

SPOTLIGHT

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE ENGLISH THEATRE GROUP OF ZUG
P.O. BOX 2110, 6302 ZUG

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Every Christmas, one of my Welsh Aunts, who is quite a religious sort of person (Welsh Baptist and a teacher to boot - dot that "i" boy!) writes to all of the family around the world, bringing the word of the joy of Christmas by listing in her letter the disasters of the past year for which she and her church have been praying.

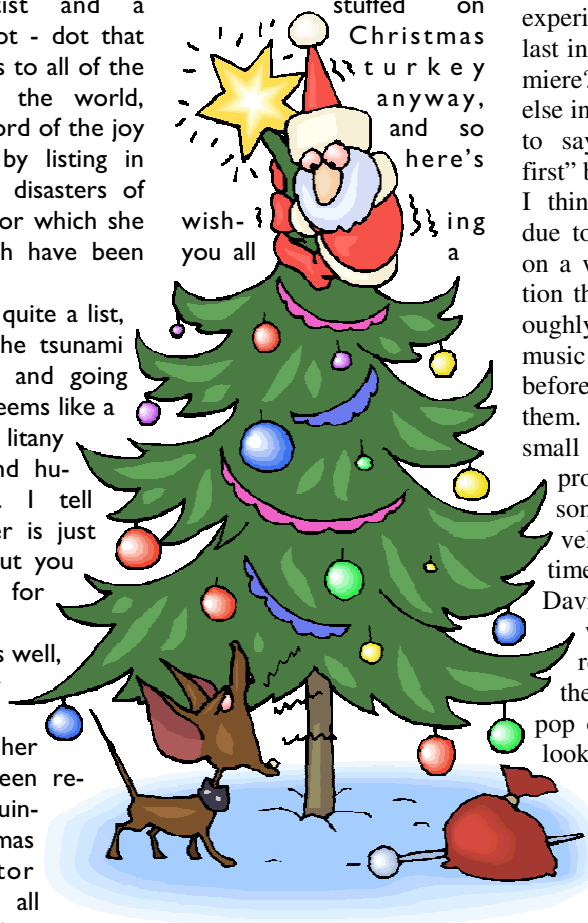
Yet again, it is quite a list, starting with the tsunami last Christmas and going on into what seems like a never-ending litany of disasters and human suffering. I tell you, that letter is just the thing to put you in the mood for Christmas!

My Aunt means well, and I know her concern is genuine, but her letters have been responsible for ruining the Christmas feel-good-factor in countries all over the world!

Still, everyone to their own thing, and while I understand my Welsh Aunt's

Christian concern, I intend without the slightest feeling of guilt to get well and truly stuffed on Christmas turkey anyway, and so here's

wish- ing you all a



Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

PIPER

Well now, wasn't that an experience! When were you last involved in a world premiere? Just think, no-one else in the world will be able to say "I sang that song first" because we did it first! I think congratulations are due to everyone for putting on a world premier production that the audiences thoroughly enjoyed. Brand new music and songs never heard before our group presented them. I enjoyed being a small part of that creative process and watching the songs change and develop over a period of time.

David Winter has/will be writing a summary report to be posted on the ETGZ website, so pop over there and have a look. We will also be getting the production report at the AGM (see above right!).

**AUDITIONS
GUYS & DOLLS
SEE OVERLEAF**

A reminder to reserve the following date in your new 2006 diaries / PADs. The Annual General Meeting 2006 will be held on:

**Friday the
17th March 2006
Restaurant
Neumühle**

INSIDE OUT

January sees this show, which sold out in Zurich, coming to Zug. Make sure you book your tickets early! See Page 2 for details

CHOIR

The group's Choir has been in action twice since the last Spotlight. In November the Choir performed, along with several other acts, in the Old Casino in Zug for the TCS. The TCS members enjoyed it and the newspaper report was full of praise for the choir. Last Friday evening the choir performed at the Hirslanden Klinik in Zurich in front of somewhere between 400 and 600 people in three levels of underground garage decked out to look like a grotto - not only visually very effective, but warm as well! This was a totally different kind of venue for the choir - much more like a live band at a disco than the usual entertainment at a function. Several members of the choir couldn't resist the beat and were found on the disco floor dancing the night away! (not me - I was too full of delicious brombeeren and Mascarpone!)

NOTICE OF AUDITIONS

GUYS AND DOLLS

Background to the show

Guys and Dolls, by Frank Loesser, is one of the best-known and most successful musicals ever written. The central theme is the story of Sky Masterson, a notorious New York gambler, and Sarah Brown, a city missionary. Sky, on the way to Havana, Cuba, accepts a bet from another underworld gangster that he cannot persuade Sarah to go with him. The two (inevitably) fall in love, with Sky developing a scurrilous way of helping Sarah to win additional souls.

The two are supported by various other doubtful characters. There are about 10 gangsters, led by Nathan Detroit, who is the organiser of the gambling venues. A night club scene in New York involves half a dozen or so dancing girls who have two set pieces, including a strip (no, not completely.....). These girls are led by Adelaide, Nathan's long-suffering fiancée, who has been waiting for him to fix the wedding date for 14 years. And of course there is the rather sad mission band perpetually preaching against drunkenness and gambling – to little effect until Sky Masterson takes a hand.

The "happy end", of course, is that both couples (Sky/Sarah and Nathan/Adelaide) are married and Sky ends up as a missionary himself.

This was the first show staged by the English Theatre Group of Zug in 1987 in the Loretosaal.

The nature of the show

The show contains romance, humour and several great songs ("Guys and Dolls", "Luck be a Lady", "Sit Down you're Rocking the Boat". "Take back your Mink", etc.). The scenery and mood changes, as well as the fast, witty conversation, make for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

The pace of this particular show requires:

- speed and energy of movement
- rhythm and tunefulness of the singing
- individual planning of each person's

movements and acting

as well as, as always, appropriate casting to fit the parts.

The show involves a maximum of about 30 characters altogether. There is no "chorus" as such – rather, the group singing is either for the gangsters ("Luck be a lady", "The Oldest Established Crap Game in New York"), the Save a Soul Mission ("Follow the Fold") or the dancing girls ("A Bushel and a Peck", "Take back your Mink"). Only one number ("Sit Down you're Rocking the Boat") involves most of the cast.

Implications for casting

The Production Team will first consider existing members of the Theatre Group in allocating the roles. Because of the nature of the show and the expectations of the public we shall be looking for (a) suitable age and appearance, (b) strength in one of the performing aspects (acting, singing, dancing and preferably a combination of all three) and (c) discipline in rehearsing. On our part, we shall take particular care to keep rehearsals efficient and to avoid wasting people's time standing around. The aim is to produce a really good musical which gives satisfaction to all who have taken part in the production.

Planned dates and venue

Casino, Zug:
Get-in 28 August 2006
Premiere 1 September
Further shows:
2 September
3 September
5 September
7 September
8 September
9 September
Get-out: 10 September

Rehearsing

The plan is to hold rehearsals on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from 18.30 to 21.30, and we shall begin on **26 February**. As far as possible, we shall plan the rehearsals for the individual groups (gamblers, Hot Box dancers etc.) so as to minimize the number of

rehearsals necessary for each group. Each cast member will receive a cassette or CD of his/her singing role. Each person should then learn this on his/her own time, to minimize "note-bashing" during the rehearsals.

Because of the incidence of holidays (including "long week-ends") between February and August, it will be particularly important for cast members to be diligent in attending rehearsals.

Also, please note that the summer school holidays finish only on 20 August, 2006. We shall need to resume rehearsals at least one week before that, i.e. on 13 August, given the timing of the performances.

Auditions

We would like as many people as possible to come to auditions (which we shall make as unthreatening as possible!). Please understand that, because of the limited number of roles and the particular characteristics needed for each one, we may not be able to involve everybody on stage. On the other hand, as you know, there are many backstage roles where we shall be delighted to have help and, if you are not finally on stage, perhaps you can give support in that respect.

Auditions will be held at the International School on:

**SATURDAY, 7
JANUARY 2006 from
14.00 until 17.00**

**SUNDAY, 8 JANUARY
2006 from 10.00 until
15.00**

Please send an email to Bruce Mathers (bmathers@gmx.ch) letting him know when you would like to attend auditions (e.g. Saturday between 15.00 and 16.00). We shall then provide you with more detailed guidance on the auditions themselves.

INSIDE OUT

The English Theatre Group of Zug is bringing to Zug from the sold-out Zurich venue, the musical **INSIDE OUT**, an American musical comedy about five women in group therapy, and their psychologist who tries to guide the group through the choppy waters of life. With very real problems to which all of us can relate, they help each other work through their issues. There is Molly, the tall and thin new mother who constantly obsesses about being fat while dealing with a husband who strays; Liz - the ultra-successful career woman who tries to balance her career ambitions with the needs and aspirations of her stay-at-home husband and kids; Sage - the slightly scatter-brained ex-hippie who consults the stars to find her true love and to gain the self confidence that never appeared to be in the cards; Chlo - the lesbian single mother of a teenage son who wrestles with the reality of her son growing up and leaving her alone to face her non-existent love life; Dena - the beautiful and once famous pop-star who can't seem to muster the courage to make the comeback she so desperately desires, and finally Grace - the psychologist who does her best to help the group find the solutions to their own problems, while struggling to deal with a few issues of her own. This up-to-date musical is filled with touching ballads and lively show stoppers, and features a range of musical genres from pop to gospel.

Performance dates: December 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 December 2006. Performances start at 20:00, with a 15-minute intermission. Tickets are on sale since the 1st December 2005 and will be available over the Internet at the ETGZ website www.etgz.ch, or from Pekari AG, telephone 078 / 771 68 82 between 09:00 and 12:00 Monday to Friday. The venue is the CHOLLERHALLE at Chamerstrasse 177, 6300 Zug.

This is your last chance to see this fabulous show. At the amateur level, you are rarely going to find a group of such talented women baring their souls in wonderful song, so make sure of your tickets and reserve them now!

MEMBERS SECTION

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This is the section of Spotlight in which membership information is given, events are announced, members can advertise etc. Any members who want to advertise their services, other productions they are involved in etc. should phone Adrian Dinneen on 041 / 760 66 16, fax on 041 / 760 67 11

Die Klagen Einer Flamme

Our member Kate Hönigsberg is appearing in a play put on by Strings Attached.

The play, "Die Klagen einer Flamme", is on at the Chollerhalle in Zug.

There were four performances earlier in December at the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich, and the show is coming to the Chollerhalle in Zug for two performances this coming Wednesday and Thursday the 21st and 22nd December 2005, starting at 20:00.

The write-up is in German as follows:

Emmy Ball-Hemmings ist wahrscheinlich am meisten bekannt als die Frau von Hugo Ball, einem bedeutenden deutschen Schriftsteller und Mitbegründer des Dadaismus. Aber sie war selber auch eine ausserordentliche Persönlichkeit des frühen zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts, die abwechselnd als Schauspielerin, Cabaret S ä n g e r i n , M o d e l l , Gelegenheitsprostituirte, Dichterin, und Schriftstellerin arbeitete. Die Stimme von Emmy Ball-Hennings wurde von ihren Zeitgenossen als „ekstatisch“, „entgrenzt“, „rührend“ und „durchdringend“ beschrieben und wurde mit „einer klagenden Flamme“ oder „einer krieschenden Möwe“ verglichen. Von ihre Stimme sind jedoch keine Aufnahmen überliefert, obwohl sie erst in 1948 starb.

Strings attached's neue Aufführung „Die Klagen einer Flamme“ ist eine skurrile Suche nach dieser Stimme unterforscht, mittels Emmy Balls eigener Texte, ergänzt um einige Schriften ihrer Zeitgenossen, wichtige Begebenheiten aus dem Leben

dieser faszinierenden Frau, einer Mitbegründerin des Cabaret Voltaires in Zürich in 1916.

Strings Attached wurde im Mai 2001 gegründet, mit der Absicht, eigene Theaterstücke, mit Schweizerischen Themen und originelle Musik aufzuführen. Seitdem hat die Truppe eine Trilogie mit dem Titel „Die Flucht in der Zeit“ 2002-2004 am Fringe Festival von Edinburgh aufgeführt. „Völlig bezaubernd“, „seltsam fesselnd“, und „eine gute legale Alternative zu LSD“ lauteten Stimmen in der Schottische Presse. „Die Klagen einer Flamme“ hatte im Juli 2005 am Avignon Off Festival Premiere. Die Schweizer Uraufführung findet am 9. Dezember im Zürcher Cabaret Voltaire statt.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please inform the Membership Secretary: Myrta Schuler, P.O. Box 21 10, 6302 Zug if you change your address.