



**ECCO**  
**MARCH 2009**  
English Comedy Club, Brussels

Dear All,

Welcome to this month's ECCO. We're getting excited about the opening of ***Absurd Person Singular*** this Tuesday (3-7 and 10-14 March) – all signs are pointing to a great show so don't miss it! Tickets are still available but are going fast: we're currently sold out on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, and Friday 13<sup>th</sup>.

Not content with putting on a two-week show, this month we're also holding our **monthly playreading** (Brecht's *Mother Courage*) on 4 March and lending our support to another great **Adopt-A-Brick fundraising event** on 7 March, namely a coffee morning and silent auction, not to mention gearing up for more **Centenary celebrations** in April.

We're also proud to announce that the box office for FEATS (**Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies**), to be held in Brussels over the weekend of 29 May to 1 June, is now open. The web address is <http://feats2009.theatreinbrussels.com/tickets.htm> and the phone number is 0488 165 395; it will be available between 9.00 and 12.00, Monday to Friday. It's going to be a great – and busy – spring!

We've received lots of interest for FEATS since last month's launch party, but any more volunteers are still very welcome – please do sign up, and encourage friends and colleagues to do so too, however little time you can offer. Contact Janet Middleton on 02/347.11.13 or [feats2009@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:feats2009@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com) for more information.

We've also been hard at work planning our **2009-2010 season**, having held our now customary meeting in late February to discuss ideas and proposals for next season. Rights, booking of the right theatres and various other practical things permitting, I am delighted to report that it looks as though we will soon be in a position to announce the full line-up for next season. It will be a blend of contemporary and classic, with two Studio productions and a mainstage, plus an entry for FEATS (as 2009 hosts, we are automatically invited to the 2010 festival in Bad-Homburg, Germany). More news soon...

In other Brussels news, the ITG is presenting ***Edith***, by Loretta Stanley, at the Warehouse Studio Theatre from 31 March-4 April at 20.00 (<http://www.irishtheatregroup.com/next.htm>).

I hope to see you at one of these events in the coming weeks as we look forward to a full spring and summer of Brussels English-speaking theatre.

All the best,  
Abi Greef  
ECC Chair

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**EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS**

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**CALENDAR ROUND-UP (see below for full details):**

4 March 2009: Monthly playreading (Mother Courage by Brecht), 20 rue Louis Hymans, Ixelles

3–14 March 2009: Absurd Person Singular by Alan Ayckbourn (Warehouse Studio)

Saturday 7 March: Brick Fund Coffee Morning and Silent Auction

Saturday 18 April 2009: Centenary Year Launch reception at Brussels Town Hall (TBC)

23-25 April 2009: ECC 100 Not Out

5-9 May 2009: ATC Café Theatre, Maison Blanche, Uccle

29 May–1 June 2009: FEATS weekend

20 June 2009: Delyria – Shakespeare Club Night (“Museum” Nightclub)

**ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR BY ALAN AYCKBOURN****3-7 and 10-14 March 2009, 8pm**

Directed by Diana Morton-Hooper

Warehouse Studio Theatre, 69a rue Waelhem, 1030 Schaerbeek

€ 15 (€13 for ECC members and students)

Box office now open at <http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/>

or 0477 408704 (between 1pm and 6pm)

Three couples. Three kitchens. Three hilarious Christmas parties – firstly chez social climber Sidney Hopcroft and loyal wife Jane, with a knack for housework but little else, secondly chez philandering unsuccessful architect Geoffrey Jackson and suicidal wife Eva, and lastly chez over the hill banker Ronald Brewster-Wright and his dipsomaniac second spouse Marion. Ranked as one of Ayckbourn’s funniest and most popular plays, Absurd Person Singular has running through it a darker thread. Through the wild comedy of Christmas party disasters is the story of the advance of the Hopcrofts to material prosperity and the decline of the others. Written in the 1970s, it still has resonance today: the underdog overcoming adversity, the rise and fall of the class system, character weaknesses, misplaced egos.... But as with all Ayckbourn, he will make you laugh heartily until that moment when you wonder if one of those people could be you...

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**EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS – EVENTS**

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WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH  
**MONTHLY PLAYREADING: MOTHER COURAGE**  
BY BRECHT

Wednesday 4 March sees another ECC monthly playreading, this time at Barbara Blackwell's house (20 rue Louis Hymans, Ixelles) from 7.45 onwards. Please ring Mary Pritchard beforehand on 02.3458583 to give an idea of numbers - it would be great to see you, whether you want to join in or just watch.

SATURDAY 7 MARCH  
**WAREHOUSE BRICK FUND COFFEE MORNING AND**  
**SILENT AUCTION**

Come and join us for coffee & home-made cake between **10am and 2pm on Saturday 7 March**, and while there take the time to bid for one of the fantastic gifts and services donated by Friends of the Brick Fund. A silent auction allows you to look around at what is on offer, choose the item you want and simply add your name to the list before each item to place your bid. Multiple bids welcome. Think eBay in the real world!

SATURDAY 18 APRIL  
**ECC CENTENARY PARTY**

Plans are underway for another club event to celebrate our centenary season. We had originally hoped to have drinks at the New Year but our venue – the Brussels Town Hall – had a double booking, so we re-scheduled to 18 April. We are still working out the details of the evening, but here is what we can tell you so far:

- Time: 1900-2100 (TBC)
- Theme: ENGLAND! As it will almost be St. George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday, we decided to celebrate with an England theme. "English" costume will be voluntary, but of course encouraged and warmly welcomed!

More details will follow as we finalise arrangements with the Town Hall.

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## **REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

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If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible! We very much hope that you will wish to continue supporting the ECC, as well as obtaining benefits such as reductions on ticket prices. Membership remains at the rate of €10 per year, and only €5 for students, stagiaires and under-18s, with the membership year running from 1 October to 30 September.

We would be very grateful if all new and continuing members could fill in a copy of the attached membership form, in order to ensure that our contact details remain current. If you have any queries regarding membership, please do not hesitate to contact our membership secretary, Rachel Cuff, on [rachel.cuff@blplaw.com](mailto:rachel.cuff@blplaw.com) or 0486 102632.

You can pay membership dues by bank transfer to our account: **310-0627727-29**. Don't forget to put your name in the communication. Then please take a moment to **update the form on the next page** and send it by:

- Post, to **English Comedy Club, rue Waelhemstraat 73, 1030 Brussels** or
- Or E-mail to [Rachel.cuff@blplaw.com](mailto:Rachel.cuff@blplaw.com)

For the sum of €10 a year (€5 for students, stagiaires and under 18s), you will be entitled to:

- Our regular newsletter, ECCO, with information on forthcoming auditions, shows and other club events
- Reductions on tickets for ECC productions
- Membership of CAST, giving access to the rehearsal rooms and workshop in the Warehouse complex for ECC, ATC and ITG events
- Participation in monthly play readings and other club events.



## English Comedy Club, Brussels

### Membership address and telephone number update

I am a new member	I am renewing my membership
Date:	

Name			
Address	(street & no.)		
	(commune)		
mobile phone			
Tel (daytime/office)			Tel (evenings)
e-mail			

I am interested in (PLEASE TICK):

ACTING		DIRECTING		PRODUCING	
RUNNING PLAYREADINGS		RUNNING BOX OFFICE		TAKING BOOKINGS	
ATTENDING PLAYREADINGS		COSTUMES		PROPERTIES	
STAGE MANAGEMENT		SET BUILDING		PAINTING	
LIGHTING		SOUND		PUBLICITY	
MAKEUP		HAIR		FRONT OF HOUSE	
OTHER					