

ECCO

March 2014



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 May 2014



An Ideal Husband

Committee –
New members welcome

Directors
Wanted!

ECC Future
Productions –
News!

FEATS 2014

FEATS 2016
Social Evening
for potential
volunteers

Help Wanted

HiThere
Magazine
Special Feature

Miss Julie

News

Other English
Language
Productions

Play Readings

Season Planning

Chair's Welcome

Dear members,

Just a month to go now until *An Ideal Husband* and tickets are selling fast - if you still haven't got yours then I recommend that you stop reading this and [get them now!](#) When you have done that, come back and read all about what we have in store for you for the rest of the season and beyond.

Also, I'd like you to look a little further into the future - in 2016, we will be hosting FEATS again - [the Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies](#). We had great fun organising it in 2009 and we're sure to have even more fun in 2016 - so [get in touch](#) if you would like to be part of the team, we'd love to have you on-board.

Conrad Toft
ECC Chairman chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



Tickets from Bozar.be!

**Tickets are
selling out fast!**

Book Now!

The Box Office is operated by Bozar, so we have no control over ticket sales, returns or stand-by tickets.

HiThere Magazine

Your Monthly Digest of ALL The Best Gossip!

ARE STORM CLOUDS GATHERING OVER THE CHILTERN'S?

The Chilterns' lovely London residence was recently open to the crème of London society. An enjoyable evening was had by those honoured to have received an invitation to the beautiful home of the brilliant young statesman and orator, Lord Chiltern, whose well-known integrity of character represents all that is best in English public life. **HiThere Magazine** is delighted to have **exclusive** photographs from this society event.



Pictured left are: Mrs. Cheveley (one of the Dorsetshire Cheveleys and friend of Lady Markby) with her charming host, Lord Chiltern; his good lady wife is seated with Lady Markby and we can also see the Hon. Earl of Caversham making conversation with society belle Mrs. Marchmont.

Which London Beau referred to Mrs. Cheveley as "A genius in the daytime and a beauty at night"? And is she here in London merely to rekindle her lost romance with him?



However your **HiThere Magazine** reporter has heard from a source close to Lord Chiltern, who is known by his friends as the 'Ideal Husband', that he might not be as ideal as he is portrayed. No wonder Lady Chiltern looks pensive. **Whilst many think her to be one of the 'most noble and gentle women in the world', is there any truth in the rumours that she does not make sufficient allowances and has made a false idol of her husband?**



Will there be Wedding Bells?

It is a public scandal the way socialite, and sister to her famous brother, Mabel Chiltern, has made no secret of her passion for attractive bachelor Lord Goring. But will Tommy Trafford's regularly declared love for this lovely finally win the day – and her hand?

HiThere Magazine in association with The Women's Liberal Association is proud to sponsor:

The Ideal Husband

A series of entertaining evening lectures for husbands, wives and those yet to attain that felicity in life. Hats optional.

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Picture is artist's impression



ECC NEWS

Committee	Role	Contact us at:
Conrad Toft	Chair	chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Janet Middleton	Secretary & Ecco	ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Martin Blackwell	Treasurer	treasurer@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
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Joanna Patrick	Webmaster	web-admin@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Lyn Wainwright	CAST	lyn@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Sara Hammerton	Publicity	sara@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

We Need You!



The committee is delighted that Joanna has agreed to take on the role of Webmaster. However, we would welcome someone willing to assist Lyn as a second CAST representative. Contact us to find out more! Offers to be a Committee Member Without Portfolio are also welcome!

CAN YOU HELP WITH AN IDEAL HUSBAND? Director Deborah Griffith has the following appeal to make to ECC Members: *We really do need at least one person (hopefully the same person) for the whole run for the quick costume changes backstage – you will need to be able to come along to some rehearsals so we can practise these. We also need more volunteers to help out with Front of House, and it would be wonderful to have a couple more people to help with unloading the truck and help with the get-in and set construction. I'd love to hear from you!* Contact Deborah via: ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



LOVE ALAN BENNETT'S TALKING HEADS? NEVER DIRECTED BEFORE?

Directors are needed for an evening of monologues in autumn 2014. Experienced directors are welcome, but, if you've never directed before, now is your chance to try! Full support available! Email Conrad to find out more / tell us your ideas! chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

2015-16-17 SEASONS - PLANNING NOW!

Directors – if you have a play you wish us to consider, now is the time to speak up! At our recent committee meeting we were pleased to accept proposals that had been put forward and our forward planning is now well in hand. However, we are always delighted to hear from people with ideas. If you have a proposal then please email Conrad to tell us more about your idea! chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

ECC FUTURE PRODUCTIONS/EVENTS INCLUDE:

An evening of Alan Bennett Monologues, *Aladdin*, *Tom & Viv* and *Mrs Klein*. In addition we will be offering a Workshop on Script Analysis this autumn.

We also hope to be participating in FEATS 2015 and will be hosting FEATS in 2016. It's going to be a busy and exciting couple of years!

We will be hosting a SOCIAL EVENING for everyone interested in helping out, in any way, with FEATS 2016. At the time of sending out ECCO the date is not yet certain, but to make sure you don't miss out email feats@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com to be sure you get an invitation!

Miss Julie

by August Strindberg



The Warehouse Studio Theatre 10-14 June 2014

Director, Anna Holmen, writes: *Miss Julie* is probably Sweden's best-known play. This 90-minute play is set in a manor house, and the plot is built around the tensions that arise when the count's daughter visits the servants in the kitchen on a midsummer's evening.

Anna is delighted that rehearsals have now commenced with her fabulous cast of Sophie Thompson, Yorgos Filippakis and Lisa Ní Laoire.

More Miss Julie News ...

Vagabond Productions is planning to bring their production of *Miss Julie* (A. Strindberg) to Amsterdam on 10 and 11 May this year. They are looking for an English speaking actress (in her thirties) to play the part of Kristin (the maid in this play). Rehearsals will be in Brussels. Apart from the shows in Amsterdam they are also talking to a theatre in The Hague (17 & 18 May). This production of *Miss Julie* was a success at the Edinburgh Festival but unfortunately the actress who played Kristin has other commitments and can't do the part.

Interested? Contact: Louise Seyffert
www.vagabondproductions.weebly.com

LATE NEWS:

January's ECCO should have included the information that at our AGM in October it was unanimously agreed that €1,000 from our surplus income should be donated to charity. Barbara Blackwell was asked to nominate the recipients, and **The British Charitable Fund** and a charity for **Guide Dogs for the Blind in Belgium** will each receive €500.

Lyn has sent out an appeal for **old towels and tea towels**. If you have some you no longer need, then they would be of great use in The Studio and Warehouse! Please either leave them in the Warehouse kitchen or contact ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com.
Thank You!

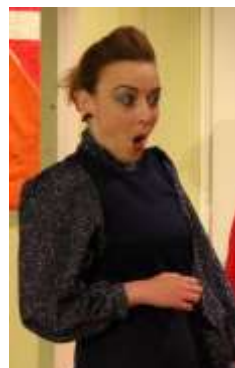


THE ECC MIGHT NOT BE PARTICIPATING, BUT YOU WOULD STILL BE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER AT FEATS 2014!
CLICK THE IMAGE LEFT TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE.

FAREWELL LAURA!

Last month we were delighted to feature Laura's marriage to Jonathan in ECCO. This month we are sad to say goodbye to the couple as they relocate to the USA to follow new careers there.

Laura was a welcome addition to our committee and productions in Brussels – we will miss you, but are happy for the time you spent with us Laura!



Laura in Move Over Mrs Markham – having just discovered someone in a bed they shouldn't be in!

WAREHOUSE OPEN DAY SEPTEMBER 2014

Following the success of last year's event, we will join with the other groups in an Open Day again in September (exact date to be confirmed).

Many thanks to Sara, who is our representative on the committee organising this event, for all her hard work last year.

Behind The Scenes

A day in the life of English-speaking theatre in Brussels

Sara Hammerton writes: One Sunday back in the autumn I took my son to the Warehouse to rehearse for the ITG's production of *An Beal Bocht*. He was playing the part of a school child and a small pig – so pretty much type-cast really. They were upstairs in the bar room, rehearsing a fairground scene and had brought in the very experienced Colma O'Luaniagh as voice coach, helping to inject a sense of excitement and urgency into their performance. The same short scene was rehearsed over and over again to get it just right.



Ewan can be seen on the left of the photo

There was a little competition on the sound front – next door in the other rehearsal room raised voices could be heard from the actors preparing for the ATC's *12 Angry Men*. Actually sometimes it was six schizophrenic men, each doubling up, because this being AmDram, not everyone can make it to every rehearsal.

I went back downstairs, in my role as “theatre mum”, to wait with the parents of the other kids in the Committee Room; which doubles up as a spare storage space for the sofas we use in our sets, by the way. That particular Sunday we shared the room with the team from ETC who were comparing fabric samples for one of the said sofas, working out which would best suit their period piece.

That same morning I also paid a visit to the workshop next door, where ECC Chair Conrad Toft (in his role as “set builder”) and team were working on the sets and props for our pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Conrad was of course also the director and co-writer of the panto. I was there in my role as “seamstress”, delivering the beanstalk and leaves I'd finished sewing. Before I left I was joined by my son, who decided to give his expert opinion on the props. He pointed out with the logic of a 10-year-old that if the cow was actually going to jump over the moon it would need to have a jet pack. I am proud to say that the jet pack was duly made by Conrad, bearing the logo Cow 1, and was worn in the show.

By the time we left, the 12 angry men (or however many there were) had finished their rehearsal, and vacated the space for auditions for the next ATC production, *Sylvia*, for which people were starting to arrive.

There was no more time to hang around however. I had to get over to De Kam in Wezembeek-Oppem for my own rehearsal (having managed with marvellous organisational flair to be involved in a production that was on exactly the same week as the one my son was in – so I didn't get to see him perform - and while my husband was away travelling for work). This was for the BSS production of William Congreve's restoration comedy *The Way of the World*. Before rehearsing any scenes we had a short lesson in fan language. I trust the more observant members of the audience were aware that when I, as Mrs. Fainall, looked upon my loathsome husband, (the absolutely not loathsome Tim Myers), I drew my closed fan through my hands as a symbol of hatred. Yeah, I knew you'd all spotted that. Colma was at the same rehearsal, switching from her “voice coach” role into her “props lady” role. All those smooth scene changes cannot happen without someone who has not only sourced/made the right props but who knows exactly what goes on stage when, in exactly the right order.

After the fans, we also went over the choreography of our closing dance sequence, which believe me took quite a lot of work, and a heck of a lot of patience from choreographer Jeanette Marino. Jeanette of course was also in the cast, as the wily Foible. One small complication for the dance was that we had to allow room in a fairly restricted space for our enormous period costumes. We didn't have them for most of the rehearsals – they cost a lot to hire– so instead we were wearing “skirts” made of large plastic hoops connected by cloth tape, like a panto dame's costume without the material on top.



We had competition on the dancing front however. Across the courtyard BLOC were rehearsing for their blockbuster musical *Evita* (whose set-builder extraordinaire, Philip Deeks, has swapped that role for an onstage role in *Annie*), and were going through their paces in the Tango.

Finally we got on with the rehearsal, and actually a bit of acting.

Sara as Mrs. Fainall in *The Way of The World* (BSS)

NTLIVE UPDATE!



Sandra Lizioli writes:

We campaigned! They listened! NT Live returns to Belgium on 27 February!

After months of campaigning, we were delighted to hear that our hard work and passion for British theatre has finally paid off: NT Live is returning to Belgium with Nick Stafford's acclaimed production of War Horse. Utopolis, a Luxembourg chain of cinemas has signed a contract to initially broadcast two productions: War Horse on 27 February and King Lear on 13 May in Utopolis Mechelen and Utopolis Turnhout.

We're hoping you will share this exciting news and come out in numbers. Mechelen, which is the closest of the two locations, is midway between Antwerp and Brussels. For those who prefer public transport, trains run frequently to Mechelen from Brussels and Antwerp.

The show starts at 20h00. For those coming straight from work, there is a bar and restaurant in the cinema.

I haven't seen the play in London, only the film, but judging from the pictures of the life sized puppets and Janet's rave reviews, I can't wait!

Janet and I will be raising our glasses at the bar before the show. We'd love to see as many of you who can to join us!



Book your tickets online: www.utopolis.be/warhorse Tickets are €20 and €17 for seniors.

Monthly Play Readings

Wednesday 5 March – Chez Barbara

Peter Willis will lead us in reading

DON JUAN by Molière



Peter Willis will organise the next play reading: it will be Molière's Don Juan, in a modern translation into English recently performed on the London stage. The play is a comic approach to the life of the great seducer, supported and often harangued by his manservant Sganarelle; his adventures include a number of stand-offs, not only with the women he seduces but also with several other characters, and ultimately with his own fate in the form of a stone statue. Parts for men and women.

Next Play Reading: Wednesday 2 April

Please ring Mary to let her know if you are going to come along, and to check that the venue has not changed, on 02 345 8583 (you are most likely to catch Mary between 8-10, am or pm), or email ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com for further information.

We meet at 7.45 for an 8pm start!

Contributions of interval drinks or nibbles always welcome!

Other Forthcoming Productions

For more information and auditions see www.theatreinbrussels.com

English Comedy Club

An Ideal Husband by Oscar Wilde

18-22 March 2014

Irish Theatre Group

Come Home, James Gurr by Patrick Maher

25-29 March 2014

BLOC

Sweeney Todd by Stephen Sondheim

15-18 May 2014

American Theatre Company

We Live Here by Zoe Kazan

21-24 May 2014

English Comedy Club

Miss Julie by August Strindberg

10-14 June 2014

Brussels Shakespeare Society

King Lear by William Shakespeare

24-28 June 2014

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

KVS has regular productions subtitled in English. Visit their website to find out more: <http://www.kvs.be/en>

Fun, Food & Acting: Once a month a unique presentation at Theatre de la Toison D'Or in association with Brusselslife: <http://www.ffact.be/#>

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