



ECCO

ECCO: March 2016



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

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next Ecco will come out May 2016

Deadline: 15 April

Letter from the Chair

Since the January ECCO, our pantomime 'Dick Whittington' was performed to enthusiastic audiences and rave reviews. All in spite of heavy competition from another production which was obliged to move to the New Year because of the terrorist threats last November. Congratulations to all involved!

The Panto team has acquired a momentum all of its own and planning and preparations are already underway for a new project 'Cinderella'.

Preparations for our next production 'Dinner Before Death' are now well under way. Being heavily involved myself, I am happy to report that you will be entertained by an enthusiastic cast and crew including many new faces together with some more familiar ones occupying unfamiliar roles.

Involving new members is essential if we are to keep the club alive and encouraging existing members to take on new roles is also vital. Many crew members benefitted enormously by attending the recent Lighting and Make-up workshops led by Carsten and Malinda respectively. Many thanks to both of them for sharing their knowledge and experience.

Lyn Wainwright

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Dinner before Death
 Dinner for One
 written by Laurie Wylie
 The Real Inspector Hound
 written by Tom Stoppard
 Warehouse Studio Theatre
 8-12 March 2016
 20:00

Tickets 15 euro from www.thelittleboxoffice.com/ECCO

This amateur production of 'The Real Inspector Hound' is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

To Book for
Dinner before Death
Click on the box above

Thursday, Friday & Saturday Sold Out!

DINNER BEFORE DEATH

The Warehouse Studio Theatre

8-12 March 2016

Dinner for One

By Laurie Wylie

Directed by Hugh Dow

The Real Inspector Hound

By Tom Stoppard

Directed by Janet Middleton

Last year we advertised in ECCO that we would welcome new cast and crew in the production, and we are delighted that this aim has been realised. *Hound* includes five new actors to the ECC, two of whom have not acted before, alongside four more familiar faces. We are also delighted that Mary Pritchard and Barbara Blackwell, who have not been seen on stage for many years will be heard, if not seen, in the production.

Backstage we have a new stage manager; new make-up ladies; an experienced actor and director producing for the first time; ditto but in the plural on lights and an experienced actress on props.

At time of writing tickets are selling fast, so we really would encourage you to book soon by clicking on the poster on the front of this ECCO!

Hugh Dow writes:

In the early 60's two executives from Norddeutscher Rundfunk were desultorily wandering around the seaside music halls of Great Britain looking for something to show on New Year's Eve. They happened upon this short piece and promptly flew the actors (Freddy Frinton and May Warden) to Hamburg, filmed it and put it out without subtitles. Since then it has played on German TV every new year - a habit which has spread as far as the Faroe Islands and South Africa! I have seen groups of Germans collapse into helpless giggles by repeating in unison the simple line "Same procedure as last year, Miss Sophie?" *Dinner for One* bears the improbable distinction of being the most repeated television show ever. Let sociologists ponder; your task is to enjoy a piece of sublime silliness.

Janet Middleton writes:

Two theatre critics meet to review a murder mystery. As the dreadfully melodramatic play they are watching unfolds, Moon and Birdboot soliloquise about their lives and disappointments: but then the prop telephone rings for one of them and the critics are quite literally drawn into the play. From here on this spoof of murder mysteries becomes ever more absurd and farcical, and Tom Stoppard's enjoyment at poking fun at the genre is palpable: any similarities to Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* are not coincidental. Drawing on his own experiences as a young theatre critic, Stoppard also considers our use of language and how we listen. Although a surprisingly difficult play to stage, the cast have had huge fun grappling with Stoppard's brilliant and very funny lines. We all hope that you will enjoy their performances.

Dinner before Death: Rehearsal Photos



Dick Whittington Photographs



Dick Whittington & His Magical Cat

Many Congratulations to the Cast & Crew of Dick Whittington!

As a 'mature' member of the audience it was particularly wonderful to see so many families in the audience having a fabulous time and to see so many young people on stage taking part – so much talent!

And the enthusiasm of the audience was evident in the messages sent to the production team after the event:

- *I just wanted to say that the kids absolutely loved it. I must also admit that I was a little bit nervous because I take my kids to the theatre a lot whenever we go back to London (almost every holiday) and so they have seen some really good stuff.... but they absolutely raved about it and said it was one of the best shows they had seen. Thank you so much for a delightful evening. In fact, they all said that if possible they would like to appear in next year's show and the older two actually do theatre lessons (in French) so have quite a bit of experience of being on stage. If there is a possibility I would be grateful if you could let me know.*
- *Loved the panto - bravo ... to all those pantomimers who entertained an ecstatic audience this afternoon. Pat yourselves on the back - you were awesome!!*
- *It was brilliant, my son (8) said it was the best thing he'd ever been to! I really loved the fluo Octopuses' garden. It was all really creative and clever and funny. Well done to all ... !*
- *Excellent show today. My 9 year old and her friends had a great time.*
- *Just wanted to tell you how much we enjoyed the panto! We could see how much work had gone into it.*

It is obvious that a lot of people will be looking forward to hearing the news that there will be a panto in 2017!

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

Our November Production: Auditions!

Anna Holmén will be directing the ECC's production of Nikolai Gogol's **The Government Inspector** in November in The Studio Theatre. This will be a two-week production. Parts available for ages 18-80 and all genders, accents and nationalities.



**Auditions will be held in the Bar Room of
The Warehouse, Rue Waelhem 69a, 1030 Schaerbeek
on the following dates:**

Sunday 3 April - 11.00-14.00

Tuesday 5 April - 19.30-21.30

Thursday 7 April - 19.30-21.30

Sunday 10 April - 14.00-17.00

For further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with Anna:
annaholmen@hotmail.com or 0473 870998 or Facebook.

Please note: the characters the Postmaster, the director of hospitals/charities and Bobchinsky will be female.

ECC Social Event

On 19 February we had another of our occasional 'Social Events'. This time we had a 'rehearsed' (well – scripts distributed beforehand) reading of some short pieces on the theme of marriage.

It was lovely to see many familiar faces as well as some younger and newer people participating – all those who came seemed to enjoy the evening!



Donation of Wardrobe Items - Claire & Ina Powell

Some of you may remember Claire Powell, who died in 2006 but was for many years involved with English speaking theatre groups in Brussels. Her mother, Ina, passed away on 19 November 2015 and was also a regular theatregoer in the past. A friend has kindly passed on a number of fabulous items for the costume store.

MONTHLY PLAY READINGS

Wednesday 2 March - Anna Holmén will lead us in reading

The Government Inspector - By Nikolai Gogol

All are welcome to come along and familiarise themselves with this play which will be the ECC's November production: but please note, this is not an audition evening!

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

<http://doodle.com/poll/6edg2sibxwggainv#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. However, 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.

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 this year's festival.

The participating groups will be:



BATS
Brussels Shakespeare
Society
Irish Theatre Group
Theatre in English

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

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

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

The Box Office opened at the end of January, so book now!

<http://theatreinbrussels.com/feats2016/>

New helpers are welcome to the team! Contact: feats2016@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

There at the beginning ...

I was recently talking to a lady that I have known for some years and, aware that she likes the theatre and was actively involved many years ago, suggested she might be interested in helping out with FEATS ... and the tale unfolded.

My friend, it transpires, was instrumental in bringing about the first FEATS meeting!

Miriam Marks writes:

My husband and I were expats in The Hague, Netherlands, for a number of years and were also part of the Anglo-American Theatre Group, both treading the boards and involved in various jobs backstage. When in January 1974 we were about to move to Brussels, Jasmine Blakeway, who at the time worked at the British Embassy, suggested that I might get in touch with Blackie who was very involved with the English Comedy Club, to see whether arranging a drama festival would be of interest. Blackie was very positive about the idea and immediately a meeting was set up. At first the festival took place every other year and the venue was in turn held in Brussels, The Hague and Luxembourg (The New World Theatre). FEATS gradually grew and grew and as more drama societies joined, after a number of years it became an annual event. Unfortunately Jasmine Blakeway did not see how the fruits of her original idea materialised because shortly afterwards she was transferred back to the UK and then Mervyn Briscoe, who had also been in the AATG in the Hague, developed the idea further.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

ECC	<i>Dinner before Death</i> 8-12 March Thursday, Friday & Saturday Sold Out!
Green Parrot	<i>Peter Pan The Musical</i> 17-20 March
Irish Theatre Group	<i>Getting to Here</i> by Lisa Ní Laoire 12-16 April
ECC	FEATS 5-8 May
BLOC	Bloc Busters 26-29 May
Brussels Shakespeare Society	<i>Twelfth Night</i> 21-25 June

**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 **NTLive**, but they are now also screening other English productions. [Click here for further details](#)

3 March	<i>Hangmen</i> by Martin McDonagh
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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/#>