

# OISTAT Theatre Timeline Working Group

## BRUSSELS Meeting 20 – 21 January 2013

In connection with the

*“Revaluating Theatrical Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities”*  
conference, Kortrijk, 22 and 23 January 2013

1 December 2012

Dear Colleague

The OISTAT Theatre Timeline Working Group (TTWG), STEPP (the Belgian OISTAT centre) and the Expertise Centre for Technical Theatre (RITS Erasmus University College) invite all interested people for a two day meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January in Brussels, focused on Belgian theatre-technical heritage, and inviting brief presentations of attendees own projects.

During the two days, we will visit different theatres, their collections and workshops. Presentations and discussions with practitioners and archivists will consider the safeguarding, preservation, documenting and usage of our technical theatre heritage and ways of assimilating it into renovated buildings and modern performance contexts.

This is a self-funded trip. But the organisers will help in finding central accommodation, transport etc. **For more information please contact** [chris.van.goethem@ehb.be](mailto:chris.van.goethem@ehb.be)

This meeting has been timed to connect with the *“Revaluating Theatrical Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities”* conference at the Schouwburg, Kortrijk on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> which we hope most TTWG attendees will wish to stay for.

This is an international conference held by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Universiteit Gent in association with Artesis Hogeschool and with support from the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen. Separate registration is required.

Please see the information with conference programme and registration doc attached and also to download at: <http://www.abtt.org.uk/news-and-events/2013/1/revaluating-theatrical-heritage-challenges-and-opportunities>

### **TTWG Brussels Meeting Programme**

#### Sat 19 January

Arrival in Brussels

TTWG Business meeting in the afternoon, dinner and walk through Brussels. All welcome.

#### Sun 20 January

Breakfast meeting at Astrid Hotel which is suggested for its proximity (walking distance) to all visited sites and to Brussels Nord station. It will be used as the meetings base. **First opportunity for discussion of projects and attendees' own presentations.**

**(15mins max length please).** <http://www.astridhotel.be/pages/en/3stars-astrid-roadmap.html>

Visit to Toone, historic puppet theatre in afternoon (TBC) <http://www.toone.be/>

Visit to KVS, a completely renovated theatre with complex history and programme (TBC) <http://www.kvs.be/>

Welcome dinner kindly sponsored by Showtex in central Brussels

#### Monday 21 January

Visit La Monnaie (Brussels Opera House) Tour of theatre and its museum (technical focus)

Lunch

Visit to La Monnaie workshops including the paintshop with discussion of historic techniques, Presentation by La Monnaie archivist and discussion of their collection and conservation work. [www.lamonnaie.be/](http://www.lamonnaie.be/)

**Second opportunity for discussion of projects and attendees' own presentations (15mins max length please).**

Train to Kortrijk from Brussels Nord station (also calls at Brussels Midi and Central stations) (approx 70mins)

Arrival in Kortrijk for dinner and conference on Tuesday

### **Background to the OISTAT Theatre Timeline Working Group**

At the 2011 Prague Quadrennial the OISTAT History & Theory and Technology Commissions initiated a new OISTAT working group with a title of Theatre Timeline. Our aims are to provide a focus group for interest and projects in historical theatres, theatre practice and technologies, to foster better general understanding of older theatre technologies, international exchange of information and guidance on recording and preservation.

A first meeting was held in London to coincide with the UK Theatres Trust 2012 Conference – *Delivering Sustainable Theatres* - and the annual ABTT 2012 Theatre Show. Jason Barnes for the ABTT (Association of British Theatre Technicians and the Theatres Trust) hosted and organised a fascinating menu of 'Self Select' events with opportunities to meet and network with those in the UK and from other countries with similar interests. Please see attached report.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Brussels and to Kortrijk in January

Chris, Kate and Ivo.

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Jason Barnes – ABTT Historical Research Committee, OISTAT UK, Theatres Trust, London