



## **Press release: The end of the International Gipsy Festival**

Tilburg, April 8th, 2018

### **The final end of the International Gipsy Festival.**

#### **The 20th edition in 2016 will remain the last one.**

For the past two years direction and staff members have been looking for ways of cooperation with third parties to be able to continue the festival. The direction had to come to the conclusion that inspiration, support and manpower are insufficient for continuation of the 20th festival-edition. The unique and highly appreciated International Gipsy Festival is no more.

These past 20 years have shown a wide range of musical, cultural and educational activities. A treasure of knowledge and information was created. This will lead to the establishment of a Knowledge Centre for history and culture of the Roma and Sinti people. From this centre educational projects will be offered to schools e.g. music, lectures, stories, artistic workshops and exhibitions.

It has always been the main objective of the International Gipsy Festival to propagate the music and cultural riches of the Sinti and Roma people. Several other organizations have taken this over: For example: the Django Reinhardt Festival of Den Haag, the Gipsyfestival of Beek en Donk and the Gipsy festival of Borg Nienoord. Sinti Roma Music Eindhoven shows bands in the TAC in Eindhoven, Boerderij Kamps and "de Speelman" Crispijn Ooms are offering different Eastern-European Gipsy orchestras. Also keep an eye on de program of "De Centrale" in Gent, Belgium. Additional there are various Balkan-connections that don't deny their roots in Gipsymusic (Rakija f.e.). And last but not least, Eric Vloeimans and Eric Vaarzon Morel show their appreciation to the Rajasthan-roots of the Gipsy culture with their flamenco-show.

To all those, who have cared for the festival and helped building it, be it as professional or as volunteer, we say thank you very much for the time and energy you have given it. Off course lots of thanks go to our financial providers, our sponsors, big and small, for their contributions. And most of all, we would like to thank our many loyal visitors, without whom there would never have been a Gipsy Festival!

There are two occasions that will continue to stay in our attention: The commemoration of the Sinti and Roma who were killed in world war II, every year on May 4. And, connected to that, the musical monument "Requiem for Auschwitz" by Roger Moreno Rathgeb.

### **The foundation of the new Knowledge Centre**

The Knowledge Centre will be established this coming year. The way in which this will be done and the future location of this centre are depending on, among other things, the subsidy that will be granted to us. If you have any questions, turn to Lalla Weiss, [lallaweiss@hotmail.com](mailto:lallaweiss@hotmail.com).

### **A goodbye form the staff members**

We have been staff members of the International Gipsyfestival for more than 20 years and we would like to thank everyone who has, some way or other, supported the festival, be it disinterested or not, for their pleasant cooperation. Unfortunately, due to our personal circumstances and the absence of an initiator and an inspirator (an almost irreplaceable Albert), we have decided to stop our activities. This however does not mean there will be no Gipsy-events in the future..... which we still support with all our hearts! Again thanks to all of you, Agnes Naaijkens and Ireen Fasel.