



ECCO

JULY 2009

English Comedy Club, Brussels

Dear All,

It's been a great year! We saw excellent and inventive theatre from Absurd Person Singular to Delyria, some great rehearsed playreadings put together in miraculously little time, and, last but not least (as you'll know if you made it along to the Woluwe Cultural Centre), FEATS 2009 – a great success. We're already thinking of next season – see below for the treats in store from the autumn onwards, as well as the full BUTT (hot off the press) and FEATS results (to remind you of 2008-2009!) and a round-up of Delyria by Steve Challens. Our last Adopt-A-Brick quiz has been postponed until September, so watch this space for updates.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering – on or off stage, or on the Committee – do let us know (ecctickets@yahoo.com). In particular, we're looking for a Publicity volunteer from the autumn onwards and for lots of cheerful techies! Also, if you'd be interested in putting yourself forward as Director for our FEATS 2010 entry in Bad Homburg (13-16 May 2010), give us a shout asap.

Have a lovely summer!

All the best,
ECCO Editor

EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS

PRODUCTION CALENDAR:

22-26 September 2009 – **Someone Who'll Watch Over Me** (dir. Conrad Toft, for the ECC), The Warehouse, rue Waelhem 69a, Schaerbeek (box office now open – see below for more details)

29 September to 3 October 2009 – **ETCetera** (various directors), The Warehouse, rue Waelhem 69a, Schaerbeek

20-24 October 2009 – **The Yellow Wallpaper** (dir. Caraigh McGregor, for the ATC), The Warehouse, rue Waelhem 69a, Schaerbeek

9-14 November 2009 – **Julius Caesar** (dir. Hugh Dow, for the BSS), The Warehouse, rue Waelhem 69a, Schaerbeek

8-12 December 2009 – **The Cherry Orchard** ((dir. Malinda Coleman, for the ECC), Theatre Mercelis, rue Mercelis 13, Ixelles

19-30 January 2010 – **Oscar & the Pink Lady** (dir. Malinda Coleman, for the ATC), The Warehouse, rue Waelhem 69a, Schaerbeek

9-13 February 2010 – **All's Well That Ends Well** (dir. Liz Merrill, for the BSS), Scarabeus Theatre, rue Creuse 19, Schaerbeek

AUGUST PLAYREADING Wednesday 5 August, 7.45pm Avenue Bel Air 32, 1180 Bruxelles

August's playreading will be Noel Cowards' *Hay Fever* at Mary Pritchard's house. Please ring ahead on 02 345 8583 to confirm numbers.

We're very pleased to announce that the box office for *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* is now open – here's a quick preview:

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME
by FRANK McGUINNESS directed by CONRAD TOFT

Three men. One cell. A lifetime.

English Theatre Club
8pm, 22-26 September 2009
The Warehouse Theatre, Brussels

Julian Theatre Group
7.30pm, 2-3 October 2009
The Place, Bedford

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME
by FRANK McGUINNESS directed by CONRAD TOFT

There's an Englishman, an Irishman and an American being held hostage in the Lebanon... Not the start of a joke, but the premise behind Frank McGuinness's modern classic.

Colum Hatchell, Patrick Stephenson and Craig Simpson star in this dark, surprisingly funny and thought-provoking play which describes the trials, tribulations and inner strengths of the hostages, exposing their uneasy friendship and petty rivalries, and revealing to us the depths of the human condition.

Brussels tickets: €14 / €12
ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
or +32 (0) 477 408 704

Bedford tickets: £7.50 / £6
www.theplacebedford.org.uk
or +44 (0) 1234 269519

Brussels United Technical Theatre (BUTT) Awards 2009 RESULTS!!

A crowd gathered for the second annual BUTT Awards on 11 July – and the rain held off long enough to allow an afternoon of picnicking and awards! BUTT 2009 polo shirts are still available from martinjohnkirk@yahoo.co.uk.

BEST SHOW

Dancing at Lughnasa (ITG)

BEST DIRECTING

Conrad Toft [Diana of Dobsons, 84 Charing Cross Road – 100 Not Out]



Conrad Toft scooped up the Best Director award

BEST MALE ACTING

Mehran Khalili [Othello]

BEST FEMALE ACTING

Hilary Barry [Diana Massingberd, Diana of Dobsons; Marion Brewster-Wright, Absurd Person Singular; Irene, The Dresser – 100 Not Out]

BEST PRODUCING

Carrie Counce [Othello]



Carrie Counce (centre) won Best Producer – and let's not forget Zsuzsanna Dakai (left) for Best Dressed!

BEST STAGE MANAGEMENT

Sue Botterell [Diana of Dobsons, Absurd Person Singular & Loves Labours Lost (ASM)]

BEST PUBLICITY DESIGN

Diana of Dobsons [Conrad Toft]

BEST FOH/BOX OFFICE

FEATS 2009 [Carrie Counce, Miram Cooper, Conrad Toft & team]

BEST PROPS

Absurd Person Singular [Eileen Sutton]

BEST COSTUMES

Diana of Dobsons [Iona Hamilton]

BEST MAKE UP AND HAIR

Diana of Dobsons [Suzy Wild, Agnes Andrews]

BEST SOUND

Fiddler on the Roof [Jim McKenna, Richard Maddern]



....all ably hosted by Jim McKenna, who also won Best Sound for *Fiddler on the Roof!*

BEST LIGHTING

Riverside Drive [Lyn Wainwright]

BEST SET

Absurd Person Singular [Philip Deeks, Marie Horner]

TEAMWORK

FEATS 2009

The Alan Kenway Memorial Perseverance award

Barbara Blackwell

BEST NEWCOMER

Kevin Bulled

WOW FACTOR AUDIENCE AWARD

An Evening with Friends – 3 dotty aunts

MUSICAL MOMENT

Fiddling on the roof in *Fiddler on the Roof*

Golden BUTT (open nomination)

Sue Botterell for putting up with us all

...and just to remind you.... The full FEATS 2009 results

- **The Kast Cup for Best Production:** NWTC, Luxembourg for *The Lesson* by Eugène Ionesco
- **The ECC Centennial Cup (Second Place):** The Stockholm Players for *Stepping out of a dream* by Gary Clarke
- **The Taché Diamonds Award (Third Place):** Het Homerostheater, The Hague for *An excerpt from The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh
- **The DAW-Verulam Award (Best Original Script):** *Not awarded*
- **The Grand Duchy Cup (Best Stage Presentation):** ATC, Brussels for *Riverside Drive* by Woody Allen
- **The Marcel Huhn-Bruno Boeye Trophy (Stage Management):** The Hamburg Players for *The Proposal* by Anton Chekhov
- **The Don Luscombe Award (Adjudicator's Discretionary Award):** Film Sequence in *Shakespeare in Paris* by Stuart Marlow
- **The Blackie Award for Best Actress:** Antonia Kitzel from Fest, Frankfurt in *Death in Heels* by Paul Domineske
- **The Blackie Award for Best Actor:** Wander Bruijtel from Het Homerostheater, The Hague in *An excerpt from The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh

DELYRIA

A round-up by Steve Challens

The ECC finished its season off with a cast of 23 taking to the stage in a nightclub and performing a piece devised from Shakespeare texts. Seasoned hands as well as new faces to Brussels theatre joined together to see in the Midsummer Solstice and boogie the remains of the night away. Guests came from London, Leeds and as far as Malaysia to be part of a night that saw the end of the season.

The story had three narrators in Puck, Ariel and Caliban as they viewed two gangs duke it out for club supremacy. Only Duncan, the owner of the nightclub, kept the two groups in an uneasy peace. Once Lady M, Mac (the leader of the Legends) and the evil witches kill him, all hell breaks loose. Romeo accidentally stabs Tybalt and is barred from the club. Arry the owner's nephew swears revenge.

Thrown into this mix were Sander, Dem, Mia and Helen having the worst midsummer's night out imaginable; lost in the peacock woods, they brought light humour to all the murder abound. On a more serious note, Romeo on one side meets Juliet placed on the other: never will this love be allowed. Banc (Mac's right hand man) is killed off and both Lady M and Mac begin to turn on their own side as well. Arry meanwhile has pulled the Delyriaks together and declares war on the Legends. A full-scale riot ensues, leading to Mac and Arry facing off in a one-on-one duel with Mac battering the boy.



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Still, the boy has the last word. Arry is crowned as the rightful new boss and the lovers are righted – however, the victory sadly comes too late along for Romeo and Jay with Lady M who is visited by voices and ghosts. All three commit suicide before Arry defeats Mac. Arry is crowned by his love interest, the quiet Miranda, who faithfully stands by his side throughout. The Ghost of Duncan returns to bless the happy occasion – however, so do the ghosts of the Macs to remind him that the power of the knife may once again at some stage come into play.

The audience were interactive throughout the show, being covered in bubbles and given free fruit as well as being brought into several dance sequences like the masked Ball. Old and new members developed a one-night piece that has been created into a DVD for the ECC's 100th year. It was an ambitious post-FEATs project that saw the warehouse converted into a club twice for filming as well as having probably the most outrageous costumes Brussels has yet to see. An idea suggested by Phillip Deeks two years ago at a planning meeting at Antonia Mochan's came to life in a way that the Donkey Show based on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* did in the 1970s.

The DVD is ready to be viewed and as soon as the cast can get together in late summer then anyone unavailable on the night itself is welcome to come along and enjoy the Delyrium one last time.

Many thanks to all involved!