

The story of jazz and of the twentieth century

Rebel Rhythms

MATTHIJS DE RIDDER

The story of jazz is the story of the twentieth century. That story starts in the Deep South of the United States, but jazz conquers the Old Continent soon after the decisive role the United States played during World War I. After the war, at a terrific pace Europe got into its stride on the rebel rhythms of the new music coming from America. Suddenly, jazz is everywhere: in dance halls, in theatres, in the streets and in politics. After World War I jazz stands for renewal, liberation and reformation and the music would keep its rebellious sound in the decennia following the war.

A gorgeous voyage of discovery

BERT VAN RAEMDONCK

No better soundtrack for a political and cultural history of the twentieth century than jazz. And nowhere the influence of jazz on the dreams and fears of Europeans has been described more thoroughly than in the literature of this period. In 'Rebellious Rhythms' Matthijs de Ridder starts on a hazardous search through an age of jazz and jazzy literature.



AUTHOR



Matthijs de Ridder (b. 1979) is a writer and critic. He edited work by great Flemish authors like Louis Paul Boon and Paul van Ostaijen. In his literary work he is always on the lookout for creative ways to tell the story of our times. 'To Borms. Willem Elsschot, A Political Writer' (2007) and 'Desire. A Literary History 1984-2014' (2014) provide exiting new insights into the history of Flemish and Dutch literature. 'Rebel Rhythms. A Jazzy History of Our Time' (2012) is a swinging cultural history of the 20th century set to the rhythm of jazz. 'The Age of Charlie Chaplin' (2017) also tells the story of the 20th century, this time as seen through the lens of film icon Charlie Chaplin. *Photo © Koen Broos*

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