



ECCO: October 2016 AGM Special



In this special ECCO:

AGM Papers

Links to our next productions – simply click on the posters to go directly to our box office

Forthcoming productions for all the groups

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

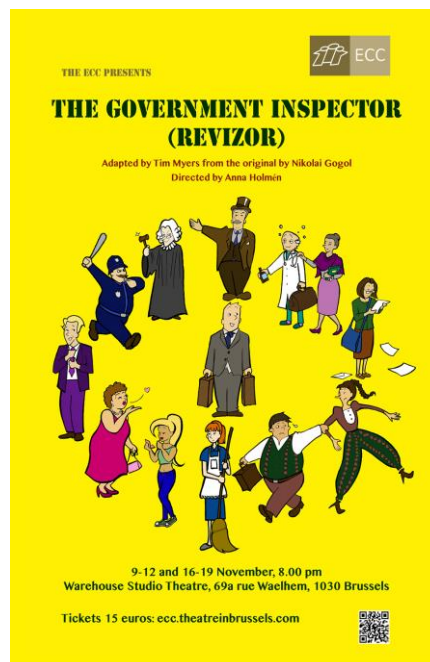
ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next ECCO will come out November 2016

**Our AGM will be held on
Thursday 20 October 2016 at 8 pm
The Warehouse Studio Theatre
69a Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels**

[Click here to register your attendance via our Doodle link](#)

We look forward to seeing many of you there to hear about the past year, our future plans – and to share a drink or two!





Notice of Annual General Meeting of The English Comedy Club ASBL

Thursday 20 October 2016 at 8 pm
The Warehouse Studio Theatre
69a Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 2015 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports from Committee
5. Matters arising from reports
6. Election of new committee
 - Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
 - other members of the committee (up to 7 more people)
7. Any Other Business

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Nomination form to be returned by post to The ECC Hon. Secretary:

Kerry Lydon, 34 rue de la Brasserie, 1050 Brussels
or by email to secretary@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

I wish to nominate

(please print name in capitals)

The nominee

*must be a member of the club whose consent
has been given for this nomination*

**Chairman
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Committee member**

Please tick or circle

*the position for which the nominee
is being put forward*

Proposed by

.....

(please print name in capitals)

Signature

Seconded by

.....

(please print name in capitals)

Signature

All nominations should be submitted by noon on Thursday 13 October 2015

(each nomination should be submitted on a separate form)



ECC (English Comedy Club)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 October 2015 – 8.00 pm

The Warehouse, Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

Apologies: Hussein Alzubaidi, Guilia Colombo, Andy Ing, Chris Jones, Tim Middleton, Fiona Muir, Conrad Toft, Hayk Zayimtsyan

Present: Barbara Blackwell, Martin Blackwell, Malinda Coleman, Hazel Colliers, Sara Hammerton, Kerry Lydon, Janet Middleton, Fiona McGinnis, Julian Oliver, Mary Pritchard, Graham Vincent, Lyn Wainwright

1. Adoption of the minutes of the minutes of the 2014 AGM

The minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting, having been previously circulated and available on the night, were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed: Mary Pritchard Seconded: Barbara Blackwell.

2. Chairman's Report: Lyn Wainwright

Attached.

3. Treasurer's Report: Martin Blackwell

Martin said that the year was a successful one financially, with a surplus of just over €1,000. Income was down from the previous year, as there had only been 3 shows. Slight increases in expenses were due to using PayPal for the booking system, yet this reduced the number of no-shows for each show.

Martin asked if the ECC would like to continue donating to charity as had been done in the previous two years. Sara suggested that we donate this year to a charity organisation that works with refugees. Kerry suggested that we approach Serve the City. It was agreed to give the complete amount to one organisation this year.

The approval of the accounts was proposed by Barbara Blackwell and seconded by Julian Oliver.

Lyn thanked Martin for all his work as treasurer.

4. Report from Committee

FEATS - Andy Ing

In Andy's absence, Lyn reported that plans for FEATS 2016 were progressing well.

Publicity - Sara Hammerton

Sara reported that the publicity had worked well over the last year for all the shows as can be shown by the number of seats sold.

CAST – Lyn Wainwright

Lyn reported that Fiona McGinnis has been given free rein by CAST to reorganise the costumes in the Warehouse. This will be a huge undertaking and in the meantime, Fiona has prepared crib sheets on where to find costumes in Brussels and she will provide this information to Conrad to add to the website.

Malinda also reported that Roisin Dore had announced in June her intention to step down as CAST treasurer at the end of the year after over 10 years of service. Nobody had agreed to take

on the role as yet. This could cause problems with external studio hires as the treasurer would co-ordinate this.

Lyn asked members to encourage friends and contacts to volunteer for the Friday rota or other jobs in the Warehouse.

ACTS – Lyn Wainwright

The club continues to work with the other groups to coordinate their work. The season brochure is working well as is the website.

As was reported at the last AGM, a new system has been agreed for choosing which groups get which slots, which has sometimes been difficult in the past. The first slot of the year, which is usually the ECC's, will start rotating from the 2016/17 season, which should lead to a fairer distribution of slots. This would mean that the ECC would not necessarily get the traditional pantomime slot in December/January. It was agreed that we would consider producing a pantomime season by season.

Mary suggested that we consider doing 'children's plays' later in the season as this would help by not producing a play in the already crowded pantomime season. Lyn agreed that this was something we could consider.

5. Committee

The nomination form had been circulated in ECCO. Janet was stepping down as secretary but remaining as a committee member. Joanna Patrick was not able to commit to the committee for this season, so Conrad Toft had agreed to be co-opted in the meantime. There being no other nominations, the following were elected unanimously:

	Position
Lyn Wainwright	Chair
Kerry Lydon	Secretary
Martin Blackwell	Treasurer
Sara Hammerton	Committee
Andy Ing	Committee
Chris Jones	Committee
Janet Middleton	Committee
Fiona McGuinness	Committee
Fiona Muir	Committee
Conrad Toft	Committee

6. Any Other Business

There was no further business

Attachments:
Chair's Report
Annual Accounts 2015

English Comedy Club AGM 2015

Attachment 1: Chairman's Report – Lyn Wainwright

Good evening and welcome to the ECC AGM 2015

Those of you who were at the last AGM will remember that the post of Chair was left vacant after Conrad Toft stood down from the position.

I was abroad, traveling at the time but on my return agreed to take over from January 2015. Janet Middleton, as secretary, must be thanked for 'keeping the ship afloat' during the intervening months.

Since the last AGM we have had a very successful year both financially and artistically. Building on the success of the Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk in 2014 our first production of the year in January 2015 was 'Aladdin'. Many of the previous team came together to write, direct and perform a highly successful show. There is clearly a demand among a significant section of our membership for this kind of theatre which has introduced new and younger members to the club. We hope that the pantomime tradition will continue into the future. Indeed we already have a new pantomime 'Dick Whittington' in production for January 2016 but we are also conscious that we must not neglect the needs of our wider audience. The new format of the ACTS calendar means that the first production slot in September each year will rotate between the amateur theatre groups. This will have the effect that the ECC will not always have a suitable pantomime slot every year but this will ensure that our overall programme will be sufficiently varied to cover all tastes.

Our March production was 'Tom and Viv' directed by Janet Middleton. This was a challenging project, not least because of the multiple scene and costume changes involved, so Janet and her team are to be congratulated on the success of the show. The ECC also owes a huge debt to Poppy Bullock who agreed to understudy the role of Viv when the need arose due to health problems. A selfless task which ensured the smooth running of the show.

'War Brides' was the ECC entry to FEATS in Hamburg. We did not come away with any prizes this time but Conrad Toft together with his cast and crew are to be congratulated for representing us all. Participation in FEATS is always worthwhile and as you all know the ECC will be participating to an even greater extent when we host FEATS in Brussels in 2016.

Our most recent production 'Mrs Klein' was very well received. Jonathan Stockwell was one of our 'new' directors in September 2014 when he directed 'Soldiering On' as part of our 'Talking Heads' evening of plays. Being first on after the holiday period has its own challenges and the experience gained the previous year was invaluable when it came to directing our first show of the season. This was a very strong production where the teamwork and commitment were clearly visible.

Play readings have continued throughout the year and remain popular with a dedicated group of followers. Our thanks go to Barbara Blackwell, Mary Pritchard and Jean and Luca Fanelli for opening their homes for the readings. This year we have also held a couple of social events in the Warehouse which have provided a meeting point for those members who are not directly involved in our theatrical productions. Our thanks go to Chris Jones who has been our creative master of ceremonies organising suitable fun and games. Even the AGM has an original twist this year as after the formal proceedings are completed we will read 'The Real Inspector Hound' so we invite you to stay and enjoy the fun. I am particularly fond of this play as I was part of the cast of the 1982 comedy Club production when I was still young enough to play Felicity!

'The Real Inspector Hound' will be performed next March directed by Janet Middleton together with 'Dinner for One' directed by Hugh Dow. Again, in an attempt to offer more opportunities to all our membership we are encouraging our less experienced actors to come forward for auditions together our more experienced actors who may have reached an age where they feel that they need support for remembering lines. A safety net will be available. As already mentioned we also have the pantomime in January and FEATS in May. Finally, in November, Anna Holmen will be directing 'The Government Inspector'. All in all a very busy and varied season to look forward to.

Then there is the question of our name the 'English Comedy Club'. The word 'Comedy' is frequently misunderstood particularly when used on-line or on facebook where it is assumed that we are a group of stand-up comedians. In order to avoid this we now refer to the ECC theatre group or ECC (English Comedy Club) for internal documents as you see on the Agenda. This avoids the need to register a

new name and keeps the traditionalists among you happy.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work on your behalf. During the year we have co-opted two new members; Boff Muir and Fiona McGinnis. As Producer, Costume Maker and even Treasurer in Waiting they together bring a wealth of experience to the committee. They are both standing for election to the committee today.

English Comedy Club AGM 2015
Attachment 2: Financial Report – Martin Blackwell

ACCOUNTS at 31 JULY 2014 & 2015

BALANCE SHEETS AT JULY 31

General Fund

Balance at beginning of the year	48,303.28	55,405.89
Surplus for the year	7,102.61	1,083.33

Balance at end of the year	55,405.89	56,489.22
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Warehouse Fund	49,500.00	49,500.00
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TOTAL FUNDS at July 31

104,905.89	105,989.22
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FIXED ASSETS

Share of CAST assets	49,500.00	49,500.00
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CURRENT ASSETS

ING current account	1,327.67	1,531.98
ING deposit account	54,127.61	48,739.83
PayPal account	0.00	619.63
Warehouse operating expenses prepaid	1,333.33	1,333.33
Social event bar stock prepaid	0.00	50.00
Mrs Klein rights prepaid	0.00	560.00
FEATS 2016 theatre prepayment	0.00	5,700.00
FEATS 2016 expenses prepaid	0.00	73.00
Talking Heads rights prepaid	967.77	0.00
Tom & Viv rights prepaid	462.51	0.00

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Mrs Klein net advance sales	0.00	(189.47)
Dick Whittington net advance sales	0.00	(209.08)
2013 & 2014 Tax & filing costs	(705.00)	(720.00)
Talking Heads advance sales	(60.00)	
Aladdin advance sales	(48.00)	
Donations	(2,000.00)	(1,000.00)

NET CURRENT ASSETS	55,405.89	56,489.22
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TOTAL ASSETS AT JULY 31

104,905.89	105,989.22
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ACCOUNTS at 31 JULY 2014 & 2015**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS****For the years ended July 31****Income**

	2014	2015
	€	€
Net proceeds from public performances	17,400.78	10,541.87
Interest	291.30	312.22
TOTAL INCOME	17,692.08	10,854.09

Expenditure

Warehouse and operating expenses	8,156.52	8,255.15
Tax & filing costs	275.00	343.80
Sundry costs	0.00	39.32
Bank Charges	157.95	132.49
Donations	2,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10,589.47	9,770.76

Surplus for the year

7,102.61	1,083.33
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NET PROCEEDS FROM PUBLIC PERFORMANCES**For the 2013/14 & 2014/15 seasons**

TALKING HEADS		2,818.99
ALADDIN		5,481.17
TOM & VIV		2,408.64
WAR BRIDES		(166.93)
COPENHAGEN	3,246.84	
SKYLIGHT	71.59	
JACK & THE BEANSTALK	5,158.01	
MISS JULIE	3,792.31	
IDEAL HUSBAND	5,132.03	
	17,400.78	10,541.87

Donations of 500€ each agreed at 2013 & 2014 AGMs were paid in the year ended July 31, 2015 to the British Charitable Fund, the Belgian Center for Guide Dogs, the Centre de Prévention des Violences Conjugales et Familiales & to the Orbit Charity Project

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

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
ETC	<i>The Little Price</i> (Opera Magique) by Rachel Portman based on the book by St Exupéry 9-20 November
BLOC	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> – The musical by Alan Menken 24-27 November
ECC	<i>Cinderella</i> 13-15 January
BSS	<i>The Winter's Tale</i> 23-28 January
ITG	<i>The Cripple of Inishmaan</i> by Martin McDonagh 7-11 February
ATC	<i>The Crucible</i> by Arthur Miller March
ECC	<i>A Wilde Evening</i> 23-27 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

Continued on next page

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN:

Live (or nearly live) performances transmitted from London

Kinepolis, Brussels: Click here for further details

Utopolis, Mechelen: Click here for further details

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
15 December Utopolis	<i>No Man's Land</i> NTLive
16 February Utopolis	<i>Saint Joan</i> NTLive
9 March Utopolis	<i>Hedda Gabler</i> NTLive

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/#>