



ECCO: November 2017



In this edition:

AGM Results

Auditions: Amadeus

Committee & ECC News

Future Productions & Forthcoming Events

Life Reflected: Our next production in rehearsal

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 in January 2018

Message from the Chair

As the new Chair of the ECC, my first task is to say thank you on behalf of the Committee to Lyn Wainwright who has been our Chair for the past three years. Lyn has been a valued member of the ECC for many years and has done a marvellous job of guiding the Committee and moving the Club forward. I am happy to report that she will remain on the Committee, so we look forward to her continued input, advice and expertise. In this month's ECCO, you will find the report on 2016-2017 season that Lyn gave at our recent AGM.

At the time of writing, our next production, *Life Reflected* directed by Malinda Coleman, is in the final stages of rehearsal. It is something a little different to open the season: an evening of poetry taken from both old familiar and many unknown contemporary poets. Malinda has assembled a talented group of readers for this production, both newcomers and experienced hands. There are details below on how to get tickets for what promised to be a special show.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our productions this season and if you have any comments that you wish to share, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kerry Lydon, ECC Chair

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



Life Reflected

Performance 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: Opens this week!!

**Performance poetry is all the rage,
and the ECC is leading the curve
with its innovative new production**

Life Reflected

Directed by Malinda Coleman

9-11 and 16-18 November

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

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



“Life Reflected” ... in rehearsal

This production is an experiment: choose a selection of poems, audition for a group of readers, arrange the readings with movement, a few props, a little music ... and voila, our show is being born. Although it's not a play, the evening reveals multiple characters and multiple stories: collective performances mixed with monologues that are by turn funny, hysterical, poignant, deeply moving. Our cast includes newcomers Agathe Osinski and James Hogan, representing “youth”; Janet Middleton and Mark Prescott, the “middle-agers”; and Liz Ross and David Steen, the more-or-less “vintage” generation. Our props include a cane, a wobbly plastic sword and a black feather boa.

For poetry-lovers and poetry-shunners alike, this evening has the unexpected: James Hogan slaying the Jabberwock, Liz Ross as Mae West atop a ladder ...

Underneath this all, the conviction that, as well as the pleasure of language, poetry can offer us understanding and enlightenment, a light-bulb moment, sometimes cathartic, that is also the mark of great theatre.

**Auditions for “AMADEUS” by Peter Shaffer
Directed by Stephen Challens
8 November**

Audition call for



 **ECC Brussels**

Amadeus

Auditions will take place at **The Warehouse**
(Rue Waelhem 69A, 1030 Brussels)
on **Wed 1 Nov** at 19:30;
Sun 5 Nov at 14:00; and
Wed 8 Nov at 19:30.

Rehearsals take place between January and May 2018
with performances from **30 May to 3 June 2018** at
The Bozar Studio Theatre.

CAST LIST:

Antonio Salieri:	Male, aged 35-65.
Wolfgang Amadeus:	Male, aged 18-35.
Constanze Weber:	Female, aged 18-35.
Emperor Joseph II of Austria:	Male, aged 30-65.
Count Von Strack:	Male, aged 25-60.
Count Orsini-Rosenberg:	Male, aged 25-60.
Baron Van Swieten:	Male, aged 25-60.
3 Venticelli:	Male or Female, aged 18-50.
Major-domo:	Male, aged 40-60.
Salieri's valet:	Silent role.
Salieri's cook:	Silent role.
Teresa Salieri (<i>Salieri's wife</i>):	Silent role. Female, aged 35-65.
Katerina Cavalieri (<i>Salieri's student</i>):	Female, aged 14-30.
Kapellmeister Bonno:	Silent role. Male, aged 30-65.
Citizens of Vienna:	6-8 Males and Female roles. Any ages.

Stephen Challens writes:

“Amadeus” is a play by that I have wanted to direct since I was 16 years old. I have seen it five times. Bought the T-shirt and seen the film. If you too have seen the film but not read or seen the play, let me assure you the play is better.

The text is based partly in fact, however mainly in fiction. It is a tale about Salieri the Court Composer who seems to be the only person who can truly see the 'genius' of Mozart while also seeing his own 'mediocrity' and what that could mean in the future. Mozart will rise as he will fall and failure. This leads to a desire to destroy and ultimately murder Amadeus.

A wonderful period piece that will be performed this summer at the Bozar Studio. If this seems to be your thing please come and audition for the ECC this Wednesday 8 November for what should be a wonderful production.

The Warehouse – Courtyard renovations complete



*As you will have noticed if you visited the Warehouse recently, the courtyard has finally been renovated. There were some mishaps on the way, but according to the contractor, the courtyard as it looks now will outlive us all. The final bill has not arrived yet, so cross your fingers that the co-prop brick fund of 60 000 euros will suffice. A huge thank you to Jeremy Zeegers of ATC for representing CAST during the whole process. **Kerry Lydon, ECC Chair.***



ECC NEWS

The AGM results:

The AGM was duly held on Tuesday 17 October. Plenty of you came, to elect our new committee and join in the play reading afterwards. Below is the composition of the new Committee. Many members are same, some of the positions have changed. Warm thanks to our outgoing Chair, Lyn Wainwright, whose review of the past year is also below, and congratulations to our new Chair, Kerry Lydon, whose first introduction opened this newsletter.

ECC COMMITTEE – 2017-2018 SEASON

Committee

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

Role

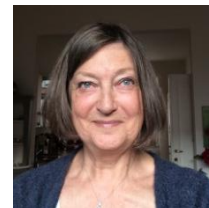
Chair
Secretary
Treasurer & Costumes
ACTS ECCO
CAST Rep.
FEATS

Webmaster

Contact us at:

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
secretary@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
treasurer@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
sara@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
anna@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
feats@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
boff@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
webadmin@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
lyn@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Chairman's Report to the AGM of the ECC October 17th 2017



Immediately after the AGM last year we were treated to Anna Holmén's delightful production of 'The Government Inspector' This was an ambitious project as it involved a large cast and frequent scene changes within the limited confines of the Studio. It is always a challenge to assemble the full cast and crew in order to ensure sufficient rehearsal time but any insecurities on the first night were expertly handled by SM Monica Lövsström and as this was a two week run the routine was quickly established. Congratulations to all involved.

The audiences were most appreciative and numerous. It was during this production that it was agreed that for safety reasons we should only be selling sixty seats per performance rather than sixty-five, the actual number of chairs available. In order to maximise revenue, two week runs have become more popular in recent years for all theatre groups when performing in the Studio. With the enforced reduction in seat numbers this is likely to become more frequent.

In January I broke my leg rather badly and as a result I was forced to spend the next five months recovering in the UK. During my absence the ECC continued to thrive and thanks must go to the Committee and, in particular, to our Secretary Kerry Lydon for ensuring continuity.

Sadly, I missed 'Cinderella' but I am assured that it was every bit up to the ECC Pantomime standard that we have grown to expect. Cath Howdle and her fantastic team worked their magic and Cinderella did get to the ball. The ECC is enjoying a growing reputation among the international community for providing english language theatre opportunities for a wide age range and I am very

pleased to confirm that we have a new team in place working hard on 'Snow White' which will be performed at the Centre Culturel d'Auderghem from 16-21 January 2018. The popularity of pantomime also helps to pay the bills and means that the ECC can offer a wider range of productions some of which may have a relatively small but valid appeal. It also allows the ECC to contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings here at the Warehouse. For example, the not insubstantial costs involved in the recent renovation of the courtyard.

FEATS 2016 was held in Brussels and as hosts the ECC received automatic entry to compete in FEATS 2017 which was held in Frankfurt. Our entry was a shortened version of Oscar Wilde's play 'A Woman of No Importance' which again involved quite a large cast and crew. It seems to have been a fun-filled event and we were delighted when the ECC won the Stage Management Award.

Congratulations to Conrad Toft as director and Andy Ing in charge of backstage.

In order to show off their skills to the Brussels audience and as an important part of the preparation for FEATS 'A Wilde Evening' was held in the Studio over several nights. Not only were we treated to 'A Woman of No Importance' but the evening was completed by 'The Importance of Being Frank' a new play written by Martin Westlake. Adam Brown was responsible for casting and getting this show on the road. Unfortunately, he was obliged to drop out and the ECC is really grateful to Hugh Dow for stepping in and ensuring that it was a such a great success. The author, together with the cast and crew were so enthusiastic about the production that they voluntarily recorded it as a radio play. This was a new venture but an idea that could well be repeated for future productions.

Poetry seems to be a theme this autumn. Originally, we had planned for a production of 'Amadeus' in November of this year but the lack of availability of a suitable theatre has meant that the production has now been postponed until June 2018. Instead the ECC is offering something rather different to fill the November slot. Malinda Coleman has devised and staged a rehearsed poetry evening entitled 'Life Reflected' which as the title suggests will follow the big themes of life through carefully chosen poems.

This was our second poetry event having already hosted 'Let's Have A Party' which Hugh Dow devised and offered as a personal thank you to all his friends and for all the years of association with the ECC. The choice of poetry and music was his alone and reflected his very special personality.

At the end of August Anna Holmén, who is our representative on CAST, was responsible for organising a much needed clear-out in the rehearsal rooms, workshop and costume store. Although this was not an ECC initiative nevertheless Anna is to be congratulated for being the initiator and thereby helping the ECC to make this contribution.

We had hoped to make further contributions to the general good by organising training workshops and also Youth Theatre. Sadly, we did not achieve these goals this year but they remain projects for the future.

We all owe a big vote of thanks to all those involved in the organisation around our regular play reading which continue to flourish. In particular, we are grateful to Janet Middleton for preparing the short and amusing one-act play 'Between Mouthfuls' by Alan Ayckbourn which we will read this evening.

Finally let me thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work throughout the year.

After three years it is time for me to stand down as Chair of the ECC. I have enjoyed being able to make a small contribution to the club which in return has given me more than forty years of membership. During that time I have made many friends, learnt about theatre and enjoyed support in all the varied theatrical activities that make up the club. Thank you ECC.

Lyn Wainwright.

Monthly Play Readings

Wednesday 8 November – 7.45pm

Tim Myers will be leading us in reading
Cloud Nine by Caryl Churchill

Chez Myers:
[55 Rue du Cardinal](#)
[Bruxelles](#) 1000

Cloud 9 is a two-act play. The first act is set in British colonial Africa in the Victorian era, and parodies the conventions of comedy, Victorian society and colonialism. Act II is set in a London park in 1979, shows what could happen when the restrictions of both the comic genre and Victorian ideology are loosened - however between the acts only twenty-five years pass for the characters.

If you intend to join us in November 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.

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

Rehearsals for our next blockbuster panto are underway, and this one looks like it is going to be bigger, brighter and better than ever.

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!



This show is not to be missed. Dwarves that look like no other panto dwarves ever have, the most evil (but most beautiful) witch, the shiniest, shiniest mirror, an utterly seductive cook, a cheerful chuckly Muddles, a prince of breathtaking charm, a daft king, even dafter courtiers, and the cutest mice ever. Not to mention some stunning singing and inspired choreography.



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, and this time that's just the cast! (well not quite, but close...). However there is A LOT of work that goes on in the background.

We are 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, (and new ECC Chair) 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) you can book at <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/ECC>.

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

ECC	<i>'Life Reflected': An Evening of Poetry</i> <i>9-11 and 16-18 November</i>
BLOC	<i>Crazy for You</i> by Gershwin <i>23-16 November</i>
ATC	<i>Picasso at the Lapin Agile</i> by Steve Martin <i>30 November – 9 December</i>
ECC	<i>Snow White</i> <i>19-21 January</i>

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:

"Journey's End" a WW1 drama by R.C. Sherriff, who actually fought in the war.
On at the Kruitmagazijn in Ypres till 12 November.

<http://www.meshtheatre.com/journeysend.html>

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