



ECCO: September 2019



In this edition:

Next event: *AGM and
FEATS Launch Party*

Next Production:
Beauty & the Beast

Review: *Youth Theatre
Summer School*

Play Reading

Forthcoming shows
Sleuth

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

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next ECCO will come
out in November 2019

Message from the Chair



I hope you have all had a good Summer break. Summer is the time when the committee spends time planning the season ahead. On 4th October we will have the ECC AGM at the Warehouse where a new committee will be elected and this will be followed by a party to launch FEATS, which the ECC will be hosting in May 2021. We are looking for volunteers to put together the team to make it happen. The committee will welcome you to the Warehouse to share a drink and tell you more about what roles are available. We hope to see you there!

We have no autumn production sadly as Sleuth has had to be postponed. We look forward to seeing you at our social events, however.

Meanwhile, planning is well underway for the panto in January – we will be performing Beauty and the Beast at the Auderghem Cultural Centre on 17-19 January and the box office is now open. Rehearsals are well under way and the production machine is already turning. Thank you for all your support and we hope to see you at one of our shows or events.

Kerry Lydon, ECC Chair

chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Autumn Production Postponed

SLEUTH by **Anthony Shaffer**



Sadly, our autumn production SLEUTH has had to be postponed until March 2020. It is cast, however, the team is in place and we are looking forward to putting on the show. Watch this space!
Meanwhile we have plenty more to offer you.

AGM

ECC AGM

Friday 4 October 2019 at 7.00 pm

The Warehouse
73 Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

The ECC will hold its Annual General Meeting on Friday 4th October at 7.00 pm at the Warehouse, 73 rue Waelhem, 1030 Schaerbeek.

We need to elect a new committee to run the ECC for the next year, so it would be good to have as many members there to vote as possible. Nomination forms for candidates have been sent out by email, and can be requested from sara@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com. There will be a report on the past year's activities and a look forward to our programme for the coming year.

AGM Agenda

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 2018 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

@ @ @

Event

FEATS LAUNCH PARTY



Friday 4 October, 8.00 pm

The Warehouse, 73 rue Waelhem, Schaarbeek

The party will start as soon as we finish our **AGM (7.00 pm -8.00pm)**. The ECC is launching its preparations to host FEATS (Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies)* in May 2021. And we need your help.

We have already put together an organising team, but we still need a lot of volunteers. Most people will only be required to help out during the FEATS weekend itself (13-16 May 2021) although there will also be a few tasks that require longer term preparation. Mostly, people will be needed for front of house, the cloakroom, the refreshments stalls etc. A full list of the tasks you can volunteer for will be ready ahead of the party and there will be sign-up sheets available on the night. FEATS is a great weekend, full of creative energy, and so far it has always been lots of fun – thanks to the fact that we have had plenty of people to help out. We hope you will all join us again this time around to lighten the load for everyone and feel a part of this great festival.

We have a different venue this time – the Marni theatre in Ixelles, close to Place Flagey. It is an excellent venue and easily accessible by bus and tram.



*FEATS takes place over four days, with 12 amateur English-speaking theatre groups from across Europe taking part. Each one presents a short one-act play, with three performances every evening, and each night the adjudicator gives their comments on the three plays. On the last night, there is also an awards ceremony, best show, best actors, best stage management etc. But needless to say, it is the taking part that counts.

*Please join us on 4 October 2019 to have party, and tell us how you can help.
It won't take up much of your time and you'll have great fun on the way.*

@ @ @



The ECC Proudly Presents

Beauty and the Beast - The Panto

17-19 January 2020 at the Auderghem Cultural Centre

Tickets are on sale @ thelittleboxoffice.com/ECC

Panto time again!

It's the end of the summer, and that can mean only one thing - the ECC Brussels panto team are cranking into gear ready for their next performance! This time around, it's the magical love story of *Beauty and the Beast* that will get the panto treatment, with a fresh spin on the classic tale.



When Prince Charleroi refuses the unwanted advances of evil Fairy Villanelle, she casts a spell on his castle, turning him into the terrifying Beast and all his servants into talking clocks, candlesticks and cutlery. He must find true love before the last petal falls from one of the roses in the castle garden or stay forever as the Beast. Meanwhile, Dame Blanche, the village baker, has big plans for her son, the vain Jean-Claude Van Tastique, who she sees as a perfect match for Belle...Dame Blanche has her own eyes on Belle's unfortunate Papa. But when Papa has to leave the village to seek new buyers for his crazy inventions, he stumbles upon the Beast's castle, and is only allowed to leave if he sends Belle in his stead. Belle's brother Clumsy Clarence and their two inexplicably Belgian sisters Stephanie and Louiza, along with Jean-Claude, Dame Blanche and the faithful family horse Hector, set off to rescue her. With a big dose of help from the Rose Fairy, the evil spell is broken and everyone lives happily ever after...



With a cast of both panto regulars and panto newcomers, *Beauty and the Beast* will be performed, as always, at the Auderghem Cultural Centre from 17-19 January 2020. It is written and directed by Kate Goddard, a newcomer to Brussels, and by Chris Jones, making a welcome (for him) return to the panto scene.



Expect cakes, cream, fairies, wolves, feather dusters, suits of armour, fantastic costumes, spectacular song and dance routines and the usual combination of bad jokes and classic panto characters.

Chris and Kate

@ @ @

Review

YOUTH THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

(8-12 July and 15-19 July 2019)

In 2018, the ECC organised its first **Youth Theatre Summer School** to show our younger members that there's more to theatre than simply acting, dancing, singing and speaking on stage. Over 30 children took part in the first summer school and their parents were invited along to see a performance based around the tales of Robin Hood.

That first year generated so much positive feedback that Steve O'Byrne and his team, with a huge amount of support and encouragement from the ECC committee, agreed to run it again, twice! So, over two weeks in July 2019, 50 children joined the team at the warehouse studio complex to produce two great shows featuring King Arthur and the Legends surrounding Avalon and Pendragon.

Through developing the script ideas that Steve Challens brought, taking it from page to stage; decorating the set and making props; working with lights & sound; imagining makeup designs and how to apply them; learning dances and songs; creating costumes; working on publicity, poster and program design; the students brought our 'Arthurian Legends' to life.



Dragons, creatures living in the Lady's Lake, a female Lancelot, new stories and tales, from drawing the sword from the stone to the Raven's finale song, the children loved it. No boredom, no tears, just fun, games and hard work, combined to make an incredible and very memorable experience.

Steve drew together an amazing team of teachers and workshop leaders to introduce children to a variety of theatre crafts while working towards a performance at the end of each week. Thanks to Steve O'B., Stevie C., Andrew Glover, Patrick Maher, James Hogan, Geneviève Lacroix, Rosarinho Baylina and Michaela Panteli for their talent and dedication in presenting the different aspects of a theatrical production to a diverse group of children aged from 5 to 15. A truly great bunch of drama teachers, singing and voice coaches, choreographers, make-up artists, set designers, prop masters and sound & lighting techs, etc.

On behalf of the team, we'd like to thank the ECC committee for the faith it has placed in us and its younger members. Its continued support ensures that the Summer School can grow from strength to strength. Its vision in creating the project is sure to pay greater dividends in the future. It serves to strengthen the idea that the ECC is not just a club that produces wonderful theatre but that it is part of a community that can be enjoyed by old and YOUNG alike!!

While the ECC does not organise year-round youth theatre activities in English, there are several other groups around Brussels who do. For anyone interested in youth theatre drama classes, musical theatre productions and LAMDA qualifications, please contact the following groups:

English Youth Theatre (EYT)

<https://www.englishyouththeatre.be/>

Fish'n'Whiskers

<http://www.littleseal.eu/fnw-home/>

Panda All-Stars

<https://pandaallstars.com>

Jet's Academy

<https://www.jets-academy.com/>

Hope to see some of the youngsters at the next summer school in July 2020.

Steve O'Byrne & Steve Challens.



@ @ @

Next Play Reading

The October play reading will be Alan Bennett's "Allelujah!".

Allelujah!, is an NHS drama set in a friendly hospital in rural Yorkshire. Colin, an ambitious local boy turned metropolitan yuppie, has arrived from London to visit his sick father and he takes the opportunity to assess the efficiency of the hospital on behalf of his bosses at the health department in Whitehall. Meanwhile, a TV crew has found evidence that a staff member is murdering elderly patients to create vacant beds for new arrivals. In reality Allelujah! is a musical and not strictly politically accurate: the latter I'm going to ignore and the former will be mentioned but we will not be singing, and I will not be choreographing dance routines!

If you are interested in attending, please let Janet know in advance that you are coming, ideally by signing up on the Doodle, but otherwise please send a message.

<https://doodle.com/poll/62h2svcid7rxauyk>

Those on the mailing list will receive further information shortly or contact Janet Middleton for details.

@ @ @

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

<u>ATC</u>	<i>Whose Afraid of Virginia Wolf</i> by Edward Albee , 8-12 October 2019, Petit Théâtre Mercelis
<u>ITG</u>	<i>Our Few and Evil Days</i> by Mark O'Rowe, 5 to 9 November, Petit Théâtre Mercelis
<u>BLOC</u>	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i> , 21-24 November 2019, Auderghem Cultural Centre

**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**

ECC PRIVACY POLICY

In line with the General Data Protection Regulation the ECC has adopted a **Privacy Policy** to give you a clear understanding of what information we collect about you, how we collect it (from you directly and from third parties), how we use it, and how we keep it secure. [Full details of the ECC Privacy Policy are on our web site: http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/?page_id=1954](http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/?page_id=1954)

You can contact us at any time to access the information we hold about you on privacy@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com