



ECCO: May 2018



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

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next Ecco will come out in July 2018

Message from the Chair

Rehearsals are well under way for our next production, *Amadeus*, directed by Stephen Challens (Bozar 30 May – 3 June, more info below). Meanwhile, we continue to have our social events each month, which is an opportunity to bring members together in a social setting and is proving very popular. The Committee has also spent some time talking to directors and we are pleased to have planned next season's programme, including another Panto, "Robin Hood/Babes in the Wood", in January 2019 and two plays showcasing the talent of two new directors: "Father" by Florian Zeller directed by Heli Pärna in October, and "The 39 Steps" adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan and directed by Diana Campillo in late April/early May.

We are always looking to bring you, our members, what you want, so please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for what we can do in the future. We love getting feedback from you. We hope to see some of you at our forthcoming auditions and don't forget to book your tickets for *Amadeus*. We also look forward to seeing you at one of our social evenings.

Kerry Lydon, ECC Chair

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Next Production- **Amadeus!** Click on the poster for tickets.



Amadeus – A word from the director

I was 16 when I first saw this play performed by an outstanding Youth Theatre in Stafford. I then saw the play again, later I saw the film, then when I was 19 I saw the play performed in Cheltenham at college by a professional company. I also saw the play during my time at University in Wales then again in Antwerp a few years ago. Each and every time I loved the production. I always saw something new and also knew inside it was a play I wanted to direct. It is a fabulous tale. It is a piece of outstanding writing and a text that never seems to age.

After all those years, here I am now directing the show for the ECC with an outstanding cast to be played in a beautiful theatre in the centre of Brussels this summer. Rehearsals are moving at a strong pace and the piece is unfolding in front of me and is turning into what I hope will be strong production. I also hope it will give a few new insights into the story for those like me who have seen the play more than a few times.

It is a play I have never bored of and, as you can tell, have had a burning desire to do since my very young teenage years.

So if you have never seen the show please book your tickets to see Amadeus this June. Even if – or especially if - you have seen the show or the film - book your tickets to see this piece again*. I promise you, dear reader, something new and a production that stands the test of time. A play that can be seen again and again and always offers the viewer an entertaining night in the theatre.

Steve Challens

*Tickets cost €20 and are available **now** from the Bozar box office www.bozar.be

Amadeus - In rehearsal

Here are just a few pictures to give you a flavour of our latest production in rehearsal. We have a brilliant script, a fabulous cast, a dedicated crew, a crazy but highly creative director, and some utterly fabulous costumes. [Come along to the Bozar](#) to enjoy this glorious, exuberant production.



Rehearsals are in full swing and the cast are having huge fun. Here Salieri is expressing his anger and frustration. Possibly at Amadeus. Possibly at the director. Possibly at the cast member who nicked his wig. We may never know.



Take a hike Sal.



Cool kit



Did you nick my wig?



He didn't mean it!!

ECC Social Events

For the last couple of seasons the ECC has been hosting monthly social events on a Friday in the Warehouse; these range from quizzes to games nights and much more. On Friday last week, following on from March's successful quiz night, we hosted Just a Minute. For those of you that do not know it, it is a long-running, popular game on BBC Radio four where contestants have to talk on any topic they are given, without hesitation, repetition or deviation for 'just a minute'. It is much harder than the title suggests! Great fun was had by old and new faces alike and we were all kept in line by our expert compere, Jonathan Goldsmith. Jonathan was ably assisted by Fiona McGinnis who was the timekeeper and the main organiser of the event. The social evening provides a great opportunity for people from our community to get to know each other better over a drink, outside the confines of a rehearsal.

There will not be a social night in May, due to Amadeus and FEATS, but we will have the **next event on 22 June and it will be a Games Night – with extra special sweet treats**. Hope to see many of you there.



BIG NEWS!!

ECC Summer School – for kids

In response to numerous and repeated requests over recent years, particularly from parents of children involved in ECC Pantomimes, the club is planning a theatre summer school for children aged between 6 and 16, at the Warehouse Studio Theatre from July 9 - 13, 2018.

It is being organised by Steve O'Byrne and will be led by Stephen Challens – other teachers and helpers will be added depending on numbers.

The idea is to work with the children towards a short performance on the Friday afternoon (15:30 / 16:00) and to have the children get involved in all the aspects of a production: acting, directing, stage managing, producing a program / publicity, scenery, props, costumes, hair & makeup, lights and sound.

Ideas to be explored over the week will be taken from classics, music, games, myths, tales, poems and modern material.

In order for this to be successful, we need an absolute minimum of 10 participants – the more children involved the better we'll be able to split into groups to focus on non-acting roles involved in putting on a production!!!

The week's work will be loosely based around a modern take on Robin Hood.

Preliminary timings: Monday -Thursday from 9am until 5pm and Friday from 9am until 4:30pm (end of the performance);

The Summer School will be partially subsidized by the ECC, but there will be a small cost to participate.

For further info, or to show your interest, please contact Steve at steve@obyrne.be

New development – Data Protection

Please note that in light of new Data Protection legislation to come into force on 25 May 2018 the ECC is developing its own Data Protection Policy. This means, among other things, that everyone who likes to receive ECCO in their inbox will be asked to sign a consent statement. More news on this to follow shortly.

Next Season's Programme

The ECC is pleased to announce its programme for the 2018-2019 season:

23-27 October 2018 "The Father" by Florian Zeller, The Warehouse Studio Theatre
18-20 January 2019 "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood", Auderghem Cultural Centre
30 April – 5 May 2019 "The 39 Steps" adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan. The Warehouse Studio Theatre

Auditions

"The Father" and "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood"

Auditions for "The Father"

We are looking for actors and actresses for ECC's next production "The Father", written by Florian Zeller. The dates of the performance will be 23-27 October 2018.

Characters:

- André (the father) - age 65-80
- Anne (his daughter) age 35-55
- Pierre (her partner) age 35-55
- Laura (André's caretaker) age 25-35
- Man age 30-55
- Woman age 35-55

The age is an indication as to how old the characters could be. It does not mean that you have to be that age yourself, but rather that you can play a character within that age group.

The auditions will take place at The Warehouse Studio (Rue Waelhem 69A, 1030 Bruxelles) on the following dates:

- Monday, 4 June at 20.00
- Wednesday, 6 June at 20.00
- Sunday, 10 June at 17.00

Please confirm the date you wish to audition by sending an email to heliparna1985@gmail.com

If you are not available on any of the indicated dates, but still wish to audition, please let us know so that we can find an alternative time.

Panto Auditions !!!!!

The journey to Sherwood Forest has begun. ECC are proud to present **Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood** which will be performed in Auderghem Cultural Centre from 18-20 January 2019. Auditions for the show will be held in the Warehouse on Sunday June 10th and Sunday June 17th from 10.30 am until 12.30 pm. There will be a number of principal roles and a chorus of around 20, plus a small chorus of mice as traditional.

Principal roles are:

Robin Hood: Female, solo singing role.
Marian: Female, solo singing role.
Nursy Nanny Nellie: Male (Dame), solo singing role.
Alan-a-Dale: M/F (Comic), some singing.
Fairy Bluebell: Female, no singing.
Sheriff of Nottingham: Male (baddy), solo singing role.
Guy of Gisbourne: Male (baddy), no singing.
Babe 1: M/F, young role, no singing.
Babe 2: M/F, young role, no singing.
Merry Men: M/F, some singing.

There will also be a number of smaller parts for young and old. We also need back-stage help, so if you're interested in being part of the panto, but not acting, we'd love to hear from you! We need help to make costumes and props before the show, and then back stage help (stage crew, props, child-minding, front of house, make-up and hair) during the show.

If you are interested in joining our merry crew in any capacity, please click on the link below and complete the form. Hurrah!

Link to form: <https://goo.gl/forms/XTQpJVqfLI5EyESu2>



Monthly Play Readings

Wednesday 2 May

Glenn Vaughan will lead us in reading

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

By Edward Albee

We will meet Chez Glenn & Lynne

Boulevard Leopold II, 209*

1080 Molenbeek-Saint-Jean

7.45pm for an 8pm start

***Press button marked The Umbrella Factory.**

Parking difficult early evening but there is a public car park at Simonis and easy walk down hill.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Famous as a film starring Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, this play was first staged in 1962. It examines the complexities of the marriage of a middle-aged couple, Martha and George. Late one evening, after a university faculty party, they receive an unwitting younger couple, Nick and Honey, as guests, and draw them into their bitter and frustrated relationship.

If you wish to participate please add your name to the Doodle:

<https://doodle.com/poll/6t6b3ek9bqbu67en>

or email playreadings@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

At the time of going to press we would welcome offers to host and lead the next play reading on 6 June!

If you haven't come to a play reading before, new participants are always welcome! Please sign up, as above, and for further information email Janet at the play readings email address. There is no need to prepare: this isn't an audition! We all take turns in reading the roles in a friendly atmosphere. Drinks and nibbles are part of the evening, and contribution towards these (a bag of crisps, a bottle of whatever you're drinking) are always welcome, but not compulsory!

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 those who have offered 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

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS

ECC	<i>Amadeus</i> May 30 – June 3, 2018
<u>BLOC</u>	<i>Urinetown</i> May 31 – 3 June, 2018
<u>FEATS/BATS</u>	<i>FEATS 2018</i> hosted by BATS, Antwerp May 18-21, 2018
<u>BSS</u>	<i>A Man for All Seasons</i> June 9-16, 2018

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