



Pirate Productions

NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

"Summertime, an' the livin' is easy". Well, up to a point, Bess. The fish are jumpin', it's true, especially when we drop the food pellets into the tank; but we haven't got any cotton. We do, however, have grass.

Ah yes, the grass. Some time ago, there was a vogue for talking to plants, which was supposed to make them grow (I believe the Prince of Wales was, and maybe still is, a devotee of the method); the converse, obviously, is that not talking to them will stop them growing. To this end, I made a point of walking round the garden in stony silence, studiously ignoring all conversational gambits from the vegetation.

Alas, it didn't work. The grass grew high enough to conceal the cats, who came to resemble (in miniature) tigers advancing through the savannah, until She Who Must Be Obeyed decreed that it was time to mow the lawn.

Mutter, mutter, grumble, sigh. Get mower out, it starts first time, dammit.

```
DO {  
    <plod up and down behind mower>;  
    ON EXCEPTION <grassbox is full> {  
        <empty grassbox>  
    }  
} WHILE <any blades of grass remain longer than 3.14159 cm>
```

While all this is going on, the higher brain centres (yes, there are a few still hanging in there at the back of the skull) think beautiful thoughts, quite a lot of which concern the recent Music Hall. Though I say it as shouldn't (me being one of the participants an' all), it was a really successful show. From the Sailor's Hornpipe at the beginning to the sing-along at the end, the audience (especially on Saturday night) was wildly enthusiastic, and paid us lots of money. (A consummation always devoutly to be wished.) There are some pictures available on the Pirates website (www.pirates.lu) — I know that there are many more out there which I hope will be added in due course.

Unfortunately, this will have been the Pirates' only show this year. Circumstances have conspired against the pantomime which was to have been presented in the winter of 2008-9, which means that we need to find a child-friendly show for that period, ahead of the thirtieth anniversary production scheduled for the end of 2009. The committee has decided to put the infrastructure in place (venue, backstage crew, musical director etc.) for a show at the end of January 2009; we only need a director with an IDEA. Over to you!

Alan

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

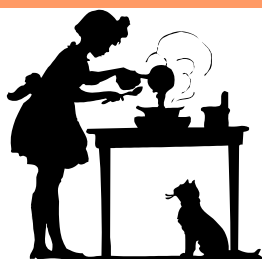
<i>When</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>	<i>Where</i>
31 May, 16:30	ESCL	Annual Choir Festival	Howald Parish Church
7,8,14,15 June	VI	Around the World in Song	see http://www.voicesinternational.lu
13-15 June	Vox	Dvořak Requiem etc.	see http://www.voxchoir.eu/5.html
20-21 June	NWTC	Youth Workshop Showcase	Centre Culturel, Grund
30 June	TNT	Hamlet	Bourglinster Castle
24 July – 24 August		Shakespeare Festival	Globe Theatre, Neuss
26 July – 3 August		Summer School	Clairefontaine
18 October	NWTC	40 th Anniversary Gala Dinner	Parc Belair Hotel
11-15 November	NWTC	The Natural Daughter	To be announced

The Archdeaconry Choir Festival

Every year, the choirs of the chaplaincies of the Archdeaconry of North-West Europe (basically from the Benelux countries, together with some from adjacent regions) meet and, in the context of a service, sing larger-scale works than would otherwise be possible locally. This year, the festival, with the theme of “Pilgrimage”, will take place in Luxembourg, at the church of Notre-Dame de la Misericorde, avenue Grand-Duc Jean, Howald, on Saturday 31st May at 4.30 p.m. The service will be led by the Reverend Chris Lyon; Matthew Owens (Director of Music at Wells Cathedral) will conduct, and our organist for the day is Roger Goodwyn. The final anthem has parts for three (real) trumpets, which will be played by three past musical directors of Pirates – Paul Barker, Philip Dutton and your ’umble Heditor.

SMALL ADS

Delicious Home-made Truffles



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and general catering!*

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or email pamela@sarumlux.net



Kat's truffles

Contributions to the Newsletter

This is your newsletter! Please feel free to email Piratical notes, jottings and any interesting ephemera to alan@sarumlux.net. Or you can send printed material to

“Sarum”, 2 Henerecht
L-6370 Haller

The next newsletter will, with a bit of luck, be going out in late June, deadline probably Monday 23rd. Sharpen those quills and get writing!

DEIRDRE VELCRO

IS ON VACATION (AGAIN)



FROM THE (EX) SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

We received this in April, but, what with one thing and another, there wasn't a newsletter in April. Better late than never, however; you are still in time to witness the shenanigans at the Tower!

Ahoy there!

Once again apologies for the lateness of this doodah, you see drama school is a fascinating place really, you learn so much there about the theatre, acting, singing, theory and life... Mostly you learn what not to do. Here are just a few pearls of wisdom I've gathered:

Don't put your phone in the washing machine.

Don't taunt a WoW addict when he's in a dungeon, he'll get very grumpy.

Don't decide it's a good idea to write a newsletter after you and your friend have had all the mead in Morrisons.

Whilst arguing about who's the most childish can be fun, saying that you must be mentally youngest because shit yourself regularly (untrue as it is) is not the best way to impress your new boss.

Barbers do not cut women's hair.

Don't delete Microsoft Word if you need to use it regularly.

Getting stabbed with a blunt broadsword hurts but it doesn't leave an impressive bruise.

I'm sure there will be more to come... Though my memory often likes to save my face by blotting out what happens, only to be foiled later by my oh-so-well-meaning friends.

Anyway back on the drama side there's not been all that much going on but next term is going to be AMAZING! We have a professional placement in the Tower of London in the last week of May (26 to 31) where we'll be doing scenes and sword play from the last few years of Elizabeth I's reign.

I can't wait to get started! I'm such a geek that I've already been through more than 20 books in the library as research and can tell you all sorts of useless facts too.

And the people in the Tower are really nice, we went over the other day to explore and talk about what and where we were going to be and they let me hold some of their weapons... I'd show you the picture but I can't figure out how openoffice lets me do that so I'll send it with this and hope that our lovely lovely editor can do something with it!



Aren't we both lovely? — Ed

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Can't think of anything else to add. The theatre's still expensive to go to and all those stupid reality shows make me less likely to want to go and see anything. And I've not been to the cinema for ages despite there being loads of things I want to see. Especially the Orphanage, that's meant to be really scary!

That's all for now.

Claire



Showcase

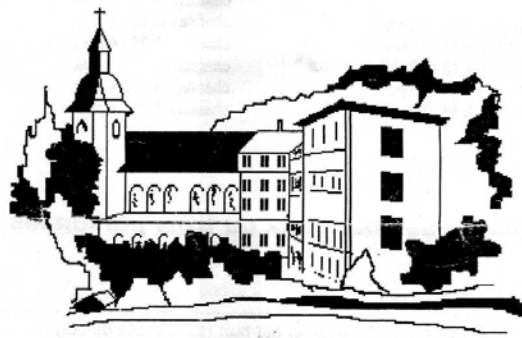
The NWTC Youth Theatre has been hard at work since September with improvisational workshops, technical advice from NWTC members and now, preparing a performance of scenes and monologues for you, the public. The showcase will be on display on Friday and Saturday the 20 and 21 June at 7.30 p.m. at the Centre Culturel in the Grund (11 Bissenwee, near Oscar Wilde's Pub opposite the Accueil). Tickets are 10 Euros for adults, 5 Euros for students. If you'd like to reserve you can call Angela on 23 66 01 92 or email Christine at GiacMP@aol.com.

Come and support the youth of NWTC!

LOST PROPERTY



The anorak pictured at left was found in one of our cars after the mad rush to clear the Gasperich parish hall. It is made by Hi-Diver, size S, and appears to be brand-new. If you know whose it might be, please contact Alan or Pam on 35 63 39 or email pamela@sarumlux.net



2008 EUROPEAN THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL AT CLAIREFONTAINE

Call for Applications

The 21st European Theatre Summer School will be held once again at the *Centre d'Accueil Clairefontaine* on the border between Luxembourg and Belgium from **Saturday 25th July to Sunday 3rd August** inclusive. The twenty-first year of a Summer School that continues to nourish, nurture and enrich is to be celebrated! Applications are now invited for the 2008 Summer School.

Those of you not familiar with Summer School can read more about it on our website at www.munsbach.org.

The Course

Our course will follow the "Munsbach model" developed over the previous decade at our original home in Luxembourg: activity will revolve entirely around project work designed to accommodate both directing and acting students. Tutors work with students throughout the day and the various projects interweave from time to time: there are sessions where staff move from one project to another; particular explorations may be shared or pooled; there may be developments that briefly pull in the entire student body. By the end of the week, everyone should have sampled something of the experience of everyone else.

We shall be active throughout each day, with the afternoon and evening off on Thursday. Although the course is intensive, the atmosphere is relaxed, and we ensure that there is time – in breaks, around the grounds and winding down at the end of the day – to chat and share the experience.

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The Tutors

GRAEME DU FRESNE	Course Director (teacher, musical and theatrical director and actor)
JANICE DUNN	(writer, director, teacher and choreographer)
LYNDI SMITH	(director, teacher and actor)
LAWRENCE EVANS	(director, movement director, actor and teacher)

The Student Body

There is in principle no restriction on the numbers attending; our student body normally numbers around 50, with four tutors, but should it be necessary we are ready to scale the school up and expand the teaching body to maintain the optimum teacher/student ratio. Should this be necessary, we shall exercise discretion in offering places on the course and in establishing and drawing on a waiting list. We shall endeavour to maintain a fair and appropriate balance between new students, a vital element in the Summer School; regular students, whose loyalty and experience we value enormously, not least for helping others derive the greatest possible benefit from the school; and those who may be returning after a break for a “refresher course”.

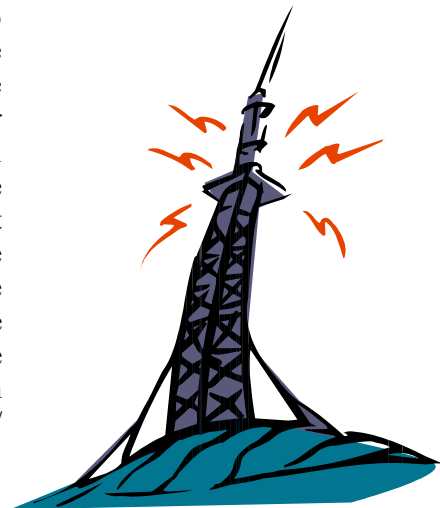


PIRATES' RADIO DRAMA FESTIVAL



We are planning to organise an English Language Radio Drama Festival in Luxembourg. It will be open to any group, organisation, school or individual with an interest in sound theatre and willing to put together a piece and submit it on an audio CD. The primary aim is for people to have fun rehearsing and recording a creative entry and to share their results with others. At this point, it is not proposed to make it a competitive festival. However, Deb Anderson has expressed some interest in broadcasting some (or all?) of the pieces on her Corner Café programme on Radio ARA. This will be discussed with her further. At any event, there is planned to be a social evening where people

can get together to share their experiences and listen to some highlights (and lowlights?), and perhaps some complete pieces. For further information contact Philip Dutton on Philip@duttonsonline.co.uk or go to <http://www.pirates.lu/Public/RadioDrama.htm>



MEMBERSHIP FORM

This form should be completed in the case of new members or in order to amend the details for existing members.

Name :

Address :

Telephone number (home) :

Telephone number (work) :

GSM (Handy) :

Email address :

Nationality :

Would you like to receive the Newsletter in electronic form via email?

YES / NO

Do you agree that the above contact details may be included on a contact list, circulated to members on a regular basis?

YES / NO

Date and Method of payment for first annual subscription :

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in September each year. Please see the back page of the Pirates' Newsletter or the Pirates' web site (www.pirates.lu) for current rates and payment details.

Please return this form in electronic format to the Membership Secretary.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in August. Subscriptions for 2007/2008 have therefore been due for some time! Fees due for the different categories of membership are as follows:

Individual:	25 Euro
Family:	40 Euro
Junior/Student:	10 Euro

The appropriate amount should be paid by virement to Pirates' account with Dexia/BIL – account number LU51 0022 1561 0680 0000 – Pirate Productions asbl, mentioning "Subscription 2007/8", your name and the category of subscription required, clearly indicating your address so we can verify it on our Membership database.

Please ensure that the Membership Secretary is notified of any change of address or other details (a membership form is to be found in the Newsletter).

Only members who have paid their subscription will receive a Newsletter.

Please note that the cast and crew of all Pirates' shows must be fully paid-up members, otherwise they will not be covered under Pirates' personal accident insurance and will therefore not be able to be involved in shows.

Pirate Productions asbl - R.C.S. Luxembourg: F665 - Website : www.pirates.lu
Bank account : BILLULL : IBAN LU51 0022 1561 0680 0000