

Conrad Toft

You know you are in the company of experts and artists when all give completely different opinions - all passionate, all believable and all, in their own way, right.

So it was with the Writers' Workshop: four writers, three of whom have not only written for Feats, but won the Best Original Script Award.

Vincent Eaton, who led the workshop and who won the first Feats script award in 1985 told us that there was a simple secret to becoming a good writer: write!

He advised, "always put something on the page. I write every day - not because I have to but because I love to".

The other writers agreed, but had very different methods. An "old-fashioned girl at heart", Alma Forsyth preferred pen and paper, Vincent prefers the computer.

Some of the writers were meticulous in their prepara-

tions, others just wrote down random ideas. Stephen Challens admitted that his scraps of writing were "a mess", but that even that could be useful, as he managed to weave together some of these odds and ends into a creditable performance at very short notice for last year's Feats.

The writers all felt that good characters rather than issues should be at the centre of writing. As Loretta Stanley put it, "have characters that people give a damn about, then do something with them. They need some kind of journey, they have to change."

I think the same applies to those sitting around the room, we all learned something simple but important - write in a way that suits you about characters that matter in interesting situations, but above all write.

So, if you'll excuse me, I'm just off to note down a few ideas...

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).

Monday - to Featlets

Tram 39 - Chien Vert to Ruisseau (Direction: Ban-Eik)

Approximately every 20 minutes (12, 32, 52 minutes past the hour from Chien Vert).



Do not get the 44 - it will take you somewhere else entirely!

Monday - getting home

Metro 1 - Tomberg (Direction: Weststation)

Every 6-8 minutes until 18:30, then every 10 minutes from 18:41 until 23:01.

Then: 23:16, 23:18, 23:36, 23:56, 0:16, 0:27, 0:51.

Tram 39/44 - Chien Vert (Direction: Montgomery)

Every 10 minutes until 11:56, then 0:06, 0:16.

Finally, 0:26, 0:31, 0:36, 0:51, 0:56, 1:11 - these terminate at GJ Martin, one stop away from Montgomery (2 mins walk).

Taxis

Vert	+32 2 349 43 43
Bleu	+32 2 264 98 01
One	+32 2 734 34 34
Autolux	+32 2 413 02 84

The address is: Centre Culturel Woluwe-Saint-Pierre, Avenue Charles Thielemans 93, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre.

Planes

Sorry, that's your problem! See you next year...

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

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

Simon Saba

As this year's Feats draws to a close we turn our attention to both the future and the past, and in particular those fans who come back year after year.

One of those is Dymrna Donnelly, a member of AATG in The Hague, who has been attending Feats for the last 26 years since her first in Brussels and has never missed a single one since.

She has had the pleasure of acting, stage managing, props, makeup, been part of the Steering committee and organisation of Feats.

Her favourite play over that time has been The Stockholm Players' *The Ghost Sonata* by August Strindberg, which won first place at Feats in 1999.

However, it's not just the plays that draw her back year after year. "What I love most is the fact that people give up

time and get so committed, and are so generous in spirit".

Another Feats stalwart is Angela Dodds from Antwerp, who attended her first Feats in 1987 and soon joined the Feats steering committee (which ensures continuity across the festivals).

Feats for her is all about the people who live as a social unit, people she considers friends, even though she may only see them once a year at the festival.

And how has this year been?

"I have not found anything I can criticise this year, the theatre is in better shape and nothing could have been done better", she told the Bugle.

Running a festival such as Feats requires a huge amount of long-term planning, and in 1999, the committee realised that as Feats was getting bigger and more complicated,



It is people like Angela and Dymrna who keep Feats going.

they needed someone to keep an even closer eye on the future. That is where the idea of a permanent secretary came up and Angela stepped up to the role.

"Currently, I am the only active permanent member on the Steering committee and since

there is no official office or address, all information remains with me."

We have a lot to thank the steering committee for - they ensure that there will always be another Feats, as there will next year - in Bad Homburg. See you there!

"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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Skit Alert!



Today is skit day starring you! Those who wish to rehearse the skit are clearly certifiably insane and so will be incapable of contacting Steve Challens in advance or attending the rehearsal at 11am in the Cabaret Room. Otherwise just turn up at the fringe venue at 5.30pm to watch the *Seagull at the OK Corral*.

Now we're gonna party like it's 2009

Conrad Toft

One of the highlights of every Feats is the party, when people let their hair down and relax after the stresses of performing (or, in some poor groups' cases, the night before...).

A last-minute rush on tickets ensured that this year's party was full to the rafters, with the music, laughter and neighbours' complaints going on until the wee small hours.

Stephen Challens, in his role as party supreme had organised great entertainment for young and old alike, complete with party hosts to ensure that no

wallflowers would be tolerated.

The food was great (well, my seconds certainly were) even if people might have had to wait a little long to finally reach the head of the queue - but those queues are the places where new friendships are just waiting to be made.

The greatest thing about the queue, though, was the sight of Philip and Diana waiting to serve us drinks just before we got the food! This, of course, led to a difficult choice - to swig down the drink in one or attempt to juggle both

beer and food all the way back to your table. I opted for both.

I also picked up a couple of stray buns after they tumbled from plates, the least precious of people's cargo.

Downstairs the party was hotting up. DJ Justin Toland managed to find the right combination of tunes to get both the youngest and oldest most mature party goers up and dancing.

For those of you who didn't like music, there was also the opportunity to visit the Karaoke Bar in the Green Room

where many popular tunes were mercilessly slaughtered by Mark Prescott and far too many willing victims volunteers.

As the party wound down to a close it was hard to see how anyone would find the energy for today's events, but from experience I know that, like zombies from the grave, many of you will crawl in full of enthusiasm and Nurofen.

And, finally, thanks from the brewers of Belgium who have probably been saved from the economic crisis by last night's events alone!

Festival Eye

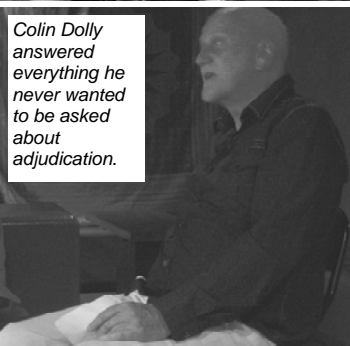
We will soon upload the pictures from the festival to <http://feats2009.theatreinbrussels.com>. If you have any you would like included, please send them by email to conradtoft@gmail.com.



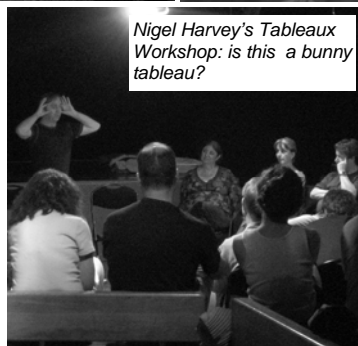
Preparations for the party started early on Sunday morning.



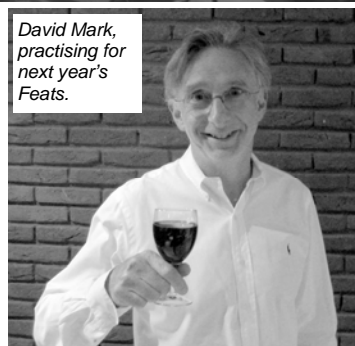
The Writers' Workshop generated a lot of interest and lively discussion.



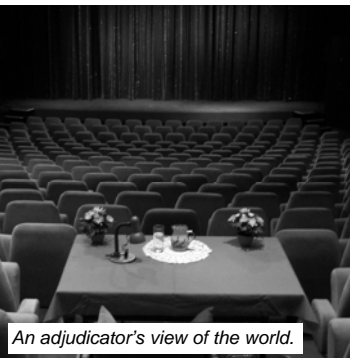
Colin Dolly answered everything he never wanted to be asked about adjudication.



Nigel Harvey's Tableaux Workshop: is this a bunny tableau?



David Mark, practising for next year's Feats.



An adjudicator's view of the world.



Happy 51st wedding anniversary to Paul and Di Gray!



The party king!



Will Amy Winehouse make it to the Fringe today after last night's partying?



Future Feats Chair Isiah Challens was the youngest hipster at the party.



DJ JT. 'Nuff said.

Feats by foot

David Mark
Chair,
Feats 2010



Wow! What a few days of riveting, entertaining, thought-provoking theatre we've had so far! Many, many congratulations to Steve and all the dozens of people who have helped to make this year's festival such a success.

I'd like to extend a warm advance welcome to all of you for next year's Feats (13th to 16th May 2010) in Bad Homburg. This charming, small spa town is some 20 kms north of Frankfurt and has hosted Feats on three previous occasions.

2010 will be Feats by foot. The hotels, theatre, fringe venue and party will all be within walking distance of each other as well as many other local attractions, including Bad Homburg's castle, the casino, a huge park, restaurants, bars, shopping and the wine festival that just coincidentally coincides (shurely shome mishtake, hic. Ed.) with Feats.

So, apart from the festival and the fringe, there is plenty to keep you amused and occupied in Bad Homburg.

On the edge of town are the Taunus hills and forest - a paradise for walkers and cyclists. We've had words and the weather will be glorious. A rebuilt Roman fort and museum (Bad Homburg was on the border of the empire), an open-air museum with old buildings and preserved crafts, and Frankfurt with its many museums are all within a short drive.

Do please try to make it to Bad Homburg next year - 13-16 May 2010. We really look forward to seeing you all there. Our team is already hard at work preparing for Feats 2010. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email feats2010@festfrankfurt.org or visit www.feats.eu where information will be posted as it becomes available.

Today's programme

Fringe

12 noon	<i>Feats Forum</i>
1pm	ECC (Stephen Challens) <i>Skit rehearsal</i>
1.45pm	ECC (Stephen Challens) <i>COMP: play-reading</i>
2.30pm	ECC (Jo Jack) <i>Waking Up</i>
3pm	Bedlam, Edinburgh <i>Gum and Goo</i>
4pm	Stockholm Players (Nigel Harvey) <i>Creative Forum</i>
5.30pm	Everyone and anyone <i>Feats 2009 Skit</i>

Evening performances

The performances begin promptly at 7.30pm. As a mark of respect for the adjudicator and the performing groups, please remain seated after the final performance and wait for the adjudications to begin.

Het Homerostheater, The Hague

An Excerpt from The Pillowman
by Martin McDonagh



20 minute interval

Semi-Circle, Basel

Folie à Trois
by Sarah Wooley



20 minute interval

TIE, Brussels

The Education of Skinny Spew
by Howard Brenton



Lost...

- ❖ Has anyone found a pearl bracelet? If so, please hand it in.
- ❖ Richard Madder last saw his ice cream in the Green Room. If you know where it is, please contact Richard. It has sentimental value.

...and found!

- ❖ Somebody dropped more than just their trousers in one of the toilets: if you lost some money in there, please come and claim it. We will expect full details...
- ❖ Did you leave a Thermos flask backstage on Friday or Saturday - possibly from AATG? If so, it's been found.
- ❖ A gold-coloured brooch was found on Friday evening.
- ❖ Blue glass earring was found last night.

Please contact the Welcome Desk or Box Office for further details.

Feats Bugle has been brought to you by Conrad Toft, Simon Saba, and Michelle van der Straaten with contributions from David Mark, Diana Morton-Hooper Deeks, Martin Kirk and Stephen Challens.

Weather Watch

Monday Light showers	Tuesday Sunny	Wednesday Sunny
Max: 25°C 77°F	Max: 22°C 72°F	Max: 17°C 63°F