

Het Zuidelijk
Toneel

Not
Quichot

A psychedelic
storytelling trip



Who’s who?

Q
Played by everyone
An unconventional road warrior who disappeared years ago in the Sahara and is remembered tonight.

S/Es
Played by Alicia Boedhoe
A penniless bookworm and soon-to-be student who decides to join Q’s adventures.

P
Played by Gillis Biesheuvel
A fellow trucker. With his pedal to the metal, this seasoned driver steers his 10-tonner through the narrowest mountain passes.

S-OR-ES-TOO
Played by Keja Klaasje Kwestro
The roadside diner owner who served you a steaming plate of juicy, home-made meatballs on your way here.

S-OR-ES-TOO
Played by Louis van der Waal
Well... this is S/Es as well. He claims he also travelled with Q, maybe for even longer than the other S.

A
Played by Julia Ghysels
A journalist interested in the life of truckers, who followed Q’s journeys through his voice messages.

The-Woman-with-no-Name

Bullshit versus real shit

What is life, if not cobbling together material to turn into a good story? Telling stories helps us make sense of our adventures in the world. And we’d prefer to believe our own version of the facts. If necessary, we’ll happily make a giant out of a windmill or a mountain out of a molehill: alternative facts, conspiracy theories, reframing and gaslighting are more popular than ever. There’s a reason why Oxford’s Word of the Year in 2016 was “post-truth”.

Is that why we identify so strongly with the narrator who deliberately misleads us? *Don Quixote* set the trend for countless unreliable narrators in literature, film, and theatre: *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, for example, which Het Zuidelijk Toneel recently reimagined in *F*ck Lolita*. There’s also the cult film *Rashomon* by Akira Kurosawa, in which three witnesses tell contradictory versions of a crime. Or *The Glass Menagerie*, a Tennessee Williams classic in which we must simply take the narrator at his word.

Luckily, tonight’s narrators are entirely trustworthy.

Reading & viewing tips for the passenger seat

Craving more literary or cinematic road trips after this performance? We recommend...

On the Road
Legendary novel (and road movie!) by Jack Kerouac, written all in one go without sleep.

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance
An essay disguised as a road novel. With his son on the back seat, the protagonist rides through America as readers join him on his inner journey.

The Darjeeling Limited
A Wes Anderson comedy drama set in India.

Easy Rider
With roaring exhausts, you ride through the hippie America of the 1960s in this legendary film.

The Surprising Adventures of Baron Munchausen
A classic in the “unreliable narrator” category.

Thelma and Louise
A Ridley Scott road movie with brilliant performances by Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon.

Or dive into one of the many adaptations of *Don Quixote*: *Quichotte* by Salman Rushdie, *Monsignor Quixote* by Graham Greene, *Don Quixote*, *Which Was a Dream* by Kathy Acker.

More fun...



Offline Tourists
In *Offline Tourists*, a Hu-bot from 2500 takes you back to 2025 to explore what it meant to be offline. Step into the mind of a future cyborg: how does AI imagine a long-extinct humanity? For your amusement, the Hu-bot conjures two human replicas. Behold: Frankenstein reversed!



Saved Game
In 2026, Peter Seynaeve takes his place in the spotlight as the director of *Saved Game*, a gripping solo by Julia Ghysels about a mother who loses her child and logs into his game. In doing so, she loses herself, both in the game and in the play. She performs every character on her own. *Saved Game* is a piece about grief and virtual healing through play. Emotion guaranteed.



Byzantium
A fully-fledged co-production with Abattoir Fermé! Their artistic director, Stef Lernous, invites you into *Byzantium*: a restaurant named after the greatest and most prosperous city of the Ancient World. Once bustling with visitors, it is long past its best. What the hell is wrong here? One of the owners is frying her own liver. Elderly waiters are attached to oxygen cylinders. A lobster tank is full of filthy water. A performance about toxic nostalgia, culinary phobias, and — despite everything — mouthwatering desires.

Credits

Director	Sarah Moeremans
Script	Joachim Robbrecht with Artun Alaska Arasli and Sarah Moeremans
Cast	Alicia Boedhoe, Joep van der Geest, Julia Ghysels, Gillis Biesheuvel, Keja Klaasje Kwestro and Louis van der Waal
Stage design (theatre version)	Ruimtetijd – Theun Mosk
Costume design	Daphne de Winkel
Sound design	Timo Merkies
Lighting design	Stan Bannier
Assistant director	Simon Kleinhesselink
Dramaturgy rookies	Ruben Westendorp, Stein Konings
Photography	Sofie Knijff

gemeente Tilburg



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

Provincie Noord-Brabant

Not Quichot

In *Not Quichot*, director Sarah Moeremans and writer Joachim Robbrecht send Cervantes’ famous novel *Don Quixote* blasting through the crash barrier! With the full HZT ensemble, they construct a brand-new performance from the wreckage. Quixote, the wannabe knight, is reincarnated as a headstrong trucker, roaming around Europe in a van, in search of ‘real’ people. The performance combines a hallucinatory memorial with a lightning-fast road trip, careening across the continent with a roaring engine and no seatbelt. Fiction overtakes truth in the inside lane, and words triumph over reality.

This is the latest upcycled version of a classic novel in the growing collection by Moeremans, Robbrecht and their actors: following *Crashtest Ibsen* (2023) and *Mission Molière* (2023), they are now presenting *Not Quichot*: a road trip through the post-truth era. What is made up is true, but what is true if it is made up?

Who was Don Quixote?

After reading too many chivalric romances, a nobleman sets out on a knight’s adventure under the name Don Quixote. Sancho, a farmer from the same village, joins him as his squire. Riding on a bony old horse and swept up by delusions of knighthood, Don Quixote attacks everything in his path.

The story of Don Quixote is more than 400 years old, and it was an immediate hit in its day. People gathered in taverns and marketplaces all over the country to hear tales of a mad knight roaming through Spain, famously engaging in bloody battles with windmills he mistook for giants. Audiences delighted in the madness and fantasy that Don Quixote is still known for today, as well as in the way the tale was told: stories within stories, narrators contradicting each other, and characters aware they were being written about. Cervantes’ book was a prototype of the modern novel, and you’ll find the same principles at play in *Not Quichot*.

Q’s Roadmap

The main character, Q, drives through Europe using maps from the 1970s. Nostalgic, but not exactly practical.



La Cicciolina
Q’s *unattainable* love
Cicciolina is real: her actual name is Ilona Staller. She is a former Soviet spy turned porn star turned politician, who held a seat in the Italian parliament for the “Love Party” for several years.



Locations on the 1970s map

- Q’s possible route
- University of Bolzano & University of Bologna
- Shrimp-peeling factory in Poznan
- Făgăraș Mountains
- Bulgarian vineyards
- Fish auction in Lyon
- La Cicciolina in Rome
- Dakar
- Valladolid
- Gothenburg
- HZT
- Tilburg North
- Liberec
- Abisko
- Westland flower greenhouses
- Finnish reindeer farm
- Albanian Alps
- Ferry to Sweden
- German snack stand
- Glaciers of Tyrol
- Tuscan vineyard
- Anubis, Egypt