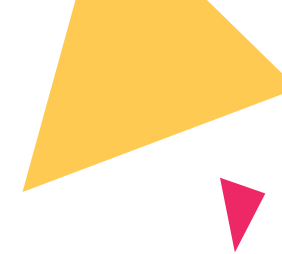


Surviving in Ghent...

1. Ask somebody to teach you the correct pronunciation of local expressions such as 'vree wijs', 'goe bezig', 'beestig' and 'de max'. They all mean 'nice', but with some subtle differences. Also learn 'saluutjes', because you cannot leave a bar without shouting this to the barkeeper.
2. Jump! Bicycles rule, and they will race all over you if they feel like it. In Ghent, even police officers ride mountain bikes.
3. You just have to love the annual Ghent Festival. For ten days in July, this city is the centre of the world - or so we like to think. Everybody takes a break and the historical city centre is swamped with a few hundred thousand people, enjoying free concerts, street theatre, many kinds of food and litres of alcohol.
4. Trying our national dish, French fries? Ask for 'stoverijsausse mee mayonaisse'. It's a Ghent specialty: meat sauce and a dollop of mayonaisse on top of your fries, making your fries look like an expressionist painting. Take a picture of the whole thing as a souvenir!
5. Everybody buys rounds of beer. It's a law. If you only get a drink for yourself, you will soon find yourself drinking alone. Women pay rounds as well (equal rights!).
6. Don't feel too welcome! We love it when visitors want to discover Ghent: "It's cosier than Brussels! It's more lively than Bruges!". But we don't like them harassing us for photos or being drunk in the streets. However, if you follow the rules above we'll be great friends!

(Source: Use-it)



Artscene English Festival Diary - 26 April 2018

The Artscene project is an initiative for young people who are interested in drama and love performing in a foreign language. This year Roeland presents its 20th Artscene English festival, inviting schools from Belgium as well as other countries. The festival aims to help young people improve their communication skills in English through theatre and performance.

Four Flemish groups and four foreign groups from Romania, Russia, the United Kingdom and Hungary take part in the Artscene project this year. We also welcome a professional troupe from London: the Etta Ermini Dance Theatre.

The festival programme includes drama, movement, songs and dance: something to suit everyone's taste. All of you will have the opportunity to learn from professionals and exchange information, knowledge and tips with the other groups. Participants, teachers and directors have worked all year long to show you the best they can do. You will love it!

But there is more to do than just performing and watching others perform. We lead discussions (forums) about the groups' performances and offer a variety of workshops on dance, movement, improvisation and storytelling as well as physical theatre.

On the last night of the festival it's time to paint the town red and have a blast at the Artscene party. You are all invited to dance like you have never danced before. Curtains down: let the show begin!

Lieve Haverbeke
Artscene coordinator

The golden rules

DO:

- Stick to the timetable and arrive on time for all activities
- Attend or take part in all the activities during the festival
- Wear your Artscene badge at all times
- Switch off your mobiles during the performances
- Keep very quiet outside the Tinnenpot Theatre, especially after 8 pm
- Use appropriate dustbins for everything – we recycle!
- Respect the locations you are using at all times
- Clear the stage (put props and furniture backstage) right after your performance

DON'T:

- Enter the theatre once a performance has started
- Smoke everywhere (ONLY in the designated area)

Festival diary

WHAT?

During the Artscene Festival you will get a newsletter every day with photos, announcements and reports about the performances.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Each group will be asked to write something about one of the plays they have seen. The review should be written in English (duh!) and be full of positive feedback and fun facts about the play. Don't forget to incorporate your own experiences when writing your review and be constructive. You know how hard it is to create a great play! Try to be original and write more than just "We liked it very much" or "Congratulations to the actors" or "Loved all of it".

TO BE WRITTEN WHERE AND WHEN

You will find Evelien at the bar of the Tinnenpot Theatre, in her own 'journalist's corner'. Reviews can be typed on her laptop during the break.

What to see in Ghent?

The **Belfry** is the proudest symbol of the city's independence. The façade is adorned with the 'Mammelokker' which depicts the legend of Cimon who was condemned to starve to death. He was saved by his daughter who fed him daily from her breast. The Belfry is the middle tower of the famous three-tower row, together with the Saint Bavo's Cathedral and the Saint Nicholas' Church.



The Castle of the Counts

'I'll show them who's boss': that's what Philip of Alsace had in mind. So he had the imposing castle rebuilt (1180). Overlooking the city from its battlements high up on the keep, one can sense the feeling of wealth and power that the lord of the castle must have had.



Ask ten inhabitants of Ghent what the most beautiful place in their city is and nine will answer the **Graslei**. Today this medieval port is the meeting place par excellence. Young and old, inhabitant and visitor, everyone meets on one of the many café patios or simply by the water. This is the thriving heart of the inner city.





Romeo & Juliet: Playing House Lingvist Centre, Shakespearia, Russia Review by Barnum, Roeselare

The Russian group presented us with a modern twist on a classic. Even though they started off with nothing but the original text, they didn't hold back on making it their own.

The actors really brought the puppets alive. One very touching element was, as said in the forum afterwards, how the actors' movements and emotions were connected to those of their puppets.

We were moved by the romance in the balcony scene and amazed by the sensation brought by the fencing scene.

While we sometimes had some minor issues with understanding everything, the expressive body language more than made up for it.

Another positive element we could appreciate was the choice of music, it never interfered with the play but it helped the play flow naturally from its mysterious beginning to its tragic finale.

We found the grand theme 'together' in multiple parts of the play, not only in the text, but also in the way this amazing group constructed their own backgrounds, giving a true authentic theatre feeling.



Artscene English

Festival Diary - 27 April 2018



Ceasefire Babies Fisher Youth Theatre, UK Review by Illyés Guyla, Hungary



Ceasefire Babies is about the historical peace wall in Belfast and the ongoing conflict in Northern Ireland. We were very impressed and moved by the play.

The Fisher Youth Theatre group did a very good job and they gave an authentic performance, certainly considering the fact that they are quite young. The role of Jamie was played by two actresses who both played very well. Luckily, the director explained this change before the start of the play.

The stage looked minimalistic, but the group used the space well. We do suggest using a bit more physical theatre, especially for an audience of non-native speakers. We found the messages written on the T-shirts very thought-provoking. The music was maybe a bit overused.

What we really liked about the play is that they depicted serious problems that no one really talks about in the present day. We especially enjoyed the time shift between the seventies and today.

The group really integrated the theme 'together' as it really gave us all hope that the next generation will not be split up into 'us' and 'them'.



Parenthood

Etta Ermini Dance Theatre

Review by Abbie Moore

Four solo pieces by four members of the wonderful Etta Ermini Dance Theatre. Wow, what a rollercoaster of emotions! The audience was taken on a journey, exploring the world through the eyes of a nervous expectant mother, a creative child, a provocative talk show host and a playful clown.

As witnesses to the very first moment that Kerri discovered she was pregnant, the audience was hooked on her honest monologue. The piece continued with a surprise outburst of flashing lights and an energetic performance of 'I Will Survive' and 'Freak Out'. This was followed by a more calm character reassuring herself that 'Every little thing is gonna be alright'. It gave a lovely insight into many of the emotions that expectant mothers experience which are often hidden behind what other people 'expect' of them.

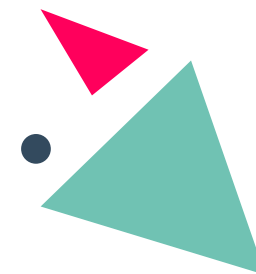
Carolyn followed the evening with a beautiful representation of an insight to the mind of a child. Inspired by her niece Abigail, her physical theatre routine transported us to the moon, showed the creation of a rocket and the invention of a space walk. Her fun, light and free-flowing movements gave the audience the heart-warming feeling that this child's biggest worry is how to eat a mouthful of strawberry laces.

Etta's poignant piece challenged the audience's perceptions of what life is like for a parent when a child is born. Asking questions like 'Are you prepared to leave your hobbies behind?' and 'Can you forgive?' divided members of the audience in their response. And what a unique way to respond! She asked the audience to answer 'yes', 'no' and (begrudgingly) 'maybe' only through the medium of dance.



Sean ended the evening with an explosion of colour and playfulness. He exposed the audience to the innocent investigation of a range of items including soft toy sea creatures and arguably disturbing masks. This piece portrayed a great representation of parent life, showing someone trying to handle many different things at once, whilst trying to portray someone who is always positive and light-hearted.

Although the performers maintain that the pieces were created separately and had not been shown to each other, the combination of pieces complimented each other well and gave the audience an engaging evening that really challenged perceptions.



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Artscene English

Festival Diary - 28 April 2018



Brave New World
Wispelberg, Gent
Review by Freinet, Poperinge

To say we were 'entertained' by this play does not capture everything we saw on stage. We felt impressed and quiet and sad and moved all at the same time, for emotions were all around us.

The play took us to the 'brave new world' where people are divided into classes (alfa, beta, gamma, delta and epsilon) and where happiness rules. Hidden secrets come to light when the savages come into the play and people start to question their emotions, their constant happiness and their reason for existing. Should they believe or should they take Soma, the ultimate drug that makes them happy? What is right, what is wrong? Can something even be right and wrong at the same time?

The stage gave us blue, red and green lights. Together with the music, these lights amplified the emotions we felt during the play. Sacrifices and screams you could feel all the way to your bones are scenes that we will always remember. The amazing acting skills are something for us to look up to and the sober use of props and colours made the play even stronger. The eye for details on stage was not lost on us too.

The roller-coaster of emotions left us shaking in our seats ... and long afterwards!



Cosmovision

Illyés Guyla, Hungary

Review by Vita & Pax, Schoten

The Hungarian play opened with two ladders on stage. This made us very curious about what was awaiting us. Luckily, all of our expectations were fulfilled. We enjoyed this play full of laughter and tension.

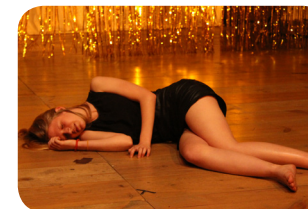
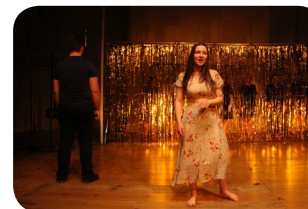
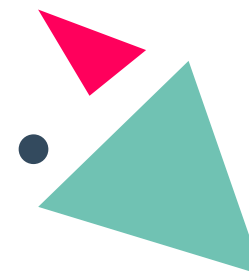
The play kicked off following an everyday couple, but then things took a different turn. The host of the tv-show created an odd atmosphere, which was a first clue to the revelation of the play.

We absolutely adored the quick and witty switches between the tv-show and the commercials. The latter made us laugh a lot. The ever-present smile of the commercial couple was very contagious. That's why the recorded laugh-effect wasn't necessary, the audience was already enthusiastic.

We were baffled with the quick costume changes. Even more so when we found out the beautiful garments were created by one of the actors. Well done!

Throughout the play we really found out what the characters were all about. Through flashbacks and confessions, the psyche of the couple became apparent. That was really interesting and a fantastic build-up to the big finale.

The performance of the actors was outstanding and contributed to the overall atmosphere of the play.



Opportunities to be alone together

Barnum, Roeselare

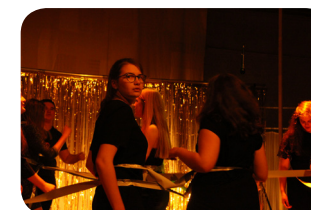
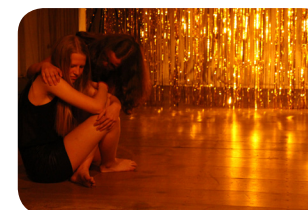
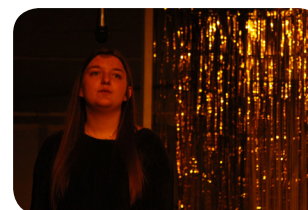
Review by Iasi NC, Romania

This fantastic piece of artwork spread an intense feeling in the atmosphere, leaving us fascinated, impressed and moved by the stunning performance of the Barnum group. The way the girls managed to include the character of the boy in the play was a true sign of friendship and team work.

Watching the show we had in front of us, we were offered the chance to think about ourselves and reminded us that we will always be wishing for something.

Even though the play had a very serious message, the cast managed to make us part of their little party with a wise choice of music, creating a great atmosphere.

We really liked the original, sparkling play because from now on, we have it in our heart. All we want to say is that you guys, changed us and each time when we will say 'I WISH' it will be something inside of us, something different and amazing.



Artscene English

Festival Diary - 29 April 2018

ED
Iasi NC, Lotus Theatre Group,
Romania
Review by Atheneum Wispelberg, Gent



After this play we were all a little bit speechless, it was very moving and showed us a lot of different perspectives. To say it was impressive, is an understatement. It made us think twice about the consequences of our behaviour and about how something small can have serious effects.

The combo of fun and serious moments really worked and created a lot of energy on stage.

Throughout the play we really found out who Edi was: a vulnerable, naïve little boy who just wants to fit in at any consequence.

The end was hard to take and moved us: the loss of such an innocent child made us realise that we all know an Edi in our lives. We will certainly think twice about how we interact with all the different people around us.

The constant energy on stage and sound effects kept us on the edge of our seats.

Although everyone had their own story to tell, the whole play came together very nicely. We would like to thank you all for sharing this experience with us!

The roller-coaster of emotions left us shaking in our seats ... and long afterwards!



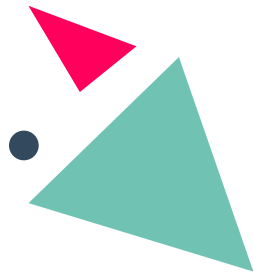
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Camp 101

Freinet, Poperinge

Review by Lingvist Centre, Shakespearia, Russia

When we came into the theatre, we didn't know what to expect, so that's why this huge range of positive emotions was surprising.

The play was about friendship and working in a team, which is really important for young people.

The light, music and equipment were simple, but together they created a very special atmosphere. The idea of shadow theatre was original and unexpected. Jokes were simple, but at the same time funny because of the way actors presented them. Each hero had his own unique personality.

In the end of the play the characters' behaviour changed like in every good story. We also liked the fact that the teachers took part in the performance.

We were impressed that this young group managed to beat their stage fright and to perform fluently in a foreign language.



Paracos-ME

Vita et Pax, Schoten

Review by Fisher Youth Theatre, UK

We found the performance by the Vita et Pax group very powerful and clever. We liked the humour, the imagery and the compelling plot twist. It was a very striking performance.

The actor's delivery was incredible, and their words were very clear. The use of musical theatre also left us all speechless.

We thought the costumes were beautiful and the costume changes were very well executed.

The opening scene really gripped the audience, and the element of surprise left us guessing what was going to happen. We definitely enjoyed the unpredictability of the piece.

The story was complicated and almost like a jigsaw that the audience needed to decode. This made the plot a little difficult to follow.

The music, singing and dancing were certainly very impressive and professional.

