



ECCO:September 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
November 2016

Deadline: 15 October

Message from the Chair

Welcome back to the 2016-2017 theatre season.

The Warehouse has been a hive of activity over the last few days as everyone began to reappear after the holidays. There is so much going on that an empty space in the Warehouse is hard to find but rest assured that rehearsals for *The Government Inspector*, the ECC November production, are already well under way.

I am looking forward to this modern interpretation of an old classic which promises to make us, the ex-pat community in Brussels, have a good laugh at ourselves.

In January we hope to keep you laughing with our new pantomime, *Cinderella*, from our now well established pantomime team and, finally, having played host to FEATS last season we will be given assured entry to FEATS 2017. More news about that nearer the time.

We look forward to entertaining you soon.

Lyn Wainwright
ECC Chair

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



**Box Office
Now
Open!**

Click on the image left
to go directly to the
box office.

The Government Inspector

9-12 & 16-19 November 2016

8pm

The Warehouse Studio Theatre

Tickets: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/ecc>

Fiction makes an effort to surpass reality

The Warehouse Studio theatre this autumn hosts two modernised political satires, in a brave attempt to top the past and coming political events of 2016. The American Theatre Company puts on *Tartuffe* about an American presidential election, and in the ECC we will be presenting *The Government Inspector*. The original play was written by Nikolai Gogol in the 1830s, but we will put on a brand new adaptation by Tim Myers, set in an EU context.

The plot stays the same, as do the characters, but the dialogue has been almost completely rewritten on the basis of an old American translation. Half of the officials have undergone a sex-change to better reflect the local political scene of today – and to make use of the many talented actresses in Brussels' amateur theatre. They have also been moved from Russia to a country of today somewhere in the EU.

To my surprise, I could not find any translation where the names of Gogol's characters have been translated, even though many of the original Russian names give a hint as to their characteristics. For example, the name of Judge Tyapkin-Lyapkin comes from a phrase meaning 'quick but careless and clumsy work', so Tim has renamed him Judge Rushcase. The name of Doctor Gibner hints at a verb meaning to perish, so in our version he is called Dr Boneyard. That this type of renaming has not been done before is all the more surprising as similar examples in English literature are abundant from Dickens to J.K. Rowling.

For a classic to survive the way *The Government Inspector* has, it needs to revolve around one or more eternal aspects of human nature. In Gogol's play it is greed and corruption, deception and hypocrisy. Not one single character is sympathetic, but the comedy had the cast in stitches during the read-through.

The cast, who are a great mix of people that you have seen on stage before and newcomers, are working hard to make sure that you will laugh as much as they have been doing when we present the finished work in November.



Anna Holmén
Director

Some Rehearsal Photos!



The Government Inspector Caption Competition!

Any ideas what Sandra is
saying ?

Suggestions on a postcard please
to:
ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



Cinderella

Friday 13 January 2017 - 20:00

**Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 January 2017
13:30 & 17:00**

Tickets €16 / €12

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

Countdown to the Royal Ball: 4 months to go!



Click on the poster above to go directly to the Box Office!

Director Cath Howdell writes:

Four months sounds like a vast expanse of time to get a show together. But it's less time than you think once you factor in a cascade of terrible jokes to be learned, a ton of different musical numbers to memorise, and hundreds of props to make, buy, steal or improvise out of glittery cardboard!

This month will see the kickoff for rehearsals of the ECC's family panto, Cinderella. The classic rags-to-riches tale sees Cinderella keeping her chin up and a smile on her face while enduring the horrible teasing of her two ugly sisters and a wicked stepmother. But of course, Cinderella has a lot of friends to help her stay happy: her best friend Buttons, the mice who live with her at Hardup Hall, and of course all the boys and girls out there in the Auderghem Cultural Centre this coming January! And with the help of her Fairy Godmother - assisted by two trainee fairies with suspiciously Belgian accents - Cinderella is sure to wind up in the arms of her Prince Charming by the end of the show.

The first stage of panto rehearsals is always a lot of fun. The cast explore their lines, looking to pull every scrap of comedy to the surface and to figure out their character. Oddly enough, it's the romantic leads who have the hardest job here - it is not an easy task to convey a sympathetic character who still gets funny lines and who doesn't descend into sappy-ness! Meanwhile our amazing chorus will start tackling their dance step basics. Here, the members of the kids chorus from last year will put all the grown-ups to shame as they effortlessly repeat moves which they haven't touched for

10 months, and incorporate those moves into new choreo without batting an eyelid.

There will also be an exciting new development in the style of the ECC panto this year: our acting team will be singing all song lyrics themselves. Our writing team have enjoyed coming up with alternative lyrics to some great songs, and our enthusiastic cast are all ready and willing to throw themselves into the challenge of live singing. So singing rehearsals will start, of course, with a karaoke night!

At 4 months before the Royal Ball, rehearsals look set to be loads of fun for all the panto gang. Watch this space for more updates, and if you'd like to come and see the show, the box office is now open.



Writing the script!

The Butties 2016

Many congratulations to all the very worthy winners of the 2016 Butt Awards! The ECC was of course particularly delighted that first time director Jonathan Stockwell was recognised for the superb work he did with *Mrs Klein*, that Robynn Colwell, assisted by Sherry Vosburgh's shopping skills, won the Props Award for attention to detail in *Dinner before Death* and that Eileen Sutton and her team's hard work in preparing and running FEATS 2016 won the Golden Butt.

Winners and Nominees are listed below.

Best Show: The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016)
Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016)
Dinner before Death (ECC, Mar 2016)
Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016)
The London Vertigo (ITG, May 2016)

Producer: The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Martin Blackwell, Meera Laurijssen
Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016): Henri Colens
Dinner before Death (ECC, Mar 2016): Anna Holmén
Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Kerry Lydon
Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Annika Helgeson, Marv Helgeson

Director: Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Jonathan Stockwell
Getting to Here (ITG, Apr 2016): Lisa Ni Laoire
Quietly (ITG, Nov 2015): Lyn Wainwright
Romeo and Juliet (BSS, Jan 2016): Stephen Challens
The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Bridget Peirson-Davis, Vivienne McKay

Stage Management: The London Vertigo (ITG, May 2016): Róisín Dore
Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Monic Löfström
Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Kjeld Jensen, Peter Lemerle
The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Lilian Horner, Erik Jensen, Kjeld Jensen, Marie Rousseaux, and co.
Three More Sleepless Nights (BATS, May 2016): Tim Lejeune

Actor: Benedict Noon
Brian Foley
Andrew McIlroy
Tim Myers
Yann Tixhon

Actress: Esther Pozo Vera
Pat Butler
Libby Dix
Noreen Doyle
Isabel Walsh

Continued ...

Costumes: The London Vertigo (ITG, May 2016): Sheila Hewitt

Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016): Sheila Hewitt, Fiona McGinnis

Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Iona Hamilton

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Rose Asure, Jenny Clarkson, Jenny Clarkson, Kristina Cunningham, Teresa Lopez, Matilda Ekehorn and co.

The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Laraine Alder, Marianne Buekenhoudt, Margaret Cramer, Fiona Currie, and co.

Set: Quietly (ITG, Nov 2015): Liam O'Luanaigh

Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Conrad Toft

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016)

The London Vertigo (ITG, May 2016): Róisín Dore

The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016)

Light: Romeo and Juliet (BSS, Jan 2016): Barbara Daw

Dinner before Death (ECC, Mar 2016): Malinda Coleman, Conrad Toft, Lyn Wainwright

Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Kerry Lydon, Megan Ryan, Lyn Wainwright

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Chris Harding, Andrew Williams

The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Barbara Daws, Chris Harding

Sound: The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Jeremy Thomas, Micky Morris, Liz Murray, Steve Price

Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016): Steve O'Byrne

Getting to Here (ITG, Apr 2016): Jason Glynn, Lisa Ni Laoire

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Peter Ellegeest

Wulf (BSS, May 2016): Mark Prescott

Make-up and hair: The London Vertigo (ITG, May 2016): Agnes Andrews, Elizabeth Munklinde

Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Sylvie Pinson

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Laraine Alder, Svea Brain Jangen, Jennifer Cleal, Kristina Cunningham, and co.

The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Janet Gray, Francois Salter and co.

Wulf (BSS, May 2016)

Props: Dinner before Death (ECC, Mar 2016): Robynn Colwell, Sherry Vosburgh

Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016): Boff Muir

Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016)

Quietly (ITG, Nov 2015): Sineád Meehan

The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Alan Anderson, Rick Barfoot, Sue Barnacott, Lawrence Kelly, and co.

Continued ...

Publicity: Getting to Here (ITG, Apr 2016): Meg Chang, Aoife Murphy
Dick Whittington (ECC, Jan 2016): Sara Hammerton, Hannah Riley
Mrs Klein (ECC, Sep 2015): Freddy Coulson, Lilian Eilers
Peter Pan (GP, Mar 2016): Dennis Landsbert-Noon, Jennifer Landsbert-Noon, Saskia Landsbert-Noon, Lucas Steeno
The Wizard of Oz (BLOC, Feb 2016): Andrea Edwards, Paul Manterfield

Newbie – newcomer to Brussels Theatre: Richard Hampton (assistant stage manager and more besides in Dick Whittington, crew at FEATS)
Alice Dielens (chorus in Wizard of Oz, Hope in Urinetown, Kitkat dancer in Cabaret)
Miles Gantney (Did an excellent job in Death of A Salesman, helped with set and singing coaching for and then stepped at last minute to play a leading role in Melancholy Play)
Jason Glynn (Sound Engineer on Getting to Here)
Elisabeth Munklinde (Make-up at FEATS)

Kenway (lifetime contribution): Róisín Dore (14 years on CAST Committee, many as Treasurer, and a lot of things besides)
Barbara Blackwell (for more years in Brussels theatre than most of us have been alive!)
Barbara Daw (for the years of lighting up our productions for multiple groups)
Dennis Elslander (Hon. Sec. of BLOC, party organiser, representative at funerals, bar manager, theatre & rehearsal booker)
Celia Perry (loyal member, performing and making hundreds of sausage rolls for BLOC since the 1980s)

Golden Butt – for particular contribution this season: Eileen Sutton and team (for hosting FEATS)
Lisa Armetta (for helping to get the Wizard of Oz set out of the American School during the November lockdown)
Carlos Carossán (for stepping in with days to go as an actor in Death Before Dinner)
Bryony Ulyett (for throwing herself into many productions across the board)
Glenn Vaughan (Directed for main stage, then first-time lighting designer and worked for hours on sound for Melancholy Play)

Return of NTLive to Brussels!

We are delighted to learn that from this month Kinepolis not only re-start their transmissions of NTLive productions, but that they will also be showing other productions from London as well as some French productions from Paris.

The English productions are included in the list of forthcoming productions at the end of ECCO.

For further details see: <https://kinepolis.be/fr/theatre-au-cinema-saison-2016-2017#programme>

Meanwhile, transmissions are also continuing at Utopolis in Mechelen: https://www.utopolis.be/nl_BE/events?cinema=&category=18

ECC NEWS

Committee

Lyn Wainwright
Kerry Lydon
Martin Blackwell
Andy Ing
Chris Jones
Janet Middleton
Boff Muir
Joanna Patrick
Sara Hammerton
Fiona McGinnis
Conrad Toft

Role

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AGM: Please put the date in your diary!

Thursday 20 October

Social Event

Thanks to the success of our June Quiz Night .. we are going to repeat it!



Friday 30 September - 8pm

The Bar Room, Rue Waelhem 69a, 1030 Schaerbeek

Teams of 4 welcome! And there will be a prize for the team with the most original name! But if you don't have a team to join, don't worry! Just turn up anyway! We'll find a team you can join!

There will be a bar and light refreshments available: No entry free!

If you would like to join us, just turn up on the night – but signing up by clicking [HERE](#) will give us an idea of how many bottles of wine to open!

Monthly Play Readings

Wednesday 7 September A Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen

We will meet Chez Barbara – Rue Louis Hymans 20, 1050 Ixelles



The play, first performed in 1879 in Denmark, is important because it marked a turning point in the theatre with its critical look at 19th Century marriage norms and scandalous ending! Indeed in 1891 Ibsen very reluctantly wrote an alternative ending, under strong pressure, for the German theatre. It is just a few lines, and we can read them at the end of the evening: they give the play an entirely different meaning and his reluctance is understandable.

Ibsen was inspired by the belief that "a woman cannot be herself in modern society," since it is "an exclusively male society, with laws made by men and with prosecutors and judges who assess feminine conduct from a masculine standpoint." However in 1898 he insisted that his writing was not propaganda for the Women's Rights Movement but for humanity.

Main Characters

- Nora Helmer** – wife of Torvald, mother of three, is living out the ideal of the 19th-century wife, but leaves her family at the end of the play.
- Torvald Helmer** – Nora's husband, a newly promoted bank manager, suffocates but professes to be enamoured of his wife.
- Dr. Rank** – a rich family friend, he is secretly in love with Nora. He is terminally ill, and it is implied that his "tuberculosis of the spine" originates from a venereal disease contracted by his father.
- Kristine Linde** – Nora's old school friend, widowed, is seeking employment (sometimes spelled **Christine** in English translations). She was in a relationship with Krogstad prior to the play's setting.
- Nils Krogstad** – an employee at Torvald's bank, single father, he is pushed to desperation. A supposed scoundrel, he is revealed to be a long-lost lover of Kristine.

If you intend to come please register via Doodle by clicking [Here](#)

Or ring Mary on 02 345 8583.

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 above, 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.

The next play reading will be on 5 October

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

ATC	<i>Tartuffe</i> 20 September – 1 October
ITG	<i>After Friel</i> 11-15 October
BSS	<i>Coriolanus</i> 24-30 October
ECC	<i>The Government Inspector</i> 9-12 & 16-19 November
BLOC	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> 24-29 November
ECC	<i>Cinderella</i> 13-15 January

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:

KVS has regular productions surtitled 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/#>

Continued on next page

LIVE TRANSMISSIONS FROM LONDON (or repeats!)

Kinepolis, Brussels: [Click here for further details](#)

Utopolis, Mechelen: [Click here for further details](#)

15 September Utopolis	<i>A View from The Bridge</i> NTLive
15 September Kinepolis	<i>Richard III</i> Almeida Theatre
29 September Kinepolis	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i> The Kenneth Branagh Theatre Co.
18 October Kinepolis	<i>The Threepenny Opera</i> NTLive
25 October Kinepolis	<i>Frankenstein</i> NTLive
27 October Utopolis	<i>The Entertainer</i> The Kenneth Branagh Theatre Co.
27 October Utopolis	<i>Frankenstein</i> NTLive
10 November Kinepolis	<i>Deep Blue Sea</i> NTLive
15 November Kinepolis	<i>Hamlet</i> NTLive, Benedict Cumberbatch Version
17 November Utopolis	<i>Hamlet</i> NTLive, Benedict Cumberbatch Version
29 November Kinepolis	<i>The Entertainer</i> The Kenneth Branagh Theatre Co.
6 December Kinepolis	<i>War Horse</i> NTLive
8 December Utopolis	<i>War Horse</i> NTLive