

PROGRAMME

OUR STORYLINE...

storycon

The language of the conference will be English, except for the last panel (Dutch-spoken with live subtitling in English).

9:00 Doors open

09:30 Word of welcome by **VAF CEO KOEN VAN BOCKSTAL**

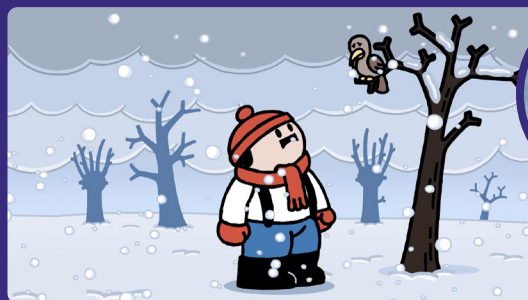
09:35 Introduction by **PAUL TYLER**, moderator

09:40 Keynote **"Getting Serious about humour: exploring the social and psychological impact of comedy"** by Dutch social psychologist **MADELIJN STRICK**

Humour is the lubricant in our social functioning, an essential form of creative intelligence. But why exactly? Madelijn Strick connects insights from fundamental psychology and neuroscience with contemporary social issues to unravel the mystery. Her analysis takes audiences on a journey to encounter laughing primates, modern political revolutions, and the best comedy. She demonstrates how creators can harness these insights to craft narratives with a profound and lasting impact.



10:25 **Panel discussion on animation and humour** with cartoonist **LAURA JANSSENS** (Hamsters) and comic book author **PIETER DE POORTERE** (Dickie). Both creators came up with popular characters who, both in graphic form and in bitesize animation films, express something about recognizable human traits and thus manage to make us laugh. The short format makes their videos ideal for streaming and social media.



11:25 Short break

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11:50

Panel discussion on humour in video games with **creative director TIM GARBOS** (What The Golf?) of Danish game studio Triband and **British solo developer JOE RICHARDSON** (The Procession to Calvary). Where Tim's humour stems primarily from surprising physics-driven gameplay, Joe's style feels a bit more cinematic with nods to Monty Python.



12:50

Lunch

13:45

Keynote "Surprise your audience by challenging established patterns of thinking and communication" by **Italian writer/consultant FILIPPO LOSITO**

Humour and creativity are similar expressions of the same form of thinking, known as lateral thinking. This concept, introduced by neuroscientist Edward De Bono, encompasses "thinking about thinking": a mindset that can be taught and trained just like math or music. Especially in storytelling, humor is a mechanism of engagement, an act of empathy that has proven to be the most powerful form of collective catharsis since the time of ancient Greece.



14:45

Interview on humour in podcasts with **British creative jack-of-all-trades KIM NOBLE**. He is active in theatre, film, series, art, comedy and podcasts. In his provocative* and funny style, he exposes the condition humaine, covering snippets of death, sexuality, gender and religion. His podcast "Futile Attempts" is a fine example of this.

** The following interview with Kim Noble may well explore topics, themes and content that some may find controversial or offensive. Members of the audience are welcome to leave either before or during the interview at any time and will be most welcome back to join after the break.*



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15:35 Short break

16:00 **Panel discussion on the use of humour in diverse Flemish fiction series with screenwriters** **ELISABETH LUCIE BAETEN** (Loslopend Wild, De Laatste Dag...), **ZOUZOU BEN CHIKHA** (Soil) and **BERT SCHOLIER** (F*** You Very, Very Much and Charlie and Hannah go out). **TOM LENAERTS** - **television producer** (Panenka) - will be the moderator for this session.



This panel will be in Dutch, with live subtitling in English.



17:00 Retrospective by **PAUL TYLER**

17:10 Drink & networking

18:10 End