

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.

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. His performance earned him a nomination for Best Actor at the Ensors, the Belgian film award. Recently, he played the lead role in the Belgian box office record breaking film GANGSTA (2018), directed by Adil El Arbi and Bilall Fallah, the directors of BAD BOYS 3 (2020).

Matteo's played lead roles on numerous Belgian films and TV series, most recently on the hit comedy CALLBOYS (2016, 2019), 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 International Theatre Amsterdam, where he worked with Tony winner Ivo van Hove. Matteo is also 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.

In 2019, Matteo produced, directed and performed in TRIO, the first outing of his production company Brutteo, which he founded with colleagues and friends Ruth Beeckmans and Bruno Vandenbroecke. The film was self-financed, had a successful theatrical run in Belgium and was selected for various film festivals.

Matteo was guest of honor at the Belgian Film Festival Oostende in 2018.

At the moment, Matteo can be seen in the lead role in the Netflix series THIEVES OF THE WOOD, by director Robin Pront (D'ARDENNEN, the Belgium Oscar submission 2016). Robin Pront and Matteo are continuing their collaboration this year, with Pront's

next feature film ZILLION, inspired by a true story about the notorious Antwerp club scene in the 90s. Matteo is set to play the role of 'Dennis Black Magic', a well-known Belgian porn king.

His his latest movie THE RACER, by director Kieron J. Walsh, was selected for South by Southwest 2020. In this film, about the opening Irish stages of the 1998 Tour de France, known as the 'Tour du Dopage', Matteo plays the Italian racer Lupo 'Tartare' Marino. The film is expected to hit theatres early 2021.

One of his other upcoming projects is the film ROOKIE, in which Matteo plays a reckless motorcycle racer who has to give up his racing dream by an accident. Later this year, he can ben seen in the international TV-series COLD COURAGE.