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PRESS RELEASE

## **Artistic Director Maaïke van Langen departs Circusstad Festival after 12 Years**

The founder and artistic director Maaïke van Langen is leaving Circusstad Festival. She can give 1001 reasons to stay, but after 12 years, she feels it's time for a new challenge.

"Leaving will be difficult. The team, the makers, the artists and the audience are in my heart. I've been obsessed by circus, but to avoid becoming in any way repetitive, ever losing my wonder, I want to make way for someone with a fresh, perhaps even different, way of seeing things. And I want to stop at the highpoint of my circus career. Despite corona, we've still been able to work in the last 12 months on the foundations of circus, which were already strong anyway. We've proved it: after all the setbacks, we're still here! And with ambitious plans, with our eyes trained on the future. We're supporting young makers and international relations are stronger than ever. I've worked on them, heart and soul, for 12 years with my partner and fellow founder Dirk Evers."

Sharing the magic and joy of circus with people up is what drives her and it is ingrained in every aspect of Circusstad.

"I was able to select the most beautiful productions from all over the world as artistic director. I was permitted to build on these masterly stories to create a mega-narrative, the festival."

It was thanks to Maaïke van Langen that Circusstad Festival quickly grew from a modest organisation into an institution, an institution that made new circus theatre in the Netherlands prominent. The top festival in Rotterdam in the May holidays is internationally famous for its original and contemporary formula, including sensational productions from the Netherlands and beyond with room for new talent and amateurs. Scouting and supporting new circus makers is one of core tasks of the Circusstad Festival.

The organisation is grateful to Maaïke van Langen for her unremitting dedication. Managing director Dirk Evers: "With her intuition, sparkling energy and sincere interest, Maaïke put modern circus in the Netherlands on the map. As far as circus theatre is concerned, she is the oracle, and that deserves deep respect."

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Note for editors: For interviews and/or extra information about the departure of Maaïke van Langen, please contact Dijlan van Vlimmeren at [pers@circusstad.nl](mailto:pers@circusstad.nl).