



Erasmus Pride

Be yourself, together

YEARBOOK
2022-2023



ERASMUS PRIDE YEARBOOK: FIRST EDITION!

EP is growing and turned 3 this year! With our 4th official board and many new members, we had a lot of fun and achieved a lot of things. With all that we're excited to present EP's first digital yearbook, so you can remember all the good times we had together!

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Erasmus Pride
Be yourself, together

WELCOME TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23



*IT'S BEEN AN AMAZING
ACADEMIC YEAR AT EP BUT
WE DEFINITELY HAVE TO
MENTION WHERE IT ALL
STARTED. WE KICKED
THINGS OFF WITH AN
AMAZING EUREKA WEEK.*



*THE INTRODUCTION COMMITTEE SET UP A
FANTASTIC STALL AT THE ASSOCIATION FAIR
AND MET A LOT OF NEW MEMBERS!*

*LET'S NOT
FORGET THE
CELEBS WE
SPOTTED
AROUND
CAMPUS*





EVERYONE GOT TO CATCH UP AT THE FIRST SOCIAL DRINKS OF THE YEAR. THE NEW MEMBERS GOT TO KNOW OUR LGBTQTIES AND GET FAMILIAR WITH THE ASSOCIATION



THE BOARD ALSO HAD A SUPER SPECIAL MOMENT WHERE THEY GOT TO MEET FOR FIRST TIME!

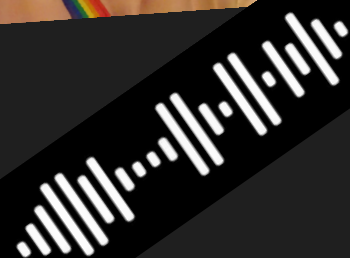


Social drinks





Playlist - Dancing
with the gays



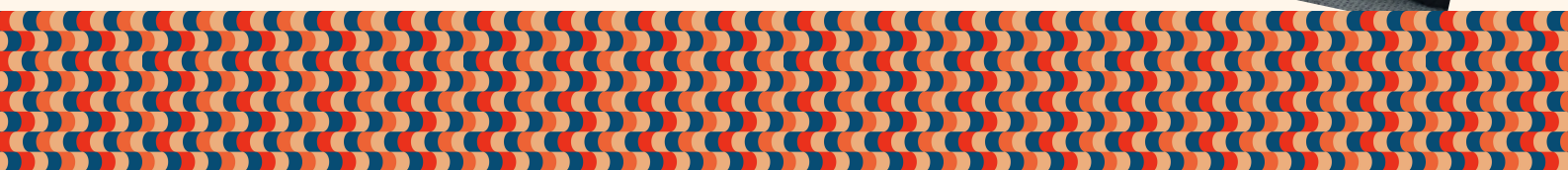
Cultural events



**A day at the depot
Boijmans museum!**

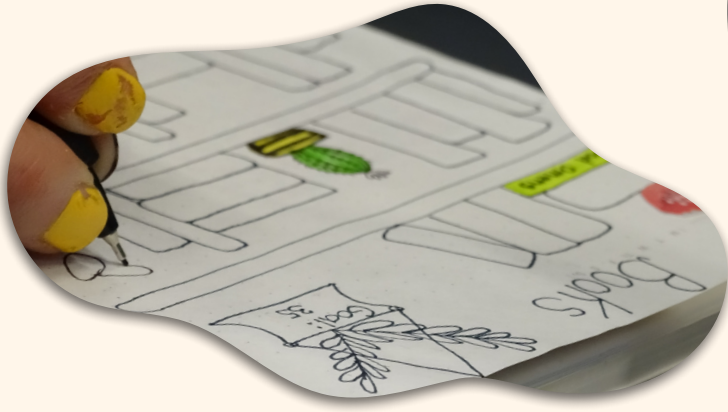
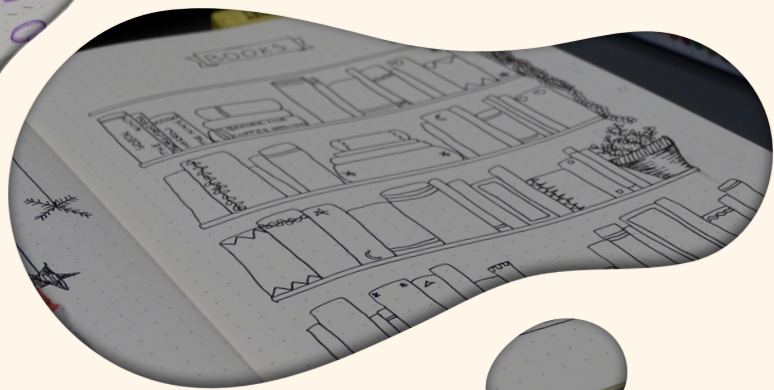
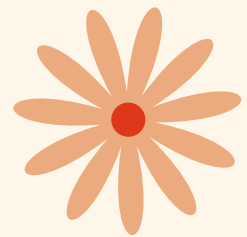


**Educational
presentation about
consent**





**Training at
QueerGym!**



**Bullet journalling
at the LivingRoom**



Book Club

Yana, the host of
book club!



Gideon the Ninth



"Incredibly funny and clever with an intriguing plot that keeps surprising you! Also possibly the nerdiest fantasy book I've read."

"This book series is making me go craaaazy"

"This book isn't perfect. The plot was messy at times and I wasn't a huge fan of the action. Do I care? Fuck no because I love everything else. Actions have consequences, the mystery is compelling, the characters are phenomenal, and the lesbians are lesbianing!"



"Loved the humor, unpredictability, and tension"

Neil Gaiman &
Terry Pratchett



"Best rom-com I've ever read"

"I do love a serious yet funny book. Fantastic for grownups doesn't always have to be only doom and gloom, it can be hilarious and this book is proof of that"

Good Omens

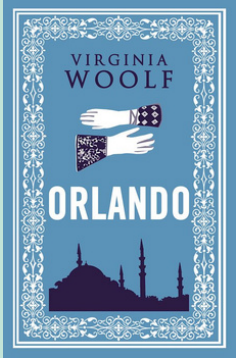
"One of the most funny, witty, and though books I've ever read. I laughed the whole time!"

"Love it, great humor, it has gay energy."

Kitchen



"Confusing roof to stone climbing logistics"



Orlando

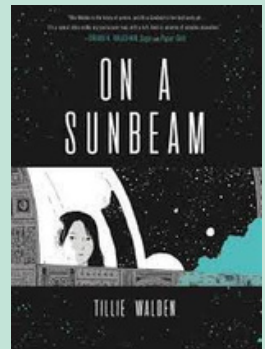
"5/5 if you're a nerd about English history"

"A very chaotic story, the audiobook caught me off-guard with weird sentences a lot when I wasn't paying attention"

On a Sunbeam

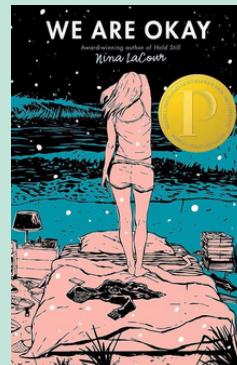
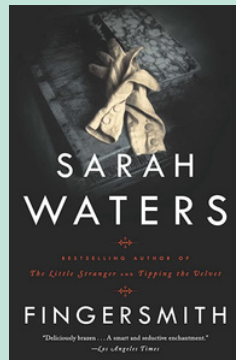


"Adorable! Stunning! Cosy! (Don't think too hard about the plot). Look at the pretty colours! Serotonin!"



"Amazing vibes I loved it"

Fingersmith



We Are Okay



COBO

The CoBo is an event where the new board of Erasmus Pride is officially presented and celebrated. Boards from the following associations were invited:

- ESN Rotterdam
- Dito! Nijmegen
- Outsite
- CSA-EUR
- EESA
- A.S.V. Gay
- U.H.S.V. Anteros

Thank you all for coming!

Each committee and board gave a speech and a gift to the new board, in exchange for a drink. Em, the commissioner of order, needed to shout louder than everyone else: people were screaming "volume" as loud as possible at the bar!





HALLOWEEN



EVERYONE FEELING OOKY
SPOOKY AT OUR
PHOTOBOTH!



OUR ANNUAL
HALLOWEEN PARTY
WAS GHOSTLY AND
GHASTLY!

SPOOKY



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
WINNERS OF OUR COSTUME
CONTEST!



Happy



We all clearly had a great time at home over the holidays! Thanks to everyone for their photo submissions!

HOLIDAYS!!



The final big bash of 2022! A merry time had by all at our holiday themed social drinks!





On February 13th we handed out free condoms on campus for International Condom Day!
Together with AHF we spread awareness about the free STD services provided in The Netherlands!





For more info check out
<https://gratishivtest.nl>.
A big thanks to Jan Sluijter for the great
pictures of this day!!



Gala 2023

We had our first Erasmus Pride Gala this year with the theme of Camp! It was a night filled with amazing outfits, music and good times.



Queer Prom
1st of June 2023



Queer Prom
1st of June 2023



Queer Prom
1st of June 2023



Queer Prom
1st of June 2023



We received amazing entertainment from our host Tootsi and performers from House of Makaveli. We also contributed to an amazing auction full of locally created artwork, overnight stays and beautiful jewellery. In total the auction raised €513!





Our history: Boards

2019-2020

The first board of Erasmus Pride

Fabian Lips, **President**
Julia Werkhoven, **Vice-president**
Lado Voskobiinyk, **Secretary**
Andrea Blatter, **Treasurer**



2020-2021

Fabian Lips, **President**
Lotte ten Braak, **Vice-president**
Irene Folkers, **Secretary**
Grzegorz Janowicz, **Treasurer**



2021-2022

Leonardo Ayala, **President**
Jelle de Haan, **Vice-president**
Fabian Hack, **Treasurer**
Riya Divekar, **Public relations manager**



Where are they now?

"I'm giving a TEDx Speech about fitness and health this month, and I moved to a new apartment in the centre of Rotterdam with a beautiful view" --Riya

"I got accepted into a internship in the municipality at GroenLinks Amsterdam!" --Jelle

"I got my dream job at a bank and moved in together with my boyfriend (and they were roommates)" --Fabian L

"I decided to finally quit my Econometrics study (good luck to all that I left behind!!) and now I work full time as a chess teacher! Also, I still like to attend all the EP events!!" --Leonardo

"I worked on getting the living room at the University. And i got a job at the municipality." --Julia

"Started my masters in clinical psychology." --Lado

The 2022/2023 board



We interviewed the board to get to know them better!

Yearbook Team (YB): What would you do if you could rewind time? Wrong answers only!

Alex: How cool would it be if humans evolved from birds instead of monkeys, huh could be a fun experiment?

Zofia: I would have chosen 9am tutorials for all of my classes.

Julka: I would come out when I was 12 lol.

Sarah: I would go back in time a few hours every morning and just sleep a lot.

Stephan: Stop Gaga and Beyoncé from making the iconic Telephone videoclip.

YB: What makes you the most proud of being part of EP?

Alex: I think the fact that no matter which position in EP I was in, I could walk into the event and start a conversation with anybody there. Everybody seemed so open and friendly.

Zofia: That I get to contribute to creating the community.

Julka: The part that makes me the most proud of being in EP is that I am part of such a brave community, where everyone can express themselves the way they want to, everyone feels comfortable and I can be my most real self when I'm with EP people.

Stephan: I've been part of EP for quite some time now and I am so proud of the growth we've experienced in the last few years. We went from a network organizing drinks every now and then to an official student association hosting activities every single week while providing a safe space for so many people. I love that everyone is there for each other and always open for some fun or a good conversation.

YB: Which object are you most proud of owning? What's the story behind it?

Zofia: My quote tattoo from "Heroes" by David Bowie because I spontaneously got it done in Berlin even though an hour before, I wouldn't even thought that I'll be getting a tattoo that day, and I just love my energy from that moment.

Sarah: The object I'm most proud of owning is my boob-shaped lavender-scented beanbag hand warmer. My friends got it for my birthday because I am "always cold and like boobs and lavender".

YB: What is your favourite spot in Rotterdam?

Sarah: The best spot in Rotterdam is obviously my bed! Because I like to sleep, don't be so dirty-minded!

Stephan: I'm obsessed with restaurant Stalles (you should try the carpaccio pizza!), but nothing beats a good kapsalon from HAS.

YB: Which pop icon would you be? (on the right: selection made by a diva expert)

Alex: I don't know of them.

Zofia: Lady Gaga.

Julka: Queen Nicki Minaj.

Sarah: Lady Gaga, because I am sexy, funny, and quite honestly a little insane.

Stephan: Riri.





Zofia
President



Alex
Vice President



Julka
Secretary



Sarah
External Affairs



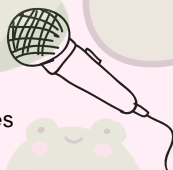
Stephan
Treasurer



What do the board members think of each other?

Zofia is most likely to...

- ♥ Defeat the EUR inaccessibility guidelines
- ♥ Have problems with the elevators
- ♥ Become the president of the university and make sure they finally fix all the goddamn elevators.
- ♥ Be a powerful voice for D&I with a focus on accessibility issues



Julka is most likely to...

- ♥ Be a fashion icon
- ♥ Slay everyday
- ♥ Become the owner of an Irish pub where every drink is served with a shot of Polish vodka
- ♥ Be the fun, successful, rich aunt that brings Polish vodka



Alex is most likely to...

- ♥ Organise a cafe/knitting date for us
- ♥ Misread signals
- ♥ Become accidentally famous (like genuinely did not mean to)
- ♥ Struggle with tagging people in Google Docs



Sarah is most likely to...

- ♥ Multitask during a meeting and still stay focused and get a shit tone done
- ♥ Somehow juggle 5 projects at once
- ♥ Be the shortest person in the room
- ♥ Be a successful businesswoman with a house full of cats



Stephan is most likely to...

- ♥ Provide us with snacks for the office
- ♥ Forever be in EP active member positions
- ♥ Honestly, just slay and serve.
- ♥ Become the sassiest CEO the world has ever seen.



Erasmus Pride members



Louka van Pelt
"Its not a whorehouse, its a
whorehome <3"



Em Chumakova
"You're not useless if you can be
used as a bad example :)"



Jeremiah Wang
"Mr. Good For Nothing"



Medha
"Live Laugh Love "



Lotte
"The early bird catches the worm, but
the second mouse gets the cheese"



Chris
"Less is more"



Maura
"fingerguns"



Jara
"i live so i love"



Tijn Hoogendam
"There aint no thing like me,
'cept me."



Grace
"Every room can be a panic
room if you give me a second"



Kayen Zheng
"Dood gaan is ook gaan"



Maeve
"GIRL!"



Teddy
"Rest in peace me, RIP me, I
died dead" -Taylor Swift



Marit
"Stressed, depressed, but
always well-dressed"



Samuel
"Stay fresh cheese bags"



Sarah B
"Hey Adora"

Erasmus Pride members



Yana

"THE EGGS YOU GAVE ME ALL
DIED AND YOU LIED TO ME"



Bettie

"SO I DID THE IMPLANTATION MYSELF
YOU SELF-SERVING ZOMBIE"



Alex

"BUT WHEN I AM IN HEAVEN I
WILL REMEMBER YOUR MOUTH"



Yavanna

"AND WHEN YOU ROAST DOWN IN HELL
I THINK YOU WILL REMEMBER MINE"



Sarah J

"I am a girlboss" (I say to myself as I
make a shitty TikTok for EP) *insert that
sticker of Justin Bieber"



Stephan

"Honestly... Work"



Julka

"You know what I say: slay."



Zofia

"Just keep slaying"



Yana, Yavanna, Bettie and Alex



Em and Louka





Activities committee

Get to know the great team behind
your favourite EP events!

Em: I'm from Ukraine, I study Neuroscience at EUC

Pragya: I'm from Delhi & I study Nanobiology!

Yana: I am a second-year bachelor student from Bulgaria. I study Arts and Culture, with a double degree in Philosophy. Something interesting about me is that I am obsessed with Dungeons & Dragons and I made all my friends play with me. I also love making zines and collecting postcards.

Kayen: I'm born and raised in Rotterdam (the ghetto part unfortunately), currently finishing my MSc Strategic Management and I can fall asleep in any position. Standing, sitting, lying down - with my eyes open, half-open and closed :) Also, I have bigger biceps than half of my guy friends. Still unsure if I perceive this as a good thing or not, but my friends always introduce me as their buffed girl friend at parties or raves (which is always funny).

Tessel: Hi I'm Tessel, I'm from Ter Apel in the Netherlands and I'm currently studying Media Technology in Leiden. I'm an avid rugby player, plant parent, and I've just learned to embroider.



Em Chunakova
Chair



Chris Klarenbeek
Secretary



Pragya Verma
Treasurer



Yana Zaharieva



Dim van der Hoek



Kayen Zheng



Tessel Glas



Alex Gordzievskaia
Board Representative

What is your role in Activities Committee? Can you explain what kind of tasks you do?

Tessel: With the AC you have a meeting every two weeks where you'll discuss which events people are interested in and capable of helping out with. We also can come up with fun ideas to do for events.

Yana: I am a member of the activities committee for the second year. This year, I've mostly been doing nerdy, artsy, and non-drinking events. I've organised or helped prepare a lot of our game nights, both online and in person, as well as our quizzes. I also run the Erasmus Pride book club which meets almost every month during the academic year. My tasks involve coming up with event ideas, organising and preparing any activities and props that are needed for events, and showing up to make sure things run smoothly and everyone is having a good time.

Kayen: I'm the rookie of the group, as I joined mid-March, but I help out here and there. Just the casual committee member tasks, helping out at events and its preparations.

Pragya: I'm the treasurer! Which means aside from planning activities together with everyone I also set a budget for each month's activities, file our expenses and make sure everyone in AC gets their money back when they buy something for EP.

Em: I'm the Chair of the AC, so my main task is ensuring the committee runs smoothly. I schedule and run the meetings, communicate with other committees and the board, etc. I also do the same sorts of tasks that any member of AC does - come up with event ideas, do the planning and shopping for them, make sure everyone's having fun at the event and then collect feedback to improve future events



What made you interested in joining Activities Committee?

Tessel: I was a member last year and I had loads of fun and I made a lot of friends, so I wanted to do it for another year.

Yana: I joined the Activities Committee last year, at the beginning of my first year of university. I wanted to be involved in organizing activities for the community, because I love creating spaces for people to feel at home and have fun. I also thought it would be a good way to make friends, which I did. I've met some amazing people because of AC and EP!

Kayen: I wanted to meet some awesome people (and I did)!

Pragya: Meeting new people.

Em: I joined in the previous academic year. I just discovered EP, and as somebody who has lived in homophobic countries all their life, I fell in love with this organisation immediately. I wanted to make sure that every queer person at EUR has a safe, fun space to meet people and have these shared experiences.

What is your favourite EP event of this year?



Tessel: The murder mystery night.

Yana: I might be biased but I love all the book clubs. It is such a nice, relaxed atmosphere and we always laugh so much, and I like to have a space for people to be unapologetically nerdy.

Kayen: The murder mystery, because I got to dress up as my one true self, "The Drunk Driver" (just kidding, I don't condone drinking & driving) Also, the Gala was pretty great, even though I can't remember much of it.

Pragya: Zine making

Em: Halloween!! It's always my favourite EP event.



If you had 24 hours to do whatever you wanted, with no consequences, what would you do?

Tessel: Probably something lame, like steal a bunch of expensive shit. I'm not creative enough to come up with a good answer and I like shiny new things.

Yana: Steal as many books from the Donner as physically possible.

Kayen: 1) Go to the Hague and threaten the Cabinet to pass a law that eliminates all student debt from 2016-2022, because the "pechgeneratie" has mentally and physically suffered enough already, with becoming old and all. 2) Borrow a modified racing go-kart and drive through the city/on the highway with my friends, whilst wearing a Luigi costume myself. 3) Visit the most expensive gym I could find without paying for it. 4) Take my mom and bro out for a nice fancy dinner and 5) ride a horse near the beach.

Pragya: Take a break from writing my thesis.

Em: I would probably do something dangerous and fun, like skydiving. I would also love to stay in a big ass shopping centre overnight when it's closed, eat all the candy I want, climb around those children's play labyrinths (don't know how to describe them lol), try on fancy clothes.

What's next for you? What are your plans after this academic year?



Tessel: I have one more year of my masters to go, so I'll be really busy with that. Sadly I won't be joining the AC again, but I'll definitely stay a member!

Yana: Right now, I am doing an internship researching information sharing among the LGBTQ+ community online, which I will continue to do throughout the summer. Next year will be the last year of my bachelor and I will (hopefully) graduate. I'd love to still be involved in Erasmus Pride until then. After that, who knows? I'll see where life takes me!

Kayen: To mentally recover from my thesis stress and join the 9-5 working class, that is if I pass my thesis. If not, then also join the 9-5 working class and suffer once more from chronic headaches because of thesis.

Pragya: I will graduate from my bachelor in nanobiology and then take a gap year because I have absolutely no idea what's next for me.

Em: In terms of academics, I'm going to finish up my bachelor's degree. As for EP, I'm planning to stay with AC and keep improving our events for everyone to enjoy!

Marketing committee



Sarah Julliard
Board representative



Marit Dukker



Julia Carlsson



Lisa Schäfer



Grace de Boer

Meet our amazingly creative marketing team!

Grace: Hey I'm Grace! I'm 24 years old and from Maastricht. I study creative business and am working towards becoming a film director. My hobbies are skating, video editing and I've got an addiction to board games.

Marit: I'm from a small town near Delft; and ever since I was really young I had a best friend (we kissed once, that was exciting), but we got into a fight and because of that, I lost all my other friends too, because people liked her better. Then, because of the whole no-friends situation, I kinda had no one to talk to (imagine me, the talkiest talker that's ever talked, having no one to talk to, that's terrifying) and just started looking at the people around me and noticing funny things about them, which eventually led to me studying sociology. Because what better to do than some professional people watching if you were already doing it for free?!?

Anyway, a couple years later, I happened to figure out that I'm gay as hell, and I needed me some friends, and some new hobbies, so I became involved with my secondary school's GSA. In quite a short time, I became really involved (spoiler alert: I do that a lot), and because of that, I coincidentally became one of the most recognizable queer people in school. That was pretty good, actually (besides the homophobia in the hallways), as I was able to help quite some of my fellow students who were figuring out their own identity and coming-out. Oh, and in my last year, just before I left, I also used that visibility to make the school include more queer experiences in their sex-ed, because after six years of complaining, they finally gave in. (Yay!)

Then, when I went to uni, I feared I'd lose being part of the gayest group in town, but then I found Erasmus Pride! And I immediately became a member and joined the Activities Committee, before I had even been to a single event or seen another EP member. Then, after a year, I switched to the Marketing Committee, and I've been happily making promo and helping designing EP's merch for two full years now! And, during the summer, I get to combine both for the Introduction Committee, while convincing more people to join!

So yeah, I'm a busy bumbling bumblebee buzzing around at all times to not get bored. But then again, I also don't leave the house if I don't have to, and I prefer cacti over flowers, so maybe not much of a bee after all. Oh well.

Julia: I'm 20 years old, from Sweden and currently in my 2nd year of Communication and Media at Erasmus University. I did the IB in high school and love being in an international environment. I like to read, mostly fantasy, and watch TV-shows and movies. I like hanging out with my friends and walk around the city. I love listening to music and can't go a day without it.

What is your role in Marketing Committee? Can you explain what kind of tasks you do?

Marit: As MC's Secretary, I make promo and try to come up with new ways to promote our association, both on our social media platforms and irl, like the rest of the members. But I also make sure the agenda gets made, I take notes during meetings, and I am the one who'll take the list of activities the AC has organised for the next month, as well as the important dates or weeks for the community, and make sure that the work gets divided evenly over the MC members.

Julia: In the Marketing Committee, I am part of the Instagram and Discord teams, as well as the general marketing responsibilities. I'm responsible for making posts and captions for the events that we host. Being in the Instagram team also means that we work to figure out if we need to do any changes to our Instagram marketing strategies. Being part of the Discord team means that I help out with streamlining the Discord experience for the members, as well as being a point of contact for anyone who has questions regarding events/issues they are having.

Grace: I help out with the TikTok team, filming and editing mainly.

What made you interested in joining Marketing Committee?

Marit: When I was a member of AC, I found out that my brain doesn't really do well with having to organise activities and constantly having to keep a list of what is still left to do in the back of your mind, but I still wanted to be an active member. Coincidentally, I really like graphic design, so joining the Marketing Committee was the perfect solution, as there are less long-term projects you always have to be aware of, which causes me a lot less stress, and makes me enjoy being an active member even more!

Julia: As I have studied communication and media, the marketing aspect has appealed to me the most. Being part of the LGBTQ+ community and my interest in marketing made it an easy choice to apply for the Marketing Committee. I wanted to develop my skills within social media marketing as well as work within a team with similar beliefs to me.

Grace: I wanted to be more involved in the student organization and also build up my editing portfolio!

What is your favourite Instagram/TikTok/EP Media of this year?

Marit: All of the ones that spread joy and made people feel seen and like they belonged!

Grace: The book club avada kedavra TikTok never fails to make me laugh.

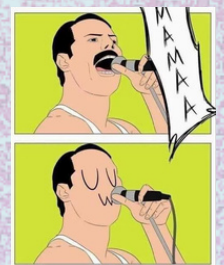
Julia: I think the museum visit was really cute.

What's your favourite meme of all time?

Marit: You're really making me CHOOSE here?!? I am on the internet 8 hours a day, I have seen too many to pick a favourite! (However, few memes are able to top this one IMO, on the right).

Grace: This changes weekly but at the moment I'm in love with all the Spider-Punk memes

Julia: I am a big fan of the Joe Biden "It's Joeever" meme.



What's next for you? What are your plans after this academic year?

Marit: I'm planning on finishing my Sociology Bachelor this year, and then I'll only have my Philosophy Bachelor left, so... with all that extra time on my hands, I might infiltrate even more and become an EP board member, who knows. Besides that, I'll hopefully finally start therapy after years of putting it off, maybe start dating (I've been out for close to a third of my life now and I'm still single), and yeah, just carry on with life as it goes along, one day at a time. In the end, I never have a clue of what's gonna happen next, I'm a terrible planner!

Julia: I am currently doing an internship which will continue until the end of the summer, just in time for the next academic year to start, which is when I will begin doing my minor in Business Management. During the summer, I also plan on hanging out with my friends and hopefully discover other parts of the Netherlands that I haven't visited yet. Next year I also want to travel and visit more countries that I haven't been to before.

Grace: I'll be starting my final project for my bachelors, after that who knows eventually I want to move to Spain.

Yearbook committee

A little word from the makers of this yearbook!

Sarah: Hi, I'm Sarah! I'm 22, from France, and went to my first EP event all the way back in 2018! That's when I arrived to the Netherlands and was so excited to meet all the other LGBTQ people out there. The crowd's completely different now, and I'm glad I got the chance to meet new faces this year. I'm a huge introvert, but I love the events I did go to: book clubs, zine night, social drinks and karaoke, there's something for everyone!

I joined the Yearbook committee because (1) I always need a good creative outlet, (2) I also worked on my high school's yearbook and loved it, and (3) to contribute to the Gay Agenda (and the Erasmus Pride one!).

This year I worked on my Masters degree in health economics, and in a month I'm going to start teaching economics bachelor classes at Utrecht University. I have a lot of dreams for the future, including moving to Brittany, becoming a published writer and adopting a cat and a dog that become frenemies, but I have time to get there! And my guilty pleasure this year was watching Ultimatum: Queer love, which I'm 100% ready to rant about at any point.

Both Maeve and I had a really busy schedule this year, but between studies and part time jobs I'm glad we could come together and make the first EP yearbook!

Maeve: I'm Maeve and this year I worked as Treasurer on the Yearbook Committee! It's been a big challenge but also a lot of fun and I'm glad I got to be more involved in our lovely association. That's why I joined the committee I wanted a more active role, and I loved the idea of gathering everyone's memories from the year.

This year I worked on my Bachelor in Psychology and got to make a lot of new friends from my course in EP. That was amazing because my classes are constantly changing. In the future I want to move to an even bigger city than Rotterdam and start my career in D&I.

I'm really excited for the upcoming year too and can't wait to see what Erasmus Pride has in store.

Thanks to everyone for letting us share your memories and for giving us so many great days to add to the yearbook.



Sarah Burnod
Chair



Julka Szponder
Board representative/Secretary



Maeve Watson
Treasurer



Gala committee



Stephan van Roon
Board representative

Medha Pfaff
Secretary

Micah Căpinatu
Treasurer

★ The Erasmus Pride Gala committee had the all important task of arranging the first ever EP Gala. It was a sensation of course. The committee had a very busy few months organising the venue, entertainment and charity auction. Thanks to them had a great event to celebrate our wonderful community! ★

★ A little bit about Medha, the Gala committee secretary! ★

"I'm old, okay?! Born in 1997. What else? I'm an extrovert. I'm half Indian, half German. I was born and raised in South Germany, close to Freiburg. I did my Bachelors in Food Science at ETH Zurich and decided to pursue a Masters degree in Health Sciences at Erasmus Medical Centre afterwards.

I'm proudly bisexual and an active member of the Dutch Ballroom Scene. I love dancing, giving my unsolicited opinion and travelling. I always try to grow, learn and be as respectful as I can of any space I step into. I might seem like a tough bitch but I am easy to talk to as long as someone has interesting things to say and even more importantly, knows who they are.

One thing I cannot stand are people who do not make an effort to be introspective about the privileges they are blessed with and instead paint themselves as the victims of a situation.

Baby, ain't nobody got time for that. Step your pussy up. XOXO."

"I love organising events and bringing people together. The world is tough enough as it is and we as a community desperately need recreational queer safe spaces to have a breather and just enjoy ourselves. These are the places to recharge before and after we step outside and face the seriousness of everyday life." -Medha



EP's Got Talent

Art submissions
from our
memebers!

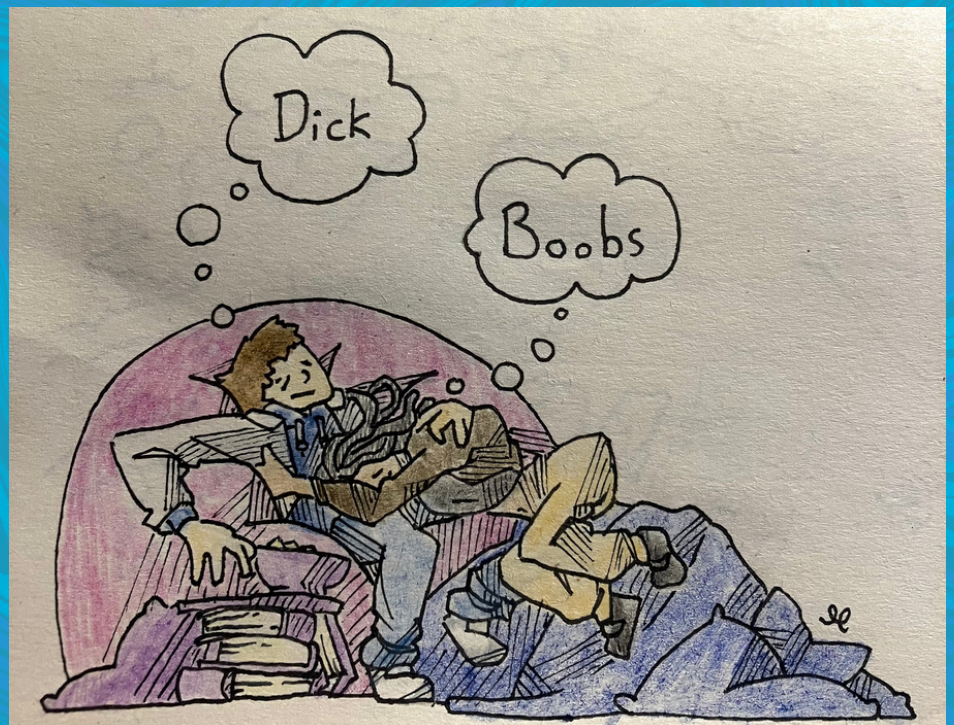


Sarah Julliard

I call this painting "het meisje met het ijsje", it is a painting of my friend based on a photo I took last summer. I just really love ice cream! I've been painting since I was 7 (but only got good at it when I was 16), hope you enjoy! You can check out my analog photography account @beyondtheblueshutters where you can also find the original photo this painting is based on. <3

Samuel Verhagen aka Murger

I'm a dude who like doodling dudes n stuff. Not really into the professional scene just yet but who knows. All I got right now is an insta, @murger_art.



Sarah Burnod

You can read the
rest here:

<https://blog.reedsy.com/short-story/4h4mob/>

Caleb, Dorm Chef

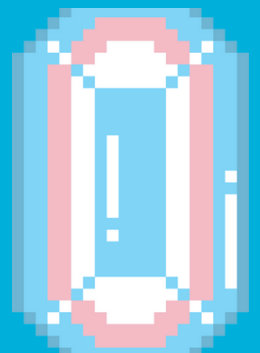
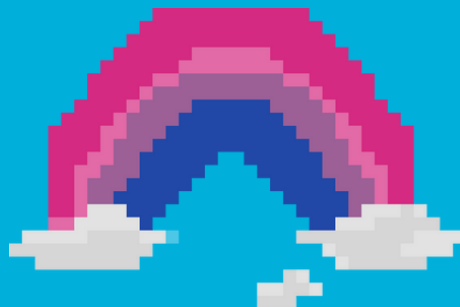
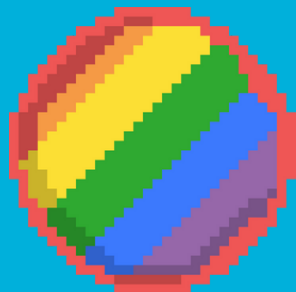
I turn the stove on. Click, click, click, and the blue flames grow. I unscrew the olive oil's greasy lid, pour it in the pan, wipe a stray droplet with the towel tossed over my shoulder. Soon David, Mike and Jonas would come home, so there was no time to lose.

The pantry is full, as always. Every Sunday we pool our money, share our cravings and make the long journey to *Cart*, the cheapest grocery store in town. Jonas, who basically lives in the gym and does hammer curls in his sleep, carries three bags while the rest of us share the other two. I grab the two-kg *penne* pack and the jar of tomato sauce, and balance a few containers of dried herbs between my chest and arms. They'll be needing all the fuel they can get.

The oil had started to fizz, so I drop in the red onions, ready on the cutting board. I used to cry when I diced them at the start of the year, but now they do nothing to me. The same happened to essay deadlines and failed exams: not a single tear now that it's November. I sprinkle the seasonings while sautéing the onions left and right: chili, garlic, salt, pepper and tomato flakes. Because tomato sauce isn't enough tomato: the boys love tomato. Sweet, tangy, just the right balance for the rest of the dish. I smile at the thought of pouring sauce from the jar later on. It's nothing like ketchup, which I used to squirt on top of my unsalted pasta on my first few days here. There's still a droplet on the side wall commemorating that dumb habit, and I only noticed it weeks after it happened. By now even water can't rinse it off. I should really look into it, there must be a way to clean it out.

The growing smell emanating from the mix of aromas reminds me that I only have fifteen minutes left. Time to add in the chicken.

Our fridge is cramped with all the meat and vegetables we had bought for the week. It's only Monday. And on Mondays, I'm the only one home early. I come home early every day actually, while the other three have alternating presences between four and eight. It's not like I can work on my art anywhere else, since all my stuff's in my room. David needs to pass the CFA, and Mondays are dedicated to cramming in the library. He had found the perfect spot: right between the copier machine, which provides an easy distraction when a good-looking person walks by, and the wall, on which he tapes a post-it each time he goes. It spells *grind harder* and he has to re-stick it every fifteen minutes. As long as it works for him.





Sharon Schouten



WINNER OF EURVISION 2023

On May 25th, EURvision's second edition happened at the Aula in front of an excited crowd. Twelve finalists competed with their original songs to win the judges' and public's hearts. Erasmus Pride is proud of Sharon for winning this edition! We invited her to tell us all about it.

Hi Sharon, and congrats again on winning! Your song, Crossroads, has a message that resonates with a lot of people (especially the people of Erasmus). Is there a particular moment in your life when you wished you could have heard its message?

I think it's a recurring theme in my life to be honest. Being in your 20s is all about changes and making choices that can feel pretty overwhelming at times. The song Crossroads is about putting the things you worry about in perspective. It helps me turn the narrative around, that I should be grateful for all the opportunities I have that a lot of people don't have. One of the things I'm grateful for is that I am free to be queer when I know a lot of people aren't that lucky.

Erasmus Pride was so happy to support you at EURvision this year! What inspired you to sign up to the competition?

I saw the promotion the Erasmus Music Association made for EURvision and got really excited. Just when I decided that I wanted to send in a song, Stephan (from Erasmus Pride) contacted me if I wanted to represent Erasmus Pride. So it all came together pretty nicely!



You'll also be performing at EurekaWeek, this August! Have you had a chance to perform outside of EURvision already? What makes you the most excited about these kinds of experiences?

Yes, I am so excited about that! After EURvision, I got invited to play at the 'student of the year award' ceremony at campus. I also played my song at the Erasmus Pride gala, which was a lot of fun. In August I'm also playing at a food truck festival in Rotterdam. I really appreciate getting all these gigs because it shows that winning EURvision is not only about winning one time, you get all these amazing opportunities afterwards. I especially like to play my song acoustically, because I feel like the lyrics are more emphasised that way.





How long have you been writing songs and playing instruments/singing? What draws you the most to this art? And have you always been singing/writing in English, or did you also do it in your mother tongue?

I started guitar lessons when I was 8 years old and joined a children's choir at the age of 10. After that, I played in bands and churches. I'm not really in that scene anymore but it is where it all began for me. I also recorded some songs myself and did some home recording during Covid times. During that time, I also participated in an online contest when Eurovision was in Rotterdam. They invited me to play on RTV Rijnmond (television and radio) which was really cool! I am a social worker in Schiedam and sometimes I use music to connect with people. For example, during Covid times I performed "mini concerts" in a senior complex which the local news covered. About two years ago I joined the pop school of SKVR and played in a band there. When I decided I wanted to study again, I quit there but then EURvision came along! Whenever I write songs, it is always in English. Writing songs helps me to process certain events that have happened in my life so in a way it's kind of therapeutic.

There were a lot of other great songs during the contest. Of the other finalists, are there any that stand out, or speak to you personally?

I liked a lot of the other songs. There was a lot of diversity in the competition which I loved. The musical song by Young, Wilde and Free was definitely a favourite of mine, along with 'The Girl' from Susan Cage and 'Judge of Character' by Morane.

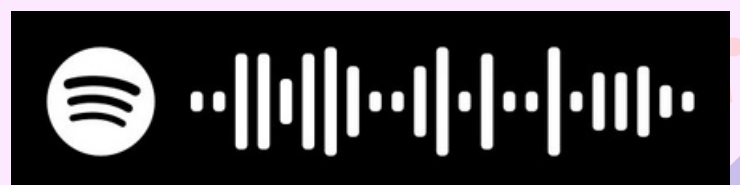
We can guess that you're also a Eurovision fan. Any opinions you want to share about this year's contest, or Eurovision in general?

I am!! I grew up listening to the classic Eurovision songs like 'Love shine a light' and 'Fly on the wings of love'. My dad used to make his own cd's when we went on vacation and there were always Eurovision songs on them. This year I really liked the winning song 'Tattoo' (because Loreen, duh!!). 'Who the hell is Edgar' was also amazing and should've got more points in my opinion!

And finally, is there anything else on the horizon for your musical career? We'd love to hear it!

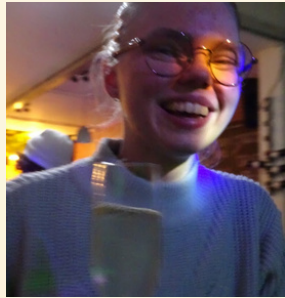
There is! My song 'Crossroads' has been recorded and will be on Spotify soon. Other than that, I'm just going to keep making music and writing songs and see what fun opportunities come from that :)

You can find Sharon's song Crossroads here:



All photographs credit of Arie Kers





We can't believe that the academic year has already come to an end. Thankfully, there are many things to look forward to already! The introduction committee and 5th board have a lot in store for us ;)



**THANK YOU FOR AN
AMAZING YEAR!**

