



FEATS22: Changing Times

Pre-information on FEATS in Luxembourg

In May 2022, the New World Theatre Club of Luxembourg (NWTC) will be hosting FEATS. This will be, after a 2-year Covid-induced disruption of the Festival, a return to live performance and a celebration of the spirit and enthusiasm of the FEATS Community.

Dates: 26 – 29 May 2022 (Ascension weekend)

Venue: Mierscher Kulturhaus in Mersch, Luxembourg (some 20 km north of Luxembourg City)

Not only will FEATS be a **festival of renewal** after the enforced absence due to the pandemic, but also in the sense of a new approach to dramatic performance. For the first time, FEATS will be offering an **open acting area** on the same level as the auditorium, including a **substantial thrust area** with some seating at the sides, allowing a closer communication between actors and audience. The curtain will remain open, enabling Festival goers to see what goes on before and after the performances.

Another change is that the adjudicator will be replaced by an **evaluator**. This means that, although the evaluator will still offer an expert informed appraisal of each performance and sum up at the end of the weekend, there will be no marking sheet and thus no grading of performance. As FEATS22 will not be a competitive festival, there will be no prize-giving and no participation in the UK All Winners Festival. The rules will be modified for 2022 in this respect. (The rules relating to the organisation of the Festival such as rehearsals, setting, striking, and so on, will remain in place, as these ensure the smooth running of events.)

That a marking sheet will not be used to calculate prize-winners does not mean there is no need to strive for a high standard; indeed FEATS has a regular and uniquely informed audience who expect and recognise quality work and who expect an equally high standard of constructively critical appraisal as normally given by the adjudicator. In 2022, this will be given by the evaluator, in the person of Mike McCormack, actor, deviser, director, producer, university lecturer, drama tutor and past Director of the LEATSS Theatre Summer School.

An advantage of no marking sheet is that the constraints on type of theatrical performance will be loosened to enable participating groups to take advantage of the more open and innovative conditions in Mersch.

Another change is that FEATS22 will have a **theme: Changing Times**. We are in the midst of momentous world-wide change and the NWTC believes that theatre should also play its part in reflecting on society and the need to adapt. The theme is in part inspired by Bob Dylan's iconic hit song from a previous period of change and we believe it can inspire new works or forms of theatre that have not yet been seen at FEATS as well as foster a sense of unity and common purpose. The theme should be seen as a guideline, not imposed.

The group selection process will, as always, be dealt with by the Steering Committee.

The NWTC hopes that all groups will already start thinking about how to take advantage of the new conditions offered at Mersch and look for works that will be innovative, exciting and rise to the challenge. Preliminary details of the stage set-up can be seen on the provisional FEATS22 page of our website www.feats22.lu. In case of questions, please contact the Coordinator of FEATS22, John Brigg, at john@feats22.lu.