

Biography Matteo Simoni

Matteo Simoni (1987) is a multifaceted actor who has quickly become one of Belgium's most sought-after young talents. He has showcased his versatility and depth on some of the most successful TV series, films and theatre plays.

Simoni is perhaps best known in Belgium for playing 'Smos' on the hit comedy series *Safety First* and his portrayal of 'Rocco Granata' in the biopic *Marina*, for which he was nominated Best Actor at the Ensors, the Belgian film award.

For his star turn in *Marina*, a film by Oscar nominated director Stijn Coninx, Simoni learned to speak Italian fluently. In this biopic he portrays the Belgian-Italian singer Rocco Granata, known for his worldwide hit song *Marina*.

He also had prominent roles on other Belgian films and TV series, most recently on the hit comedy *Callboys* (2016), by visionary Belgian director Jan Eelen, which gathered a record breaking 38% of all television viewers in front of the screen every Thursday evening.

On the stage, Simoni appeared in acclaimed productions of various theatre groups such as the *Gent National Theatre* and *Toneelgroep Amsterdam*, where he worked with Tony winner Ivo van Hove. In 2008 he and some of his fellow students started their own theater group FC Bergman, whose plays received several prestigious awards and festival selections.

Simoni will be seen next in *The Gang of Jan De Lichte*, a TV series by acclaimed director Robin Pront (*D'Ardennen*, the Belgium Oscar submission 2016), based on the saga of 'the Belgian Robin Hood'.

In 2017, he is set to play the lead role in *Patser*, a new film by Adil El Arbi en Bilal Fallah, the directors of *Black* and winners of the Dropbox Discovery Award at the Toronto International Film Festival 2015.