



Pirate Productions

SECOND NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

*Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits and
Are melted into air, into thin air:
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.*

Dear Pirates,

As usual, Shakespeare gets it exactly right. The performing arts must be continually re-created; once the performance is over, memories are all that is left, until the next time. Important memories, nonetheless, both for the audiences and for us. We who were part of it know what it was like to leave the theatre in a happy daze (even cynical old horn-players can't resist this sort of thing). It was a fantastic show, darlings. But...

Your humble editor and 'er indoors, having staggered home to a late-night supper of spaghetti al olio, aioli e gambas after the first night of "Millie", found themselves animadverting along the following lines. (Bear in mind that it was close to 2.00 a.m. and the level of wine remaining in the bottle was very low.)

Briefly, about fifteen years ago, the Piratical vessel was in danger of sinking without trace. No show in sight, membership dropping off, caulking starting to leak, sails in tatters, masts broken; about the only thing that didn't appear was St Elmo's fire, and we're not too sure about that. Fortunately, at a meeting called to wind up the club, the procedural motions intended to bring this about were presented in the wrong order, resulting in a sort of limbo.

From this slough of despond emerged the 1995 production of "Fiddler on the Roof" which arguably (well, YHE argues...) put the Pirates on the road to recovery, and has led, in due course, to the runaway success that "Millie" has proved to be.

And that is why a note of warning needs to be sounded. Yes, we had a successful show — albeit one that will make a slight loss — and the Piratical vessel is in good shape, for now. But we cannot stand still. Currently, no future show is planned. "Millie" has brought us to the notice of several sections of the Luxembourg population that were previously unaware of our existence, and, to keep their interest, we must start planning the next big show. (Not necessarily for next year; we can't afford too many losses!) Many members of the present committee are standing down at the AGM (which has been postponed; see page 2). This is your chance to stand for election to the committee, and have a say in what, and when, the next show will be. Please take it.

Yours piratically,

Alan

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING POSTPONED

Notice of postponement of Annual General Meeting

At a brief Extraordinary General Meeting held after the last night of “Millie”, so brief you probably didn’t notice it, it was decided to postpone the AGM. The internal regulations state that the AGM “shall normally” be held within three months of the end of the financial year, i.e. before the end of October. The word “normally” acts as a safety valve, allowing occasional variation from the norm. Thus, with a major show having taken place in mid-October, it was felt that one week was too short a time to get all the financial gubbins in order for the original date of 26th October. So the AGM will now take place on

**Monday 9th November
in the
Parish Hall, Gasperich, at 20:00**

All the necessary paperwork was included in the last newsletter. Please come along (*venez nombreux*, as the French have it) — “Millie” cocktails will be offered after the meeting!

“MILLIE” REVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHS

352 carries what amounts to a rave review of “Millie”, with some excellent pictures. The website station.lu has pictures of the dress rehearsal: go to <http://www.station.lu> and select “Photo galleries” from the “Community” drop-down menu.

<http://pirates.sarumlux.net> carries pictures of some of the earlier rehearsals, before the photographer descended to the (orchestra) pit.

HATCHES, MATCHES AND DESPATCHES

Isabelle Thépin gave birth to a baby boy, Louis, with the usual number of heads, arms, etc., on 1st September. Mother and son are doing well.

Older Pirates will be saddened to hear of the death of **Peter Carr-North** on 26th September. Peter was a fine actor of the old school, who appeared in, and directed, many NWTC and Pirates shows, appearing most recently as a seaside stallholder in the decennial production of “The Pirates of Penzance”. It was thus appropriate that he and Elizabeth (who kept order in the dressing room (note the singular form) in the Casino days) should have retired to Helston in Cornwall. We extend our sympathies to her and Nicky, his daughter, who survive him.

CLOSING DOWN SALE

Priscilla Hotel closes — Stock for sale!

Following the departure of Mrs Meers, Bun Foo and Ching Ho have decided to sell off some of the stock in order to repay the kind-hearted person in Hong Kong who paid for Mama to join her sons in New York. The following items are for sale:

Hypodermic needle – cost price € 30 – offers accepted

5 large white towels

5 white pillowcases

2 single white sheets

If you are interested in purchasing any of the above, please contact Angela Milne on 2366 0192 or 621 276 853.

And a message from the Props team:

Many thanks to all those who lent props for the show. If anyone is missing anything, please contact Angela on either of the above numbers.

PIRATICAL GET-TOGETHER

Pam'n'Alan (a.k.a. "er indoors" and "your humble editor", respectively) are pleased to announce to that they will be at home to all Pirates, especially the ones involved in "Millie", on the afternoon/evening of Sunday 22nd November (St Cecilia's day, and Benjamin Britten's birthday, very appropriate for a musical society). If it's cold enough — and with all this climate change we keep hearing about, it may well be! — glühwein will be served. Or schampes, if the climate changes the other way. This will be an opportunity to renew the friendships formed during the show, and maybe even address the issue to which the editorial referred (although there will be no formal discussion). Singing may even be perpetrated.

Please call 35 63 39 or email pamela@sarumlux.net if you intend to come, so that we may have some idea of numbers. Feel free to bring provender and/or booze; some degree of coordination here may be desirable. Don't worry if you forget to let us know; come along anyway. Very few people are turned away from our door — just don't turn up unannounced in pairs, wearing suits and carrying briefcases.

A word of warning: if you are allergic to cats, take your anti-histamines in advance. Most of our cats will scarpers when the first people arrive, but two of them are human-lovers, and may well hang around.

There isn't room to include the "how to find us" map, but the link below will give you all the information you need.

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?>

[ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=117393716043637300172.000448ed982e17b69cc2a&z=19](http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=117393716043637300172.000448ed982e17b69cc2a&z=19)

FUTURE EVENTS



RED COUNTESS GREEN CROW takes us close up to Ireland's literary and political resurgence in the first quarter of the twentieth century. It explores the friendship and rivalry between playwright Sean O'Casey and the revolutionary Countess Constance Markievicz played out amidst momentous national and international events: the rebirth of the Irish language, theatre and literature, the Dublin lock-out of 1913, the Great War of 1914-18, the growth of Sinn Féin and demise of the Parliamentary Party, the Easter Rising in 1916 and the too hasty execution of its leaders, and the final national acceptance of parliamentary democracy in a 26-county Irish Free State, leaving the troubled Northern Ireland for another generation to sort out.

The play details Sean O'Casey clawing his way out of poverty in the slum tenements to fame and relative fortune on the strength of his great trilogy of plays. Countess Markievicz, heading in an opposite direction, turns her back on the vast family estates in County Sligo to embrace the cause of Dublin's poor.

The people of Ireland are now in a time of economic downturn and low confidence in the government, and in Northern Ireland, paramilitary groups have not been silenced by the Good Friday Agreement. The play pits Countess Markievicz's uncompromising belief in the use of physical force for a united Irish republic against Sean O'Casey's conviction that poverty needs to be tackled before anything else, in a debate that still resonates today.



Booking for the ten-minute plays and "Red Countess, Green Crow" may be made by calling 35 63 39 or emailing pamela@sarumlux.net

(Charlotte Coles, fresh from her success as one of the Priscilla girls, appears as an angel in one of the ten-minute plays.)

New World Theatre Club and
The Creative Writers Forum Present:

Luxembourg's First Festival of 10-Minute Plays

10-minute plays are just as dramatic or funny as you'll find anywhere. They're just a lot shorter.

Nine original, ten-minute plays will be performed each night of a four-day festival, **11th - 14th November**. Full of dramatic punch, the subjects range from the surreal to the absurd, from comedic to thought-provoking, and each speaking volumes in only ten minutes!

The plays were chosen from over twenty entries and include Luxembourgish, Dutch, British and American playwrights. An equally international ensemble performs. All plays are in English.

Reserve your tickets now!

Requiem for Jan Palach

Mosel Voices will give a repeat performance of the Requiem for Jan Palach, written by Dafydd Bullock, a former musical director of Pirate Productions, in Dudelange church on Thursday 29th October at 20:00, prior to a gala (wrong word, but you know what I mean) performance in Prague on Sunday 1st November. Uncompromising music, but worth the effort.

See <http://sites.google.com/site/moselvoices/Home>

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

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in August. Subscriptions for 2009/2010 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 2009/10”, 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.

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