

75 YEARS OF FREEDOM

In 2019 and 2020 we commemorate the end of the Second World War, now 75 years ago. We pause to reflect on the freedom that was secured by people who made great sacrifices in doing so. We celebrate that, since 1945, we have once again been living in freedom, in the realisation that we all share the responsibility for passing that freedom on to new generations.

31 AUGUST – TERNEUZEN THE COMMENCEMENT OF CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF FREEDOM

The programme on 31 August will consist of various activities, taking place at a number of locations throughout the day. There will be Vrijheidsboulevard [Freedom Boulevard], presenting stories of the liberation of the southern Netherlands, a fleet parade of ships from then and now, and a variety of performances on Vrijheidsplein [Freedom Square].

- VRIJHEIDSPLEIN 11 am – 8 pm
- VRIJHEIDSBULEVARD 11 am – 8 pm
- VRIJHEIDSHUIS 11 am – 5:30 pm

VRIJHEIDSPLEIN

Vrijheidsplein will be the centre of activities on 31 August. There, you can enjoy an all-day musical programme. The waters of the Western Scheldt will be the setting for the official opening – an extraordinary fleet parade of historical and modern-day ships.

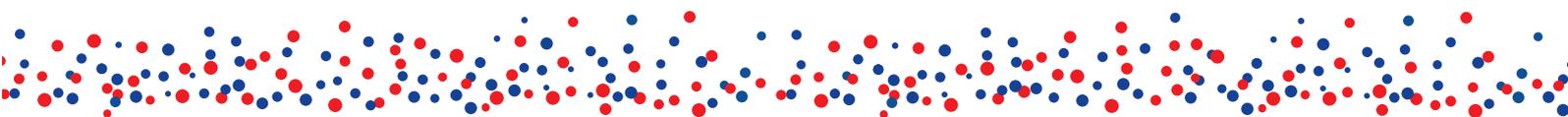
Visitors can enjoy a musical programme on Vrijheidsplein from 11 am to 8 pm: including performances by Maan, Roel Van Velzen and Lavinia Meijer. These artists have performed for the theme of Freedom at various times in recent years.

Artists

Earlier this year, vocalist Maan was onstage as Ambassador of Freedom at Liberation Festivals in the Dutch provinces of Overijssel, Drenthe, Zeeland and Limburg. Roel van Velzen was Ambassador of Freedom in 2008. In 2017, he performed at the 5 May concert on the Amstel in Amsterdam. Harpist Lavinia Meijer performed this year during the Remembrance Day Service on 4 May in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam. The following day she played at the 5 May concert on the Amstel.

Also performing are Isabel Provoost and the duo JP & Lonneke de Klerk, both well-known in Zeeland. There will also be a special appearance by Canadian singer-songwriter Ben Caplan, as well as a special performance of the Norwegian Naval Forces' Band, a professional military orchestra from Norway. And a ten-piece brass ensemble, led by Swedish conductor Andreas Hanson, will play on Vrijheidsplein.

3FM DJ Frank van der Lende will emcee the programme. The grandson of a Holocaust survivor, he served as Ambassador of Freedom in 2017. Frank views his task as keeping the stories about the War alive.



VRIJHEIDSBULEVARD

The Vrijheidsboulevard tells the story of the liberation of the southern Netherlands and the Battle of the Scheldt. A row of exhibits on the Scheldeboulevard focuses on both major military events and the personal stories behind them.

The exhibition begins with a short film that takes you back into the history of the Battle of the Scheldt and the liberation of the southern Netherlands. Afterwards, you can stroll along the boulevard, on a journey of discovery through history. You decide how long to spend on each exhibit to find out more about what took place.

The exhibits delve deeper into a part of the story. These have been furnished by many partners: museums and various organisations from the province of Zeeland and the other provinces involved, embassies of the Allied Forces and the Dutch Ministry of Defence.

The boulevard is divided into the regions that display the story of liberation in chronological order, as far as possible: D-day/Antwerp, Limburg and Gelderland, Oost-Zeeuws-Vlaanderen [Eastern Zeelandic Flanders], West-Zeeuws-Vlaanderen [Western Zeelandic Flanders], Brabant, Beveland and Walcheren.

The events are shown per region, as well as what the consequences of the battles were for the people, and which of the Allied Forces were involved. At the end of the Vrijheidsboulevard, we look to the future: stories of liberation from then and now will be shared in a specially built studio of Dutch TV broadcaster Omroep Zeeland.

VRIJHEIDSHUIS

For this occasion, the CineCity cinema has been renamed the Vrijheidshuis [Freedom House]. Here, performances, films and presentations will take place throughout the day.

Documentary film: *About Freedom*

An informal meeting between Jaap Rus, a Dutch man, and Hussam Eesa, a Syrian. They recognise their own experiences in each other's eyes and in each other's stories, each at another time and in another place in the world. Stories of fear, courage and friendship. Both of them rose up against a regime of oppression. Jaap was a spy for the Resistance during the Second World War more than 75 years ago. Hussam was active in an illegal network of citizen journalists in Raqqa, Syria from 2012 to 2015. In 2015, he fled to Europe. Hussam: 'It's your choice to be free or remain passive. It's up to you.'

Time: 11.30-12.00 noon

Location: theatre 2

Kidscollege Dieuwertje Blok [Children's show in Dutch]

Following a successful first series of Freedom Classes for children in April 2019, presenter Dieuwertje Blok is now giving these classes throughout the country. One of these is scheduled for 31 August in the Vrijheidshuis. Presenter Dieuwertje Blok (1957) has been a familiar face on Dutch television for decades, appearing on shows such as Sinterklaasjournaal and De Wereld Draait Door. Freedom has always been a major theme in her life. Her mother was Jewish and her grandmother was the internationally known entertainer Stella Fontaine. Both were able to go into hiding during the Second World War, but other family members were murdered in the Sobibor and Auschwitz concentration camps.

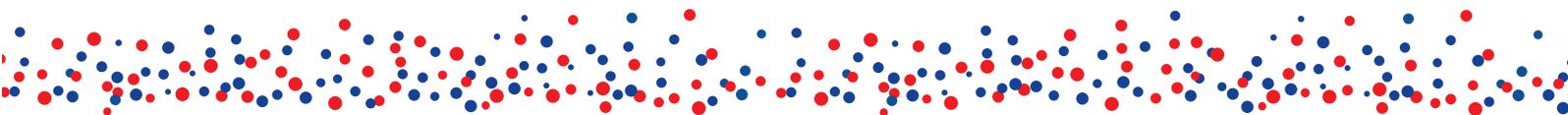
This Freedom Class [in Dutch] is suitable for children aged 9 to 12. Please note: to attend this show, advance registration is required via this link.

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 pm

Location: theatre 2

Book presentation: *De luchtoorlog boven Zeeland, deel III: Zeeuws-Vlaanderen [The air war above Zeeland, part III: Zeelandic Flanders (in Dutch only)]*

Danger came from the sky – this is perhaps the best description of the situation on the island of Noord-Beveland during the Second World War. Like many other islands in the delta region of Zeeland-South Holland, this island was



situated along the flight routes of the Allies to and from the occupied areas and Germany. As a result, a number of planes crashed on or near the island, and unfortunately, there were also victims under the crew members. The book *De luchtoorlog boven Zeeland, deel I: Noord-Beveland* (April, 2017) describes these events.

On 15 April 2020, *De luchtoorlog boven Zeeland, deel III: Zeeuws-Vlaanderen* will be published. Just as part II Schouwen-Duiveland, it will appear in two volumes. Authors Wim de Meester and Kees Stoutjesdijk will give a special book presentation.

Time: 2 – 2:30 pm
Location: theatre 2

Lecture by Lotte Bergen | Ety Hillesum Onderzoekscentrum (EHOC Research Centre)

Terneuzen was liberated on Wednesday, 20 September 1944. But the Jewish residents of Terneuzen did not survive until this liberation. On 24 March 1942 they were transported to Amsterdam via Middelburg and from there deported to Westerbork transit camp, to ultimately be murdered at Auschwitz or Sobibor. Preserved documents show how Terneuzen's mayor cooperated with the deportation of his Jewish fellow citizens. Drs. Lotte Bergen is a historian works at the Ety Hillesum Research Centre in Middelburg.

Time: 2:30 – 3 pm
Location: theatre 2

Film: *Against All Odds - Ondanks Alles*

The Canadian infantry in the Battle of the Scheldt: a film by Cliff Chadderton (1919-2013). In 1944 he commanded a unit of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, which was part of the 3rd Canadian Army. He lost his right leg at the Battle of the Leopoldkanaal. After the War, he worked for the organisation War Amputations and made this film for them in 1987.

In the film, he returns to the places where the Canadians fought to free the Scheldt estuary in October/November 1944. They were confronted by German troops who were stronger than anticipated, both in numbers and in force.

Time: 4:15 – 5:30 pm
Location: theatre 2

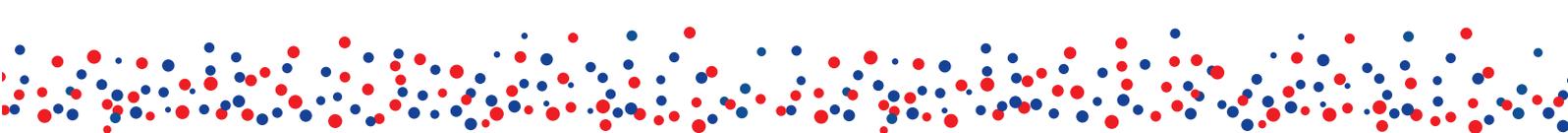
Theatre performance: *Oorlogsgeheimen [War secrets (in Dutch)]*

Oorlogsgeheimen is an intimate theatre performance that connects children, young adults, and older people, making a great impression on all who attend. The prize-winning play for young people, based on the book by Jacques Vriens, deals with secrets, heroes and fears, and is about friendship, love and memories. The production will play in Zeeland a maximum of ten times, including two performances during the national Commencement of Celebrating 75 Years of Freedom on 31 August in Terneuzen. Please note: to attend this performance, advance registration is required via this link.

Times: 1:45 – 2:45 pm and 4:15 – 5:15 pm
Location: theatre 2

Book market

From 11 am to 5 pm, a selection of books about the Second World War and the Battle of the Scheldt will be for sale in the CineCafé. Authors will also be present to sign and discuss their books.



ACCESSIBILITY

The Commencement of Celebrating 75 Years of Freedom takes place in Terneuzen at the former ferry terminal (Scheldeboulevard 1), on the Scheldeboulevard and in the CineCity cinema. Terneuzen's city centre will be closed to car traffic on this day and the Oostkolk and Theaterplein parking garages will also be closed. What is the best way to reach the event locations?

On foot or by bike

If you live in or near the Terneuzen city centre, you can walk to the events.

If you live a bit farther away from the centre or in a neighbouring area, you can ride your bike.

Secure bike parking will be available close to the city centre:

- Nearby Foodjutters restaurant (Scheldeboulevard 5, Terneuzen);
- At the car park across from Scheldekade 5 to 18;
- In the covered bike parking area on the Herengracht (closes at 8:30 pm);
- Nearby the newest Binnenvaartweg-Buitenhaven roundabout.

The bike parking areas will be attended until 8:30 pm.

By car

Visitors coming by car can park for free at the large car parks bordering the city of Terneuzen. Shuttle busses will ride from these car parks to and from the event locations, starting at 10:30 am. The last shuttle busses will return to the car parks between 8 and 8:30 pm.

- Parking Skidome (address: Zeelandlaan 3, Terneuzen)
- Parking on the Techniekstraat in Terneuzen

These car parks are easy to reach: follow the 'P+R' signs.

Via the Westerscheldetunnel (N62):

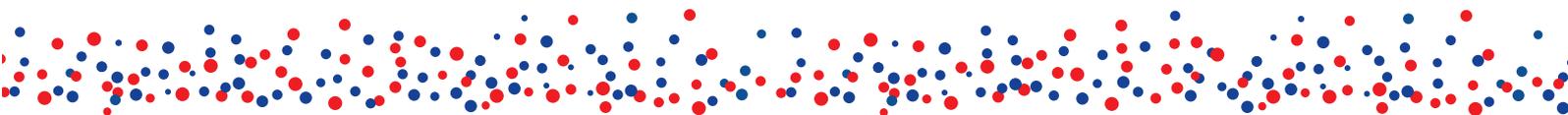
- The Westerscheldetunnel is toll-free on this day (for the 24-hour period)!
- Follow the N62;
- Do NOT take the first exit from the tunnel to Terneuzen (the locks are closed to car traffic for most of the day);
- Do NOT take the N61 exit;
- DO take the first exit to Terneuzen following Sluiskiltunnel;
- Take the third exit from the roundabout;
- Take the second exit from the roundabout (N290);
- Turn left at the traffic light (N61);
- At the next traffic light, follow the signs or traffic wardens directing you towards Skidome car park (left) or Techniekstraat car park (right).

From Belgium / Tractaatweg (N62):

- Follow the N62;
- Take the Terneuzen exit;
- Take the first exit to the roundabout (N290);
- Turn left at the traffic light (N61);
- At the next traffic light, follow the instructions of the traffic wardens towards Skidome car park (left) or Techniekstraat car park (right).

By train

Travel to Goes NS railway station and take bus line 20. Exit at the temporary bus stop Rosegracht in Terneuzen. See 9292.nl/en for schedule.



ORGANISATION

The Commencement of Celebrating 75 Years of Freedom in Terneuzen is organised by the National Committee for 4 and 5 May, the Province of Zeeland, the Municipality of Terneuzen and a number of other partners such as the Rijksoverheid [Government of the Netherlands] and the vfonds.

Updated news on the programme and practical information can be found at [Vrijheid.nl](https://vrijheid.nl), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). For questions, please contact one of the three organisations below:

[Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei](#)

[Provincie Zeeland](#)

[Gemeente Terneuzen](#)

