

KAAI
THEATER

TO AUTHENTICITY
AND BEYOND!

THE POLITICAL PARTY

AN ALTERNATIVE ELECTION SHOW

CURATED BY MARIA DOGAHE AND MICHIEL VANDEVELDE

30/04 20:30 | KAAITHEATER
DEBATE | IN ENGLISH



NL Aan de vooravond van de Europese, Federale en regionale verkiezingen organiseert The Political Party een alternatieve verkiezingsshow die een podium geeft aan de opiniemakers van morgen: denkers, schrijvers, kunstenaars en burgers die voornamelijk opereren in de marge van het mainstream debat. Negen jonge, progressieve stemmen gaan aan de slag met acht prangende thema's. Hoe gaan we de uitdagingen van vandaag en morgen samen te lijf? Hoe gaan we de uitdagingen van vandaag en morgen samen te lijf?

FR À la veille des élections européennes, fédérales et régionales, The Political Party organise un spectacle électoral alternatif qui donne voix au chapitre à des faiseurs d'opinion de demain : penseurs, écrivains, artistes et citoyens qui opèrent surtout en marge du débat dominant. Neuf jeunes voix progressistes s'attaquent à huit thèmes. Comment relève-t-on ensemble les défis d'aujourd'hui et de demain ?

EN On the eve of the European, federal and regional elections, The Political Party is organizing an alternative election show to offer a stage to the opinionmakers of tomorrow: thinkers, authors, artists and citizens who currently operate primarily in the margins of mainstream debate. Nine young, progressive will explore eight themes. How will we face and tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow together?

PROGRAMME

1) Europe - Rachael Moore

From her experience of working within European institutions, Rachael Moore will discuss these institutions' state, problems and potentials.

Rachael Moore is a British born LGBT activist who lives and works in Brussels, Belgium. With a background in youth empowerment, LGBT rights and advocacy, Rachael is no stranger to dealing with discrimination in both social and professional settings. Her entire experience at European level of politics has given her a greater insight of places that were never meant for black people or people of colour. Last year she co-founded an association that pushes a different narrative regarding the visibility of queer, trans, black and brown people called Rainbow Nation. Rainbow Nation pushes for a diversity, inclusivity and multiculturalism that is not defined by whiteness. A true 'Nothing about Us without Us' stance with regards to how the LGBT community deals with its own issues of racism, transphobia and xenophobia. Rainbow Nation also provides support group meetings for qtbpoc and organizes community-building activities in order to share and support moments of sadness and joy. Rachael is also the coordinator of the Rainbowhouse Brussels which is the federation of French and Dutch speaking LGBT associations in Brussels. She is the first woman of colour to take up this role. Intersectionality with a capital 'i' not only plays a major role in Rachael's life but is probably one of the better words to describe her.

2) Democracy and the supra-national level - Louise Hoon

More and more decisions are made on the European level. Yet, the elections and political fights that go with it stay primarily national. Can electoral democracy go forward to a level above the nation-state with its power? If so, why (not)? Are all forms of oppositions to the status quo that our political systems are confronted to - from populism, nationalism, the yellow vests movement, to political apathy and inadequate participation - fundamental blockades in the process, or rather unavoidable obstacles?

Louise Hoon is an aspirant to the Research Fondation - Flanders at the VUB. In her doctorate, she researches which themes attract voters to eurosceptic

parties. Her wider research interests are European and supranational democracy, public opinion, political parties and elections.

3) Access to justice - Christelle Umugwaneza

In my intervention, I would like to talk about how Belgium still needs to improve when it comes to human rights violations (given the many condemnations by the European Court of Justice for example) and touch also upon how anti-discrimination laws in Belgium are not that efficient to protecting marginalized communities given how difficult it is to actually get a condemnation based on those laws.

Christelle Umugwaneza is currently pursuing a law degree at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Her interest in law has led her to be involved with the Equality Law Clinic, a university organization that aims to give law students the opportunity to contribute concretely to the promotion of equality and justice in Belgium. But law isn't her only love. As an engaged student, she was involved for two years with ULB MUN, an organization that aims to teach students about diplomacy, research, debate and public speaking. Her hard work within that organization has earned her two diplomatic awards at the 2018 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference. Moreover, as a curious person who is always keen to learning more about the world around her in a concrete way, she has also worked with various international organizations such as the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) or the African Diaspora Network in Europe (ADNE).

When she isn't glued to her computer screen, she enjoys learning foreign languages, traveling the world and spending quality time with her friends and family.

4) Labour and precarity - Samira Atillah

Samira Atillah will discuss precarity and labour in relation to her concrete experience of working with youngsters in Genk (BE).

Atillah used to be active in a youth organization in Genk. There, she worked

with youngsters around interim labour and precarious labour. Via friendships and process-oriented work these youngsters addressed the consequences of precarious labour to policy makers. Afterwards Atillah worked in the Chamber of Representatives, where she was concerned with social affairs. Currently she writes columns, and is active as a research journalist. She published a book titled: *Zijn naam was Youssef* ('His name was Youssef'), which deals with the situation in a refugee camp near Dunkerque (FR).

5) Decolonization - Harmony Benegusenga and Eric Cyuzuzo

Benegusenga will address decolonization in relation to institutions. Cyuzuzo will address the relation between queerness and decolonization.

Eric Cyuzuzo is a thinker, a fighter, an interrogator in a perpetual learning process. He is a creative, and his creativity expresses itself through thinking, building and organizing platforms that are going to showcase and elevate the narratives of black people at the intersection of their identities. Indeed, he believes that every group within the black community should be able to tell and reclaim their own stories and culture that have for long been stolen, commoditized and invalidated. He believes in working outside of the mainstream, and within grassroots organizations. He is currently a programmer and curator at Le Space, a cultural centre in the heart of Brussels which was set up and is led and run by an anti-racist, feminist, pro-queer, anti-capitalist group of people, most of which are non-white and women. He is also the co-founder of Rainbow Nation Brussels, a non-profit organization which aims to promote and advance the visibility as well as the artistic, cultural and civic expression of LGBTQIA+ People who are also Black or of Colour.

Harmony Benegusenga has been active for six years in film and photography, however she rarely leaves traces. Despite her modesty she makes great productions. Besides, she gives workshops to youngsters, a job which, to a great extend, she has taught herself.

"I have experience in photography and video and I know about the biases because well, I'm not only black but also a queer woman in a very cis male world."

6) Education - Marie Dossin

In my presentation, I would like to ask questions - and they are numerous - about education and the school system in Belgium from my daily practice. It is certain that it is an unequal system according to different points of view, as it has been demonstrated for years and a lot of pupils can't take a true part in it for many reasons. I want to approach this subject by questioning the societal model that is built in our school with practical examples. Also, I'll propose to think about the current discourses on education in different contexts and why it is important to be careful when we talk about this subject. In conclusion, I'll give my opinion on the political scope of teaching.

Marie Dossin works in two different schools in the north of Brussels. She graduated from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Romance languages in 2014. She gives French literature and Latin lessons to youngsters from 12 to 18. During the past few years, education has become more than "just a job", it is now a big part of her life and a real passion. As many other workers in the field of education, she considers teaching in public schools as a political gesture (the links between society and school are close) and sometimes it is necessary to take a different look at this job as we do at our society.

7) Public Health - Eva Havelková

What is Public Health?

Finding explanations for population patterns of disease: the link between socio-economic status, development and ultraprocessed food. The influence of the corporate sector on health policy and fake news: substance misuse management. Disease prevention, bad science and health education: vaccine hesitancy.

Eva Havelková is a 5th year medical student from the Czech Republic currently undertaking a Global Health Degree at Imperial College London. Through this she has been able to explore causes of health inequalities that transcend national boundaries, such as infectious disease pandemics, the impact of climate change on health, and structures of health systems as well as the different actors involved in responding to these challenges. Her future vision is to reduce the individual and societal harm caused by substance misuse through pursuing public health, psychiatry and research.

8) Ecology - Warda El-Kaddouri

Humankind has this earth in loan. We are just one generation of living beings in a chain of infinite mater and energy. How we deal with our environment not only determines the future, but also what our own added value could be on this planet. How do we deal with one of the biggest challenges which our kind is experiencing and has caused? How can we restore the ecological balance, without forgetting those without much means?

Warda El-Kaddouri is a literature scientist and column writer. She is fascinated by stories and always in search of justice – also on the ecological level.

TO AUTHENTICITY AND BEYOND!

In this series of evening discussions, leading authors, intellectuals and philosophers debate the concept of authenticity.

CLOSING TALK:

Bojana Cvejić

AESTHETIC INDIVIDUALISM

To round up TO AUTHENTICITY... AND BEYOND!, we invite performance theorist Bojana Cvejić for a final talk, followed by a conversation with Prof. Rudi Laermans. Laermans wrote the essay *t*, which marked the beginning of this season's series on authenticity. This talk will unfold the new truth games in which individuals seek their self-knowledge in embodiment and artistic-like intensity. How do aesthetic qualities of experience shape a predominantly individualized sense of the self? Alternatively, can one perform oneself transindividually, in a kind of collective individuation?

Kaaistudio's | 17/06 | talk | in English