



# FEATS NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2010

Hello there all FEATS fans,

Well, I imagine that things are reaching a fever pitch in the groups who are playing at this year's FEATS Festival, to be adjudicated by Jan Palmer-Sayer and taking place – if you need reminding - from 13th -16th May in the lovely old town of Bad Homburg. Hereafter is information about the festival and Bad Homburg. – Yes, I freely confess! I have gleaned it from the Website, though it is not total plagiarism as I have altered bits of it slightly.

The ORDER of PERFORMANCE is as follows:

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May

1. **Tagora**, Strasbourg *Late Entry* by David Tristram
2. **Entity Theatre e.V.**, Munich *The Exception And The Rule* by Bertolt Brecht  
(translated by Tom Osborn)
3. **ESOC Theatre Group**, Darmstadt *White Liars* by Peter Shaffer

Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May

1. **BATS**, Antwerp *Oh, my God!* by Daniel Sossi [original script]
2. **NEAT**, Stuttgart *At Home at the Zoo – (Act 1) Homelife* by Edward Albee
3. **ECC**, Brussels *The Red Death* by Stephen Challens [original script]

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May

1. **NWTC**, Luxembourg *The Old Neighborhood – Jolly* by David Mamet
2. **ITG**, Brussels *Come On Over* by Conor McPherson
3. **InPlayers**, Amsterdam *In Yonder Green Glen* by Svarupa [original script]

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May

1. **Theater De WAANzin**, Ghent *Sister of* by Lot Vekemans (translated by Dirk Crommelinck) [original script]
2. **CATS**, Rheindahlen *Wedding Day* by John F. Glen
3. **GEDS**, Geneva *Shakers – Restirred (Abridged)* by John Godber (with Jane Thornton)

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After the performances and adjudication on Saturday 15 May, the **Party** will be held in the Kaiser-Friedrich-Saal of the theatre. Food and music are included in the price of the party ticket and a bar (accepting tokens and cash) will serve liquid refreshment. A delicious Spanish buffet awaits you, and

DJ Dobner will provide music to dance off those extra calories! Party tickets can be ordered from the ticket shop in advance along with your theatre tickets. Since the caterers need to be advised how many guests to cook for, **please book party tickets by 29 April at the latest**. A few more can probably be squeezed in after that date, but early booking would help!

The venue for the **Fringe** is the church hall of the **St. Marien Kirche**, just a few minutes walk from the Kurtheater and the hotels right in the centre of Bad Homburg.

One of the **Festival Sponsors**, **KLM**, has offered two return flights from any airport in Europe to New York. You will be able to purchase tickets for a draw on the last night of the Festival.

The **Kast Cup**, for First Prize, needs to be replaced and a new trophy will be donated by AATG (Kast was a Dutch company). The new cup will be called “**The Founders’ cup**” in a way referring back to the roots of the Festival.

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For those of you looking for hotel accommodation, you could try any of the following:

Park Hotel, Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 53 – 55.                      Tel : +49-6172-8010  
<http://www.parkhotel-bad-homburg.de/>

Hotel Haus Daheim, Elisabethenstr. 42.                              Tel : +49-6172-677350 .  
<http://www.hotel-haus-daheim.com/>

Maritim Hotel, Ludwigstr 3.    Tel : +49-6172-6600  
[www.maritim.de/de/hotels/deutschland/kurhaushotel-bad-homburg](http://www.maritim.de/de/hotels/deutschland/kurhaushotel-bad-homburg)

Youth hostel, Mühlweg 17.    Tel : +49-6172-23950  
[www.djh-hessen.de/jh/jugendherberge-bad-homburg/](http://www.djh-hessen.de/jh/jugendherberge-bad-homburg/)

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And as for history, there is plenty of it around. The town was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. The town’s symbol, the White Tower, which stands in the middle of Bad Homburg castle – dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1818, Princess Elizabeth, the sister of England’s King George IV, married Landgraf Friedrich VI and rescued the town from impoverishment with her dowry. Parks and hunting lodges were constructed and the castle expanded. Lasting, living legacies of this period are the two huge cedar trees in the castle garden. The spa industry started in the 1830s and the Blanc brothers, who later moved on to Monte Carlo, built the casino in 1841. In 1888 Kaiser Wilhelm II chose the **Schloss** (castle) of Bad Homburg as his summer residence, and in the following years much of Europe’s royalty and nobility came here for cures, including the future Edward VII, the Russian Imperial family and the King of Thailand. There are guided tours of much of the castle.  
[http://www.schloesser-hessen.de/englisch/homesandgardens/bad\\_homburg/bad\\_homburg.htm](http://www.schloesser-hessen.de/englisch/homesandgardens/bad_homburg/bad_homburg.htm)

After the history and culture, you can always spoil yourself at the **Kur Royal Spa** with any one of 101 massages available. The Spa is open from 10.00-22.00.  
<http://www.kur-royal.de/web/en/angebote/index.htm>

The **Gotisches Haus Museum**, once the local count's hunting lodge, is now a museum housing the town archives. Permanent exhibitions include sections on Countess Elizabeth (King George III's daughter) and the history of Bad Homburg.  
[http://www.badhomburg.de/sc/Tourism\\_Leisure/Sightseeing/Gothic\\_House/1644402.asp](http://www.badhomburg.de/sc/Tourism_Leisure/Sightseeing/Gothic_House/1644402.asp)

**Taunus Therme** offers saunas, steam baths, landscaped pools, jacuzzis, fountains - one could easily spend a whole day here. Open 09.00-23.00 (24.00 on Fri & Sat)  
<http://www.taunus-therme.de/en/index.html>

**Seedammbad** is the main swimming pool complex with multiple pools - indoor/outdoor/slides,  
<http://www.bad-homburg.de/sc/Rathaus/Stadtwerke/Seedammbad/138765.asp>

**Casino Bad Homburg** has been emptying the pockets of hopefuls since 1841. Known as the "mother of Monte Carlo", because this is where the Blanc brothers opened their first casino. Kisseleffstr 35. <http://www.casino-bad-homburg.de/home.html>

Regional S-Bahn trains leave the **Station** for Frankfurt every 15 or 30 minutes depending on the time of day as well as places further afield. This link gets you to the English section of the regional train company's site.  
[http://www.rmv.de/coremedia/generator/RMV/Sprachen/SPRACH\\_\\_ART\\_\\_en.html](http://www.rmv.de/coremedia/generator/RMV/Sprachen/SPRACH__ART__en.html)

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**Original scripts** by David Crowe, FEATS Webmaster

**What constitutes an original script?**

***Original script* is defined in the FEATS rules. Interpreting the definition at any given FEATS festival is the responsibility of the organising committee of that festival, under the guidance, if required, of the adjudicator. Nothing written here is intended to undermine the authority of the adjudicator, and the suggestions offered below should not be considered to be binding on adjudicators, FEATS organising committees or the FEATS steering committee.**

Nevertheless, some help in clarifying the rule may be obtained by considering the aim behind the "Original script" award – that is, examining the spirit of the law rather than its letter.

The award is intended to encourage **creativity in the FEATS community**. An "original script" must therefore be written by a member of the group. It is recognised that "membership" may not be clearly defined for all groups; but in practically every case it should be easy to tell if an author has a *bona fide* relationship with the group concerned or if he/she is a jobbing playwright from the other side of the world.

The aim is also to encourage groups to **bring new material to FEATS**. For this reason the play, if not performed for the first time at FEATS, must at least be in its first incarnation. So it may have been performed previously (within the last two years), but it should be recognisably the same production – same director and essentially the same cast. A certain amount of flexibility is allowed for here, necessitated by the constraints of amateur theatre but, again, common sense should be the main guide.

