



FEATS CURTAIN UP

April 1996

INTRODUCTION

Just in time for FEATS 96 - looming round the corner and as Sir Francis Drake said "There is plenty of time to win this game" not by thrashing the Spaniards but perhaps by thrilling the audience and what wonderful plays we have in store!

FEATS 96- 24 - 27 May 1996 Kurtheater, Bad Homburg

Groups participating in this year's competition:-

LIST A

MOSACT	Maastricht
British Embassy Players	Bonn
Round Tower Players	Luxembourg
New World Theatre Group	Luxembourg

LIST B

Theatre de WAANZIN	Ghent
Irish Theatre Group	Brussels
Wellton Theatre Club	Leebruck
Theatre of Geneva	Switzerland

LIST C

Anglo-American Theatre Group	The Hague
Tagora	Strasbourg
In-Players	Amsterdam
CATS	Rheindalen

The plays to be performed have been written, amongst others, by Alan Ayckbourn, David Campton and Bernard Slade.

ACT 1 NEWS FROM FEATS THEATRE GROUPS

- FEATS fodder is regularly received from BATS, AATG, GEDS, NWTC, MOSACT, British Embassy Players, CTC but unfortunately many are missing If you wish to be included in this entertaining, informative FEATS newsletter, or if contact names, or addresses have changed, please do let me know by ☐ or E-mail me on CompuSERVE:-

Sally Seth-Smith
49 Peninsula Court
121 East Ferry Road
London E14 3LH

☎(44) 171 538 9489

or

E-me on Compuserve 100837,226

All editorial contributions readily received, particularly on FEATS 96!

Bits & Bobs

Did you know:-

- the British Embassy Players (BEP) will be celebrating their 15th Jubilee soon - CONGRATS
- BATS was founded 40 years ago - and celebrated by performing John Barton's 'The Hollow Crown' - an entertainment by and about the Kings & Queens of England
- ESTEC are planning a weekend of theatre & music on 15 & 16 June. For more details on ESTEC productions contact David Eaton ☎ (31) 1719 86555
- FEATS conceived in 1976 by the Anglo-American Theatre Group of the Hague, now rotates between the cities of The Hague, Luxembourg, Brussels, Antwerp and of course this year Bad Homburg near Frankfurt.

FEATS STEERING COMMITTEE

For information, the **FEATS** Steering Committee consists of the following members:-

Ian Davis, EEC

Tony Broscomb*, AATG, Chairman 1995/96

David Jayne, FEST

Ann Overstall, NWTC

Pat Arn, BATS

* **Tony Broscomb** is retiring from the **FEATS** Steering Committee and will be replaced by Dympna Donnelly as the AATG-FEATS representative. Many people will have the chance to thank Tony personally at **FEATS 96** for his endurance and hard work! Welcome on board Dympna!

David Jayne has the illustrious task of organising **FEATS 96** and can be contacted on CompuSERVE 101320,1156 or by snail mail ☐ at Carl-Barthel-Weg 1, 60598 Frankfurt, ☎ 069 639652.

ACT II FEATS 96 - A PRÉCIS

SPOTLIGHT ON FEATS 96

FEATS is a four-day competitive Festival with twelve groups out of over thirty from the mainland European community taking part. **FEATS** is affiliated to the UK National Drama Festivals Association, and the winner is eligible for invitation to the UK All Winners Festival. There are firm rules, which are strictly enforced with a smiling face by the hosting company, permitting a maximum two-hour rehearsal time, a ten-minute set time and a five-minute strike. Whilst first-timers are immediately panic-stricken by such short times, the 'old hands' are not unduly worried by such constraints, having practised everything beforehand in the local sports hall. Very ambitious sets are sometimes constructed - you would be surprised just how much can be built in ten minutes! Whatever the crew does is of course only enhanced by the traditionally high acting standards of the **FEATS** actors and actresses.

Monday night is the climax. Apart from prizes for acting, the efforts of the stage crew and also authors of original scripts can be rewarded. An Adjudicator's discretionary prize often goes to some unsuspecting but deserving competitor.

Teams from Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland and France are already preparing their entries. Teams from Sweden, Norway and Denmark also participate when their turns comes round. Three rolling tables ensure that no team goes for more than a couple of years without having the opportunity to compete.

Our adjudicator this year is **Russell Whiteley**, first welcomed into the **FEATS** community five years ago. Russell, we know, doesn't pull his punches although he does manage somehow to be fair to everyone in his critiques. He will also give the groups a chance to discuss his comments at length 'the morning after the night before', and will be contributing to the weekend workshop programme. Three two-hour participatory sessions are planned for this year, including one entitled "**Actors should be seen and not heard**" - it's an introduction to the art of mime! And if our guests in Bad Homburg are not involved in rehearsals or workshops during the day, there will be a programme of Fringe entertainment. This sometimes includes one-acts which didn't get a slot in the Festival itself, or it provides a platform for the other performance talents which our guests possess. It's always entertaining!

The Saturday night Banquet is in the Feuerwehr Vereinshaus, Gonzenheim. Tickets are DM70 which includes welcome sekt, 2 other drinks and as much as you can eat from the hot/cold buffet. There's also a raffle with exciting prizes!

For further information about **FEATS 96** hospitality and accommodation matters, please call Jenny Howard on ☎+ 49 (0)6172 303 312. The favoured hotel in Bad Homburg is the Park Hotel looking out on the Kurpark. We have some super rates - quotes **FEATS 96** when you book ☎ + 49 (0)6172 8010 Fax: 801400.

The Fringe events will take place in the foyer of the theatre on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and Monday morning. There will be three workshops on offer on Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoons - information and registration at the hospitality suite as soon as you arrive. There will also be a **FEATS FORUM**, a chance to discuss any aspects of **FEATS** with other **FEATers** and the members of the Steering Committee in an open environment.

Finally **Good luck to everybody involved, on or off stage!!**

See you there!!!

Sally Seth-Smith, erstwhile editor **FEATS** newsletter



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