

Theater
aan zee

TAZ#2025

THEATERAANZEE.BE OOSTENDE 30/07-09/08

le
temps
d'une
chanson

Oostende

30.7

09.8



invitation & program

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1/ TAZ *festival*

TAZ (Theater aan Zee/Theatre by the Sea) is a festival in Ostend at its 28th edition in 2025. This year it runs from the 30th of July 'till 9th of August. You can find the full program and more about the festival's rich history [here](#).

TAZ#UNLIMITED is a platform for Flemish work with international reputation and/or ambition within its program. The festival selected shows in different genres and sizes and will showcase them for international stage professionals.

You'll find the shows that we recommend seeing in this brochure. You'll find the language they are performed in and some basic information. We hope you consider visiting Ostend for a few days.

In addition to the shows, you are invited to a **networking brunch** on Friday August 1st – 11am at the festival center Café Koer.

Have a look at our offerings and feel free to contact us for more information and ticket requests through **David Bauwens**, david.b@theateraanzee.be



©Inge Baes

2 / International selection

TAZ Unlimited has selected the following shows as part of the international program. All shows are available for further touring.

TIAGO RODRIGUEZ/NTGENT

No yogurt for the dead

No Yogurt for the Dead is an intimate and moving performance by Tiago Rodrigues, artistic director of Festival d'Avignon. He depicts the unfinished last article of his father, journalist Rogério Rodrigues, written on his deathbed. A story that was supposed to be about his experiences as a terminal patient ultimately resulted in a few scribbles. Tiago fills in what never made it onto paper: with memories, Fado music, poetry and theatre.

Each scene is a variation on farewell, against a backdrop in which hospital beds glide over an icy sea, absurd and recognizable. In this way, the theatre becomes a place where even death is overcome to a certain extent.

With this creation, Rodrigues joins the prestigious NTGent series Histoire(s) du Théâtre, where big names such as Milo Rau, Miet Warlop, Tim Etchells and Angélica Liddell previously reimagined the stage.

PRESS

'Rodrigues' Dramaturgical Craftsmanship at Its Finest'

– The New York Times

'A beautiful story (...) The performance of musician Helder Gonçalves, and the actresses and their crystal-clear voices, is unparalleled'

– Theaterkrant.nl

'A piece that breathes life into death and transforms disappointment into wonder'

– Libération

Trailer

LANGUAGES

Dutch, English & Portuguese
(Subtitles in English)

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

30/07 'till 01/08 (8pm) & 02/08 (11am)
cc DGP, Grote Post,
Hendrik Serruyslaan 18A

SALES CONTACT

Sophie Vanden Broeck (NTGent)
sophie.vanden.broeck@ntgent.be

COPRODUCTION

Culturgest Lisboa, Piccolo Teatro
di Milano – Teatro d'Europa, Wiener
Festwochen



©Michiel Devijver

CIRCUS RONALDO

Da Capo

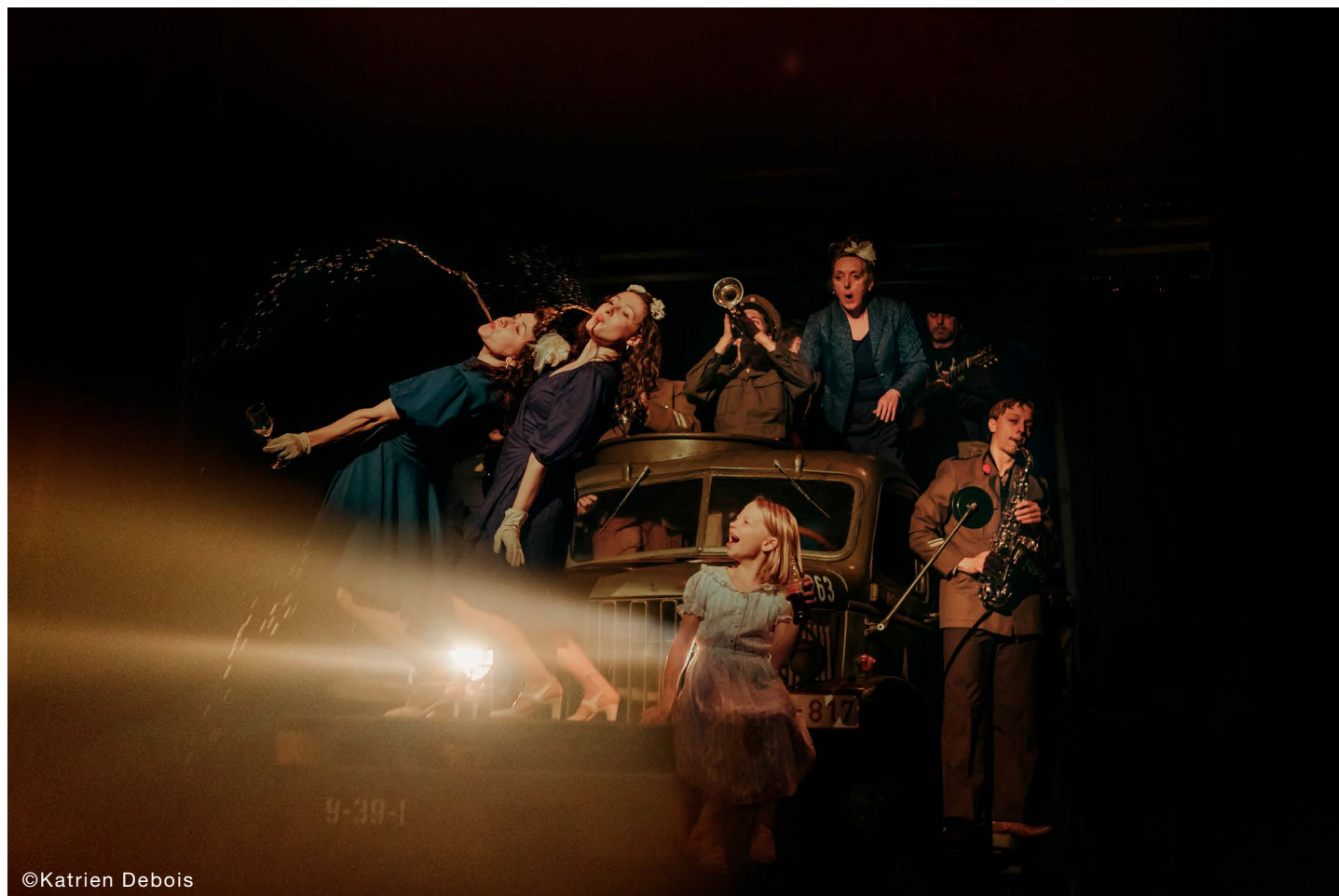
Da Capo is the caravan of life that passes by. Generations that appear and disappear again. Birth and death. Power. Beauty. Loss. Love. *Da Capo* is a chronicle of a circus family. A visual, cinematic representation of a family history of love, necessity, apparent coincidence and passion. From little Adolph who ran away with a circus in 1842 at the age of 15, to today where the 7th generation after Adolph enters the ring of Circus Ronaldo. A story of 180 years of wonder.

Circus Ronaldo longs to tell the history of its family, from the beginning to infinity. A universal story, recognizable to each of us, because everyone needs support and trust, connection, family.

PRESS

"A beautiful spectacle; hectic, hilarious scenes; surreal, Felliniesque processions; tranquil moments; an emotional take on the art of (surviving) life with bittersweet humor."

– Theaterkrant.nl



©Katrien Debois

LANGUAGES

universal

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

31/07 'till 03/08 (9pm) – 04/08 (3pm) – 06 'till 09/08 (9pm)
Maria Hendrikapark

SALES CONTACT

Frans Brood Productions
info@fransbrood.com

COPRODUCTION

Het Paleis (Antwerpen), Theater op de Markt – Dommelhof (Pelt), Théâtre Firmin Gémier / La Piscine – Pôle national des arts du cirque (Châtenay-Malabry), Latitude 50 – pôle des arts du cirque et de la rue (Marchin)

Trailër

BERLIN/SOPHIE ANNA VEELENTURF

Swiping Right

Can (online) dating be used as a tool to combat political polarization? In *Swiping Right*, Sophie Anna Veelenturf examines what happens when political opposites meet in intimate situations. How does ideology influence our dating, desires and relationships? How do political divides impact the way in which we compromise between attraction and resistance? Based on her own experience of doomed dates with right-wing, conservative men, Sophie Anna, a self-proclaimed 'leftie', brings her own personal quest to the stage.

With humour and sharp dialogue, she brings theatrical re-enactments of the interviews she conducted, not just with her dates, but also with politically mixed couples and academics of all political persuasions. The result is a fascinating blend of ideology and intimacy, in which Sophie Anna flirts with stand-up and documentary theatre. In an uncompromising yet vulnerable way, she explores the boundaries between love and politics. In doing so, she holds up a mirror to the audience and asks the burning question: do opposites really attract?



©Lisa Schamlé & Nick Mattan

LANGUAGES

English, Dutch (English subtitles)

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

31/07 & 01/08 (7.30pm),

01/08 (4.30pm)

Vesaliusinstituut, Leffingestraat 1

SALES CONTACT

David Bauwens

david@berlinberlin.be

COPRODUCTION

Het Laatste Bedrijf, Cambridge

Junction (UK)

WORLD
PREMIERE

JOSIE DALE-JONES/THISEGG

A Little Inquest Into What We Are All Doing Here

In 2022 a show was cancelled while it was still in rehearsal.

The idea of what the show might be created a demand for it to be left unseen.

A Little Inquest Into What We Are All Doing Here is a show about censorship and freedom of expression.

This piece of theatre - part autobiography, part fiction - questions the limits of performance: what we make it for, what we go to it for and what we are willing to stand up for.

PRESS

“...and it is from these long-ago burnt ashes that this show is, rather thrillingly, born...a celebration of expressing what you believe in despite the fear of how others might respond”

– **** The Scotsman

“...this thoughtful and probing front line dispatch is delivered with an unexpectedly devastating theatrical swagger”

– **** Lyn Gardner, The Stage

**EDINBURGH
FRINGE FIRST
WINNER 2024**



©Rich Lakos

LANGUAGES

English

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

31/07-02/08 (8.30pm)

Maritiem Instituut Mercator,
Mercatorlaan 15

SALES CONTACT

David Bauwens

david@playthehousedown.be

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Camden People's Theatre,
Streatham Space Project,
Old Diorama Arts Centre & New
Diorama Theatre.

Trailer



©Kurt van der Elst

NTGENT/ACTION ZOO HUMAIN

Persians. Triumph of Empathy

Persians. Triumph of Empathy is a remarkable theatre production directed by Chokri Ben Chikha. In this performance, he and six performers explore how to be more understanding and empathetic in a conflict that has been going on for decades: the conflict between Israel and Palestine. They do this by looking at one of the oldest plays in history, *Persians*.

Persians by Aeschylus is about a war between the Greeks and the Persians, in which the writer fought himself. The central question is: did Aeschylus have empathy and understanding for his enemy, or did he mainly want to show how superior the Greeks were? By asking these questions, the performers look for connections between this ancient story and today's genocide in the Middle East.

The performance, based on interviews Ben Chikha conducted in Israel and Palestine in January 2024, combines words, dance and music into an engaging and moving whole. *Persians. Triumph of Empathy* balances between art and reality, opportunism and empathy.

PRESS

"Director Chokri Ben Chikha refuses to succumb to an overly simple message of peace"

– ***** NRC

"You entered the theatre with armored convictions, but you leave them dismantled. Shaken by a rollercoaster of emotions, histories and perspectives. That effect can be called an achievement. (...) But rarely do you see theatre that manages to confront fiction and current events, word and image, repertoire and performance with each other so cleverly and powerfully. It is almost disconcerting to note. Precisely because of all the displacement that this war is leading to, art comes home in 'Persians': risky, necessary, on the cutting edge."

– PZAZZ

"In Perzen. Triomf van Empathie, Chokri Ben Chikha and Action Zoo Humain let the Israeli and Palestinian sides mourn, speak, play and dance together. "The biggest challenge" they "ever tackled" became a necessary and well-considered punch in the stomach."

– **** De Standaard

LANGUAGES

divers (English subtitles)

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

03/08 (3pm & 8pm)
cc DGP, Grote Post,
Hendrik Serruyslaan 18A

SALES CONTACT

Irina Leskovskaya
irina@actionzoohumain.be

COPRODUCTION

Theater Rotterdam

Trailer

TONEELHUIS/OLYMPIQUE DRAMATIQUE

[Seagull]

Olympique Dramatique's production *[meeuw]* is the first time that a repertory play has been translated and performed in its entirety in Flemish Sign Language by a mixed cast of deaf and hearing actors.

The starting point is *De Meeuw* (The Seagull) by Anton Chekhov, one of the greatest and tenderest plays in the world repertoire: a classic from 1896 about young people wanting to explore new ideas and an older generation that feels threatened by this. A narrative about the longing for the past and the longing for a free life, told from the perspective of three different generations. Love and desire as the devastating driving force during a family reunion. A comedy in four acts, as the Russian playwright himself called it.

[meeuw] is an encounter with performers from the Flemish deaf community, with Flemish Sign Language as mother tongue. The mixed cast comprises three deaf and five hearing performers

PRESS

"If you want to see the most extraordinary performance of the year, be sure and make time for this seagull."

– **** Els Van Steenberghe in Knack Focus

"In *[meeuw]*, Olympique Dramatique rewrites Chekhov's The Seagull with Flemish Sign Language (VGT) as the main language. This forces upon you as a spectator a different economy of the senses, different decisions about where to place your focus, actually a very different sensibility. As a result, the subtle class struggle that Chekhov always conducts goes a step further: here, communication is questioned, and even language itself.... Sign language becomes the norm, logocentrism assumes a different form; what dominates is gesture, not spoken language."

– Klaas Tindemans in Etcetera

Trailer

LANGUAGES

Dutch Sign Language, English Subtitles

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

30-31/07 (8.00pm) -01/08 (5pm)

Loods NMBS, Konterdamkaai

SALES CONTACT

David Cornille

david.cornille@toneelhuis.be





©Karolina Wojtas

CAMPO/GOSIA WDOWIK

DEEPER

For her new performance *DEEPER*, Polish theatre maker Gosia Wdowik explores the issue of gender-based violence and its representation.

Based on interviews with teenagers, Wdowik critically examines the ongoing reproduction and cultivation of images that frame female bodies in a conflation of sexuality and violence, and how these bodies invite, resist and disrupt this all-too-familiar form of objectification. What impact do these images have on the lives of adolescents and what tactics do they develop to navigate the world under these impressions? With the help of professional actresses, Wdowik is working on a performance to create a space for dialogue between different generations of women, and for shared reflection, emotional processing, and solidarity.

LANGUAGES

English

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

30/07 (8.30pm)-31/07 (5.30pm & 8.30pm)
cc DGP, Kleine Post,
Hendrik Serruyslaan 18A

SALES CONTACT

Marijke Vandersmissen
marijke.vandersmissen@campo.nu

COPRODUCTION

Festival Theaterformen (Hannover),
Festival actoral (Marseille), Frascati
Producties supported by Ammodo
(Amsterdam) & Perpodium

CAMPO/TIBEAU BEIRNAERT & LAURENS ANECA

Zero Feet Away

Sex is now as much digital as it is physical; we've become interacting algorithms. Can we break the code that locks us into limiting patterns?

In the performance *Zero Feet Away*, theatre makers Tibau Beirnaert & Laurens Aneca explore the impact of hookup apps. They delve into how these apps reveal both the possibilities and the constraints of modern technology. They question whether the apps can create a new landscape of desires and challenge traditional, heteronormative structures.

The story is told from the perspective of a shapeshifter who craves sex and intimacy. To fulfill these longings the creature turns to hookup apps. Does the shapeshifter, who merely mirrors what others demand of them, eventually find their own form(s)?

PRESS

Beirnaert and Aneca have created an enormously ambitious work that shows an impressive eye for detail, atmosphere and acting

– Etcetera

From the very beginning, 'Zero Feet Away' puts your experience on the loose. That is exciting and confusing at the same time

–Pzazz



© Thomas Dhanens

LANGUAGES

English (Dutch Subtitles)

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

01/08 (8.30pm), 02/08 (2.30pm & 8.30pm)
cc DGP, Kleine Post,
Hendrik Serruyslaan 18

SALES CONTACT

Marijke Vandersmissen
marijke.vandersmissen@campo.nu

COPRODUCTION

Festival Theaterformen (Hannover),
Festival actoral (Marseille), Frascati
Producties (Amsterdam) backed by
Ammodo & Perpodium

Trailer



©Sujet Barré

CIE DU SUJET BARRÉ/SOPHIE WARNANT

Macc(h)abées

Macc(h)abées is a dance performance in which Sophie Warnant embodies, without words, seven years of research on death.

The piece does not approach death in a metaphorical way, but in a very direct, physical way: mourning, farewell, the complicated relationship with the increasingly less “productive” body, the choice of death... It is therefore also about life and the meaning we give to that life, through our experiences and involvement. The living evokes death; death evokes the living.

Based on a long period of preparatory research (on euthanasia), of penetrating but necessary experiences (thanatopraxy), of moving encounters (doctors, patients, psychologists, “professionals” in death), Macc(h)abées tells the story of this impossible encounter between life and death.

How to say goodbye to life when it is too early?
How to decide not to want to live any longer?

LANGUAGES

none

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

01-03/08 (8.30pm)

Basischool Kroonlaan, Kroonlaan 18

SALES CONTACT

sujetbarre.c@gmail.com

COPRODUCTION

le Rideau (Brussels), Théâtre Joliette – scène conventionnée art et création pour les expressions et écritures contemporaines (Marseille), Théâtre Jean-Vilar (Vitry-sur-Seine), La Coop ASBL and Shelter Prod

Trailer

NOT STANDING/ALEXANDER VANTOURNHOUT

Frames

In his famous essay *Parergon*, the French philosopher Jacques Derrida asks the reader the following question: “Suppose a burglar were to steal only the frames of the artworks in your home, and not the artworks themselves. What would change in your dealings with art?”

In his new production *Frames* (2025), Alexander Vantournhout turns this thought-experiment inside out: what if the burglar takes away the painting but not the frame? What does this frame still mean and do? What is its meaning and which potential does it hold? Is it a ‘parergon’ – a secondary, ancillary element – or just a structural element of the artwork?

Frames explores the theatre element that is commonly taken for granted, the element that makes theatre possible in the first place: the frame shaping the spectator’s gaze.



©Bart Grietens

LANGUAGES

none

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

31-07 'till 02/08

(3pm & 6pm)

Paalsteenhoeve,

Kruishofstraat 2

SALES CONTACT

Frans Brood Productions

info@fransbrood.com

COPRODUCTION

Kunstencentrum

VIERNULVIER, Ghent (BE),

Les Halles de Schaerbeek

(BE), Le CENTQUATRE

(Paris), Le Carreau Scène

nationale de Forbach et

de l'Est mosellan (FR)

JEF EVERAERT & MARICA MARINONI

In Difference

Two performers, two Cyr wheels, two different styles: Jef is pacifist and indecisive, Marica is confident and confrontational. Guided by their contrasts, the two acrobats weave a poetic and physical dialogue where conflict and complicity converge. In Difference is a journey towards a gradual break with the wheel's traditional uses, to the point of bringing it to life.

LANGUAGES

none

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

01-03/08 (9pm)

KAZ, Dr. Verhaeghestraat 7

SALES CONTACT

Manon Gagnepain

m.gagnepain@cirqonflex.fr

Trailer



If you can't make it to TAZ#Unlimited, but you can join the festival later in the week, we still have three shows that might be of interest to international professionals. Let us know if this might be the case, and we'll handle your ticket requests.

KWP KUNSTENWERKPLAATS/ANNE-LAURE VANDEPUTTE

My Body As A Commodity

My Body as a Commodity is a sultry musical trip that explores the boundaries of fiction. Under high-energy live percussion, theatre maker Anne-Laure Vandeputte investigates in which narratives our bodies are – consciously or unconsciously – inscribed.

She meets a director who wants to talk about strong women.
She meets a man who wonders whether he will appear in the show.
She meets a sex worker in Berlin and bombards her to her own personal Jesus.

Together with musician Andrew van Ostade, Vandeputte brings a monologue-on-beats that questions and challenges the narrative about physical trauma.



©Lucinde Wahlen

LANGUAGES

Dutch/English

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

5-7/08 (8pm)

LOODS NMBS (8pm), Konterdamkaai

SALES CONTACT

karlien.vanhoonacker@pianofabriek.be

Eva.welkenhuyzen@pianofabriek.be

COPRODUCTION

KAAP, C-mine, Monty

Trailer

MONTY/MARAH HAJ HUSSEIN

LANGUAGE: NO BROBLEM

Language: no problem moves between Languages, geographies, voices and imaginations and is an attempt to explore multilingualism. When speaking more than one language becomes a navigational compass, we can immerse ourselves in the underlying power relations that play out between Languages. How do they intertwine in someone's mind in an environment of oppression?

We follow the story of a train journey in Belgium, in which the main character has intriguing encounters. Her personal story is interwoven with that of her family members living under occupation. Their voices tell how they relate to Palestinian Arabic, their spoken mother tongue, in relation to Hebrew, the official state language of their place of residence. It offers a space to listen to one of the often-silenced efforts of colonialism: the active but subtle mechanisms that gradually, over several generations, ensure that the language of the colonizer gains the upper hand over the language of the native inhabitants.

LANGUAGES

Arabic, Hebrew, English, Dutch

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

7-8/08 (8.30pm) & 8/08 (4pm)

cc DGP, Kleine Post,

Hendrik Serruyslaan 18A

SALES CONTACT

Lana Willems

lana.willems@monty.be

COPRODUCTION

Moussem

Trailer



©Myrto Grigoriou



©Julie De Meester

JOZEF WOUTERS/DECORATELIER

THE SOFT LAYER

The Soft Layer transports you through the stories, ideas and dreams of the inhabitants of Dar Bairam Turki, a beautiful 17th century Ottoman palace. Different voices muse in three Languages (Tunisian, French and English) about renovation and history, destruction and purification, the limits of science fiction and the soothing properties of aloe vera. A story built from collective memories and stories. In this performance text, Jozef Wouters guides you through these stories, while also addressing the question of what possible futures could be for the place and the community that lives there, beyond nostalgia and the ghosts of the past.

The Soft Layer is Jozef Wouters' continuation of *The Soft Layer* (Tunis), a site-specific work that took place from 2017 to 2019 in the historic building Dar Bairam Turki in Tunis.

LANGUAGES

Tunisian, French, English

FESTIVAL LOCATION & DATES

5-8 August (2pm & 6pm)

SALES CONTACT

decoratelier@damagedgoods.be

COPRODUCTION

Damaged Goods, Kanal – Centre Pompidou in cooperation with Dream City BXL.

3 / Network brunch

TAZ#UNLIMITED

Network brunch

As an international festival guest, you're invited to a networking brunch on **August 1st**.

Here you can meet the festival crew, the artists and international colleagues.

There will of course be an obligatory speech.

We'll be expecting you in the park @ Café Koer, the central meeting point of the festival at 11am.



If you have remarks, questions or inquiries, please email David Bauwens, david.b@theateraanzee.be.

You can also request professional comps for the shows you would like to prospect.

Below you will find some addresses for hotels and restaurants you might enjoy.

Hope to see you in Ostend during the festival.

The TAZ team

4 / Practical info

FESTIVALINFO

theateraanzee.be

RESTO/SNACKS/DRINKS

Bar Bristol

Leopold I Plein 10, 8400 Oostende

Belle de Jour

Madridstraat 9, 8400 Oostende

Bistro Mathilda

Leopold II Laan 1 8400 Oostende

Café Du Parc

Marie-Joséplein 3 8400 Oostende

Chalet Minigolf

Leopoldpark 1, 8400 Oostende

Cultuurcafé

Hendrik Serruyslaan 18A, 8400 Oostende

De Charlou

Van Iseghemlaan 90 8400 Oostende

Eethuis Passe Vite

Nieuwstraat 10 8400 Oostende

Eetkaffee Poseidon

Hertstraat 11 A 8400 Oostende

Frituur Franky

Karel Janssenslaan 53, 8400 Oostende

Frituur 't Hazegras

Graaf de Smet de Naeyerlaan 20 8400 Oostende

Gastrobar Sam

Van Iseghemlaan 60, 8400 Oostende

Visrestaurant Lobster

Van Iseghemlaan 64, 8400 Oostende

HOTEL

Hotel Rubens

Visserskaai 44, 8400 Oostende

Le Bassin

Visserkaai 1, 8400 Oostende

Le Parisien

Groentemarkt 19, 8400 Oostende

ICE

ICE ICE AMY

Langestraat 18 8400 Oostende



THEATERAANZEE.BE