**Textraum**

**Meet the Belgians and the Dutch…**

Since July 2016 Het Leerke is a new Belgian-Dutch organization which has bibliodrama as one of its main activities. They arose from the Flemish bibliodrama society “Tussen Hemel en Aarde” and developed to an independent ecumenical association after Tineke Boekenstijn-Dronkert joined them. With roots in the Flemish bibliodrama schools and in the different bibliodrama schools in Holland they have a very rich pattern of visions and working methods in their arsenal.

They are very proud to be responsible for the 13th European Bibliodrama Conference. To prepare this gathering and to create a new network in the Dutch speaking zone they took the initiative for the first Belgian-Holland Bibliodrama meeting.

Somewhere in the middle of November 2016 … twenty five people met each other on the fourth floor of a steel company, where the fire of inspiration burnt. Some came from Belgium, others from the Netherlands. For the first time in history we played together and experienced the enormous variety of the several approaches in bibliodrama. The pastoral – existential method (Andriessen – Derksen – Nolet), as well as the Flanders method which is practiced (among others) in primary and secondary schools and in communities of all kinds (parishes, prisons, religious communities, seminars…), and last but not least the more theatrical, dramatic method as developed by “de 7evende hemel” were explored.

We played puppets with our hands. We demonstrated the essence of texts concerning the theme of ‘light’ by using clothes. We gathered around Mount Sinai in despair, waiting for Moses to return. We felt connected to each other during lunch time.

It was a lovely day, an event to be remembered as the starting point of an ongoing tradition.

Summer 2017 we will meet again in Torhout (Belgium), accompanied by other players from different countries during the conference of EBN.

Save the date of 23. – 27. August 2017!! The theme of this conference will be “Pieces of peace”. We will explore the book of Jonah in four groups. The region of Flanders Fields, where the poppies still grow in remembrance of those horrible days of the Great War, invites us to open up our hearts for those still longing for peace. Please visit our website to keep in touch if you are interested for the conference.

Contact us on [www.bibliodrama.be](http://www.bibliodrama.be) or connect on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Het.Leerke/>

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