



If you have any suggestions or comments for ECCO, then please send them to Janet at [ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com).

The next ECCO will come out in January 2013



Bedford -  
*From Brussels with Leffe*

*Calendar Girls*

Committee

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NT Live

Planning  
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21 November

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*Presumption*

Review: *Move  
Over Mrs  
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## Letter from the Chair

Hi

I am just starting my second year of Chairmanship, and it's great to be able to look back at what the Club achieved last year. A wonderful mixture, ranging from poems, original one act plays and readings in *Families Aren't Just for Christmas*; a group of lonely people trying to live their lives in *Separate Tables*; a spotlight on human behaviour in *A Dog's Life* and the sheer fun of *Move Over Mrs. Markham*. All I can say is **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to these shows.

My special, grateful thanks go to the committee. At the AGM Rachel, Rory and Mark stepped down. You have all served the Club well, thank you. Sara, who last year was co-opted onto the Committee, is now a full member, which is great. I am also delighted to welcome Laura into the fold.

The English Comedy Club has the privilege of having amongst its members two generous, kind and welcoming members: Mary and Barbara. Each month they allow us into their homes, where they host our play readings. Again, thank you for your support and dedication.

I hope to see you at the next play reading, or at *Presumption*, more about which follows in this ECCO

Sue Botterell, Chair

[chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)



Directed by Malinda Coleman

4-8 December 2012

The Warehouse Studio Theatre - 8.15pm

To be performed by  
Tania Rabesandratana and Yorgos Filippakis

Click on image above to book now!

# Presumption

Rehearsal Photos – October 2012



## **"Presumption" Director Malinda Coleman writes:**

Rehearsals are now firmly underway for December's offering, *Presumption*, the theatre piece devised by Sheffield group Third Angel. Auditions resulted in a number of new talented actors trying their luck, and we are delighted to welcome Tania Rabesandratana and Yorgos Filippakis to an ECC production for the first time.

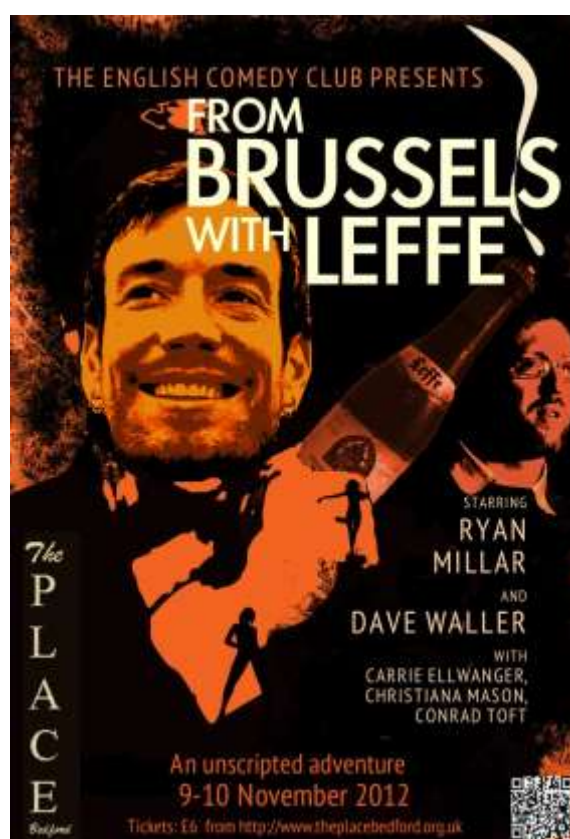
For this original, sometimes surprising piece, we decided to take advantage of the Studio's flexibility in seating: be prepared to look at things in a different way, and from a different point of view, when you show up to the Studio. The show runs December 4-8, from 8.15 p.m.

Thematically, too, this piece offers a different slant on the age-old question of what happens when the honeymoon is over. The word "magical" has been used more than once to describe Third Angel's work, and this piece is no exception.

## **Bedford Bound**

It was a real shame that our friends from Bedford were unable to bring their show over this autumn, but the good news is that our trip there is still taking place, albeit on a smaller scale.

Conrad Toft and Carrie Ellwanger will be swimming the Channel (or perhaps just taking the Eurostar) in November to join former Brusselites Ryan Millar (An Accidental Death of An Anarchist, 2007), Christianna Mason and Ryan's improv partner, Dave Waller, for two nights of improvised theatre at The Place.

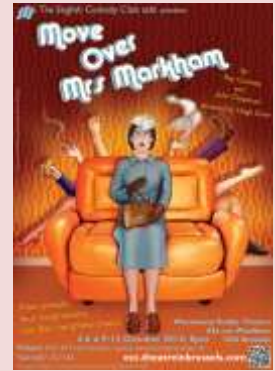


If you know anyone who might be interested in coming along to join the fun, tickets (£6) are available from: <http://www.theplacebedford.org.uk>.

# Move Over Mrs Markham

## A Completely Unbiased Review by Sara Hammerton

I have a confession to make. I was a bit cynical about the idea of an old-fashioned 1970s bedroom farce which, as director Hugh Dow proudly announced, had “no redeeming social merit whatsoever”. How would it go down with a sophisticated, modern Brussels audience? Extremely well is the answer.



I had of course decided to see it anyway and put cynicism aside, but I didn't even need to. By the time I saw ***Move Over Mrs Markham***, I had heard so many positive comments about it – not to mention the flurry of enthusiastic postings on Facebook – that I was eagerly anticipating an evening of fun, and that is just what we got.

The plot involves three different couples all scheming to use the same bed in the same flat on the same night, and naturally chaos ensues. Mrs Markham, played by Nicole Freund, has reluctantly agreed to allow her friend Linda Lodge (Laura Smith) to use the flat for an extra-marital affair, while Mr Markham has also agreed to allow Linda's husband, his business partner, to do the same - unaware of course that the interior decorator was planning to get the au pair (Margarete Rudzki) into the same bed. Then in walks renowned author Olive Harriet Smythe (Sandra Lizioli) to sign a potentially financially rewarding deal, having left her previous publishing house because she strongly disapproves of sexual shenanigans. Panic. And they did it so well. Timing is crucial to make a piece like this work, and the whole cast had it absolutely nailed. There were excellent, comic performances all round, which soon had the audience giggling, all the more so because the cast were so obviously enjoying themselves. Then the giggles turned to belly laughs thanks to the Laurel and Hardy-esque pairing of Rory Harvey-Kelly as the rather bewildered Philip Markham and his philandering – and much taller – business partner Henry Lodge, played by Chris Jones.

Another visual treat was the set – created by set-builder *extraordinaire* Philip Deeks, together with Marie Horner. In addition to creating the illusion of two rooms and three entrances, it included an oval bed, a very 70s style swivel chair, and avocado walls (remember those bathroom suites?). Nor did the costumes disappoint. Arash Saffarzadell's portrayal of the flamboyant interior designer Alistair Spendlow was given extra flair thanks to his shiny off-white suit, and then there was my personal favourite, the 1970s smock-style dress worn by Laura Smith as Linda Lodge. It must be real vintage. I'm sure I had something like it when I was about 12....

It had been a week of grey weather and even gloomier economic forecasts, so to have an evening of light-hearted fun was just what was needed. Well done to the whole cast and crew and particularly Hugh for choosing the piece in the first place.

# **CALENDAR GIRLS**



**By Tim Firth**

Based on the Miramax motion picture by Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

**Directed by Janet Middleton**

**The Studio Theatre**  
Palais des Beaux-Arts

**12-16 March 2013, 8pm with Matinee 16 March**

## **Janet Middleton writes:**

I would like to give very sincere thanks to everyone who auditioned for a role in *Calendar Girls*. Eileen, Conrad, Sue and I were overwhelmed by the turnout of talented and enthusiastic ladies. Indeed we could easily have cast at least two entire productions and still had uncast talent to spare. **THANK YOU** – and thank you too for your understanding and support when I rang those of you I was unable to cast.

Casting the ladies really was extremely difficult! Finally I have settled upon the wonderful female cast of: Abi Greef, Ailsa Higgins, Claire Harris, Boff Muir, Deborah Griffith, Joanna Patrick, Roisin Dore and Pat Butler.

I cannot repeat too many times – so much talent, too few roles! If the play was not in copyright I'd rewrite it and fill the entire calendar!

Filling the male roles was difficult for different reasons! It seems that everyone sees this as a female play! I am therefore extremely grateful to Sandra Lizioli for introducing me to Graham Vincent, and to Philip Rowe for auditioning in the face of a room full of ladies! Jordan Craig is the gallant young man who will be on stage photographing the ladies.

It is very exciting to have such a talented cast, and a mixture of familiar and new names.

**In keeping with the ethos of these wonderful ladies, the ECC has agreed to give €2 from each ticket sale to a local cancer charity in Belgium: *Fondation Contre le Cancer* ([www.cancer.be](http://www.cancer.be))**

**SPONSORSHIP:** I would very much like to get some sponsorship for the programmes for this production. If we get full houses, and we will, we will be playing to 660 people. If we get sponsorship we would not charge for the programmes, so every member of the audience would get a copy and we could also do a larger run to distribute some of the programmes as publicity material in various locations before the run. Do you know a company that might be prepared to take out an advert with us? If so, please contact me via [calendar-girls@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:calendar-girls@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)

# ECC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## NEW MEMBERSHIP RULES

**Lyn Wainwright, Membership Secretary, writes:**

At the AGM it was proposed that the collection of dues for membership of the English Comedy Club should be terminated. All paid-up members at the meeting voted unanimously to adopt this proposal.

The main reason for the change is an attempt to simplify the system and to adopt an approach which is already in operation in many other theatre groups. In addition it was felt that as communication is now almost entirely electronic the cost of the Newsletter (ECCO) is the same regardless of the number sent and that charging people really makes no sense.

At the moment members pay €10 and receive a €2 reduction on the ticket price. As we never produce five shows each season it is impossible for the members to recoup their investment.

There is also a proposal on the table to change our box office arrangements, and this would require a single ticket price.

A Membership Mailing List will be created which will contain all the names, addresses and participation details of those who were paid-up members in 2011/2012.

A small number of members have already paid for 2012/2013 and they will be entitled to the usual reductions on ticket prices and they will also be added to the Membership Mailing List.

Anyone applying to join the ECC in future should complete the form which appears on our website and their details will be added to the Membership Mailing List.

Members will only need to complete a new form if their contact details change or if they wish to remove their name from the list.

## ECC Committee 2012-13

Sue Botterell	Chair
Conrad Toft	Treasurer & ACTS Liaison
Iona Hamilton	Secretary, CAST Liaison & Costumes
Andy Ing	FEATS Liaison
Janet Middleton	ECCO
Laura Smith	Website
Lyn Wainwright	CAST Liaison & Membership
Martin Blackwell	
Sara Hammerton	Publicity

Contact us via: [ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)

## What are you doing in 2014?

The ECC is delighted that we have our 2012/13 and 2013/14 seasons fully planned, but this doesn't mean that we aren't still looking ahead!

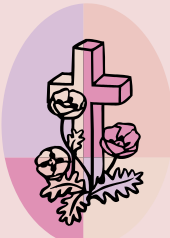
### We having a 2014/15 Planning Meeting on 21 November: Chez Sue

If you have a play you'd like to produce/direct, then will be your chance to put it forward. New directors always warmly welcome!

Please let us know you are going to come along by contacting Sue or emailing [ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)

### ECC Members Record WW1 Poetry for Radio X

Recently a number of ECC members recorded some poetry to be broadcast on a new English-language radio station in Brussels:



Radio X. The poetry will be broadcast as part of the station's Armistice Day tribute in the week running up to, and during, the day itself, with commentaries on the poems by local resident Dr. Kate Macdonald. Exact timings yet to be confirmed, but click on the Station's logo above to go directly to their website.



We are putting more and more up on Facebook and Twitter ... if you use either of these social networks why not follow us and keep up to date with the latest news as it happens! Click on the logos to visit our pages!



### Improvisational Comedy Workshop

with  
**Ryan Millar  
& Dave Waller**

The ATC have organised for these London funnymen to share tips and tricks to unlock creativity, explore free-form characters ... and have a blast!

Participation: €60/25. To book simply

[Click Here](#)

# Monthly Playreadings

## 7 November - Vanity Fair

(based on the novel by Thackeray)

We will be led by Diana Morton-Hooper Deeks



Please note that in December we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

## 12 December - Christmas Fun!

Jeanette Marino writes:

Greetings Everyone! It's getting near to "that time of year again" ..... Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is! Oh no it isn't!

Well, it is actually and so before you get booked up for that office party or panic about the Christmas shopping you haven't done, first of all put into your diaries, Wednesday 12th December for the Christmas Playreading Evening. We shall start off with a mini presentation of "Panto Question Time" starring some characters from various pantomimes, then we shall have a playreading (for everyone to join in) of "what happens backstage at a panto" (you can read into this what you wish – all will be revealed! ) and then for those of you who are not completely panto lovers, we shall have a few short comic pieces to read on various other subjects to keep you amused whilst you munch on mince pies, washed down with mulled wine.

**We meet chez Mary – at 7.45 for an 8pm start!**



Please ring Mary for further information and to let her know if you are going to come along or email [ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)

(If ringing you are most likely to catch Mary between 8-10, am or pm)

Contributions to interval drinks and nibbles always welcome!



# *Other Forthcoming Events...*

For more information and auditions see [www.theatreinbrussels.com](http://www.theatreinbrussels.com)

**ETCetera**

*An Evening With Strindberg*

**6-10 November**

**American Theatre Company**

**Improvisational Comedy Workshop**

**17-18 November**

**Irish Theatre Group**

*A Dublin Bloom*

**By Dermot Bolger**

**13-17 November**

**Brussels Shakespeare  
Society**

*Richard II*

**27 November – 1 December**

**BLOC**

*Beauty & The Beast*

**29 November – 2 December**

**American Theatre Company**

*A Delicate Balance*

**By Edward Albee**

**15-19, 22-26 January**

*Click on the name of the theatre group above to go directly to their website*



The next screening will be:

**1 November: *Timon of Athens***

<http://kinepolis.be/fr/theatre-au-cinema>

**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](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)