



Royal Theatre Carré

Sunday May 21, 11 am - 4 pm

Nationwide get-together for people living with persistent Lyme disease and co-infections, and their loved ones

International Lyme Awareness Month

So Strong: a day full of information and inspiration, and a powerful statement: Lyme Lives Matter! The more of us that show up, the more powerful the statement! Ask your loved ones to come with, or to come in your place if you're too ill. Stronger together!

Something Inside So Strong is organised by So Strong's Fred Verdult in collaboration with Walk for Lyme and countless other initiatives from the Lyme patient movement.

During this extraordinary get-together you won't hear lectures, but moderator Fred Verdult, who struggles with persistent Lyme disease himself, will interview others who live with Lyme disease and their loved ones, as well as doctors, like in a talk show – all in understandable language. The interviews will be alternated with quiet performances and short tv-fragments on Lyme disease.

Lyme-friendly

We do our utmost to make this get-together as Lyme-friendly as possible:

- An entrance ticket is only €20 and that includes lunch, tea and coffee.
- The program is partly in Dutch. If you sign up in advance (give us a call), you can listen to our volunteer's translation via a special headset.
- There will be no unnecessary stimulus: no music during breaks, and the hall is open all day, so you can sit down whenever you want. The performances have a quiet character and there will be no moving or blinking lights.
- There are hundreds of seats in Royal Theatre Carré for which you don't have to climb a single step. And there is space for wheelchairs as well as for people who want to lie down.
- We serve food for people who are on a vegetarian or sugar-free or gluten-free diet.
- Carré has an excellent connection to the public transportation system. The tube station Weesperplein is between Amsterdam Centraal Station and Amsterdam Amstel Station. This tube station has an elevator, and from there you can walk to Carré in five minutes. You can also take the So Strong-shuttle bus that brings you to Carré (free).
- Sunday morning is quiet, even in Amsterdam, and Carré's parking garage is right at one of Amsterdam's key access roads, so you don't have to drive over canals or tramrails. When you sign-up, you can reserve a place for the whole day in Carré's parking garage, at a seven minutes walking distance (€10). You can also drive to Carré's main entrance, and use Carré's valet parking service (€25, including parking costs).

Worldwide developments

Last year at Something Inside So Strong we mainly discussed what happens in the Netherlands concerning Lyme disease. The 2017 edition of Something Inside So Strong will pay special attention to remarkable and promising Lyme disease developments worldwide. The interviews with the foreign doctors will be in English, but most of the get-together will be in Dutch. AMC and Radboudumc have not accepted our invitation to speak on this Lyme symposium that probably will have more participants than any Lyme meeting in the world has ever had.

Some of our program's highlights:

Dr. Richard Horowitz, MD, is co-founder of ILADS. He is leading in the development of knowledge of Lyme disease and of ways to treat this complex condition. We speak to him about the new insights in his recently published book 'How Can I Get Better?'

An interview with an involved GP about her role in the treatment.

Dr. Charles Ray Jones, MD, very successfully treats children and teenagers with Lyme, since 1970.

Berdien Renes is the driving force behind 'Walk for Lyme': how are the participants of last year's edition doing now?

Dr. Carsten Nicolaus, MD, of the BCA-clinic in Augsburg, has treated more than fifteen thousand Lyme patients. On the Thursday and the Friday prior to So Strong he is one of the speakers of the European scientific conference on Lyme in Paris: What are the new developments? How does he evaluate treatment with antibiotics versus treatment with natural medicine?

New York singer-songwriter Jesse Ruben has been cured from Lyme disease. He will sing *This Is Why I Need You* and *We Can*. We will speak to his girl-friend Jen.

Marika Bazelmans and her lawyer Charlotte Combée tell us about Marika's fight against her health insurance company, VGZ.

Test expert Anja Garritsen PhD, general manager of Innatoss Laboratories, about the tests that are applied now, in the Netherlands and abroad, and about the promising tests that are being developed.



Neurologist dr. Elena Frid, MD, from New York, has specialised in the treatment of Lyme disease both in children and adults. We speak to her, among other things, about her view that Lyme patients' neurologic complaints can be caused by the infection itself, as well as by an auto-immune disorder that is caused by the infection.

For years, Lyme patient Lidewij Boeken could do nothing with her passion for singing, because she didn't have the strength. At 'So Strong' she will sing 'Warrior'.

Herman Kroneman is responsible at UWV for the quality of the insurance doctors' medical assessments.

Perry Dossett sings *Heal the World* as a tribute to doctor Jones, and *Something Inside So Strong* as a tribute to dr. Richard Horowitz.

Coen van Veenendaal of Staatsbosbeheer coaches groups of employees who have Lyme disease, using Mind Body Rebalancing.

A Meet & Greet with the foreign doctors and with Jesse Ruben.

For the best seats: order your entrance ticket now on sostrong.nl

On www.sostrong.nl you will read much more about the event; on that website you can also order your entrance tickets and your parking facilities.