

# MATTEO SIMONI - BIOGRAPHY

Matteo Simoni (1987) is a multifaceted actor who has quickly become one of Belgium's most sought after young talents, showcasing his versatility and depth on some of Belgium's most successful TV series, films and theatre plays. The International Film Festival Berlin selected Matteo as a Shooting Star 2018, introducing him as one of ten promising young European actors. The Belgian Film Festival Oostende is honoring Matteo this year as their main guest.

Simoni is perhaps best known in his home country for playing 'Smos' on the hit comedy series SAFETY FIRST and his portrayal of 'Rocco Granata' in the biopic MARINA, by Oscar nominated director Stijn Coninx. For this role, Matteo learned to speak Italian fluently. He was nominated Best Actor at the Ensors, the Belgian film award. Most recently, he played the lead role in the Belgian box office record breaking film GANGSTA (2018), the latest film by Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, the directors of BLACK and winners of the Dropbox Discovery Award at the Toronto International Film Festival 2015.

Matteo's other roles include leads on a number of Belgian films and TV series, most recently on the hit comedy CALLBOYS (2016), directed by Jan Eelen, which was nominated for an International Emmy Award 2017 and has been picked up for a second season. On stage, Simoni appeared in acclaimed and award-winning productions with various theatre groups such as the Gent National Theatre and Toneelgroep Amsterdam, where he worked with Tony winner Ivo van Hove. He is one of the founding members of the award-winning theatre group FC Bergman, known for their very own theatrical language, which is anarchistic, chaotic, visual and poetic.

This fall Matteo can be seen in the lead role in the Belgian TV series THE FLAMISH BANDITS, by director Robin Pront (D'ARDENNEN, the Belgium Oscar submission 2016). He is also set to play one of the lead role in Pront's upcoming film ZILLION, about the notorious Antwerp clubscene in the 90s.