



PRESS RELEASE  
Brussels 3 September 2017

**The 8th edition of Brussels' Comic Book Festival drew nearly 100,000 persons this year.**

The Comic Book Festival kicked off the 2017 autumn season by animating this first weekend and closed Sunday with clearly positive results, proving once again that Brussels is a worthy representative of the Ninth Art on the international scene.

The **Comic Book Festival** assembled more than 100 stands of exhibitions, 400 authors and cartoonists and many activities under tents installed in the Parc de Bruxelles and in the exhibition halls of BOZAR. Festival goers could broaden their horizons thanks to 19 cultural displays from abroad located in the International Pavilion. Visitors also were able **to attend** exclusive screenings throughout the weekend. A Festival highlight was the celebration of Gaston's 60th birthday, **with TRAGAWDOUKOUTRRR: ode to the gaffophone**, an original creation by Max Vandervorst who astonished the public with his legendary instrument.

Sunday visitors also had plenty to enjoy. The traditional **Balloon Day Parade** wound through the streets of the capital for nearly two hours. Two new balloons, Ducobu and Gaston, joined the procession for the greater pleasure of a captivated public. The not-to-be-missed **TINTIN MAGAZINE RALLY** this year joined forces with Journal Spirou to bring together nearly 100 collectors' automobiles, straight off the pages of *Tintin* and Journal Spirou from 1946 to 1988. The cars took off from four different locations (Lier, Verviers, Jumet and Anderlecht) before ending up together on the Place des Palais in Brussels in mid-afternoon. The public then was able to admire these extraordinary vehicles while a jury awarded prizes to the cars most faithful to those in the comic books of our youth.

For the time of one weekend, the universe of the Ninth Art literally immersed the whole Region. **Guided tours** took comic book fans on foot or by bike to discover frescoes and other comic book manifestations disseminated throughout the region. From the Galerie Tintin@Hergé to the Belgian Comic Strip Centre and the Champaka Gallery, **all of Brussels' shrines to comic books** also took part in the event, offering **original exhibitions** to visitors and comic book fans.

Additional information about the Brussels Comic Strip Festival is available at [www.FetedelaBD.brussels](http://www.FetedelaBD.brussels)

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