

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 November 2013

# ECCO

## September 2013



### AGM: IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Auditions

*An Ideal Husband*

BUTT Awards

Committee

*Copenhagen*

*Jack and the Beanstalk*

News

NT Live

Other  
Productions

Play Readings

*Skylight*

Swan Theatre  
Company

Theatre Open Day  
Report

Dear members,

Well, my time as ECC Chairman is drawing to a close, and rather than looking back on what the Club has achieved over the last couple of years - and what a lot that was - I would like to talk about the future. After all, that's what's exciting, the plays to come!

Lyn Wainwright, Deborah Griffith, Anna Holmen, Diana Morton-Hooper Deeks and Conrad Toft are directors all at various stages of putting their forthcoming shows together for the ECC. That's five people leading teams that will showcase the best skill, on and off stage, that the Brussels English language theatre scene can offer.

I don't think we can ask for more, do you ?

Best wishes

**Sue Botterell**

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



***Copenhagen*** Tickets now on sale!

Click on the poster above to book!

## **Book to see *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn: Much more than two dead Physicists!**

### **Lyn Wainwright, the director, writes:**

Two dead physicists arguing hardly sounds like a 'must-see' night at the theatre. However, you may be persuaded that Michael Frayn, who has authored more than 40 novels and plays (including the hilarious farce *Noises Off*), knows a thing or two about entertainment.

Even with little more than a smattering of basic science, most of us recall the importance of fission and fusion, and that to manufacture an atomic device you first need to split the atom and create a chain reaction.

Cyclotrons, neutrons, wave and particle theories and the fascinating if surreal notion that Schrödinger's cat

However, the play is not mainly about science, but rather about how easy it is for two or three people to can be both alive and dead at the same time all make appearances in this drama of who knew what when. misunderstand or misconstrue each other.

Following the first production of Frayn's play in 1998, the controversy about what the two protagonists really said to each other one evening in 1941 re-erupted and as a result new correspondence and papers were released by Niels Bohr's family. It is a credit to Frayn's original research that despite this new material the mystery of what was said and repeated in 1941 remains largely uncertain.

Indeed, uncertainty has a double meaning in *Copenhagen*. It refers both to the usual definition of being unsure and to the scientific theory of uncertainty. Werner Heisenberg stumbled on a secret of the universe: no thing has a definite position, a definite trajectory, or a definite momentum. Trying to pin a thing down to one definite position will make its momentum less well pinned down, and vice-versa. There is equal uncertainty in human ability to understand human behaviour.

Frayn animates the visit by Werner Heisenberg to the home of Niels Bohr and his wife Margrethe in occupied-Copenhagen by dipping in and out of reality. Part of the dialogue between the three characters is what they are supposed to have actually said to each other, while other parts are what they thought about each other in 1941, or post 1945, or later still when they are all presumed dead. Margrethe plays two roles, as a witness to the many Bohr and Heisenberg debates, and as a non-scientist, interpreting some of what they say to those of us whose physics is below Nobel-laureate level.

Why Heisenberg came to Copenhagen in 1941 is the central mystery, and has at least half a dozen equally valid answers; but each is mutually exclusive. Again, Frayn melds this everyday expression with the scientific use of 'mutually exclusive' in relation to quantum mechanics. The particle and wave aspects of physical objects are mutually exclusive or 'complementary' in the sense that measurements can demonstrate one phenomenon but not both at a particular moment.

Heisenberg's name has echoed down the decades since being awarded his Nobel prize in 1932 for the uncertainty principle and its contribution to quantum mechanics. Star Trek fans will recall the Heisenberg Compensator as a component of the transporter system, and more recently fans of *Breaking Bad* will recognise the alias of Walter White, though the links are far from direct.

So whatever your nationality, educational discipline or cultural interest, you are likely to find much to intrigue you in this rich and rewarding drama.

There is also a local connection: Bohr and Heisenberg were also active participants in the Solvay lectures held in Brussels in the 1920s and 1930s:

**SO, BOOK SOON!**

**WAREHOUSE STUDIO THEATRE - 8 – 12 OCTOBER**

## AGM: CHANGE OF DATE

Unfortunately we have realised that as our constitution requires that the AGM be held before the end of October we cannot go ahead on the previously publicised date. We are very embarrassed by this oversight, and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**Therefore, please note that the AGM will now be held at the Warehouse on 18 October at 7.30pm.**



This year we are very sad to be saying farewell to Sue Botterell who has done a brilliant job as ECC Chair for several years. Sue's commitment, common-sense, fair-play and sense of humour will be greatly missed at committee meetings.

We are also sorry to be losing our Secretary, Cast Liaison person and Costumes-Expert-Extraordinaire, Iona Hamilton. Iona has done a fabulous job, and we are going to miss her very much.



**Thank you both for your time and commitment to the ECC Committee over the past years.**

### 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)

This is how the committee looks at the moment.

Can you see your name added to those on the left?

If so, let one of the committee know – and come along to the AGM!

**OFFICIAL AGM NOTICE & NOMINATION FORM  
AT THE END OF THIS ECCO**



**The ECC would like to offer many thanks to the Organising Committee:**

Lilian Eileers (ATC), Giselle Maksoud, (ATC), Eileen Sutton (ITG), Deborah Griffith (BSS) and our own representative, Sara Hammerton

Also to Peter Willis and Teresa Perez of ETC, and to everyone who demonstrated, performed or helped the committee throughout the day.

**Sara Hammerton writes:** Ladies and Gentlemen, the new season has officially begun. On Sunday 15 September the ATC, BSS, ECC, ETC and ITG\* came together to display their wares, and the Warehouse, at our first official joint launch event: The Theatre Open Day. The aim was to have a fun get together, allow our audiences a glimpse into life backstage, and attract new talent to help out both onstage and behind the scenes. And we did it! Lots of you came, lots of people helped, and we all had a great time. Not only that, but we also attracted plenty of newcomers, including 35 who signed up to the mailing list and several who expressed an interest in getting involved, which is brilliant news.

The entertainment kicked off with highlights of the forthcoming ECC panto, ***Jack and the Beanstalk***, with a script so fresh that it was not even hot off the press – by the end the actors were having to read their lines off Conrad Toft's laptop. It went brilliantly, with a hugely appreciative – and unexpectedly large – audience, who left in an upbeat mood ready to enjoy the rest of the day. Hot tip – Book your tickets for ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** as soon as they go on sale.

Each group took it in turns to put on a show, and everyone did themselves proud. After all, it's what we do. ETC gave us an international twist with excerpts from ***La Cantatrice Chauve***, in French, leaving their audience deeply impressed; ITG reproduced sketches from recent productions including the amazing ***Dublin Bloom***; BSS gave us some "beautifully delivered" (in the words of an admiring spectator) Shakespeare from ***Henry V***, followed by the fight scene from ***Taming of the Shrew***, a speech from ***The Merchant of Venice*** and finally Sonnet 116. The ATC ended the evening with a masterful display of improv, fresh from their workshop weekend. The laughter could be heard across the courtyard.

In between shows there was plenty to keep the crowds entertained. Iona Hamilton gathered an impressive audience as she explained the process of costume design from conception to the finished product; Pat Neary demonstrated his set painting skills in the workshop and Giselle Maksoud explained the art of stage management to, again, a bigger than expected audience. Meanwhile the bar, run by Graham and Agnes Andrews, and the Café, run by Eileen Sutton, did brisk business. Nor did the entertainment stop while they were there – customers were treated to a slide show of photos from past productions throughout the afternoon, surrounded by sundry theatre props.

It was a very positive experience and judging by the feedback definitely one we should repeat.

\*Sadly our good friends in BLOC were unable to join us, because the very busy autumn calendar meant inevitable clashes, including with their long planned barbecue. We very much hope to have them with us next time.





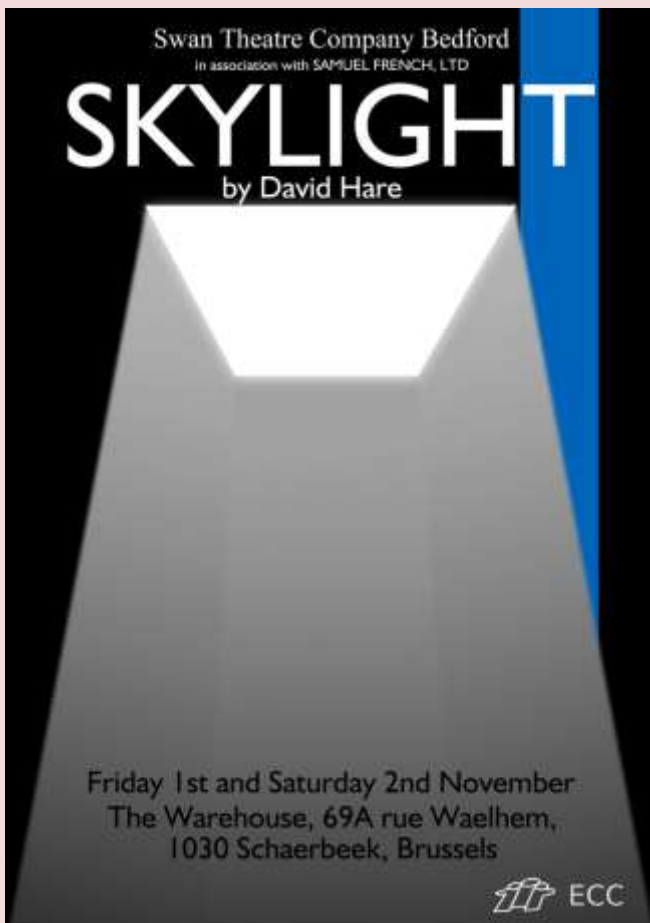
## OUR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



The ***Copenhagen*** Lego men and their human friends are back from their holidays!

But what are they up to?

Follow their new adventures at: [ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)



Skylight analyses the aftermath of an adulterous relationship between two lovers after three years apart. In David Hare's multi-award-winning play, questions of love and politics collide.



*"Even you  
are not rich  
enough [...] to buy  
back your past."*

*"No man is."*

***An Ideal Husband*** is a comedy by Oscar Wilde which revolves around the blackmail of a popular public official and which is thick with political intrigue. As one of the characters points out: *"sooner or later we have all to pay for what we do."* The play will take place from **18 to 22 March 2014** at the Bozar.

**Auditions:** Monday, 23 September and Wednesday, 25 September at 20h and on Sunday, 29 September at 16h30 at the Warehouse in the Bar Room.

Rehearsals will start the last week in November, with a break over the Christmas period. The play will be set in the early 1950's.

For further details contact the Director at [deborahgriffith@mac.com](mailto:deborahgriffith@mac.com)

**Deborah would also be delighted to hear from anyone willing to stage manage, do costumes or just generally be a part of the crew.**

Oh No It Isn't!

Oh Yes It Is!

## Jack & The Beanstalk

### Auderghem Cultural Centre

### 5-7 December 2013

**Conrad Toft writes:** Panto is a very special form of theatre where the audience is one of the main characters - if the audience knows when and how to react then it will be a great show. If they don't, then we will end up with a lot of confused people wondering what all the fuss was about.

We decided to write a brand, new script for the ECC panto, Jack & the Beanstalk. There are four of us on the writing team: Jake Foster, Martin Kirk, Hannah Riley, and I. We met back at the beginning of the year to work out the characters and synopsis and since then I've been trying to put those ideas together into a coherent script. I'd love to be able to say that the script is finished and ready for the stage (especially with rehearsals starting on Monday), but I would be stretching the truth a little.

It's nearly there - the draft version will be ready for the actors next week, but the writers will be hovering with red pens to start the job of polishing it to perfection.

So, is a Brussels audience ready for panto? The groundwork is already there - the ECC used to perform pantos regularly (although nearly a generation of young people ago), the BATS group in Antwerp puts on a spectacular show every year and one of the local international schools also performs them regularly.

We had the chance to answer the question at the Theatre open Day on Sunday, 15 September. Some of our cast gathered in the Studio Theatre and gave a (barely-) rehearsed read-through of the first three scenes of the show. In one case, the text was so fresh that the actors didn't even have a printout and had only seen it fifteen minutes before the audience arrived.

So did they "get" it? Absolutely! In the first scene the audience are asked to shout out in response to Simple Simon. In the script, he's supposed to tell them that they need to try harder, that they weren't loud enough - but he couldn't! The audience raised the roof and continued in that fashion all through the read-through.

When Baron Hardup came on-stage there were only a few hesitant boos and hisses but it's easy to imagine how those would grow in an audience at the Auderghem Cultural Centre, when we perform on 5-7 December.

**Come along to join the fun and relive your childhood!**



# THE BUTT AWARDS 2013



# Congratulations to All The Butt Awards Winners!

Firstly, our thanks once again to Jim for opening his home to us and allowing us to invade his fabulous garden. Not only that, but he's a dab hand at organising the weather too! It was a gloriously sunny day, and we all enjoyed lazing around, drinking, eating and celebrating the year's productions.

The ECC is particularly pleased that **Eileen Sutton** won the awards for **Best Producer** and **Front of House**, while **Roísín Dore, Conrad Toft and team** shared the **Publicity** award, **Diana Morton-Hooper Deeks** was awarded the **Alan Kenway Award** and **Catriona White** the **Golden Butt**.

**Congratulations All!**

**Thanks must also be extended to  
Conrad Toft, Martin Kirk, Alice Perry and Sue Botterell  
for all their hard work in bringing the day together.  
Thank You!**



**For a full list of nominees and winners please go to:**

**<http://www.theatreinbrussels.com/listings/blog/butt-awards-2012-results-2/>**



# Monthly Play Readings

**Wednesday 2 October - Chez Mary – 7.45 for an 8pm start!**

**Diana Morton-Hooper will lead us in reading**

## **Hay Fever by Noël Coward**

Diana writes: The very theatrical Bliss family, ex actress Judith; her writer husband David, and their self-absorbed children, Sorel and Simon, each invite inappropriate guests for the weekend and then treat them outrageously so that tiptoeing away when the coast is clear becomes rather a pleasant option. Unmissable! And probably the autumn 2014 ECC production.....

**Wednesday 6 November**

**Janet Middleton will lead us in reading**

## **Tom & Viv by Michael Hastings**

Janet writes: *Tom & Viv* is based on T S Elliot's tumultuous first marriage to Vivienne Haigh-Wood. Although it was turned into a film in 1994, I only discovered this play while listening to Radio 4 one afternoon while working my way through a huge pile of ironing. I was captivated by their passion, which was both destructive and creative, and my certainty that the treatment Vivienne received at the hands of her husband and family was not unique at the time. It is sad to think that had she been alive today Vivienne's illness would have been understood and medical treatment would have enabled her to live a full and 'normal' life. But then again, maybe her passion would have been subdued along with her bouts of insanity?

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**WE WILL MEET FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVENT ON**

**WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER**

This is the second Wednesday and is to enable those participating in the Panto to come along if they wish. There will be mulled wine, mince pies and jollity!



Please ring Mary for further information about the play readings, 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!

# Notice of Annual General Meeting of The English Comedy Club ASBL

to be held on Friday, 18 October 2013 at 7.30 pm  
Warehouse Studio Theatre  
73ue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 2012 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports from Committee
5. Matters arising from reports
6. Future of membership fees
7. Election of new committee
  - Chairman
  - Hon. Secretary
  - Hon. Treasurer
  - other members of the committee (up to 7 more people)
8. Any Other Business



*Nomination form to be returned by post to The ECC Hon. Secretary at  
Iona Hamilton, Avenue du Panthéon 61, B-1081 Koekelberg  
or by email to [ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](mailto:ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com).*

I wish to nominate  (please print name in capitals)	The nominee must be a <i>member of the club whose consent has been given for this nomination.</i>
Chairman Hon. Secretary Hon. Treasurer Committee member	Please tick or circle the <i>position for which the nominee is being put forward</i>
Proposed by  ..... (please print name in capitals)	Seconded by  ..... (please print name in capitals)
Signature	Signature

**ALL NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY noon on Friday, 11 October 2013**  
(each candidate should be submitted on a separate form).

# *Forthcoming Productions*

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

English Comedy Club

*Copenhagen*

8-12 October

American Theatre Company

*12 Angry Men*

22-26 October

Swan Theatre Company Bedford

*Skylight*

[Tickets on sale soon at  
ecc.theatreinbrussels.com](http://ecc.theatreinbrussels.com)

1-2 November

ETCetera

*Buonaparte*

5-9 November

Brussels Shakespeare Society

*The Way of The World*

13-16 November

Irish Theatre Group

*An Béal Bocht*

14-23 November

BLOC

*Evita*

28 November – 1 December

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

**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)