



Telenet presents cast of Chaussée d'Amour

Mechelen, 19 May 2015 – Today, Telenet presented the cast of its very first own television series, *Chaussée d'Amour*. With a mix of well-known and new names, Telenet and production company deMENSEN have gone for young acting talent supplemented by experience. *Chaussée d'Amour* confirms Telenet's strategy to continue investing in both Flemish productions and new television experiences. The ten episodes will also be available on Play at the same time over the course of 2016– a first for a Flemish series.



Story

On 1 June 2015, production company deMENSEN will start recording *Chaussée d'Amour*, an exciting drama series that unfolds along a main road (*chaussée*): a strip of asphalt several kilometers long, with bars and brothels on either side. Sylvia, a posh lady with two teenage children, flees her failing marriage. She is forced to move into the brothel she inherited from her father. She decides to actually manage the brothel in question for financial reasons. This puts the former luxury housewife into contact with prostitutes, pimps and other colorful characters who are all trying to get their lives on the rails again, or have derailed. And then there's Ludo, a detective with an urge to prove himself, who throws himself into the investigation of a twenty-year-old murder that happened on the *Chaussée*. Before they realize good and well, Ludo and Sylvia cross paths, and his determination clashes with her will to survive.

Chaussée d'Amour is an exciting and sexy drama about the true value of paid love.

Cast and directors

Sylvia is played by **Tiny Bertels** (Loslopend Wild, Salamander). **Ruth Becquart** (Clan, Linkeroever), **Renée Fokker** (Vrouwenvleugel, De Zomer van '45.), **Adrian Sack** and **Naomi Velissariou** work in her brothel. At her new home on the *Chaussée*, she is confronted with **Josse de Pauw** (Iedereen



beroemd!, Flying Home), **Kadè Gürbüz** (Flikken, Familie), **Besnik Limani** (Histoire d'Argent), **Evelien Bosmans** (Groenten uit Balen, Marina), **Dirk Roofthoof** (Clan, Zuidflank), and many others. In the series, she is also joined by **Reinhilde Declair** (Van Vlees en Bloed, De Ronde), **Frank Focketyn** (De Ronde, Tom & Harry), **Viv Van Dingenen** (Deadline 14.10, Spitsbroers), **Geert van Rampelberg** (Cordon, De Behandeling) and **Ingrid Devos** (De Behandeling, Vriendinnen).

Chaussee d'Amour is developed by **Nathalie Basteyns** (Jes, Clan), Pieter Peyls and Jan Pepermans in collaboration with Youri Boone and Stefanie Vanhecke. The screenplay was written by Jan Pepermans, Stefanie Vanhecke, Nele Meirhaeghe en Joost Vandecasteele. The director is **Pieter Van Hees** (Linkeroever, Dirty Mind) and **Frank Devos** (Black XXX-Mas, Wittekerke).

Nathalie Basteyns: "All love has a price. A fact that dawned upon us during our very first brainstorming sessions and immediately made us aware of the endless possibilities it had as a guide through the series. Not only in a literal sense, which is obvious given the depicted world of love for sale, but also in a metaphorical sense: each of us struggles at one time or another with love, and may or may not pay, voluntarily or by force, the price for his or her failures and sins. To me, Chaussee d'Amour is television fiction pur sang, drama that gets you in the heart and the guts, about women who, despite numerous adversities, try to make the best of a bad situation. To protect their home and family, they switch to survival mode and fight like lions. And in this struggle, they still find plenty of time to dwell on the small things of life, laugh at jokes, or raise a glass to a happy ending."

The series will be recorded mainly in Saint-Trond, Diest and Zwevezele up until November 2015, and will be available on Play in the course of 2016.

Chaussée d'Amour made possible by STAP

The series is funded by STAP, the support fund in which Telenet, over the course of four years, will invest EUR 30 million in the Flemish audiovisual landscape. This strengthens the local offer and the local creative sector. Telenet's STAP program has already supported more than 30 films, with box office hits such as 'Het Vonnis' and 'Marina'. In 2015, 9 projects also received funding via STAP. These projects include 'FC De Kampioenen: Jubilee Générale'; 'Wat Mannen willen', a romantic comedy by Filip Peeters; 'Lee & Cindy C', a comedy by Stany Crets; and 'Black', the new movie of Adil El Arbi & Bilal Fallah.

John Porter, CEO Telenet: "We're happy to have a strong story and a real top cast. Entertainment is an essential part of Telenet's DNA. For years, support of local productions has been a fundamental building block of our strategy. Our STAP program has already supported many quality Flemish movies. With our very first own series, Chaussée d'Amour, we are making that all-important next step and are not only investing in a top production, but also in new television experiences such as moving windows and binge viewing."

Customer wants local content

Local productions are essential in the Telenet offer, both in Play and Play More and the TV-theek. Since the recent addition of the Woestijnvis catalogue in Play, 'Het Eiland' and 'Alles Kan beter' have



been very popular in the list of downloads. Flemish box office success, 'Kampioen zijn blijft plezant', is still doing very well with a spot in the top 10 after more than half a year. And the recently added 'Bowling Balls' has been one of the most downloaded movies in the TV-theek. Downloads via Replay also comprise local content for the most part.

High resolution images can be downloaded via <http://we.tl/wN0Nu8rwWg>



The cast. Left to right: Ingrid De Vos, Günther Lesage, Gert Winckelmans, Josse De Pauw, Besnik Lemani, Vincent Van Sande, Arno Moens, Kadèr Gürbüz, Renée Fokker, Tiny Bertels, Ruth Becquart, Viv Van Dingenen, Frank Focketyn, Adrian Sack



The directors. Pieter Van Hees (standing), Frank Devos, Nathalie Basteyns



ANNEX: who plays who?

TINY BERTELS plays SYLVIA CARLIER

Sylvia is married to Daniel (GÜNTHER LESAGE) and is the mother of Eva (ROMY LOUISE LAUWERS) and Sep (THOMAS DE SMET). She has broken with her family and parents Staaf and Magda (REINHILDE DECLEIR). When she flees her failing marriage, she is forced to return to her roots and moves into the brothel she inherited from her father. She decides to actually manage the brothel in question for financial reasons. By taking control of her own life, this hurt, dependent person changes into a proud, independent madam.

RENÉE FOKKER and RUTH BECQUART play COLETTE and SANDY

Colette has worked at the brothel for many years. She has a heart of gold. Clients come to see her for her warmth and friendliness, as well as her listening ear. She is Sylvia's support in a difficult period. Sandy is fun and sweet, not the sharpest tool in the box, but when you least expect it, remarkably smart. Clients come to see her for her cheery character and her loud laugh, which is able to put a smile on even the most vitriolic person.

NAOMIE VELISSARIOU and ADRIAN SACK play BIJOU and JOËL

Bijou and Joël complete the brothel. Bijou embodies pure adrenaline. She's a bipolar rock 'n' roll prostitute, a dangerously funny chain smoker. Clients come to see her for her capriciousness, as well as her exciting unpredictability. Flexible, not shy of weird things, but sometimes also merciless in her opinion. Joël is a colorful figure of the Chaussée d'Amour with a heavy past.

JOSSE DE PAUW plays WILLY KNAPEN

Willy is one of the founding fathers of the Chaussée and a born wheeler dealer. However, he is not able to put his finger on the changing zeitgeist of the Chaussée (anymore).

JOS VERBIST plays DIDIER MONARD

The local notary. Windbag and wheeler dealer. Mate and personal accountant of pimp Willy Knapen. His son Gaëtan (VINCENT VANSANDE) is a frustrated and spoilt piece of scum.

KADÈR GÜRBÜZ plays VALENTINA

Valentina is an SM dominatrix, manager of one of Willy's bars. She's a queen with a hidden soft spot for her six year-old son Raphaël (Rafke). Her husband Carlo (GERT WINCKELMANS) is an ex-junkie and convict who is trying to get his life on the rails again after his parole. His mother and Valentina's mother-in-law Irma (INGRID DE VOS) run the local mini-supermarket and is the gossip par excellence.

BESNIK LIMANI plays ALEK KRASNIQI

Alek is Sylvia's main competitor on the Chaussée. A handsome but incredibly arrogant Albanian bar manager who thinks money can buy anything.



DIRK ROOFTHOOFT plays LUDO BEETS

Ludo is a very forceful detective from Brussels, he is solitary and lives for his job. Difficult person to work with. He investigates everything down to the smallest detail, goes very far to prove himself right, which can result in serious frustrations.

EVELIEN BOSMANS plays SAM FONTAINE

Sam is a young local police officer who does not want to complicate things for herself and the inhabitants. She has a particularly enthusiastic and empathic nature. She is heavily pregnant and lives with her brother Jérôme, a pharmacist (GEERT VAN RAMPELBERG).

FRANK FOCKETYN AND VIV VAN DINGENEN play JOS and CLAIRE VANDEN EYNDE

Jos and Claire are two much respected inhabitants. Jos runs a garage, Claire is a housewife and very active in the village's club life. They are a hard-working couple who have built up their business for years. They see their oldest son Mathieu (SIMON VAN BUYTEN) as the perfect successor, their youngest son and late arrival Olly (ARNO MOENS) is a carefree free spirit - and the problem child.

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About Telenet

Telenet is a leading provider of media and telecommunication services. The company focuses on providing cable television, high-speed Internet and fixed and mobile telephony services to mainly residential customers in Flanders and Brussels. Telenet also provides services to businesses in Belgium and Luxembourg. Telenet is listed on Euronext Brussels under ticker symbol TNET. For more information, please go to www.telenet.be.