

# 431 (LIETJE BAUWENS & WOUTER DE RAEVE)

## WTC A Love Story

# KAAI THEATER

AVANT-PREMIÈRE | 11/02 20:30 | KAAITHEATER

FILM | 60 MIN | IN DUTCH, FRENCH & ENGLISH (SURTITLES IN FRENCH & ENGLISH)



- EXTRA** • In the foyer, you can find a compilation of images from the research of *WTC A Love Story*
- On Wed 12/02, 431 organizes two follow-up workshops (see backside for more info)
  - For more info on the characters of *WTC A Love Story* check [www.wtcalovestory.be](http://www.wtcalovestory.be)

**NL** In 1970 ging de Brusselse Noordwijk tegen de vlakte om plaats te maken voor 'Little Manhattan', een modernistische, business georiënteerde droom met twee World Trade Centre torens als haar kroonjuwelen. Dit project faalde en de torens stonden jarenlang grotendeels leeg, tot de eigenaar in 2017 een hernieuwde interesse kreeg in de buurt. Lietje Bauwens en Wouter De Raeve maakten deze veranderingen mee vanaf hun studio op de 25e verdieping van WTC-toren 1 en besloten zich in het debat te mengen door een film te maken met de actoren die een stem claimen in de transitie: politici, een activist, de privé-eigenaar, ontwerpers, en anderen. Met de WTC-torens als decor, ontrafelt de film de machtsrelaties tussen de verschillende betrokkenen in stedelijke ontwikkelingsprocessen, en traceert de toestroom van nieuwe, progressieve, ecologische en participatieve ideeën en hun impact op de buurt.

*WTC A Love Story* gebruikt fictie als methode om te onderzoeken welke verhalen naar voren komen wanneer het proces van politieke representatie wordt uitvergroet.

**FR** Dans les années 70, les deux tours du World Trade Center couronnaient le quartier nord de Bruxelles, rebaptisé Little Manhattan. Le projet a échoué, laissant en grande partie les tours et les environs à l'abandon. Depuis la fin de l'année 2017, le propriétaire des tours fait preuve d'un intérêt renouvelé pour le quartier. Témoins privilégiés des changements en cours dans la zone à partir de leur studio au 25e étage de la Tour 1 du WTC, Lietje Bauwens et Wouter de Raeve ont décidé de prendre part au débat en réalisant un film avec les acteurs qui exigent d'avoir leur mot à dire dans

cette transition : des politiciens, un activiste, le propriétaire privé, des designers et bien d'autres. Prenant les tours WTC pour objet, le projet cinématographique démêle les relations de pouvoir entre les différents acteurs impliqués dans le réaménagement urbain et trace l'afflux de nouvelles idées progressistes, écologiques et horizontalistes ainsi que leur impact sur le quartier.

*WTC A Love Story* se sert de la fiction pour explorer quelles histoires entrent en scène dès lors que le processus de représentation politique s'accélère.

**EN** In the 1970s, the lively neighbourhood around Brussels-North Station was destroyed to make room for 'Little Manhattan', a modernist dream with the two World Trade Centre towers as its crown jewels. The project failed, leaving the towers and surrounding area largely abandoned. Since late 2017, the owner of the towers has shown a renewed interest in the area. Closely witnessing the changes from their studio space on the 25th floor of WTC tower 1, Lietje Bauwens and Wouter De Raeve decided to enter the debate by making a film with the actors that claim a voice in the transition: politicians, an activist, the private owner, designers and others. Taking the WTC towers as its object, the film project unravels power relations between the different actors involved in the urban redevelopment, and traces the influx of new progressive, ecological and horizontalist ideas and their impact on the area.

*WTC A Love Story* uses fiction as a method to explore what stories enter the stage when the process of political representation is accelerated.

## CREDITS

**A PROJECT BY** Lietje Bauwens and Wouter De Raeve (431) | **PRODUCED BY** Daan Milius & Hans van Hezik for Video Power | **IMAGE** Pieter Dumoulin | **SOUND** Kwinten van Laethen | **EDIT** Caszimir Cleutjens | **GRAPHIC DESIGN** B&R, Bern/Bruxelles | **MUSIC** Jens Bouterry | **PARTNERS** Kaaithheater, A+ architecture in Belgium, arp: | **SUPPORT** The Arts and Heritage Agency of the Flemish Community, VGC, The ministry of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region responsible for Mobility and Public Works, Provincie Limburg (NL), Gemeente Maastricht, Mondriaan Fonds, Jan van Eyck Academie | **CHARACTERS** Lietje Bauwens, Mathieu Berger, Marie-Anaïs Bluteau, Kristiaan Borret, Gert Bouquiaux, Jan Denoo, Wouter De Raeve, Chaïma Ghaida, Werner Joris, Mehdi Kassou, Sven Lenaerts, Ans Persoons, Freek Persyn, Arnaud Van Puyenbroeck, Pieter Torbeyns | **ACTORS** Tom Adjibi, Kris Cuppens, Valentijn Dhaenens, Davis Freeman, Hervé Guerrisi, Stefan Jakiela, Heike Langsdorf, Hervé Piron, Janneke Remmers, Nathalie Rozanes, Stine Sampers, Peter Vandenbempt | **SPECIAL THANKS** to Daan Milius & Christopher Roth

## WTC A LOVE STORY – WORKSHOPS

on 12/02, at Kaaitheater

431 initiated *WTC A Love Story* from an interest in filmmaking as an architectural tool. The day after the avant-premiere, they organise two follow-up workshops at Kaaitheater, exploring alternative forms of space-making which emerged out of the production process.

### 10:00 > 13:00 Workshop 1: *A coalition of social actors in the Northern Quarter?*

Social actors and activists from the Northern District, come together to reflect upon the possibility of forming a coalition. How to claim a voice in the decision making processes of their neighbourhood? This is a closed workshop.

### 16:00 > 18:00 Workshop 2: *Permanent*

How can artists avoid being instrumentalised into gentrification processes? *Permanent* is a practice-based research aiming to develop an infrastructure for permanently affordable workspaces for artists and artworkers in Brussels. By investigating alternative forms of ownership, and by looking into new legal and financial models, *Permanent* wants to develop a much-needed infrastructure for artistic creation in Brussels. An attempt to forge radical solidarity, between artists and other groups excluded by profit-driven urban development.

During this workshop at Kaaitheater, five guests are invited to share their knowledge and experiences:

Fashion designer and activist **Rachida Aziz**, author of *Niemand zal hier slapen vannacht* initiated the bottom-up art space Le Space at the Dansaertstraat in Brussels; a horizontal and inclusive safe space and a barrier for further gentrification of the area. Recently, Le Space was evicted by the new owner of the building.

**Jan Denoo** studied urban geography at the the Vrije Universiteit Brussel where he wrote his dissertation about the Northern Quarter of Brussels. In collaboration with BRAL he initiated the blog *Which Way Is North*. He works for Ndvr in Antwerp, where he is specialised in housing with a specific focus on cooperative models.

**Lola Dirckx** was trained as an urban planner and works at the cabinet of Ans Persoons, alderwoman of Town Planning and Public Spaces for the City of Brussels. As a member of Toestand Lola Dirckx co-wrote the book *Leegstond*, a manual for the use of vacant buildings.

**Pepijn Kennis** studied sociology and urban geography at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and urban development at the universities of Brussels, Copenhagen, Vienna and Madrid. After his studies, he started as a volunteer at Toestand vzw in 2012, an organization that deals with the transformation of vacant buildings into temporary spaces for socio-cultural projects. He became coordinator of Toestand in 2014. He resigned from Toestand to become delegate for the civil movement Agora at the Brussels parliament.

**Louis Volont** is a PhD researcher in sociology. He is a member of the CCQO (Culture Commons Quest Office) and ARIA (Antwerp Research Institute for the Arts). His doctoral dissertation, to be presented September 2020, is entitled *Shapeshifting: The Production of Common Space*.

Kaaitheater is supported by

