



ECCO: September 2017



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

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussel
s.com



Message from the Chair

Welcome back after the summer break.

Many of you will have been away and hopefully are now returning with renewed enthusiasm for and a desire to get involved with the 2017/2018 season.

Our first production, ***Life Reflected***, will be staged in the Warehouse Studio Theatre in mid- November and will be something a little different. It will consist of an evening of poetry selected and staged by Malinda Coleman to reflect life at different ages. She has recruited a varied cast of performers and I think that you will find their enthusiasm irresistible.

Poetry and music is also the theme of an evening that Hugh Dow has arranged for his theatrical friends in mid- September. Hugh has been an active member of the English Comedy Club, as it was then known, for well over forty years and we are supporting his wish to share an evening with his friends. Final details are in this edition of ECCO and also on our website

Lyn Wainwright, ECC Chair

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

LIFE REFLECTED

An Evening of Poetry Directed by Malinda Coleman



**9-11 & 16-18
November
The Warehouse
Studio Theatre**

**Box Office
Now Open**

Click on image left to go
to Box Office

Life Reflected: Our Next Production

Life Reflected

An Evening of Poetry Directed by Malinda Coleman

9-11 and 16-18 November

**The Warehouse Studio Theatre
Rue Waelhem 69a, 1030 Schaerbeek**

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



Director Malinda Coleman writes:

The ECC's first production for the 2017-2018 season will be ... something a little different: *Life Reflected*, an evening I am devising and staging of poems taken from both old familiar authors and many unknown contemporary poets.

Poetry offers us the pleasure of language played and experimented with, but also can show us things about our experiences that make us feel and understand them differently, more intensely. Inspired by the Shakespearean "seven ages of man", this collection traces our lives from the beginning to the beginning of the end ... encompassing childhood, romance and coupling, parenthood, the challenges of our workaday lives, and the experiences that come along later in life.

It sounds serious! But expect to be surprised ...I have been lucky to find an exciting group of readers, relative newcomers Agathe Osinski, Bryony Ulyett and James Hogan, combined with favourite familiars: Janet Middleton, Liz Ross, David Steen and Mark Prescott. First rehearsals designed to whittle down the long list of poems I compiled have already shown us something of the delight and pleasure this evening will provide.



Hugh Dow: Poetry & Music Evenings

For Those who Know Hugh Dow -

LET'S HAVE A PARTY



Hugh Dow is holding hour-long poetry and music evenings
on the 15th and 16th September.

Some of Brussels' finest actors will be reading poems which have
sustained and delighted him over 65 years. The music will be
judiciously added, as tonic to gin, for dilution.

To justify the somewhat extravagant title there will be bubbly and
small eats after.

To book, email chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
or call 0475 65 68 51.
There will be no admission charge.

Warehouse Tidy Day

The ECC would like to thank **Anna Holmén** (who organises the Friday Warehouse Duty Rota) and her team of volunteers for giving up so much time last weekend (26-27 August) to give the Warehouse facilities an overhaul. It was very kind of you all – but it sounds as if you had a lot of fun too!

Anna writes: The Warehouse heros of August 2017 are as follows:



Anna and, errrr, Yorgos?

Roisin Dore, Kevin Brennan, Graham Andrews and Hilary Barry who cleared the Warehouse and filled no less than 4 of the huge special bin bags with waste.

Elisabeth Munklinde and Kristina Kardum, who with **Peter Willis'** help, cleaned up the Green Room and put up hooks, changed lightbulbs, bought a new bin etc.

Louise Lang, Meg Chang and Robynn Colwell who cleared out props.

Sheila Hewitt, Fiona McGinnis, Sara Hammerton and newcomer **Yuliya Gergova** (you want her in your backstage team, I promise) who cleared out costumes.

Monica Lövström and Yorgos Filippakis who went to Proxy Chimik, and also helped the (not mad) women in the attic lifting, carrying, sorting etc.

Muriel Hollander who filled her tiny car to the brim and took almost all our discarded stuff to the dump in rue Rupel in one go.

Jeremy Zeegers who cleared the committee room together with yours truly, and who was the only man-power available on Sunday to carry stuff up and down stairs.

Myself who coordinated, carried, weeded, put anti-slip tape on the cellar stairs, changed lightbulbs in the cellar and who hope to not get too much blame for having accidentally chucked out, or not noticed when someone else chucked out, any useful and/or valuable stuff.



Muriel's Tardis: It is bigger on the inside!

Now can everybody please, please make an effort to leave the areas the way you found them, and follow the various instructions we will put up here and there? All producers and stage managers need to be aware of their duties, which include post-show clearing and putting back in the right place.

We had great fun, but might reluctantly let another team do it next time!



Shall we throw this prop away?

"I dunno, it MIGHT come in handy sometime."

Warehouse Tidy Day – More Photos!

(I wonder if we can get some sponsorship from Brico?? Ed.)



RIP Diane Gray

It was with great sadness that the ECC learnt of the death of Di Gray, and we are very grateful to **Diana Morton-Hooper-Deeks** who has shared this lovely memory of Di with us.

DIANE GRAY – a memory

The soaring notes of Di Gray's magnificent soprano voice will always be, for me, the first truly wonderful soprano I heard on the Brussels amateur stage back in the 1970s. Other great voices have come and gone over the years but her voice is the one that stands out for me. She sang, she acted, she directed, she chaired the English Comedy Club, she accompanied husband Paul in so many musical ventures and she was a kind and thoughtful friend.

She was a stalwart comic actress in many Gilbert & Sullivan Society and, later, BLOC productions and she lent her soprano voice to choirs, **the Madrigals, concerts.....wherever she could.** Many have memories of musical productions but mine are mostly of her ECC years. I **remember back in 1986, standing nervously to speak Hazel's opening lines of Priestley's *Time & The Conways* for the ECC, feeling reassured by her voice singing about a Yorkshire girl in the offstage party my character had just left - it was comforting to have her warm presence, her voice setting just the right tone as the curtains opened.** In 1997 I was lucky to be in the cast of *Pack of Lies* she directed so sweetly and at the 1993 FEATS her interpretation of the **quite dreadful mother in law in Coward's *Fumed Oak* for the ECC was hysterically funny.** It helped us to come 3rd that year. She was the current English Comedy Club chairman when all the negotiations to buy The Warehouse were undertaken with the American Theater Company and the Irish Theatre Group all those years ago. She and husband Paul were part of a group of sponsors who got the renovations off the ground and helped to put in place the complex of rehearsal space and studio theatre we know today. But my one abiding memory from about 35 years ago involves a pair of brown socks.

The ATC's production of *Kiss Me Kate* was in crisis one night during the run: the leading lady's voice had disappeared. What to do? A call to Di that afternoon saw her unhesitatingly dash **to the Auderghem theatre and prepare to sing, cold, the leading lady's role from the wings as Marion H. playing Lily Vanessi, walked it through on stage.** I had a flat nearby at the time and I literally ran from the theatre to find a suitable evening dress and ran back just in time **for curtain up. It was a voluminous powder blue Ossie Clark which matched Diane's eyes and showed off her magnificent cleavage to perfection but was just a little too long for her.** Coiffed and powdered by Hair and Makeup, with a pair of sparkly dangly earrings, from the wings she **sang to perfection and literally 'saved the show'!** Tumultuous applause at curtain call demanded her presence on stage. The applause soared as a glamorous blonde in powder **blue stepped out.....but so as not to trip, she lifted her gown to take a bow. Nobody had thought to find her evening shoes for under all the glamour were a pair of short brown socks and plimsolls.** The audience roared with laughter and loved it. And we loved her.

Diane and Paul retired from Brussels to Alcester some years ago but with music an essential ingredient in their lives, they continued to perform and enjoy a musical life. It was with great sadness that we heard a couple of weeks ago that Diane had been diagnosed with a terminal illness that took her all too quickly and she passed away on 22nd August, nobly, with dignity and with a sure faith, at the hospice to which she had been moved just a few days before. Our hearts are heavy with sadness to have lost such a lovely lady and we think of husband Paul, her children Charlotte and Oliver and their families. May she rest in peace.



*Di as many of us will remember her:
always full of fun and laughter*

The Butt Awards 2017

Conrad Toft writes:

Better late than never! It's time to vote in the BUTT awards for the 2016-17 season for outstanding achievement in the Belgian English-speaking amateur theatre world.

If you have been back-stage or on-stage this season (i.e. mentioned in a programme) you are entitled to vote for your favourites using [this online form](#) until 14 September. You can use the same form to let us know **whether you'll be joining us at the ceremony, which will take place at the opening of the 2017-2018 season on 17 September at Charles Bouchard's house.**

This year the ceremony will be held at Charles Bouchard's house on 17 September – please note that this is also Car-Free Sunday, so please find an alternative form of transport to get there – get on your skates and come and join us!

The BUTT Awards 2015-16



ECC NEWS

Committee

Lyn Wainwright
Kerry Lydon
Fiona McGinnis
Sara Hammerton
Anna Holmén
Andy Ing
Janet Middleton
Boff Muir
Steve O'Byrne
Bryony Ulliyett

Role

Chair
Secretary & CAST Chair
Treasurer & Costumes
ACTS & Publicity
CAST Rep.
FEATS
Ecco

Webmaster
Workshops

Contact us at:

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Notice of ECC AGM 2016-17

Tuesday 17 October 2017 at 8 pm

The Warehouse Studio Theatre - 69a Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

All papers for the AGM can be found by clicking [HERE](#)

WANTED!

New Editor for ECCO!

The ECC is looking for a new ECCO Editor. It is currently produced using Word, but people with more experience of producing newsletters are very welcome to make changes! Ecco is fun to do, and it would be useful if the editor would be willing to join the ECC Committee.

Full training can be given!

For more info contact Janet at ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Can You Help our Play Reading Group?

Mary and Barbara have gamely hosted us for many, many, years – but now it really is time for them to be given some time off! **Many thanks to Malinda and Rina** for offering to host from time to time ... is there anyone else who would be willing to let us invade their sitting room from time to time?

It would also be great to hear from anyone willing to lead a play reading – with or without a play in mind! We have a list of plays you can choose from!

Just contact ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com. Many thanks. Janet

Coming Soon!

Snow White

19 January – 20.00

20 & 21 January – 13.30 & 17.00

Auderghem Cultural Centre

The script is written, the principal characters are anxious to start learning lines, the crew is assembled, the poster is ready, the box office is open and rehearsals are about to begin. Only five months to go until it's panto time again!

Since the ECC started putting on pantos again at the Auderghem Cultural Centre in 2013, we've watched our audiences grow from 1,300 the first year to almost 2,200 in 2017 and we hope to beat that in 2018!



It's incredible how much goes on behind the scenes to bring the ECC's panto to you each year. Last year there were over a hundred people involved, but over the coming months we will give you glimpses of our rehearsals for Snow White to whet your appetite for what will be our biggest show yet.

AUDITIONS: If you would like to get involved, there are still places available in the chorus for adults and children and we will be holding auditions on 24 September from 11:00 in the Warehouse (for more details see <http://www.theatreinbrussels.com>).

We are also always grateful for more help preparing for the show and during the run, so if you feel that you would like to join in behind the scenes, please contact our producer, Kerry Lydon (kerry.lydon@gmail.com).

And finally, if you would prefer to just come and enjoy the show (fun for old and young alike), there is a €2 discount on tickets until the end of September – you can book at <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/ECC>.

From Stage to Stereo:

The Impotence of Being Frank is coming soon as a radio play!

In July's ECCO Bryony Ulyett told us about the forthcoming audio recording that was being prepared of *The Impotence of Being Frank*.

Sandra Lizioli now writes: The cast got together and recorded the play on 2 July! And it was a fun afternoon on a rainy Sunday. The recording studio we borrowed at the European Communications School was small but perfectly equipped for our needs. We felt like radio DJs, not actors!

We quickly learned that acting to a microphone was a whole new experience that we had to adapt to! Before starting, we warmed up our voices with James Hogan, as only he can! And then we did a pilot run with one scene to test out our voices before running through the play. There were a few retakes but overall it was a smooth operation with no hiccups. A promising start!

Now that we have the raw material, Steve will be busy with the post-production, editing in the sound effects and preparing the recording for uploading online after the summer break. We are aiming for an Autumn launch so watch this space!

Monthly Play Readings

Wednesday 6 September – 7.45pm

Appointment with Death

By Agatha Christie

Venue: Chez Janet & Tim, Rue des Atrebrates 27, 1040 Brussels

The play opens as the Boynton family are introduced through the perspective of Sarah King and Dr. Gerard, who discuss their behaviour. Mrs. Boynton is a domineering personality and her family cowed by her. Sarah is attracted to Raymond Boynton, while family friend Jefferson Cope admits to wanting to take Nadine Boynton away from her husband, Lennox, and the influence of her mother-in-law. On a trip to Petra family tensions reach a deadly climax.

Main Characters

- Colonel Carbury, senior figure in Transjordan
- Mrs Boynton, a matriarch
- Ginevra Boynton, the stepdaughter
- Raymond Boynton, the youngest stepson
- Lennox Boynton, the eldest stepson
- Nadine Boynton, the stepdaughter-in-law (Lennox's wife)
- Jefferson Cope, a family friend
- Dr Gerard, a French psychologist
- Sarah King, a young doctor
- Lady Westholme, a member of Parliament
- Miss Pryce, a former nursery governess
- Alderman Higgs, fellow traveller

If you intend to join us in SEPTEMBER please register via Doodle by clicking [HERE](#)
Or email Janet at playreadings@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

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!

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.

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.

Mary & Barbara have organised and run the Play Reading Group for over 21 years: the ECC, especially those of us who have enjoyed their hospitality, are extremely grateful to them for their generosity with their time and in opening their homes to us. They are still very active members of the group, and we hope they will enjoy having less to worry about!

THANK YOU BOTH!

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

BSS	<i>Troilus & Cressida</i> 21-30 September
ITG	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> by Samuel Beckett 6, 7, 10-14 October
ETC	Grim Tales 24-29 October
BLOC	<i>Crazy for You</i> by Gershwin 23-16 November
ECC	<i>'Life Reflected': An Evening of Poetry</i> 9-11 and 16-18 November
ATC	<i>Picasso at the Lapin Agile</i> by Steve Martin 30 November – 9 December

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>