

Getting around with public transport

Each day we will be providing you with details of how to get to and from the festival venue on public transport.

Just to make your life more complicated, the timetables for the Metro system and trams will be different every day this weekend, especially with the 20k Run on Sunday, which

will send traffic haywire - more details tomorrow!

The timetables below are for getting to and from Montgomery Metro station, from where you can easily reach most parts of Brussels, including the Schuman area where the festival hotels are based.

The main stops are Chien Vert (just down Avenue Don Bosco opposite the theatre) and Tomberg Metro station (turn right out of the theatre, walk down Avenue Charles Thielemans and turn right into Avenue du Val d'Or, and keep going until you see the Metro signs).

Friday - getting home

M 1 Weststation Gare de l'Ouest

Arrêt: **TOMBERG**

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0	1
06	06	04	08	18	18	18	18	18	
12	11	10	23	38	38	38	38	38	38
18	18	16	38	58	58	58	58	58	58
24	24	22	58						
30	28	28							
36	36	36							
42	42	46							
48	48	56							
54	52								
58	58								

T 39 Montgomery

Arrêt: **CHIEN VERT**

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0	1
08	02	01	03	07	08	08	08	08	11
08	08	07	15	29	29	29	29	29	29
16	14	18	30	48	48	48	48	48	31
20	20	18	48						51
27	26	26							
33	32	33							
38	38	43							
45	45	58							
51	48								
58	56								

T 44 Montgomery

Arrêt: **CHIEN VERT**

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	0	1
00	00	00	01	01	01	01	01	18	
06	06	06	08	11	11	11	18	27	8
12	12	12	17	21	21	21	18	31	5
18	18	18	25	31	31	31	38		
24	24	24	32	41	41	41	58		
30	30	30	41	51	51	51			
36	36	37	44						
42	42	48	61						
48	48	46							
54	54	58							

Saturday - getting here

M 1 Stockel Stokkel

Arrêt: **MONTGOMERY**

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	04	06	06	03	03	03	08	08	08	03
24	18	18	18	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
28	28	28	24	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
38	38	38	28	25	25	25	26	26	26	25
52	48	48	38	33	33	33	38	38	38	33
	58	58	48	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
			55	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
				55	55	55	56	56	56	55

T 39 Ban-Eik

Arrêt: **MONTGOMERY**

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15Z	04Z	08Z	08Z	01	11Z	11Z	12Z	12Z	11Z	11Z
37Z	28Z	28Z	28Z	04Z	28Z	28Z	27Z	27Z	28Z	28Z
66Z	48Z	48Z	48Z	28Z	41Z	42Z	42Z	40Z	41Z	48Z
				41Z	58Z	57Z	57Z	56Z	58Z	
				58Z						

T 44 Tervuren Station

Arrêt: **MONTGOMERY**

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
08Z	00	18Z	18Z	11	04Z	04Z	04Z	04Z	04Z	04Z
27Z	18Z	38Z	38Z	18Z	18Z	18Z	18Z	18Z	18Z	18Z
48Z	37Z	57Z	58Z	38Z	34Z	34Z	34Z	34Z	34Z	38Z
	58Z			48Z	48Z	48Z	48Z	48Z	48Z	58Z

Feats Bugle ¹⁰⁰

Feats 33, Issue 1

Friday, 29 May 2009

Welcome to Brussels—enjoy the show!

Stephen Challens, Festival Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to Feats 2009 and the English Comedy Club's 100th season as an amateur theatre club.

Feats is very dear to my soul, even though I am still speaking a newbie in its community.

My first experience was on stage in 'Man of Letters' a very frightening experience after several years away from the stage entirely and I have to admit I was immediately bitten by the Feats bug. I wanted to write for Feats, I wanted to direct for Feats, and at times I wanted to adjudicate for Feats!

I have been part of *Underground Lovers* and *Dr Faustus*, I have written *A Slackers guide*, *Roy* and *Runaway*

and whilst I enjoy the spirit of competition it has always been the experience and working with each team that I treasure most.

Spending time with friends doing some thing we love that creates a feeling that cannot be beaten. We all come together once a year and share comedy, drama and theatre at its best with the rest of our community .

For me, there have been some particularly memorable moments — the card game in *The Fall of the House of Usher*, the set and the sea from *Footprints in the Sand*, the physicality in *Foxtales* and the power in *Gum and Goo*, to name but a few.

Feats as a festival shows that we all have much more to learn and enjoy in what we and others, our friends from across



The calm before the storm - Four days to go and counting!

the continent can do.

There is a lot of work behind this Feats, as there is behind every Feats, and the whole team wish you all the best for a great weekend of theatre.

Whether you are an old hand, seasoned veteran or a newbie about to be bitten by the Feats bug, we wish you a truly special annual event.

Enjoy the Festival!

Memories of Feats past

Diana Morton-Hooper Deeks

Apart from 1979 when we hosted Feats at the KVS in the rue de Laeken on the understanding that we would perform a Flemish play as part of the deal (um, best forgotten) the ECC has always come to the Woluwe-Saint-Pierre Cultural Centre for Feats.

Each time it's our turn, voices recommend all sorts of other places and the wise old timers smile and let the investigations be made, as they know that really the best place in Brussels to host a Feats is our dear old home in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre.

With Dominique and his team in charge of the theatre we have a warm welcoming presence – somebody who knows us and whom we know well and in whom we can trust!

I suppose the most important memory of a Brussels Feats is that I met my husband Philip in 1988, albeit briefly as I seem to remember he was a bit hungover the next day and we didn't see each other until the following Feats in

Luxembourg – and no, it didn't take him a year to recover. I was one side of the bar, he was the other and very much a Stockholm Player at that point.

The next time we hosted Feats in 1992, Philip and I were married, I was ECC Chair and he was Feats Chair. In 1997 Sarah Scheele chaired Feats and I was having my third go as ECC Chair.

By 2002 Philip was ECC Chair and I was Feats Chair. Nothing like keeping it in the family. However, we are both happy just to be pouring drinks and making sandwiches this time!

After the very special 25th Anniversary Feats in The Hague in 2001, we tried to keep things simple in 2002, starting with an initial team of 5 which grew to 75 volunteers in the end.

That year we introduced Youth Feats which we called Featlets which this year seems to have grown into a fully-fledged mini festival for young people with adjudications and prizes. Wow!

In 2002 we were delighted to introduce the first Blackies for Best Actor and

"A jest's prosperity lies in the ear of him that hears it, never in the tongue of him that makes it"

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*Love's Labours Lost - v.ii.849

Festival Eye

This is a page dedicated to pictures from the festival. If you have any you would like included here, simply contact Conrad in the Box Office or send them by email (if you have access!) to conradtoft@gmail.com. In the meantime, here are a few of the faces that you'll get to know at Feats...

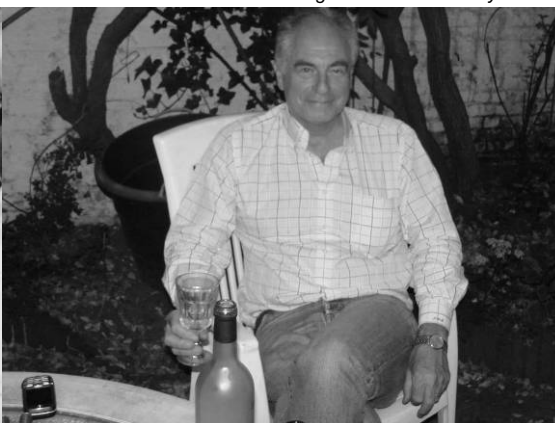


Andy Ing - he's the boss, the festival stage manager. Don't let this smile fool you, if he says jump, ask how high...

Stephen Challens, the Feats 2009 chair, is so confident about the outcome of the festival that he's got the T-shirt already.



Got a problem? Don't know where to turn? Well, you do now - just ask Carrie Caunce and her team of gold-shirted volunteers.



Bar manager Philip Deeks cares about your Feats experience so much that he's already tested all his merchandise.



In an effort to improve team spirit and serenity within the stage management crew, Andy leads them in a group therapy session.



And, finally, last but certainly not least - you won't see our secretary Janet Middleton at Feats as she is out of the country, but without her this festival would simply not have been possible.

Memories (cont.)

Actress, though the generous donation of Barbara Blackwell MBE, the widow of our former Chair in whose name these awards were made. Barbara is on the sandwich-making team this weekend.

What's in a name? Well quite a lot. In 2002 a group called OUTCAST from Stuttgart was invited and soon wrote to say they were now called ACTS. On 1 Jan 2002 OUTCAST emailed to say "how about appearing in Feats" to which we replied "But you're already in, aren't you?" OUTCAST still existed and it had not become ACTS. In fact ACTS was a breakaway/extension of OUTCAST but the prime mover had gone to the States. Much confusion.

Then we heard from Stuttgart's NEAT... suffice to say, cyberspace sizzled with email but with some diplomacy it sorted itself out. Second problem was Hamburg and improvisations - can you do improv in a competition? Well, apparently yes but only if a firm script emerges for the adjudicator. And that's how legendary Foxtales came to Feats and won - deservedly so!

No strangers to controversy, with GEDS and ITG withdrawing late in the day, and BATS stepping in at the last minute with much arm twisting, we bamboozled two-times Feats Best Actor (1985, 1988) Robert Rowe, today a retired translator and professional actor, to step in with an out-of-competition monologue to fill the other slot. He was brilliant but oh what outraged

whisperings went on in the bar about it. But they are nothing to the whisperings and mirth throughout a Feats audience one year when what should have been a very serious Miss Julie was hysterically funny - I think unintentionally. You know how it is - one person giggles, another catches it and then a ripple of suppressed laughter washes over everybody like a tidal wave.

A bit like a funeral I went to earlier this year where the brother of the deceased chose the Goon's Ying Tong Song for the moment of quiet reflection - nobody knew whether to laugh or cry though the late Alan must have guffawed from wherever he is.

But the only other repeatable Feats story I can think of for the moment is the performance of a two hander from a Spanish-based group. One of the actors had had a heart attack leaving the

other actor to perform alone which worked, sort of, until the missing actor was supposed to shoot or stab the other one.

You would have thought somebody might have just possibly come on with a script as a stand in. But no....disembodied voices from the wings, sound effects and again, an unintentionally hysterical audience..... Sadly we never saw that group again.

I wonder what will happen this weekend?



A touch of Feats controversy

Conrad Toft (from newspaper reports)

Bringing together up to twelve competing teams from across Europe can lead to its fair share of controversy. Perhaps one of the most infamous incidents in Feats history was the one at Feats '81 in The Hague that sparked a "royal row" when the Inplayers proposed production was disqualified.

Inplayers had planned to show *The Worries on the Doorstep* by John Strange in front of an audience that would have included Princess Julianna of The Netherlands, but the festival organisers (AATG) felt it was too hot to handle.

"The play is about the morality of terrorist action on the one hand and about the morality of army suppression on the other", according to Mr Strange, who insisted that the play was not making any judgements.

The organising committee were concerned that the production could have security risks as the play ended with a call to evacuate the theatre, where a bomb had been supposedly hidden. On balance the AATG decided to let the production go ahead, but revoked that decision when they discovered that Inplayers had contacted the adjudicator to ask for his opinion—a heinous crime in the world of Feats!

Don't be a stuffed shirt... buy a T-shirt!

Just €10 from the information stand! Two designs to choose from!

ADOPT A BRICK

THE WAREHOUSE PROJECT

CAST is continuing its Adopt A Brick campaign to raise €100,000 to carry out urgent structural work at The Warehouse Theatre complex.

For more information go to www.theatreinbrussels.com and click on the brick!

Skit Alert!

Howdy partner! Yes if its Feats its skit time again starring the usual assortment of multimedia fowl, pi-rats and fevered imaginations from backstage. All script suggestions / bizarre props / retelling of strange happenings over the weekend are positively encouraged. Please provide these to Welcome desk over the weekend as the mood takes you. To be involved, challenge Martin Kirk or Stephen Challens to a gun fight.