



Pirate Productions asbl

March 2007

Well, despite the confusing weather (I'm pretty sure it's Spring now, despite all the evidence to the contrary...), it's a right busy old time in theatre-land. NWTC's production of "Steel Magnolias" is progressing apace under Rodney's eagle eye, going up just one week before our very own "Wine and Toons" (a poster for which you should find accompanying this Newsletter). At the same time, rehearsals have already started for Tennessee Williams' "Something Unspoken" and Harry Kondoleon's "Linda Her". "Something Unspoken" is being directed by Chris Wilson and goes to FEATS (this year happening in Den Hague), before coming here and being performed back-to-back with "Linda Her" (which John Brigg is directing) the week after FEATS.

New World's Dream2007 project has been steaming ahead, with several workshops being run under the different disciplines (see www.nwtc.lu/dream2007 for details), which will be showcased in a presentation in Sandweiler in April and culminating in the full multi-language "Midsummer Night's Dream", which will be performed in Tétange in July, before going on tour around 'La Grande Région'.

Wendy Dunning's production of "Tissue" at the National has, regrettably, had to be cancelled due to commercial considerations.

See inside for more info about what else Pirates are planning for this year.

And a great big sloppy mwah-mwah to Claire Wilkie, who has taken pity on this poor wretch of a Newsletter Editor and sent in a very entertaining birds-eye view of life on a London theatre course.

Oh, and if you want to apply for the Jane Carter Award (see inside for details), now's the time!!

Steve

Dates for your Diary

<u>When</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
Apr 16 th	Pirates	Social Evening	Mousel Cantina
April 20 th and 21 st	NWTC	Dream2007 W/Shop Showcase	Centre Culturel, Sandweiler
Apr 24 th to 28 th	NWTC	Steel Magnolias	Theatre National, Merl
May 2 nd to 5 th	Pirates	Wine and Toons	Gasperich Church Hall
May 25 th to 28 th		FEATS	Den Hague, The Netherlands
Jun 7 th to 9 th	NWTC	Something Unspoken/Linda Her	Gasperich Church Hall
Jul 11 th to 14 th	NWTC	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Schungfabrik, Tétange
Jul 21 st to 28 th	NWTC	Summer School	Clairefontaine, Belgium

Well I thought spring had sprung, but it seems to be having second thoughts. Pirates spring production of “Wine and Toons” is however well on track, with performances improving steadily. It really is going to be great fun. The evening will comprise a mixture of cabaret style entertainment with songs from cartoons, and wine tasting. Your entrance fee entitles you to try 6 different delicious American wines and then choose a glass of your favourite to go with your meal. The music is a mix of fun, laughter and romance. You will be surprised how many hit songs have come from cartoons.

PUT 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th MAY IN YOUR DIARIES NOW

“Wine & Toons”

Gasperich Church Hall, tickets@pirates.lu or phone 35 87 78

Since Christmas, the ends of “La Cage aux Folles” have been tied up. Almost! Still some costumes to be returned!! Half a dozen Pirates went through the costume store, cleared out some stuff that was of no further use and made a bit of space for the Cage costumes. Now all we want is someone or two to make a photographic inventory of what we have to put on the website. WANTED - someone with a camera and the enthusiasm to take the job on (it would be a great way to polish your photographic skills). As the result will be put on the website, there are sure to be plenty of accolades from fellow members.

I am delighted to announce that three more Pirates have agreed to join the committee and we welcome, Deirdre Ecock, that well known drag queen; Isabelle Thépin of the enchantingly demure blue dress; and Dominic Vitali, with his Mother’s Magic; to future meetings.

And now the bad news. You will have possibly seen in the last newsletter that we are not going to be able to stage “Call me Madam” in the Autumn. A combination of several logistical problems has led to this rather sad decision. We had hoped to put on an Old Time Musical Hall instead, but unfortunately prior commitments have prevented this. So we are currently in

URGENT NEED OF A SHOW THIS AUTUMN

So, to this end (and that’s why this page isn’t included in the version of the Newsletter being sent to André), here’s what we’re going to do:

As many of you will know, our hosts at Gasperich, André Feltes and his family, are leaving Luxembourg - Nathalie to college and André and Angela to a well-deserved retirement in Austria. After the support and warmth they have given us over the years, the Committee felt that a farewell party was very much in order and would therefore like to combine these ideas and put on a show in their honour towards the end of September (dates not yet inked in). The show would be along the lines of the 21st Anniversary Show (for those who were around then) – a selection of some of the best bits from past Pirates shows, plus (hopefully) a little new material. The advantage of this format (given the current dearth of directors and musical directors) is that segments of the show can be rehearsed individually (ideally not at Gasperich, as we’d like this to be as much a surprise as possible), being brought together close to the time to create a cohesive whole. Pam Carlisle has volunteered her services as Coordinator/Executive Director.

To this end, a brainstorming session will be held at the Mousel Cantina on Monday 16th April at 8pm, to discuss the format and content of the proposed show. If you’d like to be involved and would be willing to stick your hand up and volunteer to direct/musically direct a small section of this show, or if you have some ideas which you think would work, or if you just fancy joining us for a bite to eat and/or a pint or two of Mousel’s very fine beer and a chat, come along and join us on the 16th.

Jane

Robert Harling's

steel magnolias



April 24 - 27 at 20.00 and April 28 at 14.00 & 20.00
TNL (Théâtre National du Luxembourg) 194 route de Longwy

Tickets €20 adults, €15 students
Reservations: Luxembourg Ticket at 47 08 95 1
or www.luxembourgticket.lu



Design Robert DeVille

From our Foreign Correspondent.....

For new pirates that I don't know and who probably won't know me, I'm Claire, an ex-Pirate and former blonde currently studying stage combat and acting at East 15 drama school and I'm here to fill a bit of the newsletter with random babble, yey! So I'm living in Essex, which is horribly chavvy at times, but thankfully is cheaper than London and less eventful, unless you count Wednesday evenings when the 'cool' lads drive around and throw eggs at people to affirm their masculinity amongst their peers...or something.

So far my training's going well. I'm doing all the typical acting school stuff like learning how to speak - both normally and with an accent, trying to master the difficult language that is phonetics (it started off deceptively simple and now I'm confusing my symbols up), I'm doing a lot of movement stuff and singing which is fun - we have an assessment coming up and we had to get into groups of four and create our own songs about parts of the body...weird but it's actually working. On the combat side of things I haven't been stabbed yet...well I have but not hard enough to leave an impressive scar or mark so it doesn't really count. I'm getting closer to grips on the aikido techniques and will hopefully get my orange belt in a month or so. At the moment I'm completely in love with a certain move, a simple grab, right hand to right wrist but the defender moves back quickly out of the way as you reach to grab them. This usually results in me landing on my face on the matt without the defender even touching me. So much fun! Fencing's proving a bit difficult, not only is it all small and fiddly wrist movements, but it's also the only lesson in which we're allowed to stab each other so people do tend to get a bit carried away.

But the funnest thing that's happened so far is that I've found my inner idiot! We're doing a bit of Commedia dell'Arte this term and we've been trying out some of the masks and the accompanying movements. I was enjoying exploring the masks and trying different things out with them, but that all changed when I put the Zanni mask on. My IQ suddenly plummeted and I swear my hair went platinum blonde. I couldn't physically do anything. I forgot how to walk, how to turn or even talk and so I started blowing raspberries at the audience. They loved it and so I started dribbling and blowing bubbles at them and they loved it even more. And then I tried walking. I got so happy when I actually managed to turn around, it was so much fun and the audience loved it too! I've found my clown!

Films I've recently seen that I think you'll like are:

Notes on a Scandal. Judi Dench surprised me in this, she plays a bitter and slightly harsh spinster, a role unlike anything I've seen her in before and she really drew me in. You also get to see the main story from everyone's point of view and even though you may end up hating some of the characters, you can't help but feeling a little compassion for them all too. Look out for Cate Blanchett's character's son who's played by a Downs child, I couldn't take my eyes off him.

Last King of Scotland. Don't see this on your own, it's not a happy film. I went to see it originally because I'm shallow and have a slight crush on James McAvoy, but also because I never really paid attention to when we were talking about Idi Amin in history (well it was in French...). But whoa, there were moments watching this that I really couldn't breathe I was so horrified and the fact that it's based on truth makes it worse. Harrowing, but a very good film - it even won best adapted screenplay at the Bafta's...ooh.

The Fountain. Another film I saw for a shallow reason, Hugh Jackman, and the less shallow reason that it was done by the same guy who did "Requiem for a Dream". From what I could gather it's about love between the same two people throughout their different reincarnations which was easy enough to follow at first, but then when you get a bald Hugh Jackman in a big bubble with a tree floating through space, I kind of lost the plot and didn't know what was going on anymore.

Music & Lyrics. A nice rom-com which would be nicer if a relationship developed between the two leads. The film seems a bit rushed at times with some awful continuity gaffs, but if you love Hugh Grant and/or Drew Barrymore you'll probably forgive that as it is a feel-good film...and you get to see Hugh prance about as an 80's singer with even floppier hair than usual.

I haven't really been to the theatre much lately (because it's so ridiculously expensive), but the last thing I saw was "The Dumb Waiter" with Lee Evans and Jason Isaacs. Lee Evans really helped to bring out the comedy in it, which made the tension so much darker and the pauses were really weighted. They had a great partnership, but I think Jason Isaacs was a bit nervous in his role. I got the impression that it's been a while since he's done live theatre and he's not quite sure if he's comfortable with it yet. But I'd recommend you go and see this if you have the chance, because I think it's been very well directed and that both parts are well cast...and, as it's short, you've got time for a few drinks before getting the last tube home.

On another random note, Morrisons sell mead!

STOCK UP FOR SPRING

The **INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR BOOK STAND**

is having a sale!

Am Duerf, **Weimerskirch** (rue de Kirchberg)

Saturday 31 March 2007

10 am – 3 pm

Homemade Food – Hot & Cold Drinks

ALL BOOKS ONE EURO

Many French Books

The Dwarves are all busy and the Elephants are afoot. The Monkeys are careless, but the Vultures stay hungry. Dogs howl and a Beast grunts at the Doll's sad lament. A Cricket chirps wistful, and the Humans - so few - sing praises and scorn as a Tiger lurks nearby.

Wine & Toons will take place in just over a month! Our singers, and their accompanists, are all making excellent progress. Despite the fact that the Musical Director has been temporarily expatriated, the backing tracks sound great and we've able to make changes rather quickly.

The Production team is also hard at work: designing lighting schemes, making props & costumes, choosing wines (we did enjoy this one), creating the poster, advertising, taking bookings (a table of 8 at last report) and the myriad of other tasks involved.

I am very pleased that the Cast & Crew of Wine & Toons will put on a great show - see you in Toonland!

Alex

THE JANE CARTER MEMORIAL AWARD

Jane Carter was a member of Pirates from its inception in 1979 and was involved in most aspects of the club's productions over a long period of time. She played a linchpin role in the significant number of successful shows that she directed. She continues to be remembered for her vision and for her obvious talent for overseeing and bringing together the various artistic and administrative aspects involved in staging a production.

After her death from cancer in 1996, the club membership in Annual General Meeting decided to create an annual award scheme, to be called the Jane Carter Memorial Award. The original purpose of the award was to pay each year, depending on circumstances and at the discretion of the committee, all or part of the cost for one member of the club to attend the NWTC 'Theatrical Summer School' held annually in Munsbach – now in Clairefontaine, just over the border in Belgium.

Subsequently, at an Annual General Meeting held on 2 October 2001, the club membership amended the purpose of the award so that it may now be given for attendance at any theatre-related training course (e.g.: Seminar / Workshop / Summer School / Short Course). The maximum amount of the annual award, which may be changed at any future Annual General Meeting, is currently fixed at €620.

The award was created as a means to establish permanent recognition of the significant contribution Jane made both to the club and to amateur theatre in Luxembourg over many years. Its aim is to bring about a demonstrable benefit to any aspect of the theatrical activities of the club.

Individuals wishing to be considered for this award are required to submit a written application, stating what they believe they would gain from the opportunity to attend their chosen theatrical training course and, in turn, what this would enable them to contribute to the club's future productions. Preference will be given to applicants wishing to direct, musically direct or stage manage a Pirate's production.

Guidelines for the Award :

- i. Any paid-up member of the club may apply for the Award;
- ii. Applications should be submitted to the Committee in writing;
- iii. To be accepted, applications must be received by the Committee no later than 31 March;
- iv. The Committee should consider and discuss the merits of each application before making a decision;
- v. The Committee will retain full discretion in deciding whether or not to grant the Award, in full or in part;
- vi. The successful applicant should be someone whom the Committee believes is most likely to fulfil the criteria for the Award;
- vii. Applicants will be informed in writing of the Committee's decision, the successful applicant will be reminded of guidelines viii) and ix) below;
- viii. The successful applicant will be required, subsequent to attending their chosen training course, to submit a written report to the Committee, detailing the particular ways in which he/she has benefited;
- ix. In order to reassure the club's membership that expenditure on the Award is justified, the successful applicant's report will be published in the club's newsletter at the earliest opportunity following the course attended;
- x. When inviting applications for the Award, to avoid any possible misunderstanding, the Committee will provide members with a copy of these guidelines.

Applications are now invited for this year's Jane Carter Award. To apply for the award, please write to the Pirates Committee, explaining briefly why you would like to be considered. Please note that for this year, guideline (3) above has been extended – the closing date for applications is Monday 30th April 2007.

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

	<u>Tel. (home)</u>	<u>Tel. (GSM)</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Chair			
Jane Philpott	23661085	621 175 280	chair@pirates.lu
Secretary			
Position currently vacant			
Treasurer			
Pam Carlisle	356 339	621 247 886	pamela@sarumlux.net
Social Secretaries			
Hilary Guerra	481 210	621 274 972	hag@pt.lu
Athena Teligadas	421 690	621 493 100	a.teligadas@eib.org
Membership Secretary			
Steve Wilkie	359 532	-	membership@pirates.lu
Webmaster			
Philip Dutton	-	621 526 253	webmaster@pirates.lu
Newsletter			
Steve Preston	-	621 378 509	info@pirates.lu
Committee Members Without Portfolio			
Deirdre Ecock	26258195		Deirdre.Ecock@pfpc.ie
Dominique Vitali		621145146	VitaliDH@state.gov
Isabel Thépin		621228822	isabelle.thepin@abrc.lu

Subscriptions are due on an annual basis, payable in September. We would therefore like to inform the membership that if not yet paid, subscriptions for 2006/2007 are now due. Fees due for the different categories of membership are as follows:

Individual:	25 Euro
Family:	40 Euro
Overseas:	75 Euro
Junior/Student:	10 Euro

The appropriate amount should be paid by virement to the Pirates' account with Dexia/BIL – account number LU51-0022-1561-0680-0000 – Pirate Productions Asbl, mentioning “Subscription 2006/7”, 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 (the 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 Pirate's personal accident insurance and will therefore not be able to be involved in shows.