



ECCO

OCTOBER 2008

English Comedy Club, Brussels

Greetings from the new Chair. It is with mixed feelings that I take up the post – first and foremost, sadness that a far better qualified Chair, a lovely man and a dear friend, Paul Davis, is leaving Brussels (which is why the post became vacant); second, a healthy dose of terror at what on earth I think I am doing standing for Chair in such an important season; and third, an underlying sense of confidence that there is a great committee plus various sub-committees to organise FEATS and the centenary season that are packed with brilliant people who will keep everything running beautifully! A particularly warm welcome to our three new committee members: Iona Hamilton, well known to many in the Club for her jaw-droppingly good costumes; Harriet Mancey-Barratt, who joined the club in May and has already thrown herself with gusto into a whole bunch of vital jobs, including ECCO; and Conrad Toft, who has far too many roles to list, so I will just mention that he is our webmaster! The rest of the team is as it was: Jo Jack, Treasurer; Sara Murray, Secretary; Andy Ing, FEATS rep; Stevie Challens, CAST (and Chair of the FEATS steering committee); Martin Kirk, CAST (and Centenary steering committee); and Rachel Cuff, Membership Secretary.

Having kicked off the centenary season with the dinner, we also have a superb production under our belts – my congratulations go once again to the *Diana of Dobson's* team who gave us such a wonderful show. December will see us in full Christmas mode, with *A Christmas Carol* being performed at the Scarabaeus from 9-14th – this will definitely be one to enjoy with the whole family. Director Lynne Vaughan has already been mentioning mince pies, mulled wine and industrial quantities of holly...

It will only take a quick look at the new *Theatre in Brussels* brochure – produced under the steerage of the ACTS Committee, and with Roisin Dore to thank for the hard work of creating it and getting it to the printer – to prove what we all knew already: we do a lot of theatre! The ECC has gone into overdrive in this 100th season of course, but even in a regular season we do 3 or 4 shows. With the limited time and resources we have, it is sometimes difficult to step back and think a little more broadly, looking at longer-term choices. Following a suggestion at the AGM, a few of the Committee members, with the kindly offered assistance of Philip Deeks, will be looking at some of those broader issues, and summarising discussion points for the Committee (which, given my day job in strategy, are likely to be presented in PowerPoint, I warn you now!). If you have any views on where the Club should be in 5, 10, or 50 years from now, do voice them to any of the Committee – 'the way forward' for any club is the way that its members want to go.

Above all, I am hoping that I can steer the ship this season on the course so ably set by Paul and others – and trust that we will all have some fun on the journey!

Happy reading,
Abi Greef

SHOWS – SHOWS – SHOWS – SHOWS – SHOWS – SHOWS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Scarabaeus Theatre
19-27, rue Creuse, 1030 – Brussels
Tuesday 9 – Sunday 14th December 2008

A Dickens classic comes to Brussels. Guaranteed fun for all, so **save the dates** now! As well as the show we'll be offering Victorian games and refreshments in the foyer. It's truly not to be missed (as you can tell by the cheesy border – no efforts have been spared...).

See the website for **booking information**. There will be evening performances Tuesday to Saturday, plus matinées at the weekend. If anyone is interested in **volunteering** for the show, whether backstage or front-of-house, please let Steve Challens know (stephenchallens@gmail.com).

Auditions/workshop: The Girl Who Loved Hitler Sunday 7 December 2008

Unity: There he is!

Anna: Isn't he small?

Unity: He's very neatly made. Where are they sitting?

Anna: Oh, look! They're moving those old people. The old gentleman doesn't seem very happy.

Unity: He's probably a communist sympathiser...

Anna: I think his wife has a bad leg, he's protesting about ... oh look, look Unity, they're throwing them out!

Unity: His aides get a bit over excited sometimes...

Anna: I suppose Germans are used to it. Autres pays, autres moeurs as Mummy keeps saying about the French...

After his success with *Some Blue Horizon* and *The Interpreter* (Channel Four Radio), Andrew McIlroy will premier a new play in October 2009 with the English Comedy Club: 'The Girl Who Loved Hitler'. 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. The auditions for this piece will be slightly different to the usual format and will take place over a day's workshopping and exploration of the play and its themes on **December 7 2008**. The workshop will be run by Joyce Branagh, a new writing and theatre specialist, and Andrew McIlroy, and will look at movement, text and voice for this period. We will be looking for some crisp English voices and a variety of accents so please come – to act, to sing, to listen or just to find out more! An entrance fee (30 EUR) may be charged to cover costs.

For more information please contact: Andrew McIlroy: andrew.mcilroy@brutele.be (+32 496 555117) or Louise Lang: langhome@skynet.be (+32 477 726502)

MONTHLY PLAYREADING: Pornography by Simon Stephen
Directed by Lyn Wainwright

Wednesday 5 November, 19.45

Barbara Blackwell's house (20 rue Louis Hymans, 1050 Brussels)
Please ring Mary Pritchard on 02 345 85 83 to confirm attendance. All welcome!

Please note, exceptionally, our **December playreading** will take place later than usual, on **Wednesday 17 December** at Mary Pritchard's house. Steve Challens will be directing a Monty Python classic (watch this space), which will no doubt be helped along by the mulled wine and mince pies! Again, please ring Mary to confirm attendance.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN THEATRICAL SOCIETY (BATS), ANTWERP
PRESENTS

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS

by Neil Simon

Wednesday 5 to Saturday 8 November 2008 @ 8:15 pm

at the Klokhuis Theatre, Parochiaanstraat 4, 2000 Antwerp (between Lange Nieuwstraat and Sint-Jacobsmarkt): Trams 10 and 11, or any bus to Rooseveltplaats bus station (5 mins walk)

Tickets: €13 adults, €10 students

Reservations by e-mail to BATS_tickets@yahoo.com or call 0495/317 687

For more information about BATS, go to www.batsantwerp.be

NEW PLAY FROM BRUSSELS SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY:



WILL and The Ghosts
Studio Theatre - 69 Rue Waelhem - 1030 Brussels
11 - 15 November 2008 8:00pm

Will and the Ghost
Directed by Dominic Kelleher

Extracts from Hamlet
Directed by Marianna Vogt

Extracts from Macbeth
Directed by Janet Middleton and Joe Tancredi

CAST ADOPT-A-BRICK QUIZ

CAST is continuing in its efforts to raise €100,000 to carry out urgent structural work at The Warehouse complex, as well as installing heating/cooling systems in the Studio and rehearsal rooms and improving the toilets.

The campaign is running for the whole of this season and the next event will be the Adopt-A-Brick Quiz, which is taking place on **16 November** at **7.30pm** at the Warehouse, Rue Waelhem 73, 1030 Schaerbeek. If you would like to bring a team of four people along to join in the fun for just 10 euros each, simply fill in the [online](#) form at www.theatreinbrussels.com. There is a limit of 20 teams so book soon!

You can also "Adopt a brick" on the website. For a donation of a minimum of €50, you will receive a special certificate and your name will appear on a list of donors to be permanently displayed in the Warehouse Studio Theatre.



REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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@bplaw.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@bplaw.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.



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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					

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.

17 January 2009 (tbc): 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.

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

A two-week Studio production of a modern classic.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: OTHER SOCIETIES

5-8 November: Last of the Red Hot Lovers (BATS) – Antwerp (see above)

11–15 November 2008: Will and the Ghosts (BSS) – Studio

20-23 November 2008: Fiddler on the Roof (BLOC) – Auderghem C.C.