



Sunset Boulevard

“All right, Mr DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up.”

REBECCA BENOOT

The final line of Billy Wilder's Academy Award-winning classic *Sunset Blvd* is legendary. This at-the-time revolutionary film portrays Hollywood during the 1940s and '50s as a shadowy, hypocrisy-ridden world inhabited by an army of wannabe's and has-beens.

Gloria Swanson was immortalised as the beautiful yet tragic Norma Desmond, a faded film star who tries to make her comeback by tricking up-and-coming screenwriter Joe Gillis to create a script that will make her go down in history. She falls madly in love with him in the process. And then, despite her foolproof plan, trouble turns up disguised as the lovely Betty Schaefer.

Sunset Blvd became a milestone in movie history because it dared to take a look at the darker side of Hollywood and humanity while combining several genres such as black comedy, dra-

ma and *film noir*.

In 1993, musical legend Andrew Lloyd Webber, responsible for *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita* and, of course, *Cats*, sunk his teeth into the material and added another genre to the mix. Aided by writers Don Black and Christopher Hampton, *Sunset Boulevard* was transformed into a stage musical that went on to win numerous Tony Awards. After its première at the Adelphi Theatre in London, it ran for 1,529 performances and soon made its way to The United States where Glenn Close embodied Norma Desmond.

Over the past 16 years, there have been many international productions, and now Dutch theatre and media mogul Joop Van Den Ende has translated it to Dutch and brought it to Belgium. Paul Eenens, who directed Dutch versions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The*

Sound of Music was called in to do the staging. It's now probably the most-anticipated musical of the year in Flanders.

Musical fans should be impressed by the requisite glamour of the stage: A rotating set alternates between Norma's lavish mansion and the film studios where the cast plays out the love affairs and betrayals. The cast is all Dutch, and the Netherlands two biggest musical-theatre stars, Simone Kleinsma and Pia Douwes, will take turns portraying the larger-than-life Norma Desmond.

4-14 June

Stadsschouwburg, Antwerp

→ www.stadsschouwburgantwerpen.be



MORE MUSICAL THEATRE THIS WEEK

Brussels Shakespeare Society → Corroy Castle →

Dangerous Liaisons → Erasmus School, Brussels

Broadway Highlights → Petit Theatre Mercelis, Brussels



Antwerp

Café d'Anvers

Verversrui 15; 03.226.38.70, www.cafedanvers.com

JUNE 5 22.00 Mimazu with Karotte and Momsclub

JUNE 6 22.00 Silicone Soul new album release party

Sportpaleis

Schijnpoortweg 119; 0900.26.060

JUNE 6 20.30 Neil Young

Borgerhout

Trix

Noordersingel 28; 03.670.09.00, www.trixonline.be

JUNE 7 16.00 Aborted + The Acacia Strain + Salt the Wound + Unleash the Fury + Rafflesia

Brussels

Ancienne Belgique

Anspachlaan 110; 02.548.24.24, www.abconcerts.be

JUNE 3 20.00 Cupofy + Aloha from Hell. Chris Cornell

JUNE 6 20.00 Liam Jarvis

JUNE 10 20.00 The Ghost of a Thousand + Gallows

Le Botanique

Koningsstraat 236; 02.218.37.32, www.botanique.be

Concerts at 20.00:

JUNE 3 Krakow + Carla Bozulitch + Marissa Nadler

JUNE 4 The Inspector Cluzo + Fishbone. Circlesquare + Junior Boys

JUNE 5 Phoenix. Chester French

JUNE 7 Dan Deacon & The Ensemble. Lissy Trullie

JUNE 9 The Maccabees

Magic Land Theatre

Hoogvorststraat 8-14; 02.245.24.53, www.magicland-theatre.com

JUNE 6 18.00 Blows, Cupid Kids, The Astronaut, The Auto-Didakt & Friends

Piola Libri

Franklinstraat 66-68; 02.736.93.91, www.piolalibri.be

JUNE 5 18.00 Lady Flavia

JUNE 11 18.00 Beppe Crovella

Vorst-Nationaal

Victor Rousseulaan 208; 0900.00.991

JUNE 5-6 20.00 Patrick Briel

Ghent

Charlatan

Vlasmarkt 6; 09.224.24.57, www.charlatan.be

JUNE 4 22.00 Campina Reggae

JUNE 11 22.00 Too Tangled

El Negocito

Brabantdam 121; 0479.56.73.95, www.mi-negocio.net

JUNE 4 22.00 Falling Man

Frontline

Overpoortstraat 37; 09.223.22.27 www.thefrontline.be

JUNE 6 20.00 Suburbia in Ruins + Outcry Collective + Warship

Kinky Star

Vlasmarkt 9; 09.223.48.45, www.kinkystar.com

JUNE 7 21.00 Azeda Booth + Uberdope

Trefpunt

Bij Sint-Jacobs 18, www.trefpuntvzw.be

JUNE 8 21.00 Rauw en Onbesproken



Antwerp

Buster

Kaasrui 1; 03.232.51.53, www.busterpodium.be

JUNE 10 22.00 Beep!

Brussels

Beursschouwburg

Auguste Ortstraat 20-28; 02.550.03.50, www.beursschouwburg.be

JUNE 6 22.00 Stepbrother George

Jazz Station

Leuvensesteenweg 193-195; 02.733.13.78

JUNE 6 18.00 Tricycle

JUNE 11 20.30 Cycle 'Borderline': MidlBoj

Sass'n Jazz

Koningsstraat 241; 0475.78.23.78, www.sazznjazz.be

Concerts at 20.30:

JUNE 5 Jam session

JUNE 6 Alegria

JUNE 7 Jam session

JUNE 8 Rock Aimé

JUNE 9 Time Out

JUNE 11 Hasan Yarimdundia Ensemble

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

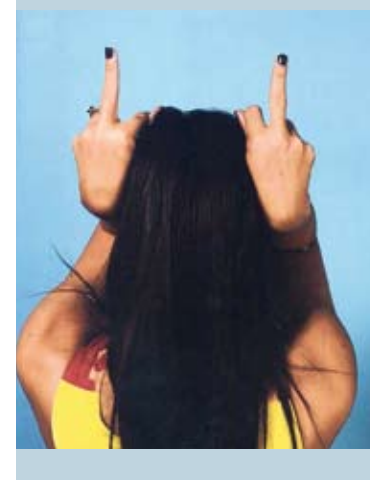
Lily Allen

23 October

Lotto Arena
Antwerp

You may know this young British pop sensation from her insults hurled at Elton John onstage at the GQ Awards or from her frequent need to flash her chest in public or from her never-ending drinking and ecstasy ingesting. Did you know that she sings, too? And extraordinarily well, with bold, honest (if expletive-laden) lyrics and all the energy her exploits would suggest. Why not? As she told Elton: "I'm 40 years younger than you; I've got my whole life ahead of me."

→ www.lotto-arena.be



Sounds Jazz Club

Tulpenstraat 28; 02.512.92.50, www.soundsjazzclub.be

Concerts at 22.00:

JUNE 3 Caribe Con K, Caribbean

music

JUNE 4 Yves Peeters Group

JUNE 5 Beep invite Nicolas Kummert

JUNE 6 Espresso

JUNE 8 Master session

JUNE 9 Laurent Doumont Soul Band

JUNE 10 Chamaquiando, salsa

Ghent

El Negocito

Brabantdam 121; 0479.56.73.95, www.mi-negocio.net

Concerts at 22.00