



ECCO: September 2014



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If you have any contributions to ECCO, please send them to Janet at ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

The next ECCO will come out in November 2014

Deadline: 20 Oct.

Welcome back for the 2014-2015 season

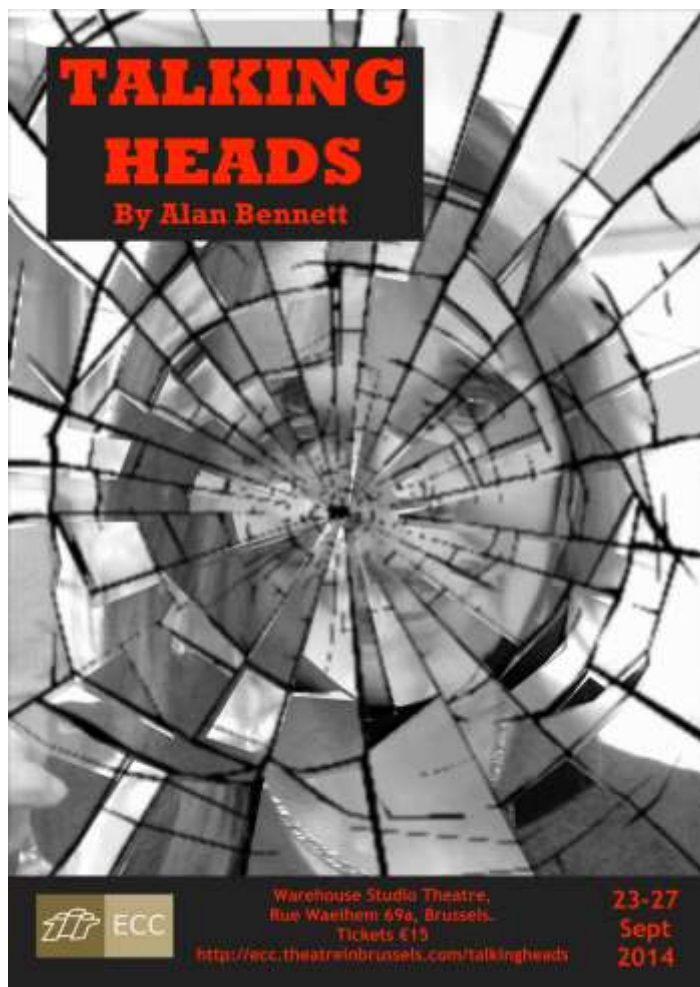
We've been hard at work over the summer renovating the Warehouse Studio Theatre – big thanks to Lyn and all the volunteers who have been working hard to get everything finished in time for the Theatre Open Day on 14 September – we look forward to seeing many of you there for a preview of both the theatre and the season.

I'm really looking forward to Talking Heads (23-27 September). Alan Bennett's writing is superb and we have a great cast for you together with three directors who are directing for the ECC for the first time – long overdue debuts from each of them.

All the best,

Conrad Toft

ECC Chairman chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



TICKETS
NOW ON
SALE!

Click
Poster

to go
directly to
the Box
Office

TALKING HEADS

Three Monologues by Alan Bennett

Meet the Actresses behind the Characters

Lady of Letters

Sara Hammerton, Directed by Joanna Patrick



Having played a drunken airhead in her last role for the ECC - totally out of character, she insists - Sara is looking forward to the challenge of playing a lonely, ageing woman, and the privilege of delivering Alan Bennett's insightful tragi-comic prose. Sara has previously appeared in other productions for the ECC including Diana of Dobson's, 84 Charing Cross Road and A Dog's Life, as well as several productions for the BSS and the ATC.

Soldiering On

Rachel Cuff, Directed by Jonathan Stockwell



Following an absence of several years from the Brussels stage, Rachel has enjoyed exploring Bennett's text, rich with humour and pathos, as well as getting to know and admire the redoubtable Muriel. Rachel has appeared in a number of previous productions for the ECC, including Separate Tables and Private Fears in Public Places, as well as productions for the BSS.

Her Big Chance

Ailsa Higgins, Directed by Mark Prescott



Ailsa is relishing playing Alan Bennett's wonderfully observed Lesley, written with lashings of humour, and a little pathos, much of it in the gap between the persona the unwitting Lesley thinks she's presenting (talented, socially adept, clean-living) and the reality which her audience can conjecture. Brussels-resident since 2012, Ailsa has acted in the ECC's Calendar Girls and Ideal Husband, and BCWC's multi-media presentation of WWII testimonies, and previously in the UK in very many productions since school and university.



**The Warehouse Studio Theatre & Rehearsal Rooms,
Sunday 14 September
Rue Waelhem 69a/73, 1030 Brussels**

- Free performances from the ATC, BSS, ECC, ETC and ITG
- Presentations on theatre skills – including make-up, sound and light
- Visits to the workshop and costume and props store
- Sign up to take part in future productions

On Sunday 14 September we will launch the new season with another Theatre Open Day at the Warehouse, from 2.00pm to 8.00pm. Performances – of 20-30 minutes each - start at 3.00pm. Lasts year's event proved very popular, and we are hoping this year it will be even better.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED


We urgently need volunteers to help make this day as successful as last year's. If you can spare an hour of your time - to help set up or clear up, serve in the bar or cafe, or staff the info desk, kindly sign up to this doodle:

<http://doodle.com/s8ar59n3tfa745saxg4wrkh5/admin#table> - or email:
open-day@theatreinbrussels.com

Monthly Play Readings

Wednesdays 1 October & 5 November

In October we will read a Murder Mystery Chez Mary.
But please keep an eye out for Ecco Flash just in case there's a change!

And remember ... Please ring Mary to let her know if you are going to come along, and to check the venue, 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. In addition we will be sending out a Facebook invitation so do sign up! 

We meet at 7.45 for an 8pm start!

Contributions of interval drinks or nibbles always welcome!

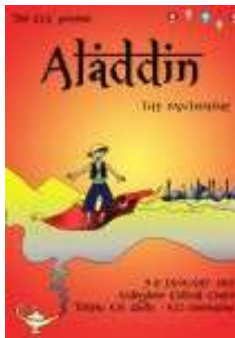
Audition Dates: *Tom & Viv*

There will be auditions in The Bar Room at The Warehouse at 8pm on **16 & 18 September** for our March 2015 production of *Tom & Viv*, a fabulous, fast-moving, play about T S Eliot's complicated marriage to his first wife.

Janet Middleton will be looking for a number of actors and actresses. Parts available are:

T S Eliot	An actor who can perform convincingly both in American (Missouri) and upper-class British English. Age 20-30ish
Vivienne Eliot	Age 20-30ish
Maurice Haigh-Wood	Vivienne's 'English Idiot' brother, 30ish
Rose Haigh-Wood	Vivienne's mother
Charles Haigh-Wood	Vivienne's father
Louise Purdon	20-30ish, London working class accent
W.I. Janes	Male, 50ish
Charles Todd	Male, 30s, American accent

In addition Janet will be looking for an actor and actress (or stage crew who are comfortable on stage), to perform various small roles/changing the scenes – there are 20 scene changes in the first act alone! Janet would be delighted to discuss the play, and the roles available, with anyone who is interested. Please ring her on 0495 94 2991.



After the success of Jack and the Beanstalk last year The ECC returns with another pantomime

Tickets are €16 for adults and €12 for children

Click on Poster to book

The performances will take place at Auderghem Cultural Centre
9 January (8pm), 10 January (1.30pm & 5pm) & 11 January, (1.30pm & 5pm)

You can pay for tickets using most credit cards (via PayPal) or reserve tickets and pay for them by bank transfer to English Comedy Club: 310-0627727-29 (IBAN: BE26310062772729, BIC: BBRUBEBB), stating ALADDIN and the name of the person who booked the tickets if different from the bank account. You will be sent your tickets when we have received payment.

If you have any problems using the booking system, please contact tickets@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

ECC NEWS

ECC Annual General Meeting

**Will be held on Monday 20 October 2014 at 8 pm
at The Warehouse Studio Theatre
69a/73 Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels**

A Nomination Form for Officers and Members of the Committee is at the end of this newsletter: new members always welcome! **Nominations must be in by 13 October.**

Please come along to the AGM for a glass of something and to find out more about the work of the club and our plans for the future. We have an exciting time coming up, with new directors, FEATS and the constant desire to involve as many people as possible in our activities.

FEATS 2016

We're very excited about hosting FEATS in 2016 and hope you will be too!

WATCH THIS SPACE - We will be having a Christmas Feats Launch Party!

FEATS 2015: 22-25 May – Calling Directors!

The ECC has accepted an invitation to participate in FEATS 2015 in Hamburg, and so the committee is now looking for a director to take a play there.

If you think you have a great piece that you would love to direct, which runs between 20 and 55 minutes, then contact us now! It can be a complete play; an extract from a play which can stand alone or an alternative which would have to be approved by the FEATS organising committee. Contact Conrad at chair@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com

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
Andy Ing	FEATS	feats@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Chris Jones		chris@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Joanna Patrick	Webmaster	web-admin@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Lyn Wainwright	CAST	lyn@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com
Sara Hammerton	Publicity	sara@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com



The Warehouse Studio Facelift

Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously of their time over the summer

Our thanks to Julian Oliver, who not only gave hours of his time this summer, but has also written for ECCO:

During the summer a devoted gang of volunteers has been hard at work on all our behalves. The theatre was emptied: no seats, no ros blocks, no lighting box, no lanterns or cables, the green room stripped bare and the bar cleared of everything including the piano, except the kitchen sink (like the 1960's theatrical reference, Ed).

Then a brave crew of carpenters, cleaners and painters started to refresh the place. Paint was stripped, lino removed, sand-papering started, walls and floors washed, doors removed, door furniture dismantled and refreshed. New shelving in the green room and insulated shelving in the bar, 36 sheets of hardboard were cut and fitted to cover the theatre floor, new interlocking plastic floor tiles were fitted in the green room, the bar area and the toilets.

'Paint it black' was the order and on it went - extra matt black for the newly laid and taped theatre floor, more regular matt black on the ros blocks, walls and ceiling of the theatre and bar area. The green room is now a delicate beige but with green doors, new LED lights installed above new make-up tables and a clean spacious area created. The entrance hall and staircase walls, woodwork and ceiling have been comprehensively stripped, re-painted and we await delivery of a new stair carpet on 11 Sept.

Carsten and crew have been installing new cabling, sockets and dimmer packs that will ensure all future shows will be flexibly but, above all, safely illuminated. There is even a lamp installed above the rear exit. Further electrical work is continuing in the Warehouse itself to ensure that all who need can also rehearse, work and meet in safety there. All the fire extinguishers and hoses have been checked and approved.

After numerous trips to wood merchants, carpet stores, a well-known Swedish department store, paint shops, electricians and multiple use of the Internet we are practically ready to welcome old and new amateur theatre patrons to the Open Day on Sunday 14 Sept and the rest of the 2014/2015 season.

Please come and admire the results of the amazing efforts of your representatives from the ITG, ATC, BSS and ECC. together with some new recruits who answered the call. While invidious to name individuals, apologies in advance to any omissions, special thanks for many, many hours of hard work by day and night are due to Liam , Colma , William, Chris , Catriona , Eileen, Shane, Eugen, Cecilia, Boff, Sigrid, Sinead, Barbara, Roisin and Kevin , but above all Carsten, Lyn and Conrad.

BUTT AWARDS 2014

Many Congratulations to all the winners and runners-up, especially to BLOC and ITG who between them swept the board!

Huge thanks must go to our fantastic organiser, Conrad, and to Jim for once again hosting this fun annual event in his lovely garden.

Best Show	Sweeney Todd (Bloc)
Director	Bridget Pierson-Davis
Actor	John Baldwin (Che)
Actress	Jane McBride (Mrs Lovett)
Producer	Sweeney Todd (BLOC): Nick Heenan, Kevin Soldati
Stage Management	Evita (BLOC): Ann Smith, Marie Rousseaux
Set	Evita (BLOC): Philip Deeks, Marie Rousseaux
Lights	Come Home, James Gurr (ITG): Carsten Koester
Sound	Come Home, James Gurr (ITG): Arno Weygant
Costumes	Sweeney Todd (BLOC): Hana Kabesova
Make-up	Sweeney Todd (BLOC): Francoise Salter
Props	Sweeney Todd (BLOC): Colin Black, Andrea Edwards, Nick Heenan, John Hiley and co.
Publicity	An Béal Bocht (ITG): Katie Carroll, Elizabeth Mulligan
Front of House	Evita (BLOC): Brian Flynn, Nicole Smith, Pauline Van Greuningen
Team	Sweeney Todd (BLOC)
Newbie	Carlos Casorrán
Audience Award	Sweeney Todd – the whole experience
Musical Moment	Sweeney Todd
Golden Butt	Meg Chang



Other Forthcoming Productions

For more information and auditions see www.theatreinbrussels.com

English Comedy Club	<i>Talking Heads</i> by Alan Bennett 23-27 September 2014
Brussels Shakespeare Society	<i>Hamlet Unplugged</i> 13-18 October 2014
American Theatre Company	<i>Doubt: A Parable</i> by John Patrick Shanley 21-25 October 2014
ETCetera	<i>Don Juan and the Stone Guest</i> 3 Short Plays 4-9 November 2014
Irish Theatre Group	<i>A Night in November</i> by Marie Jones 12-15 November 2014
BLOC	<i>My Fair Lady</i> 27-30 November 2014
Irish Theatre Group	<i>Dolly West's Kitchen</i> by Frank McGuinness 9-13 December 2014

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

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN

NT Live now screening at Utopolis, Mechelen. [Click here for further details](#)

4 September	Medea	13 November	Frankenstein
16 September	A Streetcar Named Desire	27 November	Frankenstein
23 October	Skylight	9 December	John

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 Brussellife: <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



Notice of Annual General Meeting of The English Comedy Club ASBL

**to be held on Monday 20 October 2014 at 8 pm
at The Warehouse Studio Theatre
69a/73 Rue Waelhem, 1030 Brussels**

1. Adoption of the minutes of the 2013 AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports from Committee
5. Matters arising from reports
6. Election of new committee
 - Chairman
 - Hon. Secretary
 - Hon. Treasurer
 - other members of the committee (up to 7 more people)
7. Any Other Business



Nomination form to be returned by post to The ECC Hon. Secretary: Janet Middleton, Rue des Atrebatas 27, 1040 Brussels or by email to ecco@ecc.theatreinbrussels.com	
I wish to nominate (please print name in capitals)	The nominee <i>must be a member of the club whose consent has been given for this nomination</i>
Chairman Hon. Secretary Hon. Treasurer Committee member	Please tick or circle <i>the 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 Thursday 13 October 2014 (each nomination should be submitted on a separate form)	