



ECCO

DECEMBER 2008

English Comedy Club, Brussels

Hello,

It is the last ECCO before 2009 – where did 2008 go?! As I write, we are about to launch into A Christmas Carol, which I hope will get everyone into the Christmas spirit! As with any show, lots of people have put lots of time and energy into getting us this far, so here's hoping that all the input transforms into a magical output.

After Christmas, the ECC has a bit of a breather until "Absurd Person Singular" in March. Diana has assembled a great cast, and we will be asking for a status report in the next ECCO. You will also hear more about plans for an event at the Brussels town hall – originally pencilled in for January, a booking clash has resulted in us switching to April. Of course, there will be plenty of theatre to keep us all entertained in January when the ATC puts on "The Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr (abridged)", and in February with the BSS production of "Othello".

A quick word also about the Adopt-a-Brick fundraising drive, in place to raise funds for the ailing Warehouse, and still very much taking donations. I had the good fortune to be involved in rehearsed playreadings that took place at the Warehouse on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 December, with proceeds going to the fund. Both plays were original scripts, by Hugh Dow and Alma Forsyth respectively. I never cease to be amazed at the range of theatrical talent in our Brussels Anglophone theatre community – playwrights, directors, lighting designers, costume mistresses... you name it, there is someone out there who is fabulous at it! I don't know whether it is down to luck or by design that all these skills make it to Brussels, but I for one am very happy to benefit from them, whether as a member of the audience or occasionally as a "poor strolling player".

With that, it is off to the Christmas Carol technical rehearsal. A merry Christmas to you all and "God bless us, every one"!

All the best
Abi Greef

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scarabaeus Theatre

19-27, rue Creuse, 1030 – Brussels

8pm: Tuesday 9th – Saturday 13th December 2008

3pm: Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 2008

Time is running out to get your tickets for A Christmas Carol... bookings are still being taken on the website or on 0477 408 704. Guaranteed fun for all.

Auditions/workshop: The Girl Who Loved Hitler

Warehouse, Sunday 14 December 19.00 and Wednesday 17 December 20.00

The English Comedy Club is delighted to be working with Brussels-based award-winning playwright, Andrew McLroy. "The Girl who loved Hitler" is a new play by Andrew for the English Comedy Club's centenary year and it will be raising eyebrows next October. The play is loosely based around the story of Unity Mitford and the confusion of British sympathies in the years leading up to World War II and will be a promenade production, featuring music, song and movement. "Lots of the English aristocracy were pro-Hitler", Andrew says.

"We're going to explore that..." Andrew is looking for talent & enthusiasm. "We need a bit of everything. Every accent under the sun – cut glass 1940's voices, salt of the earth barrow boys and the odd German and/or Mittel Europa aristocrat. Plus great crowd scenes!" They say his rehearsals are a bit of a roller coaster so come prepared to give anything a go!

MONTHLY PLAYREADING: Monty Python special

Directed by Steve Challens

Wednesday 17 December, 19.45

Mary Pritchard's house (Avenue Bel Air 32, 1180 Bruxelles)

Christmas special, complete with mulled wine – all welcome (especially those who want to bring some mince pies to accompany the mulled wine!)

Please ring Mary Pritchard on 02 345 85 83 beforehand to confirm attendance.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ECC

9–14 December 2008: A Christmas Carol (Scarabaeus)

A Mainstage production of a classic Christmas tale to get you in the mood.

Sunday 1 February 2009: FEATS launch party!

3–14 March 2009: Absurd Person Singular (Studio)

A two-week Studio production of a modern classic.

Saturday 18 April 2009: Centenary Year Launch reception at Town Hall

A club event to launch the start of the Centenary year itself in style – watch this space for more info.

29 May–1 June 2009: FEATS in Brussels (Woluwe CC)

FEATS is a 30+ year old European theatre festival, which takes place in a different city each year. Expect the legendary competition and fringe productions, as well as youth activities and workshops. A feast of theatre!



**19–20 June 2009: Delyria – Shakespeare Club Night
("Museum" Nightclub – tbc)**

A new take on Shakespeare, updated and performed in a nightclub space at midsummer – truly unmissable.

27 June 2009 (tbc): The Adventures of Lady Ursula - & Garden Party at the British Ambassadors Residence

A garden party and play reading of one of the first plays ever performed by the ECC.