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The International promotional festival The City of Wings Ypres continues to focus on the promotion of circus and street theater, but without an audience.

There were still hopes for a normal edition in April a year ago, but preparations for a corona-proof edition were also in full swing.

With new play areas, a different time schedule and the generally known guidelines, a safe public experience of 89 circus and street theater performances could be provided. The reception of the various companies in Ypres was also organised according to the applicable protocols. Every effort was made to give the public, the artist and the promotor a warm welcome.

At the end of last year it became clear that in the best case this second scenario would be feasible, but this hope also slowly melted away day after day. The numbers are not going in the right direction and easing restrictions is not in sight.

For us it is now 100% certain that April is too early for a major international festival. Yesterday, we finally decided to cancel The City of Wings in 2021.

But this does not mean the end of our work.

The promotion of the artists and companies is now getting our full attention. Preparations for an online networking event where groups and organisers can meet each other have started.

For the people of Ypres, we will be portraying the 2019 edition from 12 March to 11 April with a photo exhibition at the Event Square in front of Het Perron.

During the weekend of The City of Wings on 9, 10 and 11 April, the films of selected groups will be shown on the big screen on the Grand Place, a reference to what it could have been.

Jan Victoor, coordinator The City of Wings Ypres: "We will continue to work on the promotion of the selected artists. This is our responsibility as a promotional festival. In the meantime, we are already boldly starting the preparations for The City of Wings 2022. Hopefully a normal edition, stronger than ever!"

Valentijn Despeghel, Alderman of Culture: "Although we have to miss the festival this year too, with a visit to the open-air exhibition and the films on the Grand Place we can soak up the atmosphere of the City of Wings."

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