



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 January 2012

ALSO IN

THIS ISSUE:

AGM – New Committee

Annual Membership Reminder

Costumes

Facebook

Families aren't just for Christmas...

Forthcoming Events

Playreadings

Two in Bedford

Website

No thanks or congratulations this month! Please send any news of interest to your fellow members to Janet for inclusion in the next ECCO.

Letter from the Chair:

As the new ECC chairman, it's great to be able to take this opportunity to thank Abi Greef for all the behind the scenes work she put in as chair of our club and Martin Kirk for his work on the committee. Both stood down at the AGM after several years of services. My gratitude naturally extends to the continuing committee members as well as to those who joined at the AGM.

Along with the other amateur theatre groups in Brussels and Antwerp, the ECC has provided many magical hours of fantastic entertainment.

Our forthcoming show, "Families aren't just for Christmas..." (8-10 December) promises to live up to past productions.

I'd like to wish you all a **Merry Christmas** and look Forward to seeing you at our next production.

Sue
chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



Merry Christmas from the ECC!



The ECC proudly presents

Families aren't just for Christmas...

An evening of contemporary and classic entertainment

8-10 December 2011, 8pm
The Warehouse Studio Theatre
Tickets €12, €10 from
<http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com>

See next page for more details ...



8-10 December

8pm

*The Warehouse Studio
Theatre*

This Christmas the ECC is offering its audience a mix of something old and something new: a mix of contemporary pieces by local authors Martin Westlake, Graham Andrews, Carrie Counce and Conrad Toft together with some classic readings from Hans Christian Andersen, O. Henry, Sir Walter Scott and others.

There is an impressive cast, with actors old and new including Alma Forsyth, Sara Hammerton, Jenny Howard, John Howard, Rory Harvey-Kelly, Cherise Silvestri, Conrad Toft, Marion Tomkins and Richard Wells.

Together, they will take you on a journey from a 17th century Christmas, through the turn of the last century, tales of a dying parent, a first Christmas together, marital pleasure and pain and finally a trip into the future to see what Christmas might look like a hundred years from now.

Tickets are just 12 euros (10 euros for members or groups of ten) and will include a mince pie to help get you in the Christmas spirit. Book soon though, because places are limited and the show is only on from Thursday, 8 December to Saturday, 10 December.

You can book at the ECC web site

<http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com>

or by phone on 0487 252 748.

We look forward to seeing you there!

New ECC Committee for 2011/12

Many thanks to everyone who turned up to our AGM and gave their support to the work the committee has done on behalf of the club over the past year – and intends to do in the year to come!

As Sue has already said, Abi has done a fantastic job for the past three years, but we are all absolutely delighted when Sue agreed to take on the role of Chair of the ECC, and the committee is looking forward to working together under her leadership.

We are also delighted that Martin Blackwood has agreed to continue for one final year as Treasurer (he will have to stand down under our rules at the next AGM) and that Mark Prescott will continue as our Secretary.

In addition, existing committee members Andy Ing (Feats Representative), Conrad Toft (Website), Iona Hamilton, Janet Middleton (Ecco) and Rachel Cuff (Membership) are delighted that they will be joined by Lyn Wainwright and Rory Harvey-Kelly, and Sara Hammerton has offered herself for co-option on to the committee with particular responsibility for publicity.



Costume Clear-Out
Sunday 27 November
10.30 – 16.00 (ish)
to make the most of the daylight!

Iona writes:

The overall objective of this clear out is to

- ❖ get rid of costumes that are tired, duplicated, or that we think are generally unusable
- ❖ identify any costumes that need washing (there are quite a few, unfortunately)
- ❖ organise the costumes into categories that are easy to identify
- ❖ store the nicest quality costumes in plastic suit covers so as to keep them dust free and in good repair
- ❖ try to classify them in some way, so that people know roughly what is there (eg men's tail coats in sizes A, B, C).

Any volunteers who want to pop in for a couple of hours will be very welcome. It will be dusty work, but hopefully if there are a few of us there it will also be fun, and we will have the kettle on for cups of tea. I am sure that we will need a second phase of helpers early in the New Year, but hopefully we can make a good start on the 27th November... Anyone interested in popping in to help can email me:

ionamshamilton@yahoo.co.uk

.... and a reminder:

Membership Fees
Were Due
1st October!

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 (OR in this ECCO), 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 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!**

TWO in Bedford

On 30th September and 1st October the ECC presented Two at The Swan Theatre, Bedford.

One of its stars, Rory Harvey-Kelly, writes:

After 5 performances in Brussels, the ECC took the performance to Bedford. The cast had already arrived in various places in the UK during the week. The crew arrived on the Thursday hoping to find them . The rendezvous worked!

That Thursday afternoon, the portable pub was set up again showing no signs of wear and tear that lesser quality flat pack may have demonstrated . The lighting requirements were made to look deceptively easy. Then, for authentic instruction, the cast and crew installed themselves in a nearby pub , carefully noting how professionals do it!

The Rugby World Cup being played at the time did not feature in the Director's (Conrad Toft) rehearsal schedule , so, despite the pubs being open in the morning to broadcast the action live from New Zealand, we met for rehearsal at 9am on the Friday.

The cast and crew soon became familiar with the different stage and off-stage set up . Indeed, by early afternoon, one crew member dispelled any thoughts of whether the rehearsal should continue by snoring loudly during a moving moment in Act 2!

The audience on both nights interacted well with the play, and the range of accents and colloquial English was appreciated. As in Brussels, some of the audience were seated on the stage .

On both nights there were students from different local colleges who were preparing to perform "Two" themselves. The students on the Saturday night were quietly advised to spend more time enjoying the play, and less time writing furiously in their notepads! Cast and crew were interrogated both nights by different students after the show on a variety of topics concerning the production: we hope they took some positive knowledge from the performance .

The welcome by the Bedford drama group was very warm. It certainly made us feel comfortable and easy to concentrate on the play. We all give a big " Thank you" to those who accommodated us their homes and looked after us .The weekend rushed past, being filled effortlessly by pub visits, an Indian restaurant fix for those who needed it (all of us), early morning (4am) world cup rugby games, real live Bedford v Bristol rugby game (watched by some of us at the rugby ground), the odd siesta plus excellent Italian cuisine prepared and served by Bedford drama folk in case we were in danger of withering away.

The after-show party was an excellent climax to the Brussels and Bedford performances of "Two". It reflected the input, support and help of the many, many people who were involved in the production in Belgium and the UK.





Find us on
Facebook



And check out our wonderful new website ... same address, new look:

<http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com/>

If you have photos of past productions Conrad (our Web Supremo) would be pleased to have them to add to the site. Email Conrad at:
web-admin@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

Christmas Playreading

Please note that we will meet on the 2nd Wednesday in December

Wednesday 14 December

Join us chez Mary Pritchard for a Seasonal Playreading
with mulled wine and mince pies!

32 ave. Bel Air, 1180 Brussels



We meet at 7.45 for an 8pm start!

Please let Mary know if you are going to come along: 02 345 85 83
(Anytime, but you are most likely to catch Mary between 8-10 or 20-22h)

Advance Notice!

Wednesday 4 January

We will meet chez Barbara Blackwell
rue Louis Hymans 20, Ixelles 1050

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Forthcoming Events...

for more information and auditions see www.theatreinbrussels.com

Click on the shows below to be taken directly to their website

Irish Theatre Group: *The Seafarer*, 15-19 November, The Warehouse Studio Theatre.

BLOC: *Hello Dolly*, 24-27 November, Auderghem Cultural Centre

Brussels Shakespeare Society: *The Tempest*, 29 November – 3 December

National Theatre Live: *The Collaborators*, 1st December. *The Comedy of Errors*, 1st April 2012.

And don't forget to book your tickets now for

Families aren't just for Christmas...

Coming Soon by the ECC...

Terence Rattigan's

Separate Tables

28 February – 4 March & 6-10 March 2012

Warehouse Studio Theatre

Diana Morton-Hooper directs Terence Rattigan's detailed study in lies, class judgements and repressed passions. The two connecting plays pursue the theme of concealment of both emotion and character.

If you hear of any productions coming up in English in Brussels or Belgium, why not share with your ECC friends? Send details to Janet for inclusion in the next ECCO:

ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com