



## November Newsletter

Early in October members of the Steering Committee wended their various ways, by different means, to Hamburg. Over a beautiful sunny and warm weekend they were able to look over the facilities and be brought up to date with the organisation of FEATS 2005, to be held from 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May. We took the Strassenbahn a couple of stops from the hotel at the Dammtor to Altona and then walked along a pleasant leafy avenue to the theatre. The entire trip takes just 15 minutes. The Saturday party will be held about a 7 minute walk from the theatre, at a local Tanzschule, where there will be one smallish smoking area with the rest of the building non-smoking. We were able to sample the suggested buffet and can strongly recommend it.

Having received all replies from the groups as to their willingness to play next year, the following have been invited to participate:

AATG, The Hague  
ECC, Brussels  
GEDS Geneva  
Stockholm Players

BATS, Antwerp  
Entity, München  
NEAT Stuttgart  
Tagora, Strasbourg

The Bonn Players  
CATS Rheindahlen  
Out Of Attica, Athens  
TIE Brussels

and data packages are being prepared. The Hamburg team has decided to have a 45 minute limit for plays and the evenings will begin at 19h30. It was confirmed that there will always be someone on hand to act as interpreter backstage between the main theatre crew and the groups, so there should not be any communications problems.

A word to the wise: all sets and furniture have to be craned into the theatre, so, check the data package carefully if you are planning to use a double-decker bus as part of your set dressing. For those of a technical bent, the lighting, sound and flying facilities are all fully adequate to allow an excellent show to be presented. This is, however, an older theatre than some we regularly use and may present different challenges. CAREFUL STUDY OF THE TECHNICAL DATA PACKAGE IS RECOMMENDED – particularly for those directors who have ambitious plans.

There are three good-sized dressing rooms and, for that final makeup check, luxury of luxuries, there are a couple of makeup tables just before going through the door and up about six steps onto the stage area. Just be careful, as the first step is higher than the rest. It goes without saying that the last step back into the dressing room corridor is deeper! The theatre itself is a very pleasant 540 seater space where everyone has a good view of the stage.

Fringe events will take place in the theatre in the bar. This is a very plush area with comfortable seating and a small stage space (about 6 ½ metres wide) with simple lighting. The organising team are hoping for an active, lively fringe with a mixture of workshops and performances. Relevant information will go out in February or

March and it is hoped that workshops such as lighting or lighting and sound will be offered. Workshops will probably be held in the school next door.

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Although Hamburg may seem a long way away for some of you, there are many ways of getting there without spending an absolute fortune. For those of you who will be travelling by train, Deutsche Bahn offers reductions for groups: five people constitute a 'mini-group' and twenty people travelling together will receive substantial reductions.

Also, as Air Berlin, Air France, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Cirrus Airlines, Condor, Czech Airlines, Deutsche BA, Eurowings, Hapag-Lloyd, Iberia, KLM, LOT, LTU, Lufthansa, Luxair, Scandinavian Airlines, Swiss, TAP Air Portugal and Turkish Airlines, fly into Hamburg, many parts of Europe are covered. There is a transfer to the station or a taxi will cost about €20 into town. Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) flies to Lübeck and there is a coach connection from this airport to the main train station in Hamburg.

If you decide to drive, there is parking near the hotel, but it is not advisable to use your car to travel to the theatre as parking there is not very easy. In fact, getting around the city by public transport is extremely easy and a car, frankly, would be a hindrance rather than a help.

Hamburg is a city which is well-worth seeing: lots of museums (55 in all); from art to spices; from customs and excise to dolls; from planetarium to botanical gardens to name but a few; walking and cycling tracks, sailing possibilities. There are various tours of the city by double-decker bus or small train and also harbour cruises. So, you know the dates, (13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May) and the place (Hamburg-Altona), why not check out travel websites and see what offers you can come up with.

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Already triple winners at FEATS 2004: the Kast Cup for best production, the Grand Duchy Award for best stage presentation and the "Blackie" Award to Jan Horsburgh for best actress, New World Theatre Club brought the 2004 NDFA British All Winners Festival to an impressive close on 31 July with another award-winning performance of Colin Crowther's poetic drama "*Footprints in the Sand*". At Llandrindod Wells two more awards followed – the NDFA Council Trophy as runners-up in the one-act section for best production and the Amateur Theatre Trophy, an award given at the adjudicator's discretion for any aspect of a production, on this occasion for direction, set, lighting and sound effects.

In an emotional post-performance meeting, a frail Colin Crowther, supported by his wife Mary, warmly congratulated the NWTC team on their fine interpretation of his work, explaining that he saw much of himself in Adrian Diffey's portrayal of the Man. (extract from *MORE AWARDS FOR NEW WORLD THEATRE CLUB* by Pen Turner.)

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Our congratulations also to GEDS member, Chuck Slovenski for winning the playwriting competition organised by Upstage, Berne. His play, *My Irish Pal*, will be GEDS' entrance for FEATS 2005.

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On the subject of winning, the 32<sup>nd</sup> All Winners' Festival will take place at the Halifax Playhouse from 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2005 with Russell Whitely as adjudicator. A selection meeting will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June to decide which groups will be invited to play.

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The University Theatre of Franche-Comté is pleased to announce their **14<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Student Theatre** in Besançon (Franche-Comté) from **7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005** inclusive. Information from the Théâtre Universitaire de Franche-Comté, Maison de l'Etudiant, 36 rue Mégevand. 25 000 Besançon Tél: 33 (0)3 81 66 53 47 / Fax : 33 (0)3 81 66 53 75, Courriel : [tufc<sup>at</sup>univ-fcomte.fr](mailto:tufc@univ-fcomte.fr)  
Web Site : [tufc.univ-fcomte.fr](http://tufc.univ-fcomte.fr)

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The A.A.T.G. Theatre Group is organising a series of workshops for the 2004 / 2005 season. They feel that there may be members of other groups who would like to participate in one or more of these workshops and hope to stimulate an exchange of similar activities between groups.

The following workshops: *Voice / Singing; Use of Video in theatre plays; Lighting - technical & creative; Directing /acting; Writing; Sound - technical & creative; Make-up techniques;* have been arranged:

Should you be interested, AATG will send all relevant details. Please contact Pamela Broek at [pamelabroek<sup>at</sup>hotmail.com](mailto:pamelabroek@hotmail.com).

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Once again the **Drama Association of Wales** has a playwriting competition: this time for a play for an **all-female cast**. The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2005.

First prize - £125; Second prize £65; Third prize £35 plus Prize-winners' Medals and consideration for publication.

Entry Forms and information from **Drama Association of Wales**, The Old Library, Singleton Road, Splott, Cardiff CF24 2ET. Tel +44 29 2045 2200 Email: [aled.daw<sup>at</sup>virgin.net](mailto:aled.daw@virgin.net)

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As you will see from the next page, information is received from some of the groups about when, what and where they are performing. However, only from a few on a regular basis. If you want news about your activities to reach the wider FEATS family, please put [editor<sup>at</sup>FEATS.org](mailto:editor@FEATS.org) on your regular mailing list.

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Although it is still only November, Christmas will soon be on us and many of you will be in the midst of rehearsals – 'normal' theatre or pantomime. *Break a leg!* and best wishes to you and your families in the festive season and the coming year.

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Any information for the next newsletter or address changes can be sent either by e-mail to [editor<sup>at</sup>FEATS.org](mailto:editor@FEATS.org) or, by post to: S.M. Seth, Gerstenkamp 14, D- 51061 Köln.

| <u>WHEN</u>          | <u>WHO</u>                                                  | <u>WHAT</u>                                                       | <u>WHERE</u>                                                           | <u>CONTACT</u>                                                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>November 2004</b> |                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                        |                                                                         |
| 10-13 & 16-19        | Zürich Comedy Club                                          | <i>Blithe Spirit</i>                                              | Theater am Seefeld                                                     | +41 /900 800 800 / www.ticketcorner.ch                                  |
| 16 - 20              | The Bonn Players                                            | <i>Sense &amp; Sensibility</i>                                    | Wohnstift Augustinum                                                   | + 49 /228 956.23.98 /bonnplayers <sup>at</sup> aol.com                  |
| 15-27                | Irish Theatre Group                                         | <i>The Way You Look Tonight</i>                                   | The Warehouse                                                          | ebates <sup>at</sup> eamonn Bates.com                                   |
| 18-21                | BLOC                                                        | <i>Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat</i>               | Auderghem CC                                                           | tickets <sup>at</sup> BLOC-brussels.be                                  |
| 20                   | New Light Theatre<br>Lauderdale-by-the-sea<br>Joseph Rezwin | <i>Roses are Blind</i><br><br><i>An afternoon tea at midnight</i> | Theater de Cameleon,<br>Derde Kostverlorenkade 35<br>1054 TS Amsterdam | +31-20-4894656<br>info <sup>at</sup> decameleon.nl<br>www.decameleon.nl |
| 24, 25, 26, 30       | Upstage, Berne                                              | <i>Cinders, The True Story</i>                                    | Theater am Käfigturm                                                   | + 41313116100 /www.theater-am-kaefigturm.ch                             |
| 30                   | ATC, Brussels                                               | <i>The Last Yankee</i>                                            | The Warehouse                                                          | www.atc-brussels.com                                                    |
| <b>December 2004</b> |                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                        |                                                                         |
| 1, 2, 3              | Upstage, Berne                                              | <i>Cinders, The True Story</i>                                    | Theater am Käfigturm                                                   | + 41313116100 /www.theater-am-kaefigturm.ch                             |
| 1 - 4                | ATC, Brussels                                               | <i>The Last Yankee</i>                                            | The Warehouse                                                          | www.atc-brussels.com                                                    |
| 2, 8 ,9, 11          | Village Players                                             | <i>Cinderella in the Kingdom of Vaud</i>                          | Salle de Châtonneyre,<br>Corseaux                                      | +41 21 617.54.17<br>www.villageplayers.ch                               |
| <b>January 2005</b>  |                                                             |                                                                   |                                                                        |                                                                         |
| 15 – 17              | BATS, Antwerp                                               | <i>The Magic Shoes</i>                                            | Arenbergschouwberg                                                     | http://www.bats-antwerp.org                                             |
| 21-22                | GEDS, Geneva                                                | <i>My Irish Pal</i>                                               | English Church Hall                                                    | www.geds.ch                                                             |