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NIGHTLIFE & THE ARTS

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Fresh, exciting dance club that changes its spots nightly.
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World-renowned concert hall with superb acoustics.
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Dazzling Art Deco jewel with a silver screen.

NIGHTLIFE & THE ARTS

Amsterdam's entertainment scene is wonderfully easy-going and remarkably diverse for a city of its size. It may not be as sophisticated as some European cities – minimalist interiors are still a fairly new concept – but the soft entry to most venues, apart from a few nightclubs, is refreshing. Dress is for the most part casual, and people won't blink if you wear jeans to the opera. This place always feels familiar, like a cosmopolitan village where everyone knows one another.

There are loads of big concert halls, theatres, cinemas and other performance venues. Generous subsidies help support a flourishing arts scene with world-renowned orchestras, as well as ballet and opera. The city really comes alive when there's open-air entertainment in the parks and streets, and along the canals.

CLUBBING

Much of the action takes place in the city centre and Southern Canal Belt, but locals may prefer the large, glitzy venues outside town. Most nightclubs close at 4am on Thursday and Sunday and 5am on Friday and Saturday. Looking for the after-party? Keep an eye out for flyers at record shops and clubwear stores.

If there's a bouncer, you may have to pass muster; entry rules are supposed to be posted after a member of the Dutch parliament was recently denied admission. Entry fees can be as much as €20. Others are free, in which case you should slip the doorman a couple of euros as you leave.

BITTERZOET [Map pp62-5](#)

☎ 521 30 01; [www.bitterzoet.com](#); **Spuistraat 2**
Always full, always changing. This is the freshest, friendliest and best-regarded among the newer venues – different nights might see pulse, roots, drum'n'bass, Latin, Afro-beat, Old School jazz or hip-hop groove.

IJ LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE

Can't afford Ibiza this year? Don't worry. Amsterdam's club promoters have come up with the next best thing: beach parties on the canals and waterways.

A 'beach' can be anything from a glorified playpen (such as atop the NEMO science museum, [p69](#)) to huge golden expanses of sand trucked in every year.

One jaw-dropping sand-blast is **Blijburg** ([Map pp58-9](#); ☎ 416 03 30; [www.blijburg.nl](#)), in the fast-growing IJburg suburb east of the city centre. Parties here hook anything from jazz to hippie scene, trance or singer-songwriter soiré. Tram 26 gets you there from Centraal Station in 15 minutes.

Other beaches include **Strand West** ([Map pp58-9](#); [www.strand-west.nl](#)), off Sparndammerstraat (take tram 22 from Centraal Station) and **Amsterdam Plage** ([Map pp58-9](#); ☎ 06 4601 6005; [www.amsterdamplage.nl](#)), a few hundred metres from Centraal Station – walk or take tram 3 to Zoutkeetsgracht. When the weather cooperates, the good folks at Supper Club ([p158](#)) also operate the Supper Club Cruise Oase, a catered cruise around the IJ with performance art.

DANSEN BIJ JANSEN [Map pp62-5](#)

☎ 620 17 79; [www.dansenbijjansen.nl](#);
Handboogstraat 11

For over a generation, this rambling space has been Amsterdam's most famous student nightclub, and it still thumps nightly on two sweaty floors. The secret? Cheap drinks, a fun selection of classic disco and house, and a relaxed dress code. Valid student cards are required.

ESCAPE [Map pp100-1](#)

☎ 622 11 11; [www.escape.nl](#); **Rembrandtplein 11**
A fixture of Amsterdam nightlife for two decades, the lights and video screens are even slicker since a 2007 revamp. First Friday of the month is Salvation, one of Amsterdam's leading gay dance nights.

ODEON [Map pp100-1](#)

☎ 521 85 55; [www.odeonamsterdam.nl](#); **Singel 460**
This historic venue from the 1660s was given a top-to-toe glam renovation in 2005, complete with murals of glam models. Club

FIND IT, BOOK IT

To find out what's on offer, pick up the *Amsterdam Weekly* or the Dutch-language *Uitkrant, NL20* and the *PS* weekend supplement in *Het Parool* newspaper. Another good source is the **Amsterdams Uitburo** (AUB; [www.aub.nl](#), click on 'programma' for the calendar).

You can purchase tickets from the venues directly; box-office hours are roughly 10am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and an hour before performances. You can also buy tickets (with a surcharge) via the **AUB Ticketshop** ([Map pp100-1](#); ☎ 0900 01 91, per min €0.40; [www.aub.nl](#); cnr Leidsestraat & Marnixstraat; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-7.30pm Sun). **Ticket Service** (☎ 0900 300 12 50, per min €0.45; [www.ticketservice.nl](#)) and **Top Ticketline** (☎ 0900 300 50 00; [www.topticketline.nl](#)) may also be able to help.

The AUB Ticketshop also sells half-price tickets on the day of performance; see [www.lastminuteticketshop.nl](#).

nights and concerts are held in the grand hall upstairs.

PANAMA [Map p122](#)

☎ 311 86 86; [www.panama.nl](#); **Oostelijke Handelskade 4**

A brilliant venue aimed at 25- to 35-year-olds, Panama has a salsa-tango dance salon and glamorous nightclub that spins Latin, Ibiza vibes, Cuban big bands and more.

SUGAR FACTORY [Map pp100-1](#)

☎ 626 50 06; [www.sugarfactory.nl](#);
Lijnbaansgracht 238

A cool spot, an excellent location and a varied line-up are the hallmarks here. Most nights start with music, cinema or spoken word performances, followed by late-night DJs and dancing.

TO NIGHT [Map p129](#)

☎ 694 74 44; [www.hotelarena.nl](#); **Hotel Arena, 's-Gravesandestraat 51**

In keeping with the club's name, each night is different – everything from dance classics to salsa. The interior is magnificent, the chapel of a one-time orphanage.

VAKZUID [Map pp58-9](#)

☎ 570 84 00; [www.vakzuid.nl](#); **Olympic Stadium 35**

A glamorous club-restaurant at the 1928 Olympic Stadium, Vakzuid has a large dance floor and loads of comfortable lounges to pose on. There's a lot of house, with some '80s and disco thrown in for good measure.

WESTERGASTERRAS [Map pp58-9](#)

☎ 475 14 12; [www.westergasterras.nl](#);
Klönneplein 4

This cool, postindustrial, indoor-outdoor space is screamingly popular on Fridays

for theme nights such as Tropical, and the pace hardly slows the rest of the week. Make an evening of it: dinner or a movie at the Westergasfabriek, and then hit the club.

WINSTON KINGDOM [Map pp62-5](#)

☎ 623 13 80; [www.winston.nl](#); **Hotel Winston, Warmoesstraat 127**

Changing theme nights (think the 'sexy, trashy and suave' Club Vegas on Sundays) and a fine line-up of local DJs make Winston very hip, very cool and very Amsterdam.

Also recommended:

De Nieuwe Anita ([Map pp58-9](#); ☎ 415 035 12; [www.deniuewanita.nl](#)); Frederik Hendrikstraat 111) Living-room venue expanded for noisierockers, with a great café.

Jimmy Woo ([Map pp100-1](#); ☎ 626 31 50; [www.jimmywoo.com](#); Korte Leidsedwardsstraat 18) Platform for the young and beautiful, with fab light-and-sound shows.

Powerzone ([Map pp58-9](#); ☎ 0900 769 37 96; [www.thepowerzone.nl](#); Daniel Goedkoopstraat 1-3) Multilevel dance factory with a DJ in every corner. Take the metro to Spaklerweg.

ROCK, JAZZ & BLUES

At most venues you can just turn up at the door, but you might want to book ahead for famous acts (see [above](#)).

Jazz is popular and there's a lot of it happening in cafés; blues thrives less. The world's largest jazz festival is the North Sea Jazz Festival, held in Rotterdam every July ([p18](#)).

BIMHUIS [Map p122](#)

☎ 788 21 50; [www.bimhuis.nl](#); **Piet Heinkade 3**

The Bimhuis is the beating jazz heart of the Netherlands, and its stylish new digs at the **Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ** ([p200](#)) draws international jazz greats like Branford Marsalis.

BOURBON STREET JAZZ & BLUES CLUB

Map pp100-1

☎ 623 34 40; www.bourbonstreet.nl; Leidsekruisstraat 6-8; 🕒 10pm-4am Sun-Thu, 10pm-5am Fri & Sat

Catch blues, funk, soul and rock'n'roll in this intimate venue, visited by the likes of Sting and departed Dutch rocker Herman Brood (see p137). Ages 23 and up.

BRASIL MUSIC BAR

Map pp100-1

☎ 626 15 00; www.brasilmusicbar.com; Lange

Leidsewarstraat 68-70

Get jiggy to live Brazilian and Caribbean music three nights a week, and R&B and DJs at other times. The club, like the dancing, is hot and steamy.

CASABLANCA

Map pp62-5

☎ 625 56 85; www.casablanca-amsterdam.nl; Zeedijk 26

Even if its glory days are over, this venerable jazz café hosts big bands four nights a week and other jazz the rest of the time.

COTTON CLUB

Map pp62-5

☎ 626 61 92; Nieuwmarkt 5

Squish into this dark, bustling brown café every Saturday (5pm to 8pm) for live, vibrant jazz. It has a storied history, and salsa on Tuesdays.

DE HEEREN VAN AEMSTEL

Map pp100-1

☎ 620 21 73; www.deheerenvanaemstel.nl; Thorbeckeplein 5

Office workers and students cram into this grand café-style club to enjoy the roster of live big bands and pop and rock coverbands.

JAZZ CAFÉ ALTO

Map pp100-1

☎ 626 32 49; www.jazz-cafe-alto.nl; Korte Leidsewarstraat 115; 🕒 9pm-3am Sun-Thu, to 4am Fri & Sat

You'll enjoy serious jazz and blues at this respected café near Leidseplein. Try to catch tenor saxophonist Hans Dulfer, father of Candy Dulfer (of Prince and Van Morrison fame).

KORSAKOFF

Map p86

☎ 625 78 54; www.korsakoffamsterdam.nl; Lijnbaansgracht 161; 🕒 from 10pm

Going since the late '80s and still grungy after all these years, this hard-rock and

THE WORLD'S ULTIMATE PICKUP LINE

Apart from his duties as international beer magnate, Freddy Heineken (1924–2002) had a reputation for being a ladies' man. As the story goes, an attractive young female approached the bar and uttered the familiar phrase: 'I'd like a Heineken, please.' Freddy (stationed nearby) replied: 'I'm right here.'

alternative-music venue attracts a young clientele for lashings of punk, metal and goth.

LISBOA

Map p122

☎ 622 12 72; Veemkade 251

At weekends, this restaurant-club boat moored behind the C1000 supermarket hosts jazz artists such as trumpeter Saskia Laroo and Brazilian samba bands.

MALOE MELO

Map p86

☎ 420 45 92; www.maloemelo.com; Lijnbaansgracht 163

This is the altar of Amsterdam's tiny blues scene, just a few blocks from Leidseplein. There's everything from Cajun zydeco and swing to Texas blues and rockabilly.

Also recommended:

Heineken Music Hall (☎ 0900 687 42 42; www.heineken-music-hall.nl; Arena Blvd 590, Bijlmermeer) Mid-sized venue praised for its quality acoustics and lighting.

Pepsi stage (☎ 0900 737 74 78; www.pepsistage.nl; Arena Blvd 584, Bijlmermeer) Draws acts like Elvis Costello, Sarah McLachlan and the Gypsy Kings.

WORLD MUSIC

Cosmopolitan Amsterdam is a natural breeding ground for world music. Apart from the venues listed here, look into Melkweg (opposite), Paradiso (opposite) and the Latin bars that give toned bodies another place to sweat gracefully.

AKHNATON

Map pp62-5

☎ 624 33 96; www.akhnaton.nl; Nieuwezijds

Kolk 25

A young, multicultural crowd jams this club to catch live hip-hop, Latin and Afro-centric acts. It's been going strong for 50 years.

DE BADCUYP

Map p119

☎ 675 96 69; www.badcuyp.nl; 1e

Sweelinckstraat 10

A low-key and very cool venue off the Albert Cuypmarkt, De Badcuyp has regular World Jam and Open *Kuip* (open mic) nights, African dance cafés and musical offerings including South Indian, jazz and Latin.

TROPENINSTITUUT THEATER

Map p129

☎ 568 85 00; www.kit.nl; Tropenmuseum,

Linnaeusstraat 2

The live agenda is like no place else in Amsterdam, mainly South American, Indian and African music, films and offerings like Japanese geisha.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Amsterdam's classical music scene, with fine international orchestras, conductors and soloists crowding the agenda, is the envy of many European cities. It also has a tradition of free lunchtime concerts, from 12.30pm at the Concertgebouw, except in summer.

BETHANIËNKLOOSTER

Map pp62-5

☎ 625 00 78; www.bethanienklooster.nl; Barndesteeg 6b

This former monastery near Nieuwmarkt has a glorious ballroom, the perfect place to take in some Stravinsky or Indian sitar.

BEURS VAN BERLAGE

Map pp62-5

☎ 627 04 66; www.beursvanberlage.nl; Damrak 243

The renowned **old commodities exchange** (p69) has two small concert halls with comfortable

seats and so-so acoustics. The Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and the Netherlands Philharmonic are the resident companies.

CONCERTGEBOUW

Map p110

☎ 671 83 45; www.concertgebouw.nl; Concertgebouwplein 2-6; 📞 telephone sales 10am-5pm, box office till 7pm

One of the world's great concert halls, the Concertgebouw has near-perfect acoustics that flatter the already wonderful Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Bernard Haitink, the celebrated conductor, once remarked that the hall was the best instrument the orchestra ever had.

Tickets are available by phone, through the VVV (p255) or AUB Ticketshop (p197). Visitors aged up to 27 can purchase last-minute tickets costing a mere €7.50 (when available) from 45 minutes before the curtain goes up.

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm from September till the end of June, the Concertgebouw holds free half-hour concerts, traditionally of chamber music or public rehearsals of an evening event. The conductors and musicians often have an international pedigree so, unsurprisingly, the events are exceedingly popular.

CONSERVATORIUM VAN AMSTERDAM

Map p110

☎ 527 75 50; www.cva.ahk.nl; Van Baerlestraat 27 Students at the Netherlands' largest conservatory of music offer regular classical recitals. Note that at the time of writing the venue was expected to move to the Oosterdokseiland (near Centraal Station) by late 2008.

MEGA VENUES

You never know what to expect at the following venues. One night it might be an international pop star, then next it might be dance or a classical concert, or even a club night.

- **Amsterdam ArenA** (☎ 311 13 33; www.amsterdamarena.nl; Arena Blvd 1, Bijlmermeer) This ultimate stadium venue produces mega-shows like the Rolling Stones, Eminem and dance events.
- **Koninklijk Theater Carré** (Map pp100-1; ☎ 0900 252 52 55; www.theatercarre.nl; Amstel 115-125) The largest theatre in town puts on cabaret circuses, and big-budget musicals.
- **Melkweg** (Map pp100-1; ☎ 531 81 81; www.melkweg.nl; Lijnbaansgracht 234a) The newly expanded 'Milky Way' draws the masses with its eclectic live music – everything from Afro-Celtic to thrash – plus dance halls, cinema, lounges and art galleries.
- **Paradiso** (Map pp100-1; ☎ 626 45 21; www.paradiso.nl; Weteringschans 6) This former church remains the city's premier rock venue. Big-name acts like Bright Eyes, Jurassic 5 and Moby come often, and the Paradiso dance nights are legendary.
- **Stadsschouwburg** (Map pp100-1; ☎ 624 23 11; www.stadsschouwburgamsterdam.nl; Leidseplein 26) This stunning theatre from 1894 features large-scale productions, operettas, and drama by Toneelgroep Amsterdam.

LEND AN EAR

The **Van Gogh Museum** (p109) has a weekly cultural series, held on Friday nights, that runs the gamut from classical music recitals to modern dance, lectures and singers. Some nights draw a thousand spectators, others are quiet and civilised.

MUZIEKTHEATER Map pp62-5

☎ 625 54 55; www.hetmuziektheater.nl; Waterlooplein 22

This swanky Stopera theatre is home to the Netherlands Opera, the National Ballet and the Netherlands Ballet Orchestra. International dance troupes such as those run by Merce Cunningham and Martha Graham also perform here.

MUZIEKGEBOUW AAN 'T IJ Map p122

☎ tickets 788 20 00, office 788 20 10; www.muziekgebouw.nl; Piet Heinkade 1; performance prices vary; ♿ ticket office noon-7pm Mon-Sat This dazzling new performing-arts venue brings together several agendas under one roof. Behind the hi-tech exterior you'll find a dramatically lit main hall with flexible stage layout and great acoustics. Its jazz stage, *Bimhuis* (p197), is more intimate.

Free lunchtime concerts are normally held in the main hall once a month on different weekdays from September to May – check the website or printed programme for details.

CINEMA

Amsterdam's hungry cinephiles have some 45 cinemas to choose from. The 'film ladder' listing of what's on is posted at pubs and cinemas, at www.amsterdam.filmladder.nl and in the Thursday newspapers. *AL* means *alle leeftijden* (all ages). Screenings are usually in the original language with Dutch subtitles.

Big multiplexes include the **Pathé cinemas** (☎ 0900 14 58, per min €0.35), with a central branch at **De Munt** (Map pp100-1; Vijzelstraat 15). The following cinemas are more interesting.

CINECENTER Map pp100-1

☎ 623 66 15; Lijnbaansgracht 236

Euro and American art-house are the standard fare. The last Monday of the month is for queer films, except in summer. Don't miss the hip bar with white padded walls.

DE UITKIJK Map pp100-1

☎ 623 74 60; www.uitkiijk.nl; Prinsengracht 452 This fun art-house stalwart, located in an old canal house, is the city's oldest surviving cinema (dating to 1913). For film buffs who know their Fuller from their Fellini.

FILMUSEUM Map p116

☎ 589 14 00; www.filmuseum.nl; Vondelpark 3 The esteemed Filmmuseum has two tiny cinemas screening cult horror, cutting-edge foreign films and specials devoted to screen legends and genres such as Bollywood. At the time of writing it was expected to move into a sleek new complex in Amsterdam-Noord in 2009.

HET KETELHUIS Map pp58-9

☎ 684 00 90; www.ketelhuis.nl; Westergasfabriek, Haarlemmerweg 8-10

In the old gas works, the three screening rooms have a chic post-industrial vibe and comfy seats; it's a great platform for art-house films. It also has a cosy café.

KRITERION Map p122

☎ 623 17 08; www.kriterion.nl; Roeterstraat 170 This UvA-student-run theatre-café has a great array of premieres, theme parties, classics, kids' flicks and more. This former diamond factory became a movie theatre after WWII to help resistance fighters earn an income.

MOVIES Map p86

☎ 638 60 16; www.themovies.nl; Haarlemmerdijk 161

Indie features alongside mainstream at this beautiful Art Deco cinema. Treat yourself to a meal in the restaurant (the three-course 'dinner and a movie' costs a reasonable €29).

RIALTO CINEMA Map p119

☎ 676 87 00; www.rialtofilm.nl; Ceintuurbaan 338

This great old cinema near Sarphatipark focuses on premieres and gets eclectic art-house fare from around the world.

TUSCHINSKITHEATER Map pp100-1

☎ 623 15 10, 0900 14 58, per min €0.35; www.pathe.nl/tuschinski; Reguliersbreestraat 26-34

Extensively refurbished, Amsterdam's most famous cinema is worth visiting for its sumptuous Art Deco/Amsterdam School interior. The main theatre shows blockbusters, the smaller one art-house and indie films.

COMEDY

Given the Dutch are fine linguists and have a keen sense of humour, it's natural that English-language comedy would thrive in Amsterdam. The two premier comedy clubs in the Leidseplein area are the best places to see fast-thinking, fast-talking comics in action. No-one is safe from lampooning, even the audience.

BOOM CHICAGO Map pp100-1

☎ 423 01 01; www.boomchicago.nl; Leidseplein Theater, Leidseplein 12

Amsterdam's leading show for English-language improv comedy, best enjoyed over dinner and a few drinks. The inhouse BoomBar has DJs spinning a few nights a week and a quiz night on Mondays.

COMEDY CAFÉ AMSTERDAM

Map pp100-1

☎ 638 39 71; www.comedycafe.nl; Max Euweplein 43-45

The Comedy Café books Dutch and international stand-up comics. Sundays are normally reserved for English-speaking acts.

SO YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?

In the early 1990s Andrew Moskos moved to Amsterdam and founded the Boom Chicago comedy club (above) with two other Americans. We asked him how he and Amsterdam got where they are today.

How did you make the leap to Amsterdam?

My best friend and I were tourists here. We were in a coffeeshop and fell in love with Amsterdam, and got obsessed with the idea of quitting our jobs and coming here. There was a hole in the market for comedy. So we wrote to the city and laid out our idea.

Has Boom's audience changed?

Our audience has got more sophisticated. We started off with topics like the Red Light District, soft drugs being legal, things we thought the tourists would go for. Now we've shifted into commenting on politics, American and Dutch. We had one show called Bite the Bullet, following the murder of filmmaker Theo Van Gogh, when big changes were underway in Holland.

How has the club scene changed?

It's become less important, maybe 50% of what it was a few years ago. Amsterdam and its nightlife engine has changed too, not just here but in other cities too. The drinking, the cocaine, ecstasy, the dance culture, all this has moved into the background. If you go to a hip nightlife place now, you probably won't be dancing, whereas five years ago, you would. It's more head-bobbing now.

Do you like how Amsterdam has cleaned up its act?

Like moving dirty postcards inside the shops, less graffiti etc? A lot of people were thinking, 'aw, how bland do we have to get?' But soon we realized, 'Wait a minute, that's actually better.' They made the garbage cans bigger too, which helped.

DE KLEINE KOMEDIE Map pp100-1

☎ 624 05 34; www.dekleinekomedie.nl; Amstel 56-58

This renowned little theatre founded in 1786 puts on concerts, dance, comedy and cabaret, sometimes in English.

THEATRE, DANCE & SPOKEN WORD

The following is a shortlist of Amsterdam's lively theatre scene. Performances are mostly in Dutch but sometimes in English, especially in summer. See also Koninklijk Theater Carré and Stadsschouwburg (p199).

AMSTERDAMS MARIONETTEN THEATER Map pp62-5

☎ 620 80 27; www.marionettentheater.nl; Nieuwe Jonkerstraat 8; adult/child under 7yr/child 7-14yr €15/free/7; ♿ performance times vary

In a former blacksmith's shop near Nieuwmarkt, the marionette theatre has a limited repertoire (mainly Mozart operas such as *The Magic Flute*), but kids and adults alike are enthralled with the fairy-tale stage sets, period costumes and beautiful singing

GAMBLING

Amsterdam's palette of vices includes the modern **Holland Casino** (Map pp100-1; ☎ 521 11 11; www.hollandcasino.nl; Max Euweplein 62; 🕒 1.30pm-3am), an easy walk from the Leidseplein. You can play blackjack, touch-bet roulette, 700 slot machines and our favourite game, 'Caribbean stud poker'. Government-issued photo ID (displaying date of birth) is required.

voices that bring the diminutive cast to life. From June to August the theatre only performs for groups; at other times, check the website for a schedule.

AMSTERDAMSE BOS THEATRE

☎ 643 32 86; www.bostheater.nl; Amsterdamse Bos

This large open-air amphitheatre stages plays in Dutch (Shakespeare, Brecht, Chekhov) in summer. We love it when the actors pause as planes pass overhead.

CASABLANCA VARIÉTÉ

☎ 625 56 85; www.casablanca-amsterdam.nl; Zeedijk 24; dinner & show €34.50, show only €5

The other half of Casablanca contains the Netherlands' only theatre devoted to the art of circus performance – sleight of hand, magic, variety shows and singers.

COSMIC THEATER

Map pp62-5
☎ 626 68 66; www.cosmictheater.nl; Nes 75-87
Originally from Curaçao, this drama troupe stages plays representing a variety of cultures, with an emphasis on Surinamese, African, Turkish and Moroccan.

DE BALIE

Map pp100-1
☎ 553 51 51; www.debalie.nl; Kleine Gartmanplantsoen 10

The focus here is multicultural and political, in big international productions.

De Balie also holds short-film festivals and debates, has new-media facilities and a stylish bar.

DE BRAKKE GROND

Map pp62-5
☎ 626 68 66; www.nesttheaters.nl; Flemish Cultural Centre, Nes 45

A fantastic array of music, experimental video, modern dance and exciting, young theatre is performed in Brakke Grond's striking 150-seat theatre.

FELIX MERITIS

Map p92
☎ 623 13 11; www.felix.meritis.nl; Keizersgracht 324

Amsterdam's former cultural centre puts on innovative, modern theatre, music and dance, with lots of co-productions by Eastern and Western European artists.

FRASCATI

Map pp62-5
☎ 626 68 66; www.nesttheaters.nl; Nes 63

This experimental theatre is a draw for young Dutch directors, choreographers and producers. Expect multicultural dance and music performances, as well as hip-hop, rap and breakdancing. In May it hosts a cool urban-dance festival that's worth checking out.

OPENLUCHTTHEATER

Map p116
Vondelpark Open-Air Theatre; ☎ 673 14 99; www.openluchttheater.nl; Vondelpark

From June to August the Vondelpark hosts free concerts in its intimate open-air theatre, and it's a fantastic experience to share with others. Expect world music, dance, children's theatre and more.

THEATER BELLEVUE

Map pp100-1
☎ 530 53 01; www.theaterbellevue.nl; Leidsekade 90

Come here for experimental theatre, international cabaret and modern dance, mainly in Dutch.

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