



*'Prince and Princess of Pot' and 'Mister Nice' in Amsterdam on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014*  
**Marc and Jodie Emery and Howard Marks win Cannabis Culture Awards**

AMSTERDAM – On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 the annual Cannabis Culture Awards will be presented to world-famous icons of cannabis culture Howard 'Mister Nice' Marks of Wales (Great Britain), and 'Prince and Princess of Pot' Marc and Jodie Emery of Canada. The presentation will take place in the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum and will be hosted by Michael Schaap.

Since 2004, the Cannabis Culture Awards have been presented to people and organisations that have made an exceptional contribution to the world of hemp and cannabis. The awards were initiated by Ben Dronkers, founder of the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum, Sensi Seeds and Hempflax. Among the lauded past winners are Dries van Agt, Simon Vinkenoog, Frits Bolkestein, Jack Herer and Richard Branson. This year's winners have paid a high price for their dedication to cannabis; Howard Marks and Marc Emery spent years in prison, while Jodie had to continue the Emerys' work alone during the time her husband was jailed.

### **Marc and Jodie Emery**

Marc and Jodie Emery are currently the most famous couple who have, side by side, dedicated themselves to the cannabis plant. The Canadian entrepreneur, politician and activist Marc Emery (56), better known as 'The Prince of Pot', regained his freedom in August 2014 after serving over 4 years of a 5 year prison sentence in the U.S. For many years he sold cannabis seeds via post, including to American clients. With the profits, he financed activism for cannabis legalisation. Since its opening in 1994, his Vancouver shop Hemp BC has grown into the epicentre of Canadian cannabis activism. Emery founded the *BC Marijuana Party*, the *Cannabis Culture Magazine* and the internet tv-channel *Pot TV*. In 2010 he told Dutch broadsheet *NRC/Handelsblad* that his goal is to “overgrow the government... We're trying to thwart the American drug war by having people grow lots of marijuana, and support different activities to try to make marijuana legal, by peaceful democratic means.”

In Marc's absence, his wife Jodie (29) expanded the empire surrounding Cannabis Culture, Pot TV and the Cannabis Culture Headquarters. She became even more politically active for the Green Party of British Columbia and the British Columbia Marijuana Party, and is currently seen as one of the most outspoken female champions of cannabis.

### **Howard Marks**

Howard Marks (69) was born in Wales, Great Britain, the son of a captain and descendant of infamous pirate Henry Morgan. During the 1970s and 1980s he was the biggest hash smuggler in the world. His style and background were exceptional in this environment; Marks studied at Oxford University, was in contact with the British Secret Service, and dealt exclusively in cannabis. For

years he was able to evade detection and capture, but in the U.S. in 1990 he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He served seven of them in Terra Haute, Indiana, one of the most notoriously harsh and highly secure prisons in America. Following his early release for good behavior, in 1996 his autobiography '*Mister Nice*' was published. It has been translated into multiple languages and in 2010 was made into a film.

### **Presentation**

The presentation of the Cannabis Culture Awards 2014 will be hosted by Michael Schaap, known for his successful VPRO television series '*De Hokjesman*'. In 2010 and 2011 Schaap presented the Cannabis Tribunal in Den Haag. There will be speeches from the winners, and founder Ben Dronkers, hemp treats for all, and for the Press there will be the opportunity for questions and interviews. The festive presentation takes place on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November in the Hash Marihuana & Hemp Museum, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 130, Amsterdam. The doors open at 14:00 and the ceremony begins at 15:00. For more information, please visit [cannabiscultureawards.com](http://cannabiscultureawards.com).

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### **Note for press, not for publication:**

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