



Pirate Productions asbl

Autumn 2007

I know, it's just like the number 51 bus - wait for ages and then 2 arrive in quick succession. It's just that there's a lot going on just now, so I thought I'd whip out another quick newsletter before the AGM.

Since the last newsletter, some of our number have been very busy - an enthusiastic bunch performed some of the numbers from Wine & Toons at the AWCL's Autumn Brunch; we had a stand at the Commission's Family Day; a very successful and enjoyable Quiz Evening and a Barbecue which was great fun, despite the dodgy weather (many thanks to the Parkers for hosting this!!)

Inside this issue, you'll find info about a couple of upcoming productions by other groups, the experiences of our very own David Mittel at Summer School, first hand news of the family Feltes and much more (well, alright, a bit more).

Hope to see you all at the AGM!!

Steve

Dates for your Diary

<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
October 12 th & 13 th	TRIE	Hurt, Dignified	Retour de Babel, Dudelange
October 15 th	Pirates	Annual General Meeting	Gasperich Parish Hall
November 14 th to 19 th	NWTC	Tissue	Theatre du Centaure
December 6 th	Pirates/Kiwanis	St Nicholas	Centre Pediatrique, CHL
December 15 th	Pirates	Christmas Singalong	Choralehaus, Schuttrange
April 23 rd to 26 th , 2008	Pirates	Old-Time Music Hall	Gasperich Parish Hall

David Mittel, this year's recipient of the Jane Carter Award, tells us all about it.....

I've been dithering about how best to encapsulate the wealth of experiences and impressions that have been crammed into one wonderful week at Clairfontaine in a way that is both comprehensible and not too long-winded. If the blow by blow is too much, the poor suffering reader can skip to my overall reflections at the end. The four tutors were Janice Dunn - directing/acting, Graeme Du Fresne - singing/acting, Mitch Mitchelson - comedy/acting and Lyndi Smith - acting/devising.

Day 1

A beautiful day augured well. Any apprehension about being confused initially, proved to be misplaced, as explanations were clear and instructions intelligible. It bore all the signs of being a well-oiled machine, but the palpable anticipation in the air dispensed with any feeling of staleness. The group consisted of 2/3 repeaters and 1/3 summer school virgins, so I did not feel alone or more lost than anyone else.

After lunch the four tutors treated us to a taste of the different THEME projects all having to do with the overarching theme of war. They would attack (sorry) the subject from different angles, i.e. comic, song, etc. Voting followed for the project that people were most interested in. This was followed by some warm-up exercises where we were made to do silly things stretching our bodies, voices and minds. This, incidentally, would be a feature in one form or another every morning after breakfast. Then we voted for the SKILLS project. Dinner. Throughout, particularly at meals, it was fun to meet people of all ages (13 - 75plus) residing in different countries coming together to play for a week.

Results. Exultation as I was allotted the choices I had plumped for. In my case THEME : acting, SKILLS : comedy.

After dinner was the first theme workshop. Among other exercises we separated into groups and wrote letters home from the foxholes of WWI and more recent conflicts, and read/acted them to the group. Language gave clues, as to which was which, but the universal element was the personal nature of the epistles. An interesting and thought provoking way of exploring the work we would continue later.

Bar.

Day 2

After breakfast and a warm-up wiggle in the sun our SKILLS group proceeded to do three hours of double takes. While this may sound repetitive and boring on paper, I can assure you that it was a hoot! It surprised me how many ways there are to do it, and how this simple movement can convey different things depending on the timing.

Mitch's course was based on Comedia della Arte, an Italian dramatic form of the 14th century usually performed with masks. Elements of this form have filtered their way into all kinds of dramatic performance. The course was like learning a new set of vocabulary with which to communicate and was great fun!

Lunch. The carnivores were upset because the vegetarians got prawns, but they would, wouldn't they?

After lunch we were killed...repeatedly. THEME looked at wars and the art that they have inspired. We started work on the play "Oh, What a Lovely War". They shot us ...many times...to make sure. Then we had dinner.

It was rather a welcome switch to be clowning again in the comedy course. Learning first to use and react to an audience, we then continued our exploration of stock Comedia characters, adding text and the promise of masks the next day.

HURT, DIGNIFIED

A play about refugees and victims of social exclusion

By Dana Rufolo

Directed by Tony Kingston

at Dudelange, GD Luxembourg

Académie, route de Thionville

Retour de Babel Factory Site

(Train Gare Usines Dudelange)

Friday 12 October 8 PM

Saturday 13 October 6 PM

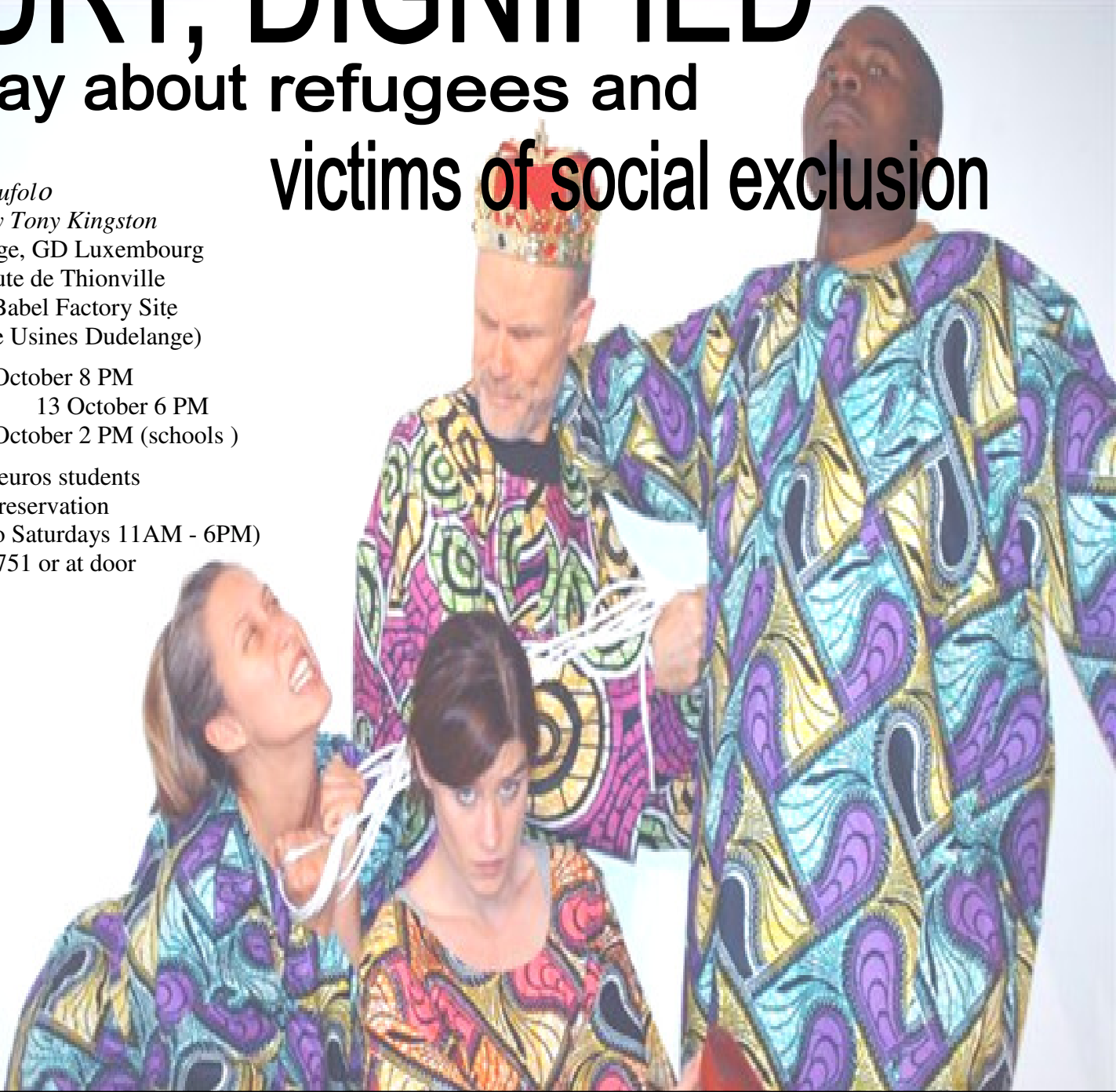
Friday 12 October 2 PM (schools)

8 euros / 5 euros students

Tickets by reservation

(Tuesday to Saturdays 11AM - 6PM)

+352 2651751 or at door



with Christine Probst, Roderick Dunnett, Milla Trausch, Eluyemi Kolade, Larisa Faber, Tye Thomas, Gilles Wunsch, Jessica Whiteley, Zeina Habet and featuring the art of Nasr-reddine Bennaser, Nadine Boor, Katie Roche, Adina Mihai, Kingsley Ogwara and Bosede Arenu and with the technical support of Claude Dengler and Mark Georges

A Theatre Research Institute of Europe (TRIE, asbl) Production



LUXEMBOURG
CAPITALE EUROPÉENNE DE LA CULTURE
ET GRANDE RÉGION



Gotta Dance!

Do you feel you 'Gotta Dance!'? Wanna have fun and exercise through dance?

Bring your dancing feet to a free Taster Evening for a new dance club 'Gotta Dance!' on Thursday, 11th October at 19:30 at Gasperich Church Hall, rue de Gasperich in.....guess where.....Gasperich!

You don't have to be a great dancer, just the willingness to learn and enjoy having a go – this season we will be doing Irish dancing.

So, if you're over 16 and Gotta Dance!, come along and dance your little socks off at the Taster Evening and then enjoy a glass of wine at the end as a reward!

For more information call 621 249 376.

We've been approached by the Luxembourg branch of Kiwanis (see www.kiwanis.org for more information about who they are and what they do) for some assistance with their annual St. Nicholas event.

Basically, we need a small number of volunteers (probably no more than 4) to dress up and accompany St. Nicholas to the Centre Pediatrique to distribute gifts to the sick children. The intention is to have all participants in costume (some of the more colourful items in the Pirates wardrobe will work) and, potentially, to provide some small amount of entertainment for the children (not yet decided what, exactly!)

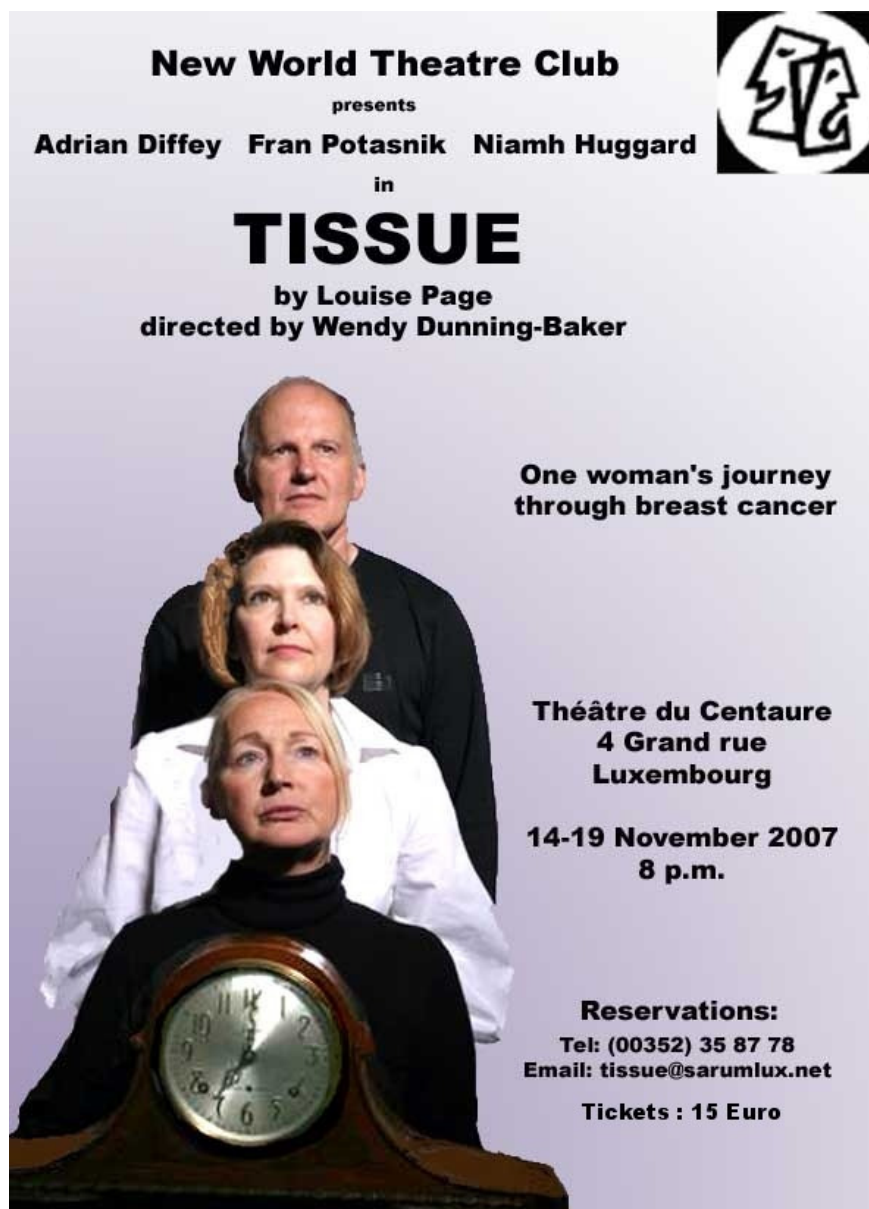
If you can be available on the evening of Thursday 6th December (probably from about 5pm to 7.30pm at the latest) and would like to participate, please contact a member of the Committee – first come, first served!

Just a gentle prod – some of the performers in Wine & Toons have not yet returned all their costumes. If you still have any Pirates costumes, could you please bring them along to the AGM on the 15th October. Thanks.

The New World Theatre Club presents

Tissue

"Tissue", written by Louise Page, is an intriguing, contemporary drama. Directed by Wendy Dunning-Baker, this play has a total of 23 different characters, all played by three actors ; Adrian Diffey, Fran Potasnik, and Niamh Huggard. "Tissue" is the story of a woman who is struggling to come to terms with a crisis in her life, and through her reflections on her life experiences, from the remote as well as the recent past, she ultimately triumphs over her crisis. The subject of breast cancer is sensitively examined in this play. We see how this ordeal affects not only the main character, but also many of the people who are closest to her. There are moments of humour, sadness, love, fear, frustration, and friendship experienced by all of the characters in this play. **Louise Page writes intimate, emotional dramas, which open up vast areas of feeling beneath the surface of ordinary lives, tugging at the heart-strings, and bringing the best out of everyone caught up in the chaos. Perhaps she is best known for her play "Golden Girls" which was commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1984. The play will be performed at the Theatre du Centaure (4 Grand-Rue, Luxembourg) on 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 November, 2007, at 8pm. To book, call (00352)35 87 78, or email at tissue@sarumlux.net.**



New World Theatre Club
presents
Adrian Diffey Fran Potasnik Niamh Huggard
in
TISSUE
by Louise Page
directed by Wendy Dunning-Baker

**One woman's journey
through breast cancer**

**Théâtre du Centaure
4 Grand rue
Luxembourg**

**14-19 November 2007
8 p.m.**

Reservations:
Tel: (00352) 35 87 78
Email: tissue@sarumlux.net
Tickets : 15 Euro

Visit to André



When André invited Pirates to visit him in his new home in Austria, it's a reasonable assumption that having someone turn up within three weeks wasn't quite what he had in mind. To be fair, though, it wasn't my fault. We'd planned to go to Austria this summer anyway, and it was only when chatting at the bar in Gasperich in April that I realised that the place I'd chosen as it looked like a good centre for touring – which it is – was the same place they were moving to (although it was still likely to be in October at that stage).

Saalfelden is a small town at the foot of the Stone Ocean, a range of steep mountains rearing up just behind it. We were based there for a week exploring the area, and we all met up for an evening in the middle of it. The family all seem to be settling in happily; there were still the usual administrative formalities to complete, and unpacking and furnishing to do, but André and Angela seem not to miss the work at Gasperich too much, though he felt they might start looking for something part-time once they're established. Meanwhile Natalie was in the middle of an intensive driving course, and is looking to start university in Salzburg in the spring.

The town has a good range of amenities, and there is a whole range of activities and places to visit within easy reach. A couple of recommendations:

- Hohenwerfen Castle: as seen in "Where Eagles Dare"; the surrounding mountains form a spectacular backdrop for its falconry display;
- Hallstatt is the village that graces a thousand chocolate boxes, clinging to the steep side of a lake. There's an ossuary, with rows of lovingly decorated skulls, and a small museum displaying Nazi and other artefacts picked out of the depths of the lake by the diving club;
- Krimml Waterfalls: a deceptively long climb, but with great views at various points on the way up;
- Salzburg is an hour away, for all you Sound of Mozart fans, and Zell am See and its lake are just down the road; and of course there are lots of walking or skiing opportunities.

And in the meantime, André said again that they would love to see any Pirates who are ever in the area.

SW

PIRATE PRODUCTIONS ASBL

Just a reminder about the Pirates Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Parish Hall in Gasperich on Monday, 15th October 2007 at 8:00 pm.

In the last newsletter were the draft Agenda, a proxy form (in case you are unable to attend the AGM) and a nomination form for new committee members.

We urge members to consider standing for election to the committee for the coming year, as we consider it vital to have new faces and new ideas. No particular skills or experience are required, so if you would like to do your bit in the running of the club, then now is your chance.

Completed proxy forms and committee nominations can be given to any member of the committee before the start of the AGM.

The Piratical year currently runs from 1 August – 31 July (please note that there will be a special motion placed before the membership at the AGM to change this). We would therefore like to inform the membership that subscriptions for 2007/2008 are now due. Fees due for the different categories of membership are as follows:

Individual :	25 Euro	Family :	40 Euro
Overseas (5 year) :	75 Euro	Junior/Student :	10 Euro

Please pay the appropriate amount to Dexia account LU51-0022-1561-0680-0000 - Pirate Productions asbl, mentioning "Subscription 2007/8", your name and the category of subscription required – please clearly indicate your address so we can verify it on our Membership database. Please ensure the Membership Secretary is notified of any change of address or other details using the amendment form, which you will find in the Newsletter.

Only fully paid-up members will be eligible to vote at the A.G.M.

We look forward to seeing you on the 15th of October!

*Jane, Pam, Athena, Hilary, Isabel,
Steve W. Steve P. Philip*

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) :

Email Address :

Nationality :

Would you like to receive the Newsletter in electronic format 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.

Pirates Committee - 2006/7

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