

Pinkpop 2014: something for everyone



Photo: Joeke-Remkus de Vries

June is just around the corner and the festival season is in full swing. With the Rolling Stones as a headliner, Pinkpop 2014 looks promising. TRACEY TAYLOR offers a preview.

It's Pinksteren weekend. It's Landgraaf-Megaland. So yes... it has got to be PINKPOP!

Now I do have to warn you that that was about as "upbeat" as this article is going to get. Very regrettably, I am one of those unlucky individuals who did not manage to secure a ticket to PINKPOP 2014 - tickets sold out within 30 minutes - so you will have to forgive me if a few bitter undertones creep into my preview of this festival.

Ans so, here we go with a snippet about the history of this popular event and what you fortunate ticket holders can expect this year at the 45th edition of PINKPOP.

For starters, PINKPOP is The Netherlands' oldest and most well-

known pop music festival. PINKPOP stands for "Pop at Pinksteren" because - with the exception of 2008, 2010 and 2013 - the event has always taken place during the Pinksteren (Pentecost) weekend.

Starting out as a simple one-day event, the first PINKPOP took place in Geleen - a town in the heart of Limburg - on 18 May 1970 with Golden Earring as the main act to take to the stage on that sunny Monday. PINKPOP remained at the location in Geleen until 1986, when Baarlo (about 65 km further north) hosted the 18th edition in 1987.

But it is since 1988 that PINKPOP has found its (permanent?) home at the current location in Landgraaf. In 1990, the festival was included in the Guinness Book of Records as the old-

est and only uninterrupted annual open-air pop music festival in the Netherlands (some even say in the world!)

In 2009, the festival's 40th anniversary was marked by a notable headliner in Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band, who performed their first ever show at a European festival.

Over the intervening years, PINKPOP has gone from strength to strength with record tickets sales - more than 2.1 million (paying) visitors have passed through the gates - and the event has been sold out a staggering 23 times!

But back to the present...

On Saturday 7, Sunday 8 and Monday 9 June, Landgraaf - a former race track in South Limburg - will again play host (for the 27th time) to a veri-

table smorgasbord of international and domestic talent who will take to the podiums of PINKPOP 2014.

There are far too many acts and (solo) artists to list out here, but let me assure you that there is definitely something on the menu to suit all musical tastes. The festival starts off with a bang: the Rolling Stones, are headlining on the Main Stage on the opening day. Arctic Monkeys, Ed Sheeran and The Kooks are some of the performers who will satisfy revelers on Sunday, with Metallica, Biffy Clyro and Avenged Sevenfold (to name but a few) to wrap things up on Monday.

For full details on the who, the what, the when and the where, check out the program on the official website noted at the end of this piece.

However, if you are like me and will have to make do with radio and/or television coverage of the event, well, all is not totally lost...

Dutch national radio station 3FM will have live broadcasts from the festival grounds on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Next to that, Dutch TV station Nederland 3 (NTR, VARA, VPRO) will also televise a fair few hours of live music on the Monday.

I reckon it's going to be a pretty amazing event this year and for those of you who are going to be at PINKPOP 2014 - whether for 1, 2 or 3 days - may I (sincerely) say: ENJOY!!

PINKPOP 2014
7-8-9 June
Landgraaf-Megaland
<http://www.pinkpop.nl/2014>

British silent film masterpiece rediscovered

The spectacular recent discovery of 1923 British masterpiece 'Love, Life and Laughter' was big news for silent film lovers worldwide. KAREN D.R. DE CORRALES has the details.



Photo: EYE

'Love, Life and Laughter' had been sitting among other movie containers in boxes in Hattem for decades, in a modest former movie theater. When this was scheduled for redevelopment, the local blacksmith got them. Its next custodian was Gerhard van Worp, co-worker at a local TV station, who stored them in his garage between two cars - unaware of the high flammability of the nitrate films inside - until he decided to find them a more worthy destination in Novem-

ber of 2012.

The researcher at EYE Film Institute Netherlands studying the film rolls marked with a Dutch title differing from the original traced the name of the leading actress to the British Film Institute's 75 most wanted list. "A definite 'wow!' moment," said Fred Roumen, head of EYE's vast collection of movies and movie paraphernalia. This discovery is very special, because only one other complete movie by its acclaimed director, George Pearson,

has survived.

Headliner Betty Balfour ranks as the biggest British star of the 1920s. Likened to the American Mary Pickford, she was very popular outside of Britain as well. It was the seventh film she and writer-director-producer Pearson made together.

In 1923, British audiences dubbed 'Love, Life and Laughter' one of the best movies of British cinema, apparently unaffected by her spurning of his romantic advances. Balfour made several attempts to break away from her 'Queen of Happiness' label, enabled - among others - by Hitchcock in his 'Champagne' of 1928. But while Hitchcock thrived on the introduction of sound, heralding it with the first British sound movie 'Blackmail', Balfour was one many actors whose popularity declined as a result.

British cinema in general, for large chunks in its history, has been looked down on by critics, international and domestic alike. Not so for its early pioneering years or that brief golden era of late silent cinema. Enter World War I as the chief culprit, wreaking financial havoc in Europe and opening the door for Hollywood to build the powerful, blockbuster-spewing empire it became.

It left the rest of the world trying to 'keep up', or create a niche market through exploration of avant-garde styles, resulting in the emergence of the art film. Luckily for us, the tide

has turned, although some would argue that much still needs to be done in the British film industry where large, apparently British accomplishments like the Bond and Harry Potter franchises are mainly American-financed.

Founded in 2010, EYE is the result of a merger of the former Filmmuseum and three other film organisations: Holland Film, De Filmbank and the Netherlands Institute for Film Education. "It is much more than an eye catching building," says Marnix van Wijk, EYE's Press and PR attaché.

As the Dutch center for film culture and heritage, EYE's main focus concerns far-reaching support of the Dutch film industry and promotion of Dutch movies in the Netherlands and abroad. But EYE is also credited worldwide for its impressive collection and its extensive expertise in restoration.

The EYE collection boasts some unique components, such as the Desmet archive, listed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register since 2011, alongside items like the diary of Anne Frank, the Magna Carta and the Gutenberg Bible. Jean Desmet, the Netherlands' first large cinema distributor and operator, was also an avid collector. His 60-year career yielded some 900 movies, about 2,000 posters and nearly 700 pictures. Audiences will have a chance to see some of the Desmet legacy in the exhibi-

tion planned for the end of the year.

From its majestic headquarters on the IJ river, EYE interacts with the public in several ways. Classic and contemporary movies can be viewed online or on location in one of the four cinemas, or in your own viewing cubicle. Terrace, restaurant and basement are freely open to visitors. Its two rental spaces make for a different event experience indeed - certainly in combination with a movie visit.

EYE is also a champion of education, offering tailor-made workshops for all educational levels and collaborating with organizations like the Netherlands Film Academy.

'Love, Life and Laughter' is currently being cleaned and restored, a time consuming process that will ultimately result in a proud, proper relaunch with every bell and whistle. The venue is yet to be determined and will hopefully be announced sometime this year. International Film Festivals specializing in silent movies - of which there are several, including in Nottingham, Bologna and San Francisco - will probably gladly volunteer.

'Know Thyself', it was said in ancient Greece, repeated by many famous writers since. EYE is definitely making a substantial contribution to the preservation of the memory of mankind on celluloid, and the recent discovery of 'Love, Life and Laughter' only adds to its luster.