate hair, something that would stop a normal person from becoming a barber, he had an attitude to customer service that Basil Fawlty would find shocking. He also wouldn't allow women in his shop. I've even see him chase a poor tourist's wife out with a broom more than once. He would break off occasionally mid-cut because he had a sideline in selling walking sticks and spotted a potential customer.

The advantage was that I always paid less than 3€ for a cut and when Johnny cut your hair, it stayed cut. Since then I've lived in Africa and had my hair cut on a stool in a car park, with only a broken wing mirror to guide the barber, or man with blunt razor blade, as I thought of him. I had better cuts by a river in West Africa and more relaxed cuts in the souks of the Middle East.

Then I moved to Brussels and my then-girlfriend let me use her electric razor. Call me naive, but I wondered why a woman who went to the hair salon every month needed one. The penny eventually dropped, but I'd got used to cutting my own hair with it by then.

TOGETHER OFFERS SALVATION

Together co-editor James Drew was listening to me explain why I had never paid more than €3 for a haircut, when he turned to me, with a look of real pity and concern, and passed me an envelope. "Here's a voucher for a serious haircut at Alexandre de Paris. Go and have a proper cut and tell me about it."

That is how I went for my first ever real haircut. Naturally, I prepared myself for this brave new world of styling. I waited for my hair to grow. Eventually it got too long to tolerate and I phoned up the salon. I got an appointment for the next day, so quickly and easily I found it a bit anticlimactic, to be honest. As I entered the salon, everyone welcomed me and sat in a very comfortable

chair as my hair was washed - how do they get the water temperature exactly right? Then the shampoo was massaged into my scalp and a rinse. By then I was so relaxed, I was in some type of zen calm.

André, with over 20 years of experience, looked me over and asked what cut I wanted. I had no idea, only having the concept of 'short', so I told him to do whatever he wanted. I felt comfortable with that as André had a manner that inspired confidence. I watched him begin to cut my hair, seeing the idea he had take shape. I was surprised at just how gentle it was. Having had decades of people hacking away, it was just a delight to see what a light touch could do. There were times when, if I couldn't see him in the mirror, I wouldn't have known he was at work.

André also has the ability to look focused and relaxed at the same time. I can't explain it, go see for yourself. At the end, he had done exactly what he wanted. He gave me the best haircut I've ever had. He talked about how much he liked his clients, as they were professional and knowledgeable people who were interesting to talk to and he said that many were very busy and a half hour visit to Alexandre de Paris, was a chance for them to relax and take a time out.

That's when I understood. Previously, getting my haircut was a chore, an intrusion, something I felt had to be done. It had never been anything actually enjoyable, something relaxing. That's why I'm going back to my friend André. Nobody else is touching my hair ever again. 🙏

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Duly noted

WRITER: GILLY MAXIM



Having spent an afternoon shadowing the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra during rehearsals for their forthcoming season, our writer spoke with their Maestro, Michel Tabachnik.

INTERVIEW EXPRESS

Together: Your mentor and friend is Pierre Boulez and you have studied with, among others, Herbert von Karajan. In the beginning you studied composition and piano. When did you know that conducting would be your career?

MT: *Well that is something I didn't know, life decided for me. I wanted to be a composer and I went to the classes of Pierre Boulez and he said you should be able to conduct your own compositions. And then the opportunities came.*

Over the centuries people have wanted to know what makes a conductor a great conductor. Can you tell us?

I have so many students that want to become a conductor and they can't

because there are so many parameters. In a sense you need to have been born a conductor, in that you are able to convey a sound through a gesture, and then you must develop a technique but beyond that don't ask me! If the orchestra plays the notes as written it is okay, but nothing special. The art of the conductor is to be able to find the domain of the original inspiration of the composer and if you find that, you win. If you find the original domain, then you can lead a hundred musicians back to the inspiration and create something magical. That is the ideal!

Your creed is: "We are not a museum, but a platform for living music". Is it your belief that you should always perform music by living composers or does "living music" have other connotations?

Firstly, for us to perform music by living composers is very important, not all orchestras do that. Secondly, many orchestras try to perform in exactly the way that the music would have been played in the period that it was written. I don't have anything against that, but for me music doesn't belong to a time or a period in history. I am not an historian: I want to live the music here, today, now.

How does the Brussels Philharmonic commit to bringing younger audiences to classical music?

Firstly, we have programmes that are directed at schools and colleges. Secondly, I try to speak with the public during the concert. However, on the other hand if you ask the concert houses around Europe what the average age of the concertgoer is, they will say it is fifty, but for a hundred years the average age of a concertgoer has been fifty. For me, to come to a concert like this, you need to have experienced life and be developed spiritually and mentally.



Of course it is important to sow the seed earlier in a child's life and hope that they return later, but you cannot force things, it needs to be organic. I am very happy that wherever the Brussels Philharmonic plays we always have full audiences.

You have conducted many of the world's leading orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam and Orchestre de Paris. What makes the Brussels Philharmonic so special?

In recent years this orchestra has been reborn, there is a feeling of fresh air and that is really rare. When you conduct for example the Concertgebouw you are conducting a famous, gorgeous, luxurious orchestra but with it comes a long tradition. Here we don't have this tradition and so we have perhaps more freedom. Also, this orchestra is flexible and it is extremely sophisticated since it is an orchestra that can perform any repertoire. I can arrive with something very contemporary or classical or romantic and they are very open to change their way of playing. So their speciality is their versatility.

What will be the highlight of the Brussels Philharmonic's 2010/2011 season?

Firstly, it is the concerts we do internationally. I would like to become very strong in Paris for

example, where we already do well and I want to continue that relationship. I want to have a strong international flavour in the orchestra as this gives the musicians joy and for me that is very important. Secondly, I want to continue to improve the sound in the orchestra, to continue to work on the subtlety and that special sound for each composer. And thirdly, I want the musicians and public to understand that we are here to serve the music and the art and not ourselves. I feel very strongly that we are a servant to the music and that we must retain a certain humility.

It is customary at the end of *Together* interviews for us to ask: **"What is the key to your success?"** Having spent time with this gifted, talented and humble man, it didn't seem appropriate. This writer can only report what I witnessed during my time with the orchestra, and that was a mutual respect and understanding, together with a commitment to creating a unique and blended sound. In a world that can be dominated by large egos, I think it is testament to Michel Tabachnik that Brussels Philharmonic is an orchestra reborn. 🎻

Follow the orchestra and Michel Tabachnik at www.brusselphilharmonic.be, michel-tabachnik.net and www.BrusselsPhilharmonicOnTour.blogspot.com

An independent view

The Brussels International Independent Film Festival returns to the capital of Europe for its 37th edition in November – read on to find out more.



The festival is one of the most important film and video events on the international scene. For six days, Brussels becomes a meeting point for filmmakers from all around the world, and this year's Brussels International Independent Film Festival will see more than 50 countries represented and more than 100 films shown, many of which will be receiving their first European and even worldwide screenings. Selected films will then battle it out in the National and International Competitions, and there has been, since 1991, a special competition devoted to films made by and for deaf people.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

In addition, there are many special events planned to recognize the festival's stature as a cinematic spectacle that welcomes the film-making talents of tomorrow. All of whom are seeking to outdo each other in terms of imagination and talent.

The festival, since its beginnings, has had the privilege of welcoming great names of international cinema, such as Pedro Almodóvar, François Ozon and Nanni Moretti.

This year, the festival is presenting Mexico as its 'star guest' country, a concept that aims to highlight cinematography that is only little known by Belgian film-lovers. It is also a chance to promote a culture via the cinematic talent of young artists, who represent the life force of a unique cultural environment.

So, there's little more to say – lights, camera, action!

37th Brussels International Independent Film Festival: 2-7th November 🎬

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Going back to their roots

WRITER: MARTIN BANKS

That's exactly what some of the country's prettiest and most historic buildings are up to. *Together* reports.

They represent the cream of Belgium's architectural heritage, but they are also buildings that, in some cases, have fallen into decay and seeming terminal decline. Now, however, a crop of historic buildings scattered across the country have been brought back into use to ensure that their historic links are enjoyed by present and future generations. At the same time, these buildings are helping to provide a much-needed boost for Belgium's tourist industry. Examples include an ancient Franciscan church given a new lease of life and a World War One soldier's house that's now attracting thousands of pilgrims to the Flanders battlefields.



HAZEGRAS

One particularly well-restored building is a former butter factory, Hazegras, near the Flemish coastal town of Knokke that is now pulling in hordes of visitors. Designed by August-Marie Lippens, a well-known architect of the time, the

complex dates back to 1895 and, as well as a butter factory, once comprised a summer house and stables. The site used to play an important part in the life of the local community, supplying assorted dairy

produce across a wide area. Its gradually waning role seemed to sound its death-knell, but in 2001 the owners began much-needed refurbishment work, and since then the site has been transformed. It now comprises several charming and carefully restored apartments providing accommodation for those wanting to explore one of Belgium's most attractive areas. Happily, all this has been achieved without the building losing any of its original historical appeal. As proprietor Suzanne Lannoije-Brusselle explains: "The restoration has done justice to what is regarded as an historically important site. Rather than just demolish the buildings and lose this important connection we have managed to preserve it for present and future generations."

HAGELAND

Another example is at Hageland, an 18th-century farm complex ten kilometres from Leuven that has undergone major renovation for use as holiday accommodation. Owner An Devlies-Vandeputte says that during the renovation she uncovered "many fascinating aspects" of the history of the building, which was once the home of Lord Van Gale, a local nobleman. An adds: "We discovered lots of subterranean passages. The building used to be a courthouse where justice was administered and we think these tunnels may have been used by criminals to escape. We also found a treasury under the floor but, sadly, it was empty!"

THE DOMINICAN HOTEL

Other historic buildings brought back to life include The Dominican Hotel in Rue Leopold, behind La Monnaie theatre in Brussels. The site was once home to the famous French painter Jacques-Louis David who completed his last masterpiece *Mars disarmed by Venus and the Three Graces* in its confines.

Following his death in 1825, the house was named after the artist and the building's original façade has remained intact and integrated into the design of what is now a luxury hotel. The site is actually located on the foundations of a 15th-century Dominican Abbey, and its history is echoed in the soaring high ceilings, original stone floors, sweeping archways and tranquil cloisters.

TALBOT HOUSE



Another fine example of the genre is Talbot House at Poperinge, near Ypres, once the home of soldiers in 1915 seeking sanctuary in World War One. It was named after one Gilbert Talbot, who was killed in action on 30 July, 1915 and later became the symbol of the sacrifice of a "golden generation" of young men. The building was taken over by the British army which had some 250,000 men in the area, even offering bed and breakfast for officers waiting for their train to leave for 'Blighty'. Now reopened, it has gone back to its roots and once again offers

accommodation for the thousands of pilgrims who visit the local battlefields. Well-known personalities of the time visited the house during the conflict, some leaving works of art, including paintings and drawings, which are still in the house today.

OUDE HOUTLEI

In Ghent, meanwhile, the Oude Houtlei is an historic monastery now transformed into a hotel named Monasterium Poortackere, named after the area on which it is located. The building dates back to 1278 and, just as back then, is something of an oasis of peace in a lively city. When, during the French revolution, all cloisters, churches, and beguin complexes were seized by town councils, the council of Ghent confiscated Poortackere. In 1863 the site was sold to Count Joseph De Hemptinne and over the years has been an orphanage, a house for young women and student residence. There were still six nuns living there as recently as 1998 but, due to exorbitant maintenance costs the building was sold. Thanks to a private initiative, it was saved and transformed into a hotel, seminar centre and restaurant. 📍

Hazebras

Hazebrasstraat, 122
8300 Knokke-Heist
T. +32 (0)50 602 208
www.hazebras.be

Hageland

www.vvvhageland.be

The Dominican Hotel

Rue Leopold, 9
1000 Brussels.
T. +32 (0)2 203 0808
www.Carlton.nl/Dominican

Talbot House

Gasthuisstraat, 43
8970 Poperinge
T. +32 (0)57 333 228
www.talbothouse.be

It's Mahler time

WRITER: JEREMY SLATER

Gustav Mahler marks the end, musically, of the 19th century, the final hurrah of the Romantic Movement and the end of Germanic dominance of the symphony. Ahead of a series of Mahler concerts heading to Brussels, *Together* pays tribute to the Viennese virtuoso.

Mahler was born in Vienna in 1860, hence the 150th anniversary of Gustav Mahler's birth being celebrated in a series of concerts held around the world, including Belgium, this year and next.

His swirling interludes of strings and woodwind that had been central to orchestral music in its most romantic mode would become unfashionable. What followed would be harder and more chthonic, as serious music adopted the

modern, just as painting and sculpture had done a decade or so earlier. Atonal schematics were in and sweeping gestures and harmonics became something of the past.

LATE ROMANTIC

Although now revered as a true late romantic great during much of his lifetime, Mahler was more popular as a conductor than a composer. He also had to

fight against snobbery, as he was the son of an inn keeper and was born a Jew, a heritage that he later renounced following his conversion to Catholicism to succeed to the prestigious post of director of the Vienna

Court Opera in 1897. This was his greatest honour, following similar posts in Hamburg and as chief conductor in Budapest. His most famous compositions include symphonies numbers 5 and 8, the latter also known as the symphony of a 1,000, as it requires the use of several choirs to be performed. It was the highlight of the opening night of the BBC's annual Promenade season, which concluded in September.

SELL-OUTS

With performances honouring Mahler around the world, Brussels will not be outdone this autumn and early in 2011 with a series of concerts held to celebrate the works of the late romantic composer, who was second only in popularity to Ludwig van Beethoven at the time of Mahler's death, in 1911. However, there is an earlier connection with Belgium, as the composer was known here as a sublime and very popular conductor - during his lifetime, Mahler visited Belgium only twice, but both times the performances proved to be sell-outs.

Organized by the Belgian conductor Sylvain Dupuis, the first was held in Liege in 1899. Dupuis had been encouraged to invite Mahler by fellow late romantic composer Richard Strauss some two years earlier when the German maestro had performed pieces of his own work in concert halls in Belgium.



Emboldened by Strauss's support for Mahler's work Dupuis first tested Belgium's appetite for the Austrian's work in 1898. His performance of the same symphony as Mahler was later to perform was enthusiastically received by both the press and the public. Dupuis immediately sent an invitation to Vienna and Mahler honoured by the Belgian's success happily agreed. Dupuis requested that Mahler perform his fearsome Second Symphony, which had gone down so well the year before. It was advertised as part of a series of 'Nouveaux Concerts' put on by Dupuis to promote contemporary works - tickets sold out and, on 22 January 1899, Mahler took to the conductor's stand to warm applause. The audience were not displeased and following the performance the composer was required to return to the stage six times to receive their acclamations. Dupuis was ecstatic and Mahler returned home to Vienna happy.

SIX YEARS ON, FIFTH SYMPHONY

Some six years later, Mahler received another invitation to perform, this time from Belgian tenor Ernest Van Dyck. Mahler knew him, as he had conducted performances by the singer soon after becoming director of the Vienna Court Opera. Van Dyck was now a head of the Society for New Concerts in Antwerp and was sure Mahler's music would once again be welcomed by a Belgian

audience. This time the Austrian composer decided to perform his recently composed Fifth Symphony. The task proved difficult for the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra in rehearsals. However, on the night, despite the music being new and complicated, the orchestra and audience were enthusiastic in their support and Mahler deservedly received an ovation on the symphony's completion. Sadly, this was to be one of the last times that Mahler would be seen performing outside of Vienna as he took up the post of director of the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1907. He died four years later, leaving a legacy of great performances and an oeuvre of some of the finest symphonies created in the late 19th century. 📍

Bozaar

*Rue Ravensteinstraat, 23
Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 507 8200
www.bozar.be*

27th October

Renée Fleming soprano - Münchner Philharmonica
Franz Schreker Nachtstück (Der ferne Klang)
Gustav Mahler Rückert Lieder
Johannes Brahms Symphony Nr. 4, op. 98

11th November

Sol Gabetta cello - Hendrickje van Kerckhove soprano
Belgium National Orchestra
Edouard Lalo Concerto voor cello en orkest, op. 20
Gustav Mahler Symphony Nr. 4

24th February, 2011

Gustav Mahler Symphony Nr. 7
Orchestre philharmonique de Liège
Wallonie Bruxelles

La Monnaie/De Munt

*Brussels B-1000
Rue Léopold, 4
1000 Brussels
T. +32(0)2 229 1200
www.lamonnaie.be
16-19th February, 2011
Gustav Mahler: Das klagende Lied!*

Together's 'To Do' list Belgium

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

It's a sparkling new format for your favourite diary – enjoy.

BRUSSELS MARATHON 10.10.10

Starting at Parc du Cinquantenaire, the marathon winds around the city for 42.2 km (26.2 miles) ending at Grand'Place. Many come to support the runners, especially encouraging them during the final stages of the race. After the race, people gather for drinks and food at many of the restaurants around Grand'Place.

Parc du Cinquantenaire

T. + 32 11 45 9999

www.sport.be



KOYAANISQATSI: THE PERFORMANCE 14>16.10.10

Ricky Seabra has created a theatrical interpretation of the 1982 film *Koyaanisqatsi*. The film has no dialogue but is driven by famous composer Philip Glass's beautifully chilling composition and harrowing time-lapsed images of buildings, traffic, landscape and more. Seabra's interpretation, according to theater's website, "does not use special effects, but, on the contrary, tries to preserve the 'visual integrity' of the images and gives them a new context in a mixture of live animation, music and narration".

Kaaistudios

Brussels

Rue Notre-Dame du Sommeil, 81

1000 Brussels

T: +32 (0)2 201 5959

www.kaaitheater.be



SHERYL CROW

19.10.10

Sheryl Crow's seventh studio album, *100 Miles from Memphis*, (she grew up in a Missouri town 100 miles away from the musical Mecca) is a soulful and bluesy album. It features musical appearances from other notable musicians such as Justin Timberlake and Citizen Cope. The nine-time Grammy award winner has 12 shows in a very short, 16-day European tour.



Forest National Club

Av. Victor Rousseau, 208

1190 Brussels

T. +32 70 25 20 20

www.sherylcrow.com/events

THE NIGHT OF THE AD EATERS

06.11.10

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, this promises to be a one-of-a-kind event that revolves around showing ads from different places in the world – but don't think it's by any means lacklustre. With elaborate light shows, dance music, food and drinks this event is far more party than promotion.



T. +32 0(2) 788 4411

www.adeater.com

PUBLIC BREWING AT CANTILLON

13.11.10

From 6h30 to 12h learn everything from filtration and hopping to barrel cleaning. The 6€ guided tour includes croissants in the morning and a beer of your choice at the end.

Rue Gheude, 56

1070 Brussels

T.+32 (0) 02 521 4928

www.cantillon.be



INTERNATIONAL EUREKA CONTEST**18>20.11.10**

With over 150 representatives showcasing 400 inventions from 30 different countries, this event features innovations including everything from photography to body care to aviation.

Brussels Expo

Place de Belgique, 1
1020 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 474 8989

**FREEDOM FILM FESTIVAL****21>30.10.10**

At the end of November, Brussels welcomes the 2010 international film competition, hosting over 30 films – most of which have never been seen by the public. Each day there are opportunities to see several movies and get involved with discussions revolving around human rights.

T. +32 (0)2 289 6900

www.festivaldeslibertes.be/fase5.php?event=251#251

**BRUSSELS MUSEUMS LATE EVENINGS****Ends 16.12.10**

Every Thursday, museums will open their doors for late-night showings. Starting at 18h and ending at 22h, they showings offer convenient times for those who with rigid work schedules while providing other opportunities such as guided tours, interactive workshops and behind-the-scenes-discoveries. Visit the website for participating museums.

Conseil Bruxellois des Musées

46 Rue des Bouchers
Bruxelles 1000 Brussel
T. +32 (0)2 512 7780
nocturnes.brusselmuseums.be

**SKODA JAZZ FESTIVAL****Ends 17.12.10**

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the jazz festival has performances all over Belgium, with many shows in Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent. With more than 70 concerts, the festival provides plenty of chances to hear music in some of the finer clubs and halls in Belgium.

Jazztronaut Entertainment

Boulevard Leopold II, 184
1080 Brussels
T.+32 (0)2 456 04 60
www.skodajazz.be



Together's 'To Do' list international

MICHAEL BUBLÉ**12.10.10**

In a star-studded month for concerts in Belgium, Grammy Award winner Michael Bublé visits the Sportpaleis in Antwerp for his Crazy Love Tour. After touring the United States throughout the summer, the 35-year-old will take his smooth singing act to Europe, stopping first in Dublin. Over the course of several months, Bublé will visit dozens of European cities. His slow, jazz ballads create what should be an intimate show.

Sportpaleis

Schijnpoortweg, 119
2170 Merksem (Antwerp)
T. +32 (0)3 400 6000
www.sportpaleis.be/fr/calendrier/michael_buble_crazy_love_tour

**STING****13.10.10**

From The Police through his long lasting solo career, Sting has amassed 16 Grammys and already been inducted into the Rock'N'Roll Hall of Fame. In July of this year, the English-born musician released *Symphonicities*. For this album, Sting takes some of his most popular songs – *Roxanne*, *Every Little Thing She Does is Magic* – and puts it through an orchestral filter – songs are accompanied by flutes, violins and cellos. His European tour began 3rd September and continues until November, stopping in cities big and small. When he comes to Belgium, he'll be playing at the Sportpaleis in Antwerp.

Sportpaleis

Schijnpoortweg, 119
2170 Merksem (Antwerp)
T. +32 3 400 6000
www.sportpaleis.be/fr/calendrier/sting_symphonicity



AMSTERDAM DANCE EVENT**20>23.10.10**

The biggest club festival of the year, Amsterdam's 15th international conference provides the largest electronic music event. The festivities feature over 90,000 guests and 700 artists in 40 venues – oh, and a whole lot of dancing.

Keizersgracht, 324

1016 EZ Amsterdam

www.amsterdam-dance-event.nl

**THE AFFORDABLE ART FAIR****21>24.10.10**

This London art fair offers not only an opportunity to browse beautiful artwork, but also have the opportunity to purchase some as well. Works range from paintings to photographs, and there is a wide array of artists including some well known figures.

Battersea Evolution

Battersea Park

London SW11 4NJ

T. +44 (0)20 8246 4848

www.lth-hotels.com

**THE LUXURY TRAVEL FAIR****4>7.11.10**

For the fifth year, this expo highlights aggregates the best and most luxurious travel destinations from around the world. The exhibition puts patrons in touch with the finest resorts, travel specialists and luxury tour operators.

Olympia National Hall

London W14 8UX

+44 (0)207 370 8213

www.luxurytravelfair.com/

**PARIS AUTUMN FESTIVAL**

This Paris festival celebrates all things art, from theatre to music to cinema. With over 40 events and over 100,000 annual visitors, there are plenty of opportunities to see great works until winter rolls in.

www.festival-automne.com

**MUSEUM NIGHT AMSTERDAM****6.11.10**

Every year, on the first Saturday in November, art museums across Amsterdam open up their doors until well past midnight. With various entertainments such as music and dancing, this is not just an opportunity to see artwork in a different light. Museums offer their own attractions along with a plethora of after parties.

n8 - Stichting Museumnacht Amsterdam

Piet Heinkade, 5

1019 BR Amsterdam

T. +32 (0)20 527 0785

<http://n8.nl/english>

**ARMISTICE DAY****11.11.10**

This annual event pays tribute to those who lost their lives in the two World Wars. The French President and other dignitaries will pay their respects by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc De Triomphe.

Arc De Triomphe

Paris

**LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2010****13.11.10**

For almost 800 years, this annual event has featured a parade through the streets that attracts thousands of people. The festivities are capped off by a must-see fireworks show.

Central London City

London, EC4N 8BH

T. +44 (0) 20 7606 3030

www.lordmayorsshow.org

**PARIS PHOTO****18>21.11.10**

This fair features some of the best photography in the world, with the collections spanning from the onset of picture-taking until the present day.

Reed Expositions

Quai de Dion-Bouton, 52/54

92 806 Puteaux Cedex, France

T. + 33(1) 47 56 64 69

www.parisphoto.fr/?v=public



The latest additions

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

Only the very best for *Together* readers...



SEA GRILL

Now owned by renowned chef Yves Mattagne, the two-Michelin star Sea Grill Restaurant at the Radisson Blu Hotel has been reopened. The restaurant offers a range of sea-food dishes, including several that have won distinguished culinary awards. The restaurant will continue to serve lunch and dinner for those looking for a cultivated dining experience.

Sea Grill Restaurant

Rue du Fosse-aux-Loups, 47
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 212 0800
www.radissonblu.com



BURBERRY

Founded in 1856, Burberry has become one of the most iconic names in fashion and its distinguished tartan pattern can be seen everywhere – from scarves to shirts to shoes. The retail store on Blvd. Waterloo is the first of its kind – until now, the closest retail store had been in Antwerp. For the fashion forward, this store opening will definitely save some time, but not necessarily money.

Burberry

Blvd. De Waterloo, 16
1000 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 402 4400
www.burberry.eu

RELAX AFTER WORK

Inspired by a trip to Thailand – where massages are a part of daily culture – Relax After Work owner Isabeau Paape decided to open her own massage parlour. Prior to March, Paape had worked for two years as a masseuse in a larger spa, but was frustrated by its impersonal nature. Relax After Work is designed for an intimate experience. Her shop offers massages – which she provides herself – drinks, dinner and even personal facials or hair treatment. The shop accommodates couples and groups of up to six – whether you're stopping in for a quick massage or indulging in the full experience, the Zen-like atmosphere delivers.

Relax After Work

Rue du Lac, 13
1050 Bruxelles
T. + 32 (0)476 850 209
www.relaxafterwork.be



ALOFT

With hip interior design in loft-inspired rooms, Aloft, a branch of the Starwood chain, is opening a new hotel offering luxurious amenities like oversized spa showers and signature beds. Located right by the major EU institutions, this hotel is also convenient for quick bites to eat during the day, and even an upbeat area at night with DJs and plenty of cocktails.

Aloft

Place Jean Rey
1040 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 800 0888
www.aloftbrussels.com





DESIGUAL

Desigual, an affordable and eccentric clothing company, bring their colourful designs to Maasmechelen Village. Known for their unique prints, this relatively new company looks to fit their customers with clothes made for them, and not the general public – the company's slogan is: "Desigual dress people, not bodies."

Desigual

Maasmechelen Village
Zetellaan, 100
3630 Maasmechelen
T. +32 (0)89 774 553
www.desigual.com



BRUPHILS

Providing the latest trends in fashion, clothing company Bruphils is opening a new boutique in Lier, just outside Antwerp. The acclaimed team of international designers has been creating elegant styles for both men and women for almost three decades.

Bruphils

Antwerpsestraat, 85
2500 Lier
T. +32 (0)3 480 3239
www.bruphils.com

MAIS IL EST OU SOLEIL?

Known for their elegant colours and trendy clothes, Mais il est ou soleil, opens a new flagship store in the always exciting Chatelain district. Their autumn line, created by the imaginative designer Val Pollet, reaches its full potential when displayed in the expansive, yet chicly arranged store.

Mais il est ou le soleil?

Rue Simonis, 55
1050 Brussels
T. +32 (0)2 538 8277

AMBIORIX

For more than a century, Ambiorix has been offering some of the highest quality, hand made shoes. Opening its first flagship store in Brussels, the Belgian company offers new lines every season – four lines this autumn – while always maintaining a high level of comfort, fashion and design.

Ambiorix

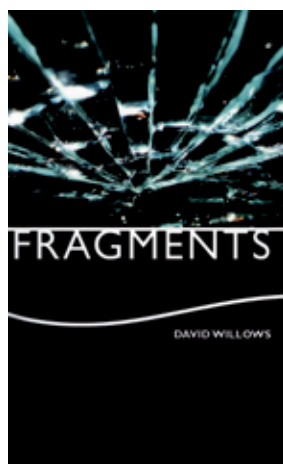
Naamsestraat, 72-74
1000 Brussels
www.ambiorix.be



Read *Together*

WRITER: MATTHEW SCHUR

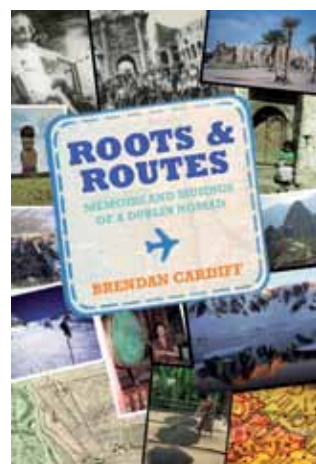
Our man casts his eye over two new tomes.



FRAGMENTS - DAVID WILLOWS €11

In this book, David Willows's collection of essays offers unabated access to his personal life. The subject of the essays range from weighty topics such as death and divorce to more light-hearted topics such as urban legends. Willows never tries to do too much with his writing – just presents an interesting collection of stories from his life, embedding reflection within the storytelling. The pacing is efficient (Willows, amongst other things, has a background in blogging), giving the book fluidity without inundating the reader with too much superfluous detail and information. *Fragments*, as a whole, is an engaging, easy-to-read book that touches upon subjects that concern us all.

www.davidwillows.com



ROOTS & ROUTES: MEMOIRS AND MUSINGS OF A DUBLIN NOMAD - BRENDAN CARDIFF €24

From his time in Uganda as a development assistant to experiences as a travel guide, Brendan Cardiff's life has been, if nothing else, eventful. His self-deprecating and bare-all writing style give *Roots and Routes* a personal feel, especially when he describes his early life in Dublin. In this memoir, Cardiff also touches on his experiences of being in places many of us will never visit – Yemen, Borneo, Namibia – and many of the places we've always longed to go – Machu Picchu and the Amazon Rainforest. His literary journalistic approach to travel writing allows for affecting stories that are enriched by his impressive photographs. 📷

www.theliffeypress.com

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even before you arrive in Belgium: accounts, bank cards, rental guarantee, etc. To find out what ING can do for you, don't hesitate to call one of our advisors on + 32 (0)2 464 66 64.

www.ing.be/expat

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