



PRESS RELEASE

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Dramatist Ivo van Hove wins the Johannes Vermeer Award 2019



15/8/2019 | The Johannes Vermeer Award 2019, the Dutch state prize for the arts, is awarded to dramatist Ivo van Hove by Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science. The jury, chaired by Els van der Plas, unanimously nominated him for the award. Van Hove receives the award for his contribution to the development of theatre in the Netherlands and abroad. The presentation ceremony will take place on Wednesday 25 September 2019 in the Ridderzaal in The Hague.

The jury wishes to honour this exceptional theatre genius: "Ivo van Hove has created an impressive oeuvre of theatre productions that is unique within the Dutch-speaking world, but also far beyond. Time and again he expands and deepens the theatrical representation of human existence. The past few decades he has taken the Internationaal Theater Amsterdam (formerly Toneelgroep Amsterdam) to the international top, an achievement as part of which the splendid theatre design by his partner Jan Versweyveld deserves a special mention."

According to the jury, the manner in which Ivo van Hove manages to export the Dutch language and present it on the international stage is very special. With his ground-breaking dramatic vision and his ability to bring language, drama, production and image together and giving them all equal space, he has introduced innovations in the world of theatre while holding on to its traditions. According to the jury, Ivo van Hove's leadership is characterised by a superb combination of artistic and managerial qualities. For him, interdisciplinary collaboration is a matter of course, as evidenced by his direction of opera productions and his recent collaboration with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

In the 2019/20 season, the ITA will be staging two new productions by Ivo van Hove: *Freud* and *Wie heeft mijn vader vermoord* (*Who killed my father*). On Sunday 1 September, Ivo van Hove will be the sixth and final guest on the VPRO television programme *Zomergasten* (NPO2). His version of *The West Side Story* will open on Broadway, New York in 2020. Next, he will direct Isabelle Huppert in Tennessee Williams's *La menagerie de verre* (*The Glass Menagerie*).

About the award

The Johannes Vermeer Award is the Dutch state prize for the arts and consists of a sum of 100,000 euros. The winner can spend this sum on a special project within his or her field of work. The Dutch government instituted the award in 2009 to honour and encourage exceptional artistic talent. The award is intended for artists working in the Netherlands and across all disciplines. Former recipients of the award are Janine Jansen, Iris van Herpen, Steve McQueen, Michel van der Aa, Irma Boom, Rem Koolhaas, Marlene Dumas, Erwin Olaf, Alex van Warmerdam and Pierre Audi. This year's jury consists of Els van der Plas (chair), Annabelle Birnie, Iris van Herpen, Jeroen Krabbé and Jamal Ouariachi. The presentation of the Johannes Vermeer Award to Ivo van Hove, by Ingrid van Engelshoven, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, will take place on Wednesday 25 September 2019 in the Ridderzaal in The Hague.

Not for publication, for the editorial board only:

The Boekmanstichting, knowledge centre for art, culture and policy in Amsterdam is responsible for jury supervision and the overall coordination of the Johannes Vermeer Award. The organisation and PR of the award ceremony is in the hands of LUSTR, organiser of cultural events and programmes in The Hague. For more information about the award or media requests, please contact Trix van Alphen: +31 (0)20 612 7000, trix@publicy.nl