

A co-production by Het Geluid | Maastricht  
& Moving Theater | New York  
Presented by Maastricht Toneelstad Festival

# Hollandse luchten | Dutch Skies

*13/14/15/16 May 2009, 21.00u.*

*Location: Toonzaal, Timmerfabriek, Boschstraat 3, Maastricht*  
*Reservations: UITbalie theater aan het Vrijthof 043- 350 55*  
*55*

*Dutch Skies* will have its premiere at the Maastricht Toneelstad Festival and will be presented in New York during the 2009/2010 season  
With the support of The City of Maastricht, The Province of Limburg, The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Netherland- America Foundation and Timmerfabriek/IPAL/Belvédère.

Foreword,

Adventure is in the air when two artistic entities meet on purpose in order to clash, re-assemble and take the sky as the fenix.

Connecting different cultures is never an easy choice for creative artists, also not when the cause is in the framework of 400 years of relation between New York and the Netherlands. Moving Theater New York and Het Geluid Maastricht repainting Dutch Skies in 2009 from different angles, different cultural backgrounds in a very different world than the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Let's enjoy the result of a new connection, the visions of young artists from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean in a way that reflects today and points towards the future. Like the Beatles said in Major Tom: "skies look different today".

Marc Jonkers

Chairman of Het Geluid



*The world in which we find ourselves at the start of the new millennium is  
littered with the debris of utopian projects.*  
(John Gray)

An international team of six artists from two young interdisciplinary companies Het Geluid (Maastricht) and Moving Theater (New York) create a performance on the occasion of the celebration of 400 years of Dutch-American relations. In *Dutch Skies*, the artists hold both cultures up to the light. They reveal how the horizons of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch landscapes predict the Hollywood trope of riding off into the sunset—and how these iconic images mark our longing for hope. A longing so deeply ingrained that even in times of bursting bubbles and skies falling, we still find excuses to shout: Yes we can.

*Performed and created by Jonathan Drillet, Jacobien Elffers, Brennan Gerard, Ryan Kelly, Gable Roelofsen and Romy Roelofsen*

*Even though the paintings of the Dutch masters are often dominated by dark clouds our eye always seems to be drawn to the lighter parts, even when it's only a small ray of sun peeking through the clouds.*

*In the co-production of Het Geluid and Moving theater the artists have searched for a light in our sometimes dark world. A world in which people are full of hope, even when their attempts to make their dreams come true have resulted in nightmares.*

*The research that these six young artists of different disciplinary and cultural backgrounds went through together took them from paintings of Dutch skies to popular American culture and the modern, globalised world. A world in which discovering new worlds and spreading your culture has a whole different meaning than it had 400 years ago when Henry Hudson, captain under the Dutch flag, founded New York.*

*But still, even though so many things have changed since the founding of New York, one thing remained the same, people are still looking for hope and a better world, somewhere over the rainbow.*

Kaatje Lomme



# Moving Theater | New York

**Moving Theater** is a New York City-based performance group and non-profit production company founded in 2003 by Brennan Gerard and Ryan Kelly. Moving Theater forges dynamic partnerships to produce performance-based art projects in theaters, galleries, museums, and at unique sites. Filling a crucial niche in the cultural landscape of New York, Moving Theater supports deliberately discipline-defying, frontier-crossing projects through residencies and co-productions, creating sustainable environments for artistic growth and expanding public access to new voices in contemporary performance and art. Currently, Moving Theater is currently the company-in-residence at Park Avenue Armory in New York City. More information at [www.movingtheater.org](http://www.movingtheater.org).

## DUTCH SKIES – Artists' Biographies

**Jonathan Drillet** began his theatrical training with Folle Pensée in Brittany (Saint-Brieuc, France) at age 15 under the instruction of Roland Fichet. He continued his theatrical studies at the Conservatory of Paris, XX<sup>e</sup> arrondissement). While a student, he began working with writer and filmmaker Christophe Honoré on television and in theater, including *Les Débutantes* (*Beautiful Guys*) at Théâtre National de Dijon, Festival Frictions 2004 and broadcast on France Culture. As a performer, Jonathan has worked with German choreographer Raimund Hoghe (Musée Beaubourg, Paris/Festival d'Automne 2005, Maison de la Danse/Lyons, impulsanz Festival/Vienna, Culturgest/Lisbon), writer/director Alexis Fichet, and choreographers Daniel Larrieu and Vanessa Le Mat. Most recently Jonathan could be seen onstage in Jean-Marie Besset's *Perrthus* at the Spoleto Festival (Italy), Theatre du Rond Point and Theatre Marigny Popesco in Paris. Jonathan began working with Moving Theater in 2004 and has collaborated as a company member to create *Without* (2004-06), *Mass Particle No. 1* (2006), and *SIXTY* (2006-7). Since 2008, Jonathan has been collaborating closely with French theater artist Marlene Saldana under the moniker United Patriotic Squadrons of Blessed Diana. The duo has performed their original reworkings of political speeches in Paris (*il faut brûler pour briller* 2008), Lyons, and Berlin (*Politics of Ecstasy at Hebbel am Ufer*, 2009). Jonathan lives in Paris.

**Brennan Gerard and Ryan Kelly** collaborate to make performances. Their work straddles contemporary dance, experimental theater, and visual art performance practices to create live events, site-based projects, videos, theatrical works, and musical collaborations. Since they began working together in 2002, Brennan and Ryan have aimed—in the messy, corporal, erotic cauldron of liveness—for an ontological excavation of performance, a form that often eludes extensive scholarship, monetization and institutional critique. Their artistic practice investigates the formal conditions of performance, probes the subjectivity of performers and excavates the sites in which performances occur.



Gerard and Kelly have worked in galleries, museums, theaters, shopping malls, glue factories, can factories, cement factories, and artist squats, collaborating with dancers, actors, architects, filmmakers, and international ensembles. Their work has been shown in New York at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Prelude 08 Festival, EFA Gallery, Chez Bushwick, Dance New Amsterdam, and Works & Process at the Guggenheim Museum, as well as at La Générale and il faut brûler pour briller (Paris), Renaissance Society (Chicago), Studio 303 (Montréal), and the Greenwich Music Festival. Currently, they are developing site-based work as part of an artistic residency at the Park Avenue Armory in New York.

Gerard studied at Yale University and was a Fulbright scholar in France based at the Paris National Opera before joining creative forces with Kelly, a former ballet dancer with New York City Ballet. In 2003 Gerard and Kelly founded a non-profit production company, Moving Theater, to support their work and the work of other artists working in contemporary performance. For more information on Brennan and Ryan: [www.gerardandkelly.com](http://www.gerardandkelly.com).



# Het Geluid | Maastricht

Het Geluid ("the noise") is an interdisciplinary theatre company residing in Maastricht. One of the oldest cities of the Netherlands, Maastricht is famous for being the city in which European leaders historically agreed to give up their own national currencies and share an economic system and the euro. The city is one of the candidates to become Europe's cultural capital in 2018.

Specializing in making work that breaks down boundaries between performance disciplines, Het Geluid works with journalists, dancers, actors, philosophers, opera singers, musicians. The company tries to create a meaningful sound in a complex and noisy world in which so many expressions flatten the way we perceive the world and each other.

Het Geluid has presented work in festivals and theatres in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, including de Singel (Antwerp), de balie (Amsterdam), Studio/K (Amsterdam), University of Amsterdam, Theatermuseum (Dusseldorf), The Euregional Opera and Music Theater Festival, Maastricht Toneelstad festival, ITS Festival Amsterdam, Amsterdam Fringe Festival, and the Berlin friedensproject.

## DUTCH SKIES – Artists' Biographies

**Jacobien Elffers** studied at the conservatories of Utrecht and Amsterdam and the Guilford School of Acting in England. This season she is playing the role of Betje in the new original musical *Ciske* with Stage Entertainment. In the Netherlands she has performed at Over het IJ Festival, in Shira Keller's play *Moesson* at the Verse Waar Festival, and in the D\*Amor production of *Vogelvlucht*. Jacobien is seen regularly as a singer on the television series *De Zwoele Stad* on Dutch television. She is currently coached in acting by Hajo Bruins and in singing by Daniela Bernoulli. Jacobien performed in Het Geluid's first production, *ER ZIJN DINGEN GEBEURD*.

**Gable Roelofsen**, a graduate of the Maastricht Theatre Academy and an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab, just finished his MFA at APT, the post-graduate school for the performing arts in Antwerp, Belgium, where he conducted research on innovation in opera. As a director he works with the interdisciplinary company Het Geluid, based in Maastricht. At 25 he directed his first opera, *Erwartung* by Arnold Schoenberg, for the Euregional Opera and Music Festival. His direction of *Kibuye*, a tale about the Rwanda war, was played in Berlin and Düsseldorf in 2008. As a writer he has trained with Ko van den Bosch and Charles Mee. As an actor he has performed with Toneelgroep Amsterdam, Orkater, Het Huis van Bourgondie, Theaterfestival de Parade (in Holland and Spain), and as Mowgli in *The Jungle Book*. He has also worked in television (*Villa achterwerk*, *Stellenbosch* (VPRO) and *Hotnews.nl*), and in Marion Bloem's film *Far From Family*.



**Romy Roelofsen** is a theater-maker, actress and member of the interdisciplinary theatre collective Het Geluid, based in Maastricht. A graduate of the Maastricht Theatre Academy, she has had the honor of working with various artists and directors from theatre and television as well as experimental dance, music, video and the visual arts. Romy has participated in projects and collaborations with Anne Bogart, Antoine UitdeHaag, Yolande Bertsch, Carola Arons, Shireen Strooker, Aram Adriaanse, Cliff Sutton, Club Guy & Roni, Joe Weston, Andrea Paciutto, Peter Missotten, Guy Sonnen, Adelheid Roosen, Mienieke Bakker, Jan van Opstal, Gerard-jan Rijnders, Janine Brogt, Daniela Bernoulli, Helena Muskens and Quirine Rackee. Romy has performed in traditional theatrespaces as often as she has worked in alternative and site-specific venues in both urban and not-so-urban settings. Her work has traveled her to festivals in the Netherlands, Berlin, Düsseldorf and the Isle Oerol (NL).

Music used in this performance..

Stormy Weather (1933)

Written by Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler

Performed by Judy Garland

Recording: Judy at Carnegie Hall (Remastered), Capitol

Quatour pour la fin du temps (Quartet for the End of Time), V.

Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus (1941)

Composed by Olivier Messiaen

Performed by Ensemble Walter Boeykens

Recording: Messiaen: Quatour pour la fin du temps, Harmonia Mundi

Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring), Danse Sacrale - L'Elue (1913)

Composed by Igor Stravinsky

Conducted by Pierre Boulez

Performed by Cleveland Orchestra

Recording: Pierre Boulez / Stravinsky: Petrouchka, Rite of Spring,  
Sony Classical

Didn't We Almost Have It All (1988)

Written by Michael Masser and Will Jennings

Performed by Whitney Houston

Recording: Whitney Houston Live at Saratoga Springs, New York



Met dank aan:

Maastricht Toneelstad Festival

Theater aan het Vrijthof:

Mikos Pieters

Elly Rietbroek

Peter Noten

Inge Dovermann

Guido Wevers

En de mensen van Techniek van het theater.

Reflexion

Timmerfabriek/Ipal/Belvédère:

Chantal Kneepkens

Marcello Presenza

Fabienne van Hooren

Directie Belvédère

Bestuur Stichting Theatercollectief Het Geluid:

Marc Jonkers

Karlijn van der Graaf

Joop de Vries

Henk Baaten en Cindy Starmans

Dhr. en Mevr. Willems

Martijn Smit

Baerwaldt Galerie

Ainsi

Leo van Boren (Opera Zuid)

Jasper Hoovers

Daniela Bernoulli

Kaatje Lomme

D'n Hiemel

Intro in Situ

John Elffers

Kees van Twist