

FEATS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1998

(e-mail version)

GENEVA ENGLISH DRAMA SOCIETY

host

FEATS'99

21 - 24 May 1999
at Forum Theatre,
Meyrin, Geneva

Participating Groups

At the Steering Committee meeting held in Geneva on 26 September, the groups to be invited to take part in FEATS'99 were identified, following the now well established selection process.

All 27 groups in the selection table had been contacted and all had responded. After the concern that had been expressed about the difficulty that some groups might face in taking part in Geneva, it was very pleasing that in the end only two groups declined the invitation. In addition, two new groups (Upstage, Berne and Zürich Comedy Club) had shown interest and had also been invited. Berne declined the invitation but Zurich are keen to take part. So that meant that 26 groups had all expressed an interest in performing in Geneva. In accordance with the rules, Zürich Comedy Club as a new group entering the festival for the first time, was placed at the top of List A and BATS as the host for FEATS'98 moved to the top of list C.

The top four groups in each list have now been asked to confirm their intention to participate and to pay their deposits.

LIST A	LIST B	List C
Zürich Comedy Club ESOC Theatre Group, Darmstadt Stockholm Players Village Players, Lausanne	Semi-Circle, Basel Leiden English Speaking Theatre ESTEC Escape Players, Noordwijk English Comedy Club, Brussels	BATS, Antwerp Little Theater of Geneva AATG, The Hague Tagora, Strasbourg
First reserve MQΣACT, Maastricht	First reserve Irish Theatre Group, Brussels	First reserve Copenhagen Theatre Circle
Second reserve Bonn Players	Second reserve Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre	Second reserve In Players, Amsterdam

FEATS'99 will be hosted by the Geneva English Drama Society (GEDS) and will take place at Forum Theatre in Meyrin, just outside Geneva from 21 - 24 May 1999..

For more information, please contact any member of the FEATS'99 Organising Committee at:

FEATS'99
Case Postale 117
CH-1211 Geneva 12
Switzerland

Key members of the Organising Committee are:

Chairman	Jane Easton
Treasurer	Ray Bach
Secretary	Anne Everett
Stage Mgr.	George Krasker
Publicity	Mark Clayton

e-mail:

You can also find GEDS on their website at:

<http://cuiwww.unige.ch/~flumet/tie.html>

Progress report on FEATS '99

At the Steering Committee Meeting held in Geneva on 26 September, Jane Easton gave the following progress report on behalf of the FEATS'99 Organising Committee:

- a) The Forum Theatre in Meyrin has been booked. A theatre visit for participating groups will be scheduled for March/April.
- b) The Technical Manual is scheduled to go out at the end of November.
- c) Scott Marshall has been engaged as adjudicator.
- d) Theatre tickets will be sold via the Theatre In English (TIE) ticket office, which was set up to handle the ticket sales for the three Geneva groups.
- e) The main hotel to be used will be the Mövenpick Cadettt, which is within easy walking distance of the theatre. Rates have still to be confirmed but are likely to be around CHF132 and 120, for double and single rooms. A less expensive downtown hotel and possibly other alternatives such as campsites will also be quoted in the hospitality pack
- f) For FEATS'99, the maximum running time of plays will be extended to 55 minutes. This is being introduced as an experiment and does not necessarily mean that the extended running time will be adopted at all future festivals
- g) The Saturday night party will be held at the theatre.
The hospitality pack will be sent to all groups, not just the twelve participants.
- i) Plans are to hold Fringe events on the Sunday and Monday afternoons only, to give visitors a chance to shop and sightsee on Saturday. Invitations to participate in the Fringe will be sent out end November.
- j) There is a great diversity of things to see and do in Geneva. Possibilities for organised tours are being discussed.

55 Minutes Maximum Running Time for FEATS'99

Yes the FEATS'99 organising committee in Geneva has decided to allow 55 minutes as the maximum running time, following discussion on this matter in the FEATS Forum in Antwerp, and after much discussion amongst themselves. The prolongation of the running time is a trial and may well revert to 45 minutes for subsequent FEATS.

Those groups selected to participate in FEATS'99 will be receiving the Technical Manual at the end of November. The Hospitality Package is then scheduled to go out to all groups in January.

Should you require any further information, please contact

Jane Easton
e-mail

FEATS '99 in Geneva - the fringe ...

We are hoping for a vibrant, stimulating and provocative array of events for the FEATS Fringe theatre in Geneva. This is scheduled to run for a total of 6 hours - from 1-4 p.m. on the Sunday and Monday. The Fringe will be held in a special "locale" in the Forum Theatre, a short sandwich-throw away from the main theatre, the bar, and the hospitality desk. The Fringe "theatre" will be equipped with a stage and simple lighting and sound facilities, full details of which will be supplied in due course with the invitation to participate, which will go out to Fringe Community participants on 29 October. We have already received firm indications from several groups that they will be submitting Fringe items, so don't miss out on this unique opportunity to give unusual or short pieces an airing.

Almost anything goes, - but we are more interested in "theatre" rather than cabaret or music hall, - in unusual or experimental work, rather than old chestnuts or recital pieces. BUT - everything submitted will be reviewed on its individual merits - and we have to bear in mind the need to offer a varied programme which fits into the available time frame. SO: no arbitrary limits, of time or content, but we reserve the right to make very arbitrary choices!

Don't forget: if you use copyright sound effects you will have to supply us with details so that we can obtain the Swiss performing rights, but you (or your group) will have to obtain the performing rights for the pieces you propose to perform.

We are already receiving expressions of interest from groups and individuals outside the FEATS Community. While not discouraging such unsolicited applications, we will of course give priority to FEATS groups, bearing in mind suitability of material and the very limited time at our disposal. We encourage groups which have not been allocated a slot in the main Festival to submit material for the Fringe which might roll over into the Festival proper in the event that there are late or last minute cancellations.

If you have any questions or want more information, please do not hesitate to contact me: by phone during the day at +41
, or preferably by email:

Ann Oakley, Fringe Co-ordinator, FEATS '99

The Steering Committee Visit Geneva

At the end of September, GEDS invited all the members of the Steering Committee (together with partners, friends and a few other hangers-on) to spend a weekend in Geneva. The main excuse for the visit was to hold a Steering Committee meeting to finalise the selection of groups to be invited to participate in FEATS'99 - but that was by no means the only activity that took place during a very enjoyable (if somewhat damp) weekend

On Friday and Saturday, by car and plane, a baker's dozen FEATS representatives arrived at the Mövenpick Cadettt (yes, it does have three t's), under the flight path of Geneva International Airport. During the next 48 hours, we thoroughly tested the hotel facilities - particularly the restaurant and bar. It is a well equipped, modern hotel, with comfortable bedrooms, excellent carparking, a well stocked (if rather small) bar - with an amazing selection of wine, a good menu and superb breakfasts ! The freshly made scrambled eggs have to be tasted to be believed !!

The hotel is a brisk five minute walk from the "Commercial Centre" of Meyrin, where there is a modern shopping complex, complete with a number of restaurants, bars and coffee shops - and the Forum Theatre. On Saturday morning, representatives of the GEDS Organising Committee met us at the hotel and took us all on a comprehensive, backstage visit to the theatre. The theatre is about 3 years old, spacious and wonderfully well equipped. The auditorium is large (cap.700) and the seating is very comfortable - plenty of leg room. The foyer areas are extensive - there is ample room for the FEATS Fringe and for the Saturday Night party to be held in comfort in the theatre.

Backstage is a FEATS Stage Manager's delight !! The technical facilities are excellent - I have never seen a store room with so much lighting equipment and the Lighting/Sound control room is a perfect haven for tekkies. Even the access platforms high above the stage are wide and reassuringly solid ! Some members of the FEATS party are not generally found in the lighting gallery, but everyone felt completely safe climbing round under the expert guidance of the theatre's Assistant Stage Manager.

Beneath the stage are a number of large and well equipped dressing rooms, a green room and several store rooms filled with the contents of a theatrical mail-order catalogue.

The space in the wings, whilst perfectly adequate, is not large and there will be some restriction on the room available to each group for storage. There is also no fly-tower, although small items of scenery could probably be flown between the borders.

Access into the theatre is very straight-forward. Trucks can back up to the rear door of the theatre and offload straight onto the stage - no lifts or difficult flights of stairs to negotiate. However, this does mean that there is nowhere to pre-assemble scenery, except on the stage itself or outside in the parking area (if the weather's fine).

We were all very excited by the opportunities and the facilities that the theatre offers, both for performers and for the audience. There is no doubt that it will make an excellent venue for FEATS'99.

What's On in Europe

Date	Event	Venue	Contact for further details
15-18 October 30-31 October	<i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> by David Edgar	Melkweg, Amsterdam British School Brussels	AATG The Hague Fintan McDonagh +31-70-345 1500
20-24 October	<i>Hobson's Choice</i> by Hugh Brighouse	British School Arts Centre ECC Brussels Tervuren, Brussels	+32-2-375 1432
28-31 October	<i>Twelfth Night</i> by W.Shakespeare	Collège de l'Elysée Ouchy, Lausanne	Village Players, Lausanne +41-21-701 2627
26-31 October 2-6 November	<i>Will Power! Shakespeare As You Like It</i>	Kellerhtheatre Schones Haus Basel	Semi Circle, Basel +41-61-206 99 99
10-14 November	<i>The Glass Menagerie</i> by Tennessee Williams	International School Brussels	American Theatre Company Anita, +32-2-460 4626
11-21 November	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i> by Neil Simon	Th. an der Marschnerstrasse Hamburg	Hamburg Players Peter Bigglestone, +49-1474-650153
17-28 November	<i>The Fantasticks</i> , musical by Harvey Schmidt/Tom Jones	Krudttønden Theatre Østerbro, Copenhagen	Copenhagen Theatre Circle Frank Theakston, +45-35-435636
17-21 November	<i>A Chorus of Disapproval</i> by Alan Ayckbourn	Collège de Terre-Sainte Coppet, Geneva	GEDS Anne Everett, +41-22-736-7255
1999			
9-11 January	<i>Pied Piper panto</i>	The Arenberg Theatre Antwerp	BATS, Antwerp Brian Edwards, +32-3-457-3569
15-17 January	<i>Aladdin</i>		ECC Brussels
5-7 February	<i>Cinderella</i>	Theater aan het Spui The Hague	AATG The Hague Gill Fifield +31-71-53 23 853
6 & 20 February	<i>Behind the Scenes Workshops (Stage Make-up)</i>	The Warehouse, Brussels Info. & Registration, contact Michelle Fletcher, +32-2-640 8348	ATC Brussels
Feb. - 4 Mar	<i>Old Time Music Hall</i>	Skovriderkroen Charlottenlund	Copenhagen Theatre Circle Frank Theakston, +45-35-435636
9-13 March	<i>Broken Glass</i> by Arthur Miller	Théâtre de l'Espérance Geneva	GEDS Anne Everett, +41-22-736-7255
16-20 March	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i> by Neil Simon	International School Brussels	American Theatre Company Heidi, +32-2-734 3353
23-27 March	<i>Sylvia</i> by A.R. Gurney	Théâtre de l'Espérance Geneva	Little Theatre Geneva Philippa Dobree-Carey +41-22-367 1120
May	<i>N'écoutez pas, Mesdames!</i> by Sacha Guitry (in French)		TAGORA David Crowe, +33-388-413871
21-24 May	FEATS'99	Forum Theatre, Meyrin, GEDS, Geneva Geneva	Anne Everett, +41-22-736-7255