

## **Arjen Hosper appointed as Dean of Toneelacademie Maastricht and Conservatorium Maastricht**

The Executive Board has appointed Arjen Hosper as the new Dean of Toneelacademie Maastricht and Conservatorium Maastricht, effective from January 1st. Arjen is currently the head of the Artisteducator in Theatre and Media programme (formerly Theatre Teacher) at ArtEZ University of the Arts. Since his start in 2016, Arjen has successfully further developed this programme, achieving notable results, particularly in the field of educational innovation. The programme has been rated as a Top Programme by the Keuzegids Hbo for several years. At ArtEZ, he also founded the Future Storytelling Lab Technology and, as a member of the Art Education as Critical Tactics research group, co-initiated No University. Additionally, he introduced the Leerpodium platform, where he and an interdisciplinary teaching team won second place in the Dutch Education Award.

Before his role as head of the programme, Arjen worked as a theatre and film teacher since 2004. He has taught at various educational institutions and organizations. Furthermore, he has experience in the theatre and film world, having worked as a festival programmer, programme leader, and director of mixed-media music theatre productions, with projects at the ArtEZ Conservatorium and the opera company Silbersee. Arjen is a qualified first-degree theatre teacher, graduated from the Amsterdam University of the Arts. He has also studied at the New York Film Academy and Nyenrode Business University. Arjen (born in 1976) is married.

"I am proud and enthusiastic to soon begin my work at Toneelacademie Maastricht and Conservatorium Maastricht," says Arjen. "These two prestigious institutions have produced numerous renowned performing artists. I look forward to working with the staff, students, fellow deans, and the Zuyd Executive Board to further grow the academies and strengthen the role of art in society."

Saskia Brand-Gruwel, a member of the Executive Board and Portfolio holder for Performing Arts, is pleased with the appointment: "With Arjen, Zuyd gains an excellent new dean. He is an experienced professional who is strongly focused on connection, development, and innovation. We look forward to working with him."

Arjen will take over the role of Dean of Performing Arts from Mare de Groot, who has chosen to become an independent cultural entrepreneur. He will collaborate closely with Angenieta Kuijpers, Dean of Visual Arts at Zuyd.