

## **New challenge for Zuiderzee Museum director**

**As of 1 October 2008, Erik Schilp, the current general director of the Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen, will take up the position of general director of the new National Historical Museum in Arnhem.**

Erik Schilp will begin his new role in part-time employment, in order to be able to fulfil his function at the Zuiderzee Museum until 1 April 2009. In doing so, he wishes to ensure that the recent policy changes at the Zuiderzee Museum will be carried out properly and thoroughly. At the same time, this allows a certain leeway to hand over his present tasks to his successor. The Zuiderzee Museum much regrets Erik Schilp's departure, but is also proud that 'its' director has been assigned this new and exciting function, one of great significance in the Netherlands. The Board of Trustees of the Zuiderzee Museum has initiated a search for a new director who can continue the chosen policy.

Under Schilp's supervision, annual visitor attendance has increased by more than 60,000. General appreciation has grown to 8.4\* (marks out of 10). He has placed the Museum on the international map and attracted more than five million Euro in extra funding. A million Euro have been spent on new acquisitions for the collection, including much present-day art and design, fashion, photography and painting, as well as on the traditional collection and the ships.

### **Biography of Erik Schilp**

Erik Schilp (1967) is a cultural entrepreneur. He began his career in London with the American Strategic Decisions Group. After several years as their senior marketing manager, he established his own offices in the English theatre and film industry. He also launched his own marketing firm. Subsequently, he set up a number of restaurants and art spaces in Barcelona. On his return to the Netherlands in 2003, he became the director of the Diaghilev Festival in Groningen, and worked as a consultant for the Muziektheater in Amsterdam. Since 2006 he has been the director of the Zuiderzee Museum for which he has successfully implemented a radical restructuring and innovation of the organization.

\*Museum monitor 2008

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Note for the editor, not for publication

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