

# FEATS NEWSLETTER

December 2009



We were all saddened to hear of the death of Angela, a dear friend and Permanent Secretary to FEATS. She will be sorely missed by us all.



Angela Dodds (1.9.1943 – 15.11.2009), with Schniff, the cheetah.

“At peace ...

It is terribly difficult to say goodbye to such a dear friend; there is so much I still want to share with her, so many things I still need to tell her. But I am also grateful that the pain and suffering is over for the past six months were far from easy. Angela battled courageously and kept a brave face throughout. Typically, the week before she passed away she still sold me tombola tickets for the Mission to Seafarers Christmas bazaar.

Many of you will have little knowledge of her life before she came to Antwerp and therefore I thought it fitting that the eulogy read out by her son Simon was also included in this newsletter. Schniff and Giles survived because of Angela's caring efforts.

When Angela left The Netherlands in 1986 she first settled in Mol. After about twelve months she moved nearer to Antwerp and became involved with Saint Boniface Church, BATS and ABCA (Antwerp British Community Association); and later she also worked passionately for the Missions to Seafarers and ADFAS (Antwerp Decorative and Fine Arts Society). She was always on the go: busy organising events, attending meeting, writing newsletters – often it was difficult to keep up with her; she had her finger in so many pies. And this was just in her free time. After chairing the organising committee for FEATS 1998 (Antwerp), she suggested that the FEATS Steering Committee ought to have a permanent secretary: a person who kept the archives, recorded the minutes, but also ensured that the awards were replaced in time and that the Steering Committee steered. We did not have to think long who should get the job! Through her efforts the FEATS rules were reviewed and rewritten more comprehensible; t's were crossed and i's dotted. From the moment she became FEATS Permanent Secretary in 1999 she worked closely with each subsequent FEATS organising

committee. No question remained unanswered, no problem unsolved: she was always helping, assisting and supporting. Praise was received in her typically modest manner. Because of her commitment she could be – dare I say it – bossy at times. She certainly kept me on the straight and narrow. But mainly I remember the good times we had. Mostly we travelled together to meetings or FEATS, sometimes we shared a room, many a time we would talk into the small hours or have champagne breakfasts (ah, Hamburg!). And now FEATS will never be the same for me: I will miss her companionship, her wit, her candidness, her kindness, her friendship. Angela, you were taken from us far too early. Fiona and Simon and your two grandchildren miss you so much. I too miss you dearly and so do all your friends. May you rest in peace.

*Time for me to go now  
I won't say goodbye  
Look for me in the rainbows  
Way up in the sky  
In the morning sunrise  
When all the world is new  
Just look for me and love me  
As you know I love you"*

Pat Arn, BATS Representative on the FEATS Steering Committee

=====

Eulogy read by Simon Tong, her son, at Angela's funeral

My mother Angela was born in 1943. She was the third of the four Dodds sisters, a pretty child and a tomboy, early showing her strength of character by being very naughty. She paddled in tar one hot summer day; she would be seen marching down the village after the British Legion band or following funeral processions into the church. She was fascinated by the church. Aged about 3 or 4, when her father said she couldn't go with him to a Sunday service (probably because he was ringing the bell, playing the organ, reading the lesson and taking the collection), she disobeyed and went in, with no clothes on. The vicar's wife wrapped her up and sat her in a pew. On another occasion when my grandmother was told that yet another of her children was climbing on the roof of their three storey house, the answer was "Don't worry, it's only Angela". Mum survived all this.

She could read by the time she was 4 and thereafter hardly ever had her head out of a book. She loved learning and always got good results. She wanted to go to Cambridge University and passed the exams but the means testing at that time prevented her getting a grant and the means were not available from home. So she went to secretarial college.

She worked in London first for the magazine Country Life and then for solicitors, until a Kenyan cousin came to England and said that his country could do with pretty, clever, young secretaries. So off she went. There she met my father, Julian, who was working for the Wildlife Service. They got married in Derbyshire when she was 23. Their honeymoon was a voyage across the Atlantic with a shipload of animals for a zoo in Canada. The newspapers referred to 'the honeymooners' Noah's Ark'. The zoo was in Edmonton, Alberta; but neither of them could bear the climate so they went back to Kenya where Dad managed the Animal Orphanage of the Nairobi National Park. I was born there – my grandmother was a bit surprised at Mum reading while she breastfed me. She had another baby to look after then, a cheetah abandoned by its mother. Schniff was later adopted by a smart country club after Dad moved away.

My father then became Manager of the Beekse Bergen Safari Park in The Netherlands. Mum in effect shared the park management and her management skills were honed. My sister Fiona appeared there. Mum looked after many baby animals in the house, including another cheetah, Giles, who was part of the household for a couple of years, a constant delight to the family. He later became the Dutch Air Force mascot.

After our parents' marriage broke up, Mum moved to Belgium. Certainly David was the chief reason for her happiness here. Those of you who live in Antwerp and have known Mum over the years will know that her organisational gifts were put to good use during her unstinting work, with her firm opinions, for several associations and societies: the Antwerp British

Community Association and the Mission to Seafarers; the local and European Decorative Arts Societies of which she was Chairman and Vice-Chairman; the British American Theatrical Society (Chairman), and the local and international Festivals of European Anglophile Theatre Societies (Chairman and Permanent Secretary).

.....

Thank you, Pat and Simon for these appreciations of her, as well as the photo of Angela and Schniff.

.....

News about FEATS 2010 from David Jayne

Experienced FEATS organisers will know; the work starts well over a year before the event. It was no different for Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre (FEST) who formed the essential committee and christened it during the first congenial meeting over delicious food and good wine: the 'FEATS Organising Committee Of FEST' was born. Now within FEST, apparently unprompted and very rude commands to go away are, in fact, only references to the abbreviation of this Committee's name.

The groups entitled to participate at FEATS 2010 were established during the Steering Committee meeting held in Bad Homburg on 17th October. Since then, we have had a flurry of activity as some groups who were eligible have since withdrawn and our reserves have been activated, even our second and third reserves! Happily we do have twelve groups who will be trundling up - or down - the A5 for the Ascension weekend next year. Yes, please do remind your friends; FEATS 2010 is NOT during Whitsun but one week earlier and from Thursday to Sunday. If you turn up one week later you'll not only miss FEATS but also the wine festival being held right outside the Kurtheater, and that would be a great shame, wouldn't it?

Taking centre stage late each evening will be Jan Palmer Sayer, our adjudicator. She has been an associate since 2001 and a full member of GODA since 2005. Her duties have taken her literally the length of the country - from the Edinburgh Fringe to the cliffside Minack Theatre in Cornwall - as well as across to the Isle of Man. She is Head Teacher at Hertswood School in Borehamwood, a specialist Arts College, and manages around 90 teaching and 60 support staff, so sit quietly and pay attention during the adjudication! We are very pleased to have persuaded Jan to give us the benefit of her insight and experience with, amongst others, the Shattered Windscreen Theatre Company.

We have already put options on a few hundred hotel rooms in Bad Homburg and, you'll be pleased to know that a number of new restaurants have opened since FEATS was last in town in 2003, widening the choice of food and drink considerably. Our Chairman, David Mark, has been putting Google's products to the test and has created a couple of very informative maps to help you find things to do, places to eat as well as daytime entertainment in the area. The shops will be shut on Thursday which is a public holiday, but will then be open on Friday, Saturday and - exceptionally - Sunday too. Bring good walking shoes or your mountain bike, your trunks or your cossy because there's a wonderful opportunity to get the whole family both moving and relaxed at the same time here in this spa town and in the hills around.

We decided early on to hold a cashless FEATS. This means that all snacks and drinks at the theatre and also the fringe venue around the corner will be paid for by tokens. To get you started on the first evening, as from January you will be able to order these online in advance, together with your theatre tickets, party tickets, prize draw tickets, programmes, T-shirts and other good stuff. Of course, we'll have charming hosts and hostesses in the foyer who will be very happy to sell you more.

Gill Atkinson is our festival Stage Manager. The property of Bonn Players really, she moonlights in Frankfurt during the week and it was not too difficult to persuade her to take charge of the Kurtheater for four days. She has already rallied a festival crew together and is currently working hard with them on getting the all-important SMDP ready for publication.

During the three previous FEATS festivals in Bad Homburg we have often heard that it is so convenient to park the car once and then be able to walk everywhere for the rest of the weekend; from

the hotel to the theatre to the fringe to the party, it's always just a short stroll. We have even created a page on our website on the subject of parking. And talking of websites; our FEATS 2010 website is almost complete and the shop will go online very soon.

Take a look at [www.festfrankfurt.org/f2010](http://www.festfrankfurt.org/f2010) the next time you go surfing. We hope to have provided all the infos you need right now and we'll be updating regularly as things progress - you'll find the latest news in special panel, top right. Do let us know if there's something we've missed - a short e-mail will suffice.

The FOCOF looks forward to greeting you in Bad Homburg for FEATS 2010!

David J. Jayne, Publicity/Webmaster, FEATS 2010 Organising Committee  
Tel.:+49 (0)611 710 9949, E-Mail: [feats2010@festfrankfurt.org](mailto:feats2010@festfrankfurt.org)

=====

Should you be looking for **ideas for plays**; either for FEATS or otherwise, the information below from Simon Smith of Cressrelles Publishing Company Limited, might be of interest.

*You can now download FREE copies of all our catalogues of plays from our website: [www.cressrelles.co.uk](http://www.cressrelles.co.uk) including our newest releases, pantomimes and youth plays. I trust you will find many plays to interest you and find our rates extremely competitive. Please note that our New Plays for Mixed and All-Women Casts Catalogues have been updated very recently our very latest plays.*

*Cressrelles Publishing Company Limited  
Registered Office: 10 Station Road Industrial Estate, Colwall, WR13 6RN  
Registered Number: England 1074075  
Telephone/Fax: (01684) 540154 - [www.cressrelles.co.uk](http://www.cressrelles.co.uk)  
Directors: L. G. Smith, S. R. Smith*

---

Or maybe you would rather try your hand at writing your own play and entering it for the **DRAMA ASSOCIATION OF WALES' One Act Playwriting Competition 2010**. The competition aims to encourage the writing of One-Act plays for amateur theatre in English and Welsh. In addition to cash awards, prize-winning plays will be considered for publication. Previous prizewinners have been published and performed as a result of promotion through their New Writing Scheme.

PLAYING TIME: 20-50 MINS / MINIMUM CAST OF TWO

An Adjudicating Panel appointed by the Drama Association of Wales will read and consider the plays entered into the Competition and will award the following prizes:

- Best Play for a Youth Cast (16-25 years) - £250
- Best Play in the Open Category - £250
- Best Play in the Welsh Language - £250
- plus commemorative Prizewinners Medals
- The above plays will be considered for publication by DAW Publications
  
- Also:
  
- The Best Play from a Wales Based Playwright will be awarded a bursary to Tŷ Newydd, the National Writers' Centre for Wales

For application forms, please contact Teresa at the Drama Association of Wales (DAW) on Cardiff +44 (0) 29 2045 2200 or email: [teresa@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:teresa@dramawales.org.uk)

The closing date for entries to the competition is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

The competition, sponsored by Technocover, is open to everyone. Do not be discouraged from entering if you live outside Wales entries are received from all over the world.

+++++

The **Drama Association of Wales** (DAW) is delighted to announce that their brand new website is now live: [www.dramawales.org.uk](http://www.dramawales.org.uk) . It has news, views, information on the services they provide (including the largest English language drama lending library in the world), and notices of future events in the DAW calendar.

If your group is a member of DAW, please contact DAW with your website address so they can add it to their links page. They are also asking for photographs from DAW group members' productions that you would be happy for them to include. They are now on Facebook and Twitter and you will find links on the website to both.

If you are not yet a member of the Drama Association of Wales, there is a section on membership and they would be delighted to hear from you. **Teresa Hennessy**

\*\*\*\*\*

**International Physical Theatre Lab** is holding a course from Monday February 22, 2010 - Saturday February 27, 2010 (8:00PM - 11:00PM) in Leitring bei Leibnitz, Austria. It consists of intensive practical training, lectures and discussions for actors of physical, dramatic, dance and musical theatres, dancers, choreographers, circus performers, directors.

The working language is English. The Lab will take place in the "Green Heart" of Austria - Styria Region. Leitring bei Leibnitz is a beautiful town located 30min from Graz Thalerhof Airport. The programme will take place at the historic 15th century castle.

Accommodation and three meals per day are organized.

If you would like to know a little more... <http://www.iugte.com/projects/OstrenkoLab.php>

For more details about this event, including maps, comments, and other attendees, visit the event page at <http://upcoming.yahoo.com/event/4571198/?invitation=cfc189a8d6>

àààààààààààààààà

It only remains for me to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

