



## Streaming Luxembourg

Video streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and, most recently, Disney+ have done more than just keep households occupied during testing times.

Expansion into lucrative Luxembourg is also bringing wins for the local film industry. *Sawah*, the first fully Luxembourg-made film to be featured on an international streaming platform went live on Netflix at the end of spring. "It was at number 1 or 2 in 30 countries during the first week," director Ady El Assal said. And it opened doors for him with Netflix. "Right now, I'm shooting a series for them in Belgium. I'm so happy. After all those years of struggling, now I can choose the projects I want." El Assal is accustomed to going out on a limb. He broke with tradition when, in 2012, he released his first feature, *Les Gars*, in France via video on demand. "I wanted people to see my film and it was very successful. I made some money but didn't break even," he said. After four years of trying with Netflix, El Assal landed a pitch at the Berlin film festival in February, shortly before

lockdown, and after *Sawah* had a cinema run. So, why don't more local filmmakers take the streaming route? "They like to see their films in cinemas, that's true for every filmmaker," El Assal suggests. Luxembourg TV series producers have already jumped on the bandwagon with some success. Netflix launched the second season of *Iris Productions'* gripping thriller *Bad Banks* in November 2020. Streaming platforms have an interest to accept more local content—the EU's Audiovisual Media Services Directive requests that at least 30% of content streamed in Europe is composed of European works. Financial help for filmmakers could follow. In late 2020, prominent filmmakers such as Pedro Almodóvar were calling for streaming platforms to invest 25% of European turnover in local production companies. J.B.

### GIVING A LISTEN



† Sarah Bergdoll  
Fondation EME

**JESS BAUDRY** How did the Fondation EME help vulnerable people access culture in 2020?

**SARAH BERGDOLL** We did 440 events this year. We coordinated 75 virtual concerts and 13 djembe workshops by Luxembourgish professional musicians at every care institution (for people who are elderly, infirm, differently abled and socially disadvantaged) and broadcasted on Apart TV to reach vulnerable people at home. From the

"deconfinement" onwards, 120 live concerts took place outdoors [of the institutions]. From September 2020, we adapted all our activities so that 10 projects and 80 concerts took place until the end of the year.

**What is planned for 2021?** More than 500 events! We have been very creative during these difficult times and many projects are planned for 2021. [www.fondation-eme.lu](http://www.fondation-eme.lu)

issuu.com is now full screen Exit Full Screen (Esc)

The [page of Luxembourg Links](#) programmed some fascinating English-language shows for 2021.

#### 1 Stark bollock naked

Larisa Faber's provocative and moving monologue gets a fresh and intriguing makeover as a live show with body mapping. The actress and writer is joined on stage by musician Catherine Konz playing some unique instruments. The text is a tragi-comedy about perceptions of the female body and the ticking of the so-called biological clock, and society's expectations of women.

📍 Neiménster, Luxembourg-Grund  
📅 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 March  
🔗 [www.neimenster.lu](http://www.neimenster.lu)

#### 2 Enter Achilles

DVB's Lloyd Newson developed this raucous, testosterone-fuelled piece of physical theatre in 1995. It remains recognisable as an examination of lad culture and, in these times of social distancing, its art may seem even more heightened and pertinent. Reworked and performed for the stage by Ballet Rambert and Sadler's Wells.

📍 Grand Théâtre, Luxembourg Limpertsberg  
📅 1-2 April  
🔗 [www.theatres.lu](http://www.theatres.lu)

#### 3 The Hothouse

Harold Pinter's blackly comic portrait of corruption and power in an authoritarian state prison is staged by Luxembourg director Anne Simon. This immersive, walk-through interpretation of Pinter's play promises to plunge the audience into the heart of the hothouse. This tale of surveillance, challenges to privacy and control has never been so relevant.

📍 Location TBC  
📅 30, 31 March, 1, 2, 20, 24 and 25 April  
🔗 [www.theatres.lu](http://www.theatres.lu)

#### 4 Midsummer

If there were a genre called 'plays for tough times', David Greig's *Midsummer* would be there. First staged in 2008, it offered a welcome escape from the drama of the financial crash. Director Anne Simon and her cast of Larisa Faber and Daron Yates will test its enduring power against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic.

📍 Théâtre National de Luxembourg, Luxembourg-Merl  
📅 4, 6, 8 and 11 June  
🔗 [www.tnl.lu](http://www.tnl.lu)

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# CELEBRATING THE LINKS BETWEEN LUXEMBOURG AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The book *#LuxUKLinks* written by the British Ambassador to Luxembourg John Marshall contains 150 links between his country and Luxembourg through the chapters Art & Culture, World War I, World War II, Sport and Royal Families.



Get the book in Ernster bookshops and on [eshop.maisonmoderne.lu](http://eshop.maisonmoderne.lu)

