

If you have any suggestions or comments for ECCO, then please send them to Janet at ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com.

The next ECCO will come out in February 2011.

ECCO

December 2010



"I've always believed good theatre grows from people and not from locations. Where doesn't matter if you get the right people with the right spirit and the right material. The key to good theatre is its liveness."

Alan Ayckbourn

Festive Greetings ...

I hope that the latest ECCO finds everyone well and wrapped up warmly! It was great to see those of you who could make it to our AGM about a month ago, and I am delighted to welcome Janet Middleton to the Committee as our new ECCO Editor.

Although we postponed the production planned for December, and will now be bringing "Private Fears in Public Places" to you in February-March, there are still plenty of theatre-related things to do – the traditional pre-Christmas playreading, plus the unexpected bonus of a one-man show by former Brussels

resident Ryan Millar.

Enjoy!
Best wishes for Christmas and 2011.

Abigail Greef



Abigail.Greef@skynet.be

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Roman Around in Brussels



Roman Around:
A Guided Tour of the
Eternal City

Warehouse Studio
10-11 December 2010
8pm

[Tickets €10, members €8
ecco.theatreinbrussels.com](http://tickets.ecco.theatreinbrussels.com)

Roman Around: A Guided Tour of the Eternal City is both a guided tour of Rome (including the Roman Forum, Saint Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel) as well as a window into one man's struggle to make sense of life in the city.

Its creator, Ryan Millar, draws on his experience as a tour guide in Rome to produce a hilarious show, which received excellent reviews when it was performed at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival this year.

Ryan appeared in the English Comedy Club's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* in 2007. His first play, *The Power Force*, won The American Theatre Company of Brussels' One Act Playwriting Contest in 2007. He has recently finished his first short film *Flunky*, which he wrote and starred in. In the last year he has been working on an MA in Professional Writing at London Metropolitan University.

FEATS 2011

ECC Committee

Chair (& Acts Rep):	Abi Greef
Hon. Treasurer:	Martin Blackwell
Hon. Secretary:	Mark Prescott
Membership:	Rachel Cuff
FEATS Rep:	Andy Ing
CAST Rep:	Martin Kirk
ECCO:	Janet Middleton
Web:	Conrad Toft
Without Portfolio:	Iona Hamilton

The annual FEATS festival takes place next year in Geneva, organised by our friends from GEDS - the Geneva English Drama Society - on 10-13 June 2011. For those who were around in 1999 when GEDS last hosted, the festival will be taking place once again in the Forum Meyrin. Alongside the main festival will be the FEATS Fringe.

Although the ECC will not be entering a play in the competition next year, we can, if we wish, participate in The Fringe, which will run alongside the main event on Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoons, 11, 12 and 13 June.

The Fringe which, over the years, has become an eagerly awaited event in its own right, often produces inspired and inspiring pieces of theatre and dramatic art.

There are no limitations to performing in The Fringe, which is open to anyone who wishes to stage any genre of play, musical performance, comedy act, workshop, improv entertainment or other form of theatrical presentation.

There are a few guidelines, however:

- Running time of acts should be kept to less than one hour; workshops may be longer.
- Technically uncomplicated productions with small casts will be preferred.
- The procurement of performing rights is the responsibility of the performing groups.

The very flexible performance space will lend itself admirably to theatre in the round, although all formats will be possible. Should you wish, rostra will be available to provide a raised performance area BUT there is no proscenium arch, there are no wings, there are no curtains; lighting will be minimal, sound equipment simple. The accent will be upon performance and engagement with the audience.

What happens now?

- If you have a piece of theatre you would like to present, please contact Andy Ing or another member of the ECC Committee as soon as possible – no later than Tuesday 11 January.
- An application to participate does not guarantee acceptance by either ECC or GEDS!

Private Fears in Public Places

The ECC is back in the Warehouse Studio Theatre in the early spring with a cast to die for. *Private Fears in Public Places* is a 2004 play, by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn: the bleakest (although witty) by him for many years. It intimately follows a few days in the lives of seven characters:

- Estate agent **Stewart**, played by Richard Foxon (relishing a Northern accent), and his blind-dating sister **Imogen** (Abi Greef).
- Barman **Ambrose** and his difficult father **Arthur** are played by Michael Hales, making a welcome return to theatre, and David Buckley (David reprising another *Absurd Person Singular* Potter-type offstage character unseen but heard and presence very much felt).
- Unemployed ex-soldier **Dan** and his uncompromising girlfriend **Nicola** will be played by Craig Simpson and Rachel Cuff, and finally
- **Charlotte**, the devout estate agent with a past, is Alma Forsyth.

Director and Producer, Diana Morton-Hooper-Deeks, has assembled a first class production team with Philip Deeks, Marie Horner, Alice Perry, Sue Botterell, Sheila Hewitt, Andrea Theinert and Carsten Koestner.

After last year's hilarious *Absurd Person Singular*, Diana was all set to direct Terence Rattigan's *The Deep Blue Sea* for his centenary year in 2011, but the pull of Ayckbourn was too much, and she is back again with one more play from the master, though this time it isn't quite so rip roaringly funny as *Absurd Person Singular* or *Season's Greetings* but it will make you laugh. A lot....even if you feel they are guilty guffaws.

"Each of the characters has something to hide," says Diana, "and although each one is very different they are all inextricably linked. It's a play with no interval and each scene blends quickly into the next so that the skills of Philip, in creating a composite minimalist yet meaningful layered set, and the talents of Carsten, in lighting it and creating the sound effects, are just as crucial to the cast's choreographed interpretation of each role and scene. It is a huge challenge for all of us."

Lines already almost learned, rehearsals start in earnest immediately after New Year, for a short intense period. Yes, *Private Fears in Public Places* is almost up and running!

Dates for your diary are: Friday 25 Feb, Saturday 26 Feb at 20h, Sunday 27 Feb at 15h and then a run of Tues 1 March to Saturday 5 March at 20h. Box Office opens in early January.

**The Brussels Carol Concert -
Royal Conservatoire, 30 Rue de
la Regence, Brussels 1000.
Sunday, 19th December at 6.30
pm**

**Male singers are still
needed for the choir.**



Wednesday rehearsals Dec 8 and
Thursday 16 at 7.45 - 10 pm.
College St Pierre, Ave Cohan 205,
Uccle

Dress rehearsal Sat 18, 2 - 6pm at
BSB , Tervuren

Concert on Sunday 19 Dec at 6.30
with warm-up at 5pm

For further information please
contact marygow@gmail.com

ATC Workshop: Improv Refresher

December 11, 2010 1100-1700
Cost: €30 (includes ticket for
Ryan's performance of **Roman
Around: A Guided Tour of the
Eternal City** on Saturday, Dec
11)

Ryan Millar is back from London
to teach a one-day improv
refresher course for those with
some experience in improvised
theatre. He's got a whole bag of
new games and exercises (plus
some old favourites) and is ready
to share. The workshop fee
includes a ticket to that evening's
show, and, if you're feeling up to
it, the chance to hit the stage and
perform some improv!

The focus of the workshop will be
on **Story & Status**.

For more information and booking
details
see atc.theatreinbrussels.com.

**Are you in
with the IT
crowd?**

Wanted: Web
editor with
GSOH. Should
love ECC, or
be related to
someone who
does. Must be
good with
pets, incl.
mice.
Suits
experienced
keyboard
jockey or
keen amateur
aged 4 to 94.
Interested?

Email us now!

Next Playreading

The pre-Christmas
Playreading will take
place on

FRIDAY 10 December

at Mary Pritchard's.
32 ave. Bel Air, 1180
Brussels at 8 p.m.

Arrive from 7.45 to
indulge in mincepies,
mulled wine, Blackadder
...and a chance to meet
up with old friends.

If you intend to attend,
please call Mary P on

02 345 85 83 (between
8-10 or 20-22h)!

That time of year...

For those of you who have not
yet renewed your subscription
(which ran out at the end of
September!) we would still be
delighted to receive your
subscription for 2011.

We would like to remind you that
membership not only contributes
to supporting the ECC, but also
gives you benefits such as
reductions on ticket prices,
monthly play readings and other
events.

Membership remains at the rate
of €10 per year, and only €5 for
students, stagiaires and the
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
membership form on
ecc.theatreinbrussels.com under
Membership, 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 [membership@
ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:membership@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com) or
0486 102 632.

You can post your membership
forms by email or by post to
Rachel Cuff, Rue Lesbroussart
110, 1050 Brussels.

Membership dues can be paid
by bank transfer to our account:
310-0627727-29.

Please don't forget to put your
name in the communication.

Thank You!

We look forward to seeing you at
our productions throughout
2011!

Coming soon... .. for more see www.theatreinbrussels.com

THE
**BRUSSELS
CAROL
CONCERT**

SUNDAY
19TH DECEMBER 2010

Philippe Lambert
Choir director
& Conductor

Mary Gow
Assistant choir director
& Pianist

International Choir
& children from
Chœurs d'Enfants de Bruxelles
La Verséau International School
British School of Brussels
Collège St Pierre d'Uccle
British Junior Academy

Ensemble
Musica Ficta



tickets
€ 15 Adults
€ 10 Children under 13
Brusselscarol1010@gmail.com

6:30 PM
THE ROYAL BRUSSELS CONSERVATOIRE
30 rue de la Régence, Brussels 1000

info
02 462 12 77
0475 71 69 64
marygow@gmail.com

18-29 January 2011

The American Theatre Company presents
Anton in Show Business by Jane Martin, a
contemporary award-winning comedy.

This madcap comedy follows three actresses across the footlights, down the rabbit hole and into a strangely familiar Wonderland that looks a lot like American theatre the resemblance is uncanny! Holly Seabé is a gorgeous TV star pursuing the cache stage acting can give her to help her land a movie role. Casey Mulgraw, the "Queen of Off-Off-Broadway," has performed in 200 productions without pay. Lisabette Cartwright, a recent graduate of the Southern Methodist University theatre program, seeks a meaningful experience in theatre.

As these women pursue their dream of performing Chekhov in Texas, they're whisked through a maelstrom of "good ideas" that offer unique solutions to the Three Sisters' need to have life's deeper purpose revealed. In the tradition of great backstage comedies, *Anton in Show Business* conveys the joys, pains and absurdities of "putting on a play" at the turn of the century.

"A smart, acerbic crowd pleaser.... Simultaneously a love letter and a poison pen letter to the American theatre." *Variety*.

Tickets: atc.theatreinbrussels.com

ETCetera

AUDITIONS!

Peter Willis Writes:

ETCetera is putting together an evening based on Hamlet's own magnificent speeches, which tell the story of the play: and doing that in several languages (with surtitles) to show how other cultures interpret the Bard. Minimalist, with music!

This event will be directed by Hugh Dow, who has recently directed several of the great plays: Romeo and Juliet, Anthony and Cleopatra and Julius Caesar.

We are looking for English, French, Spanish and German speaking actors, male and female, to take part, Auditions will be at Hugh's house, Ave des Glycines 15, 1030 Schaerbeek, at 20.00 on Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th December, and 15.00 on Sunday 19th December. For more information please call me 0475 420 647 or Hugh 0494 337 025, or reply to this mail.

Please bring along a couple of speeches from Shakespeare, or any other playwright, in your language.

The play will be performed at The Warehouse Studio, Schaerbeek, March 14th to 19th 2011

Coming Soon ...

February 2011: The Brussels Shakespeare Society Presents *Macbeth*. For further information please visit www.shaksoc.com

Merry Christmas
and a
Very Happy 2011
From
The ECC