



ECCO: January 2016



In this edition:

CAST: Can you help?

Committee & ECC
News

*Dick Whittington and
his Magical Cat*

Dinner before Death

FEATS 2016

Future Productions &
Forthcoming Events

Make-up Workshop

Play Readings

**If you have any
contributions for
ECCO, please send
them to Janet at**

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next Ecco will
come out March 2016

Deadline: 15 February

**The ECC Committee
Wishes everyone who performs, crews
or participates in our productions as a
valued audience member**

a

Very Happy 2016!

We look forward to seeing you soon!



**8 January
8pm**

**9-10
January
1.30 & 5pm**

**Auderghem
Cultural Centre**

**TICKETS
€16/€12**

**Click
Poster**

to go directly to
the Box Office

DICK WHITTINGTON & HIS MAGICAL CAT

**Auderghem Cultural Centre, Blvd du Souverain 183
1160 Brussels**

Friday 8 Jan, 20:00

Saturday 9 Jan, 13:30 and 17:00

Sunday 10 Jan, 13:30 and 17:00

Tickets available at <http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/dw>

Sara Hammerton has been looking into the story of Dick's cat, Tommy

Very few cats have their own statue, only the most important cats. In London there are the Trafalgar square lions and... Dick Whittington's very own cat, Tommy. His statue is at the foot of Highgate Hill where the future mayor sat down and heard the famous Bow Bells of East London ring out. Here he is, the star of our show, proudly sitting on top of the famous milestone:



But you don't have to go all the way to London to see him. He will be here, LIVE, on stage, in Brussels, displaying breathtaking feats of bravery, in our fabulous panto, Dick Whittington and His Magical Cat. Our portrayal of Tommy the cat is a heartfelt tribute to this fearless feline, down to the smallest detail, thanks to meticulous research by the ECC Panto team.

We can now reveal that Tommy was an all-singing, all-dancing cat and - of course - a martial arts expert. Prepare to be amazed as we show you, with uncanny historical accuracy, how he single-handedly defeated the dastardly Splinter who marshalled the Ratling troops. Tremble in your seat at the sight of those rascally rodents and their viciously evil master, King Rat. (Who like all evil rats happens to have an incredibly good singing voice).

Further in-depth research into the adventures of our marvellous moggy and our beautiful - or should that be handsome? - thigh-slapping hero Dick, thrice mayor of London, has shown that their travels took them as far as ... Brussels! Now add to that mix the unparalleled charms of Sarah the Cook, the wit of her wily son Jack, the avaricious Alderman and his delightful daughter Alice, and the utter incompetence of Proximus and Belgacom, the evil King Rat's henchmen, and you will have not only an afternoon/evening of exquisite entertainment, but also the chance at last to learn the real story, guaranteed 0.001% true. Do not miss it.



Members of our talented children's chorus proudly show off their *Dick Whittington* posters

DINNER BEFORE DEATH

The Warehouse Studio Theatre

8-12 March 2016

Our March 2016 production **Dinner before Death** will be two short plays:

Dinner for One

By Laurie Wylie

Directed by Hugh Dow

The Real Inspector Hound

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Janet Middleton

We are delighted that *Dinner for One* will be performed by Lyn Wainwright and Tim Myers, and that the cast of *The Real Inspector Hound* will feature performances by ECC regulars (Ailsa Higgins, Jonathan Goldsmith, Boff Muir and Graham Vincent) as well as some complete newcomers to the ECC (some of whom are treading the boards for the first time): Chris Yeager, Heli Parna, Kai Stolzenburg, Eddie Brannigan and Hayk Zayimtsyan.

The production's crew is also a wonderful mix of ECC regulars, many of whom are undertaking projects they've never tackled before, and newcomers. For example, we are delighted to have the wonderfully multi-talented Anna Holmén as our producer: one of the few roles she has never played in a production!

These two very funny plays promise to be as much fun for the casts as for the audiences. Tom Stoppard's *Real Inspector Hound* is a remarkably funny play, and in these early days of rehearsals we are having an awful lot of laughter as we grapple with the complexities of staging this fabulous play.

I don't think I'm going out on a limb to say that Tom Stoppard is a familiar name to theatre-goers, but Laurie Wylie? *Dinner for One* is in fact an extremely famous play, and the original is screened on television every New Year's Eve. It is quoted in much the same fashion as people quote from *Monty Python*: but not in Great Britain! Devotees of this cult work are to be found in large parts of Germany and the Nordic countries!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Warehouse Studio Theatre next March!

The Box Office will open in early January – the link on the image will take you there once it is open!



ECC NEWS

| Committee | Role | Contact us at: |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| Lyn Wainwright | Chair | chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Kerry Lydon | Secretary | secretary@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Martin Blackwell | Treasurer | treasurer@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Andy Ing | FEATS | feats@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Chris Jones | CAST Rep | chris@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Janet Middleton | ECCO | ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Boff Muir | | boff@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Joanna Patrick | | joanna@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Sara Hammerton | Publicity | sara@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Fiona McGinnis | Costumes | fiona@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |
| Conrad Toft | Webmaster | web-admin@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com |

Can you Help CAST?

CAST is a committee made up of volunteers from each of the groups that own The Warehouse and Studio Theatre: ECC, ITG and ATC.



CAST is in need of two volunteers:

- **Treasurer: w.e.f. 1 January 2016**
- **Warehouse Manager: Immediate Start**

Both positions are voluntary, but the people who take on these roles will earn the warm gratitude of those who benefit from our wonderful facility.

For further information please contact Aoife at: aofemurphy85@gmail.com

Congratulations to Andy Ing and Louise Nugent on the arrival of Emilia!

We are all delighted with the wonderful news that little Emilia arrived safely in November. We send the new family our love and best wishes.



ECC Social Events:

The Bar Room, The Warehouse, Rue Waelhem 69

Friday 29 January: FEATS Social Event

Please see under 'FEATS' below

Friday 19 February

Rehearsed Reading of Sketches and Monologues on the theme of 'Marriage'

Further details will follow in the February Ecco Flash!

Make-up Workshop

The Studio Theatre

6 & 7 February 2016

The ECC is delighted that **Malinda Coleman** has offered to share her considerable make-up skills by leading a make-up workshop on the weekend of 6-7 February.

Malinda has not only undertaken running the make-up for a large number of productions (Ed: I am particularly grateful for her incredible transformation of Lyn Wainwright into an extremely old woman in *Three Tall Women*), but has also already mentored others in this art. Most recently Malinda passed on her knowledge to Bryony Ulliyet who then undertook the make-up for our production of *Tom and Viv*. Bryony has since worked on productions for the BSS and ATC.

This workshop is for anyone who wishes to learn more about make-up techniques for the stage, whether they have previous experience or not. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of the materials used.

Please register your interest, or find out more about this workshop, by contacting ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The ECC wishes to express its best wishes to BLOC and all other amateur productions which were affected by the 'Brussels Lock Down'

We wish you every success with your rescheduled performances.

Details of the revised dates for *The Wizard of Oz* can be found at the end of this newsletter.

FEATS: 5-8 May 2016

Centre Culturel Woluwe St Pierre, Avenue Charles Thielemans 93, 1150 Brussels

The FEATS team is delighted to announce that we have a full line-up for next year's festival.

The participating groups will be:



Group 1

BATS
Brussels Shakespeare
Society
Irish Theatre Group
Theatre in English

Group 2

Bonn Players
Hamburg Players
University Players, Hamburg
(New Group)
Actors Workout (New Group)

Group 3

Geneva English Drama
Society
In-Players
Semi-Circle, Basel
TAT (New Group)

We look forward to welcoming them all to Brussels next May!

The Box Office for tickets will open at the end of January, so keep an eye on the FEATS website for further information: <http://theatreinbrussels.com/feats2016/>

Friday 29 January

FEATS 2016 SOCIAL EVENT

An event for everyone and anyone interested in helping out with FEATS 2016.

Come along to meet the FEATS Team and to tell us how you can help/join in the fun!

Drinks and Nibbles are on us!

Please register to attend using the following Doodle link:

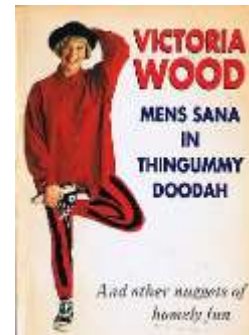
<http://doodle.com/poll/938z5a4kndium6z6#table>

If you can't come along, but wish to be involved/have further information, please contact us at feats2016@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

MONTHLY PLAY READINGS

In order to avoid a clash with the Panto in January we will meet on the 2nd Wednesday

Wednesday 13 January Sketches by Victoria Wood



Janet Middleton has chosen some of Victoria Wood's very funny sketches for us to read in January, to keep the cold-weather blues away and keep us laughing after the fun of the panto.

If you intend to come please register via Doodle, or ring Mary on 02 345 8583:

<http://doodle.com/poll/q2akurf2viv2yist#table>

For those of you who are new to the play reading group, we meet at 7.45pm aiming to start reading at 8. We have drinks and nibbles, and a small contribution in the form of a bottle or something to eat is always welcome!

Although Mary and Barbara are still very much our guiding lights, Mary is no longer ringing around to remind people that we are meeting: you will now only receive a reminder by reading about the play readings in Ecco or Ecco Flash or via Facebook. However, in addition, every month Janet emails a reminder to people who have attended in the past and wish to be on the mailing list for these reminders. **If you would like to be added to the ECC Play Reading Email List, please email Janet at ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com**

How to Doodle: All you have to do is click on the link, add your name to the list under 'Table View', click in the box to show you are coming (or do nothing if you're not!) and then 'Save' your entry. If you have any problem with this, please do not hesitate to contact Janet - or simply ring Mary.

Future Play Reading Dates: Wednesday 3 February

Play Reading Scripts

The ECC Scripts are now being held Chez Janet, which is near Montgomery Station. This is to enable anyone who wishes to obtain a script for any reason, from thinking of directing a piece through to wanting to lead a play reading, or to simply read for fun, to have easy access. Please contact Janet at ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com for further information/to get hold of a script!

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| ECC | <i>Dick Whittington & his Magical Cat</i> 8-10 January |
| Brussels Shakespeare Society | <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> 16-23 January |
| ECC feats2016@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com | FEATS Social Event 29 January |
| ECC ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com | Make-up Workshop 6-7 February |
| ECC ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com | Social Event 19 February |
| BLOC | <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> 11-14 February |
| American Theatre Company | <i>Melancholy Play</i> by Sarah Ruhl 18-27 February |
| ECC | <i>Dinner before Death</i> 8-12 March |
| Irish Theatre Group | <i>Getting to Here</i> by Lisa Ní Laoire 12-16 April |
| ECC | FEATS 5-8 May |

Click on the name of the theatre group above to go directly to their website.
For more information and auditions see also www.theatreinbrussels.com

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN:

Utopolis, Mechelen, has for some time been screening **NLive**, but they are now also screening other English productions. [Click here for further details](#)

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 28 January | <i>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</i> – NLive |
| 25 February | <i>As You Like It</i> by William Shakespeare - NLive |

KVS has regular productions subtitled in English. Visit their website to find out more: <http://www.kvs.be/en>

Fun, Food & Acting: Once a month a unique presentation at Theatre de la Toison D'Or: <http://www.ffact.be/#>