



**FREDERIK
BUYCKX**
**JESUS
MAKE-UP
AND
FOOTBALL**

people, neighbours who share what they have, great survivors.
On top of that there is good news. The government is busy pacifying the favelas. That is, smoking out the drug gangs. For decades these have dictated who may and who may not enter the favela, who lives and who dies. First the police elite brigades, the dreaded Bops, drove out the traffickers, then the Pacification Police set up permanent brigades and sought to pacify the favelas, hearts and minds with social projects.
"Until, it used to be better", these residents say. And then you see bar charts showing how crime is shrinking, that young people are less likely to choose a drug career, and you think, 'Jesus, man, how can you will want to be me. World stars like Ronaldo and Romario, who grew up in Rio's favelas, provide the example.
The desire to move up is not the only thing that makes football so popular in the favelas. For poor people, a football match is a ritual, a passion play of their joys and sufferings. Bad luck, defeats, setbacks, the vicissitudes of fate (the balls unpredictable), triumphs (goals), they recognize themselves in it, also in the surrounding idea of a larger world.
Allow me for this to quote the wise words of Socrates, not the ancient Greek, but Socrates Vieira de Oliveira (1954-2011), former Botafogo player and ex-national team captain: "In a match it's not your skin colour that counts, not where you live,

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Jesus, Make-up and Football
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Frederik Buyckx

ISBN	9789401412261
Publisher	Lannoo Publishers
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Switzerland & Scandinavia
Size	270 mm x 200 mm
Pages	308 Pages
Illustrations	308 color
Name of series	Lannoo Young Talent
Price	£30.00

This book is all about the favelas or slums of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil where a fifth of Rio's six million inhabitants live in favelas: self-built, improvised and populous neighbourhoods in which life can be rough. With the World Cup coming to Rio in 2014 and the Olympics in 2016, the city is determined to show itself to its best advantage. The government is using the opportunity to clean up the slums and flush out the drug gangs. Frederik Buyckx rented a pied-à-terre for a few months in a favela and shared the inhabitants' daily lives. *Jesus, Make-up and Football* is the photographic result of those months.

Frederik Buyckx (1984) became a photographer in 2011, after a career in advertising and as a designer. He works as a freelancer for *De Standaard* and has collected many prizes with his work *Jesus, Make-Up and Football*. His work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *Vice.com* and many more.