



Technical Data Package

Festival of European Anglophone Theatre Societies

13th – 16th May, 2010, Bad Homburg

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OTHER DOCUMENTATION

TECHNICAL DRAWINGS (in separate pdf files)

ANNEX 1	FEATS 2010 Stage Plan
ANNEX 2	FEATS 2010 Stage Acting Area Dimensions
ANNEX 3	FEATS 2010 Stage Bars Plan
ANNEX 4	FEATS 2010 Fly Bar Schedule
ANNEX 5	FEATS 2010 Sound & Lighting photos

QUESTIONNAIRES (combined in separate Word file)

1. Play & Performance Slot Questionnaire
2. Stage & Set Questionnaire
3. Sound Questionnaire
4. Lighting Questionnaire

PUBLICITY (Programme) INFORMATION SHEET (in separate Word file)

NAME LIST FORM FOR CAST & CREW ID BADGES (in separate Word file)

NAME & CONTACT DETAILS OF VAN DRIVER (in separate Word file)

**** All of the above documentation will be available for download on the FEATS 2010 website www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre (FEST) is proud to be hosting FEATS 2010 and warmly welcomes the FEATS community to Bad Homburg, Germany.

Established in 1977, FEST has brought English language theatre to the Rhein-Main area for over 30 years. The club is an independent non-profit organisation, with the aim to cultivate and promote English-speaking amateur theatre in all its various forms. This is the fourth time the Festival is being held in Bad Homburg and we look forward to meeting both old and new FEATS participants and supporters.

Besides the main Festival, we will be hosting a FRINGE Festival (see **section 9**).

The attached data package aims to tell you all you need to know to organise your FEATS production. If you have never stage managed at FEATS before don't panic! The festival stage management team is here to help you.

Your initial point of contact for any questions or queries is the Festival Stage Manager, Gill Atkinson, whose contacts details are below. As necessary, your questions may be forwarded to another member of the Stage Management team.

Postal Address
Erbsengasse 15a
60439 Frankfurt
Germany

Home Phone: +49-228-331960
Mobile: +49-0175-2019876
email: sm@feats.eu

Please read this data package carefully, taking particular note of the various deadlines listed in section 8.

This data package, as well as other FEATS information, will also be available on the FEATS 2010 website, www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010

Festival Organising Committee

Chairman	David Mark	+49 (0)160 718 8100	david@mark-family.net
Treasurer	Jeff Book	+49 (0)6174 293853	treasurer@feats.eu
Stage Manager	Gillian Atkinson	+49 (0)228 331960	sm@feats.eu
Hospitality	Vera Mark	+49 (0)175 402 1696	hospitality@feats.eu
Fringe	Antonia Kitzel	-	akitzel@gmail.com
Publicity	David Jayne	+49 (0)611 710 9949	info@fotoab.de
Secretary	Wendy Jane Jones	-	wjjones@t-online.de

The Festival 2010 Committee and Stage Management Team wish you every success in putting your production together and look forward to meeting you in Bad Homburg in May.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Dates & Venue

FEATS 2010, hosted by the Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre (FEST), will be held at the Kurtheater, Bad Homburg, Germany, from Thursday 13th May to Sunday 16th May 2010.

Address

Kurtheater
Louisenstrasse 58
61348 Bad Homburg
Germany

The theatre forms part of a small arcade complex at the centre of a pedestrian area containing the Maritim hotel and the Tourist Information Office (Verkehrsamt). The theatre seats 700 and balcony seats will be allocated to cast and crew of groups performing each evening. The main entrance is at the front of the arcade on Luisenstrasse.

Parking in the centre of Bad Homburg is available but few spaces are free! Parking regulations are strictly enforced and if you park illegally your car may be towed away. There is ample free parking within easy walking distance of the centre – see the Services map on www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010.

2.2 Theatre Visit

A theatre visit for participating groups has been arranged for Saturday, 13th February, 2010 at 13:30hr. Please let Gill Atkinson know by **5th February** if you would like to attend – sm@feats.eu

If you are unable to attend on this date, you may contact Gill to see if another date could be arranged. However, due to the theatre schedule there is no guarantee this will be possible or that you would have access to the stage area and/or theatre technician.

2.3 Participating Groups

The groups that have agreed to take part in FEATS 2010 are:

BATS (*British American Theatrical Society*), Antwerp
CATS (*Combined Amateur Theatrical Society*), Rheindahlen
ECC (*English Comedy Club*), Brussels
ETW (*Entity Theatre Workshop*), Munich
ESOC (*European Space Operations Centre Theatre Group*), Darmstadt
GEDS (*Geneva English Drama Society*), Geneva
InPlayers, Amsterdam
ITG (*Irish Theatre Group*), Brussels
NEAT (*New English American Theatre*), Stuttgart
NWTC (*New World Theatre Club*), Luxembourg
Tagora, Strasbourg
Theater De WAANzin, Ghent

2.4 Performing Rights & Scripts

The participating groups, i.e., you, are responsible for obtaining:

- Rights to perform your chosen play in this venue.
- Rights to perform the cut or amended version if you have made any alterations to the script.
- Author's written permission for performance if you are performing an unpublished original script.
- Rights to use any sound effect or piece of music under copyright (participants from outside Germany please ensure you obtain rights to use sound/music in Germany).

Confirmation of the performance rights, as well as any other rights which may apply to your group, must be sent to Gill Atkinson by **19th March**.

Two copies of your script are required also by **19th March**. If the work to be performed is still in copyright, you must send Gill two original copies of the script (i.e., **NOT** photocopies!). In the case of an unpublished original script, the author must indicate that he/she has agreed to it being photocopied. In regard to this, please read rules 9, 10 and 12 of the competition rules (**section 3**).

2.5 Arranging the Programme

Our aim is to present a festival programme that is balanced in terms of both audience appeal and technical requirements. To do this, we need to know as much as possible about your play.

We hope to announce the running order on **6th April** and it will appear on the FEATS website www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010.

To make this possible, please return the questionnaires very promptly, particularly the FEATS 2010 *Play & Performance Slot Questionnaire* in the accompanying Word file (FEATS 2010 Questionnaires), which must be returned by **19th March**.

Once the running order has been decided it will not be changed. Whilst the organising team will try to accommodate preferences, groups must realise that the organising team's decision on slots is final.

2.6 Access & Security

Access to the backstage area of the theatre will be restricted throughout the festival to people with badges for the day in question. To enable your cast to have access to their changing room for the whole day, badges will be handed over to a designated member of your team during the set unloading period. A member of the FEATS team will be waiting by the backstage entrance next to where unloading will take place (see provisional timetable in **Section 8**).

By 3rd May, at the latest, we will need the names of all members of your team who will require badges: director, cast, five person stage crew, lighting and sound persons plus any other crew members assisting either during the performance or during the 2-hour rehearsal period such as props, prompt, makeup, costumes, etc.

The *Name List Form for Cast & Crew ID Badges* is provided in a separate Word file. Please note that:

- Only people wearing badges will be allowed backstage, including the dressing rooms and the auditorium during your rehearsal period.
- Badges are valid only for the day of your group's performance.
- Badges will only be issued to people who have a bona fide reason for being backstage during the day of your performance.

Unfortunately, even with badges, we cannot guarantee complete security. It is therefore advisable not to leave valuables unattended in the dressing room, or elsewhere, at any time.

2.7 Theatre Personnel

A member of the permanent Kurtheater theatre crew will be in the building at all times. Their decision is final on all matters concerning the running of the theatre and operation of theatre equipment.

The FEATS 2010 Organising Committee will provide a Stage Manager, lighting technician, sound technician and stage crew. They will assist you where necessary, operate theatre equipment on instruction from the groups, and will also act as timekeepers. The Festival Stage Manager retains the final control of the running of all rehearsals and performances.

2.8 Insurance

All participants – cast and crew – take part in this festival at their own risk. You are therefore strongly advised to take out insurance to cover loss, damage, injury and third-party liability for the duration of your stay in Bad Homburg. The FEATS 2010 organisers cannot accept any responsibility should anything happen on the theatre premises or elsewhere.

3. RULES OF COMPETITION

The following rules apply to your play and performance for FEATS 2010 in Bad Homburg.

General

1. The Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre (FEST) FEATS 2010 Organising Committee (“Organising Committee”) has appointed a Festival Stage Manager whose decisions on backstage matters, including timing, are final and binding on all Participants. Authorised personnel from the theatre are entitled to intervene at any time, for whatever reason, in the interest of the physical safety of all persons within the building.
2. Each participating group (“Participant”) will present:
 - A complete play, or
 - An extract from a play, provided that this extract is intelligible to any member of the audience who may not have seen or read the full play (note that written and/or spoken synopses are not permitted), or
 - Some other form of theatrical performance approved by the Organising Committee.
3. The language of the production must be English.
4. No group is permitted to substitute more than one competing entry to the same FEATS.
5. No member of a participating group may be paid for taking part in FEATS.
6. Under no circumstances is any Participant permitted to attempt to influence the Adjudicator in any way or to communicate with her in any dispute.
7. The filming, video or tape-recording of any performance, even for personal use, is expressly forbidden during the public performance.
8. Failure to comply with any of these rules of competition could lead to disqualification from part or all of the competition.

Participation & Play Selection

9. It is the sole responsibility of the Participant to obtain permission for use of all copyright material, of whatever nature, and to pay any royalties which may be due. Similarly, if any copyright material is altered in any way it is the sole responsibility of the Participant to supply evidence that the owner of the copyright has granted permission for the alteration(s). Performance license(s) and any such evidence of permission to perform and/or use and/or photocopy material must be received by Gill Atkinson the Festival Stage Manager by **19th March**. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the Festival and forfeiture of the full Performance Bond.
10. Each Participant must deliver to Gill Atkinson the Festival Stage Manager, by **19th March**, two (2) copies of the entry script as it is to be performed, for use by the Adjudicator and the Organising Committee (see section 1.4 for further details).
11. If two or more Participants submit the same play or a play which was performed at FEATS 2009, or if the Organising Committee considers a submitted play to be unsuitable for whatever reason, the Participant(s) will be advised by the Organising Committee in

writing and invited to reconsider their choice of material. If a Participant insists on its original choice, the Organising Committee reserves the right to take whatever decision it considers to be in the best interest of the Festival. This may include replacing the Participant(s) concerned by reserve(s) and returning the Bond(s).

12. An original script is defined as one being used in an original production, which original production has had its first public performance within the previous two years or at the current FEATS. It must have the director, set and interpretation that it had when first performed in public, although individual cast members can have changed since that first performance.
13. Acceptance of the invitation to participate in FEATS and payment of the Performance Bond is considered full agreement by any Participant, without exception, to perform in whichever slot on whichever evening is allocated by the Festival Committee.
14. Each Participant is to be responsible for insuring its personnel, scenery, costumes, properties and transport.

Timing & Penalties

15. Each entry must be at least twenty (20) minutes in length and not more than fifty (50) minutes. This time includes scene changes during performance but excludes the time spent in setting and striking the set as specified in rule 17 (below). Failure to adhere to these time restrictions will result in the following penalties.

A performance of less than twenty (20) minutes or exceeding fifty 50 minutes:

- Up to 1 minute 1 penalty point
- Up to 2 minutes 2 penalty points
- Up to 3 minutes 5 penalty points
- Up to 4 minutes 10 penalty points
- Up to 5 minutes 15 penalty points
- More than 5 minutes Disqualification from 1st, 2nd and 3rd best play awards

16. The Participant shall start the performance within one (1) minute of receiving the cue from the Festival Stage Manager to do so. Timing of the performance starts with the first cue given by the Participant stage manager and ends with the last cue, e.g., “close curtains”. If the first cue is not given within the one minute, timing will automatically start at one second thereafter.

17. The time allowed for setting the opening scene is ten (10) minutes and for striking the set at the end of the performance is five (5) minutes. The time allowed to start the performance from the cue given by the Festival Stage Manager is one (1) minute. Failure to adhere to these time restrictions will result in the following penalties:

- Up to 1 minute 1 penalty point
- Up to 2 minutes 2 penalty points
- Up to 3 minutes 5 penalty points
- Up to 4 minutes 10 penalty points
- Up to 5 minutes 15 penalty points
- More than 5 minutes Disqualification from Stage Management award

Rehearsal & Crew

18. Any members of the cast who are under 15 year of age must be chaperoned at all times by someone over 18 years of age, whilst in the theatre.
19. All technical/crew members (including additional personnel assisting during your rehearsal period) must be minimum 18 years of age.
20. Each Participant will be allowed a two (2) hour rehearsal period at a time to be determined by the Festival Stage Management team. The rehearsal period may be used by the Participant in any way it deems fit.
21. No member of any other group will be present during the rehearsal period.
22. Backstage is defined as the acting area, the wings and rear stage area behind the proscenium arch.
23. There are no restrictions as to the number of Participant support staff who may assist during the rehearsal period, as long as they have tasks to do and are wearing official crew ID badges.
24. For the performance the Participant shall designate a maximum of five (5) persons as its Crew of five (Crew) to set and strike the scenery and properties. The Crew can include members of the cast or other support staff.
25. In addition to the Crew, Lighting and Sound staff are permitted to enter the backstage area during setting and striking if their duties so require. All other support staff shall remain in the dressing room during setting and striking.
26. For the performance, all Crew, Lighting, Sound, and on-stage support staff are expected to wear stage blacks (alternates being dark blue or dark brown). All crew members, i.e. everyone assisting during loading/un-loading of set, the 2-hour rehearsal period, and during the performance must wear flat, slip-resistant, enclosed footwear (steel toe-capped for those moving heavy furniture or equipment).

Presentation

27. For FEATS 2010, the Organising Committee will provide a theatre with the basic equipment of a well-run professional theatre. The Organising Committee is not obliged to undertake provision of properties, and/or equipment over and above those identified in this Data Package.
28. The use of all property and equipment, including but not limited to scenery, furnishings, lighting and sound equipment brought by the Participant, is subject to the approval of the Festival Stage Management team at all times and must comply with all necessary fire and safety regulations (see **section 5.2**)
29. Participants are entitled to bring such scenery and properties as they consider essential to their production. Box sets will be permitted but there is no guarantee they can be flown. On the day designated to a Participant for performance, its scenery will be stored

in the area assigned by the Festival Stage Manager and as specified in this Data Package. Any flown pieces may be mounted and flown during the two hour rehearsal period allocated to the Participant, subject to availability of bars and to the decision of the Festival Stage Management. All such pieces may have to be removed from the bars and placed in the assigned storage area during the five minute strike period, subject to the discretion of the Festival Stage Management.

30. Participants must tell the Festival Stage Management team by **19 March** if they propose to use any additional lighting and/or sound equipment, and if the entry requires effects such as naked light(s), gun-shots(s), and substances which could cause damage. If the Festival Stage Management considers it necessary to place limits on the proposed effects, the Participant will be advised in due time. **Note, the use of pyrotechnics is not authorized for FEATS 2010.**
31. Lighting and sound representatives from the Festival Stage Management and the Theatre staff will be responsible for the control of the switch board, lighting and sound equipment, under the direction of the person delegated by the Participant. Each Participant is responsible for ensuring that its lights are correctly set, that the curtain is opened and closed at the required times, that the scenery is correctly set and struck within the time allocated, and that clear and concise cues are given to relevant Festival staff and/or theatre staff.
32. Each Participant is responsible for informing the Festival Stage Management if they intend to use any specialist equipment which needs to be set up by individuals not in the Participant's crew. If the Festival Stage Management considers it necessary to place limits on the proposed effects, the Participant will be advised in due time.

Interpretation of the Rules

33. Decisions of the Organising Committee, including the Festival Stage Management team, concerning interpretation of these rules and on all matters relating to the running of the Festival will be final and binding on all Participants.
34. Frankfurt English Speaking Theatre (FEST) is the sole body legally and financially responsible for FEATS 2010. In any dispute arising between a Participant and the Organising Committee the decision of the Organising Committee shall be final. The FEATS Steering Committee may use its goodwill to resolve differences, but shall not have the right to over-rule the Organising Committee.
35. As regards permission to use copyright film, television or video materials during the performance, please see rule 9 above. As regards the technical implications of such use, the prior permission of the Festival Stage Management is required.

4. ON THE DAY OF PERFORMANCE

4.1 Stage Manager, Lighting & Sound Meeting and Pre-Rehearsal Chat

Each morning before rehearsals begin there will be a coordinating meeting for the Participant's stage manager, lighting and sound crew with the relevant members of the Festival Stage Management team.

There will also be a short get-together (pre-rehearsal chat) immediately before your two-hour slot to explain who's who and what will be happening during your rehearsal time (see Section 8.2 – Provisional Timetable).

4.2 Scenery Get In

On performance days, parking space for one vehicle from each group will be available in the outside car park behind the theatre next to the loading bay. Please do not attempt to use the underground car park for vans/trucks as headroom and turning room is restricted. For groups wishing to park their vans in Bad Homburg before/after their performance day, arrangements have been made to use space in a locked compound a short distance outside the town. The route from the compound to the theatre is shown on the Google map under "(Un)Loading your Van" on the FEATS website www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010. Please be aware that, whilst in the compound, access to your vehicle will only be possible at pick-up / drop-off times on the day of your performance. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Specific times (see Provisional Timetable, section 8.2) will be allocated to each group to load scenery, furniture and props into the theatre via a lift. Only members of the permanent theatre staff or FEATS Stage Management team are allowed to operate the lift.

Please make every effort to abide by the allocated lift time as rescheduling can affect rehearsal times of your and other groups.

4.3 Rehearsal period

Each group is allocated a two-hour rehearsal period on the day of their performance (see Provisional Timetable, **section 8.2**). Please note that your two hours will start whether or not you are ready to begin.

All rehearsal activities, including setting and striking the set, setting and focusing any lighting specials, setting lighting cues and sound levels, and fixing and testing any scenery to be flown must take place during this time. Each group can decide how best to use the rehearsal period - you may take the opportunity to run a cue-to-cue, rehearse select sections of your play or run a complete dress rehearsal, depending on what you can fit into the time available. Time trials for setting and striking under festival conditions can be carried out on request.

Only members of your group, the Festival Stage Management team and the theatre staff will be allowed on stage and in the auditorium during your two hours. You can have as many crew members as you need during the rehearsal period, provided they have been issued with badges. The rules governing the Crew of five apply only during the set and strike for the performance.

At the beginning of the rehearsal period your set should be in your storage area. At the end of the two hours you should leave the stage empty and clean, having returned your set and props to your storage area.

At the discretion of the Festival Stage Management you can leave any flown scenery secured in place on the bar(s) allocated to you, ready to be lowered to the pre-determined settings during the ten minute set-up period before your performance. At the end of your performance, flown pieces will be re-flown **to be removed at the end of the evening as directed by the Festival Stage Management.**

Each group will be provided with tape of a different colour to mark the positions of your set pieces on the stage. Please use only the tape given to you and no other. Please try to use the tape so as to present a neat appearance to the audience.

4.4 Dressing Rooms

Ample dressing room accommodation is available and each group will be assigned space for the duration of the day of performance. Audio relay is available in the dressing rooms. Please remember that you are responsible for bringing all your own make-up, costumes, hair requirements, repair /sewing kit, etc. An iron and ironing board will be made available for your use. Please ensure that the dressing rooms are left clean and tidy at the end of each day.

Whilst every effort is made to control access to the backstage area, no guarantee of security can be made and no responsibility for loss or damage can be accepted by the FEATS organisers or the theatre administration. It is therefore recommended that no valuables are left unattended anywhere in the theatre and that group or personal items are insured.

No smoking is allowed in the dressing rooms or anywhere backstage.

4.5 Evening Performance

Each group is allowed 10 minutes before its performance to set the stage, with the curtain closed, and to make any adjustments necessary to their lighting and sound equipment. During these 10 minutes, your Crew of no more than five (5) people (which includes your stage manager) is allowed on stage to handle set and props, etc. In addition, lighting and sound staff are allowed on stage, but only to deal with relevant equipment, e.g. to plug in a practical lamp. The Festival Stage Management team must be told that they will be doing this. Members of the cast and performance support staff will not be allowed in the stage area during setting and striking, unless they are designated as a member of the Crew of five.

Once the Participant's stage manager has told the Festival Stage Management that the Crew are assembled and ready to start, the Festival timekeeper gives the 'go' signal. Only then can items be removed from the offstage storage area. Please note that fly bars (if being used) are operated by the theatre technicians or the Festival Stage Management on the instruction of the Participant's stage manager. Timing of the 10 minutes starts at the 'go' signal and continues until the Participant's stage manager tells the Festival timekeeper that setting is complete. After this point, adjustments can only be made for

safety reasons, identified by either the Participant's stage manager or the Festival Stage Management, so a checklist is highly recommended.

The cast can then be called onstage. They are given approximately five minutes to assemble and take up their starting positions but must not make any adjustments to the set. At this point the curtain is still closed, unless you have asked for it to be open in your *Stage and Set Questionnaire*. The Festival Stage Management obtain front of house clearance and then formally hand over responsibility to the Participant's stage manager who has **one minute** to give the first cue, e.g., intro music, curtain open. Timing of the performance starts at this first cue and ends when the last cue is given, e.g., close curtain. Play out music may continue after the last cue has been given and is not included in the timing.

No curtain calls are taken

Once the performance has finished, the curtain remains closed and all group members other than the designated Crew return directly to the dressing room. Props remain in place on set, i.e., are not to be removed when exiting the stage area. The Crew assembles on stage. When the group stage manager says the Crew is ready to strike the set, the Festival Stage Management indicates that the strike may start and timing begins on the timekeeper's 'go' signal. All scenery and props must be struck to the offstage storage area. This includes anything set downstage of the curtain. Again, lighting and sound personnel may come to the stage to disconnect equipment, etc. Tape used to mark positions of furniture, etc., must be left in place (the Festival Stage Management will remove it at the end of each evening).

Timing of the strike ends when the Participant's stage manager tells the Festival Stage Management that the strike is complete.

From the start of setting to the end of striking, the only Participant group's personnel allowed on stage or in the lighting/sound booth are the cast, the Crew, lighting and sound personnel, and the agreed support personnel such as prompt, wardrobe or properties personnel.

4.6 Photography

No photographs, with or without flash, or video recordings are permitted at any time during the evening. Participants may take photos or make recordings during their two-hour rehearsal period provided this does not affect safety or interfere with the work of the theatre staff or the Festival Management team.

5. THE STAGE & THEATRE FACILITIES

5.1 General

Please read the information below carefully and complete and return the **FEATS 2010 Stage & Set Questionnaire**. A plan of the stage acting area can be found in ANNEX 2. Other information is available on request for groups with technically demanding productions.

In addition to the Festival Stage Management team, theatre technical staff will be available during the rehearsal and performance periods. The theatre technical staff is limited to one technician and an assistant. Members of the Festival Stage Management team will assist if you experience communication problems.

The auditorium and backstage areas will be open, with technical staff, from 08:30 to the completion of moving sets out of the theatre after the adjudication on each day of the festival. The theatre technical staff speak English but several members of the Festival Stage Management team also speak German should you experience communication problems.

The decision of the Festival Stage Manager is final in all matters concerning the use of equipment. The Festival Stage Management's decision is final on issues where the organisation and running of rehearsals and performances is concerned.

Throughout this manual and in the theatre during the festival, the British definitions of stage right (SR), stage left (SL), upstage (US) and downstage (DS) will be used. In other words, if you are standing in the middle of the stage facing the audience, SL is to your left, SR is to your right, US is behind you and DS is in front of you.

Signs in English will be placed backstage to help you find your way around.

5.2 Fire Precautions & Safety Regulations

The Kurtheater Bad Homburg is a public building and subject to all German safety regulations. Any safety requirements imposed by the theatre staff or the firemen on duty during the evening must be followed.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

If smoking forms an integral part of your production, the Festival Organisers must be informed beforehand so that precautions can be taken. Ashtrays used on stage must contain a 2mm layer of water or wet sand, such that any cigarette left in them will automatically be extinguished.

All scenery must be fireproof, i.e. scenery should extinguish by itself when a naked flame is applied and subsequently removed. We would like to stress that three members of the fire brigade will be in attendance each evening, so expect your set to be tested. Wood generally does not need fireproofing. For fireproofing of fabrics we suggest a solution of ammonium sulphate, or a suitable proprietary fire proofing agent.

Weapons with sharp edges, blades and points may not be used for fight scenes. Glass with anti-shatter film or plastic should be used instead of glass. Other aspects of safe working will also be monitored, including all the obvious things, such as soundly constructed scenery (especially when flown), effective stage management, safe setting and striking, avoiding tripping hazards, being prepared for anything that might be expected to go wrong (e.g. breakages, spillages).

Pyrotechnic articles **may not** be used during FEATS 2010.

German legislation covering firearms is strict and such effects are best avoided. If you intend using real or replica firearms, irrespective of whether or not they are fired, please ensure you clearly note your request to use the item(s) on the *Stage & Set Questionnaire*.

Electrical outlets are of the German Schuko rim earth type, mains 220V, 50Hz, so any electrical equipment you bring must have compatible Schuko connectors. Please contact us if you intend using any equipment drawing over 10A, as it will be necessary to use different connectors.

5.3 General Setup

The stage is a proscenium, with a 4m deep apron in front of the curtains and steps into the auditorium on each side of the apron. The stage/acting area is 9m wide and 10m deep (8m plus 2m of the apron which can be adequately lit) to the upstage black curtain. If you elect to use the cyclorama, this is set at 1.7m behind the upstage black curtain and will therefore extend the depth of the acting area.

The legs and borders will be set as shown on the Stage Bar Plan in ANNEX 3.

A mid-stage traverse curtain is not available in this theatre.

There is limited space, approx 1m wide, behind the cyclorama to cross from one side of the stage to the other. If the cyclorama isn't used this space is increased to approx. 2.70m.

The theatre has a limited number of wooden rostra each 2.20m x 1,10m - 8 at 70cm height, 8 at 60cm height and 4 at 20cm height. If you need to use any of them, please ensure you note this on the *Stage & Set Questionnaire*.

Tables for properties will be provided stage right and stage left.

5.4 Loading In/Out

Specific times will be allocated to each group to load scenery, furniture and props into the theatre via the lift. Only members of the permanent theatre staff or FEATS Stage Management team are allowed to operate the lift.

The scenery lift dimensions are height: 3.19m (inside) / 2.5m (door frame); width: 1.65m and depth: 5.88m. If bringing large/long items, please note that at stage level the space from the lift door to the facing wall is 5m.

All three groups will load out at the end of each evening, after the adjudication is finished. Please make sure your van or other vehicle is in place promptly, so that this operation can be completed as quickly as possible as it will have been a long day.

As with all other activities, you have to provide enough people to load and unload the scenery and to set it up.

5.5 Off-stage storage area

Storage space is quite limited in this theatre. Each group will be allocated an area of approximately 1m x 3m. There is a wall at the back of each area, where scenery can be leant.

5.6 Stage surface

The stage floor is wooden and painted black. Nothing may be fixed on the floor by using nails, screws, or any other means which may cause damage to the surface.

5.7 Stage Weights

The theatre has an adequate supply of stage weights which groups may use.

5.8 Operation of theatre equipment

For safety reasons, the flying system may only be operated by theatre or Festival Stage Management personnel.

During your two-hour rehearsal period, the lighting board will be programmed by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel under the direction of the participating group's lighting person. During your performance, the lighting board will be operated by your lighting person or - and only if absolutely necessary - by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel.

During your two-hour rehearsal period, the sound equipment will be set up by the participating group and Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel. During the performance, it will be operated by your sound person or - and only if absolutely necessary - by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel.

5.9 Stage manager's console

This is located stage left and has an intercom facility to the lighting/sound control booth.

The motorized house curtain is also operated from stage left, or from the light/sound booth. With regards to timekeeping, time will be stopped after the last cue, e.g. 'close curtain' and not when the curtain has closed.

5.10 Fly bars for scenery

Counter-weighted fly bars for scenery are available, subject to discussion with the Festival Stage Management - see the *Fly Bar Schedule* ANNEX 4.

Maximum load for each is 250kg or 300kg, as indicated on the schedule. They are operated from stage right by the theatre or festival staff. The bars are of the standard size: 48.3 mm OD scaffolding pipe (1½" ID gas pipe or lighting barrel).

Any scenery to be flown has to be set in the 2-hour rehearsal period and may have to be removed during the 5-minute striking period together with the other scenery. This is something we will discuss well before the Festival with those groups flying scenery.

If you intend to use the fly bars, please look at the bar schedule and indicate the bars you wish to use in your questionnaire. We will try to meet these requirements. However if two groups (performing on the same evening) require the same position, the Festival Stage Management will decide the allocation of bars. Please indicate your preference for moving the scenery upstage or downstage in the event of a conflict.

Remember that if you are planning to use a bar for flying that is close to one used for lighting, conflicts can occur and you need to leave enough clearance to avoid a clash.

6. SOUND

6.1 Sound - General

Please read the information below carefully and complete and return the **FEATS 2010 Sound Questionnaire** by **19th March 2010**. For any detailed questions, please contact the FEATS sound team on the following email address: sm@feats.eu

On the morning of the day of your performance there will be a sound meeting, see the provisional timetable in section 8 for details.

The theatre acoustics are excellent and the equipment is very flexible. The combined sound and lighting booth is located at the rear of the auditorium under the balcony. The soundproof glass window of the booth can be opened during rehearsal periods but will normally be closed during performances.

6.2 Sound Equipment

The theatre has:

- An INTERFACE mixing desk, with 24 input channels all with 4-way parametric equalisation, 6 auxiliary outs, 4 groups (normally used to feed the different fill speakers front & rear) and 2 main outputs.
- 4 compressor / de-esser units; can be inserted into any channel.
- 2 extra equaliser units for (e.g.) inserting into supplementary speaker feeds.
- Fixed Loudspeakers are located SR and SL on stage behind the proscenium arch; SR and SL above the apron; SR and SL in auditorium at balcony level.
- Movable Loudspeakers – 4 small “fill” speakers are available for positioning on stage or in the wings – if needed. Really designed to be fill loudspeakers for the front audience rows at concerts.
- CD player.
- Minidisk player.
- Either 2 radio lapel microphones or 2 radio handsets (there are only 2 receivers).
- 2 boundary microphones for general stage sound reinforcement.
- 24 way XLR tielines from a tieline box located SR up to the booth – could be used to connect any extra equipment you may need.

Please indicate on the *Sound Questionnaire* if you need to use movable speakers or the CD player, or any tielines.

Also, please see Technical Photos in ANNEX 5 and *Sound Questionnaire* (in separate files).

6.3 Set up and operation

During your two-hour rehearsal period, the sound equipment will be set up by the participating group and Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel. During the performance, it will be operated by your sound person or - and only if absolutely necessary - by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel.

7. LIGHTING TECHNICAL INFORMATION

7.1 Lighting - General

Please read the information below carefully and complete and return the **FEATS 2010 Lighting Questionnaire** by **19th March**. For any detailed questions, please contact the FEATS lighting team on the following email address: sm@feats.eu.

7.2 Acting areas

For lighting purposes, the stage will be divided into the 9 main areas, **A** through **I**, with a 9m by 2m apron area **J** as shown on the *Stage Acting Area Dimensions - ANNEX 2*.

7.3 Basic fixed setup (description)

A basic warm / cold coverage of areas **A-I** will be preset and available for you to use when your 2-hour rehearsal period begins.

All areas will each be front-lit by 4 lamps – 2 warm and 2 cold – and back-lit by 2 lamps one warm, one cold.

The **cyclorama** wall will be lit with 3 colours: dark blue, medium red and primary green, or any combination of these three colours.

If you need the **apron** downstage from the tabs to be lit separately, please let us know.

Side-lighting in cold and warm colours is available if groups request it. Please let us know if you will require this.

The above lighting rig will be available to all Participants in exactly the same configuration (i.e. they won't be re-focused or re-gelled during the festival).

7.4 Additional equipment

There are very few available spaces for hanging additional equipment and a general shortage of circuits. However, a small number of other lights are available for use during the festival and will be allocated by the Festival lighting team based on the requirements of each day's participating groups. As always, compromises may need to be made to fairly provide for each Participant. Tell us what you need and we will let you know if it's possible.

Gobos size 'A' may be used. We have profile lanterns that can be used for Gobos.

There are stands available for placement on the stage floor. Please state on your questionnaire if you will require them.

A follow-spot is not available from the theatre stock. If you need a follow spot, we may be able to organise the hire of a suitable instrument. It would be mounted on the balcony, off centre.

Power sockets, both direct and dimmer controlled, are available on stage for operating practical lights. Electrical outlets are of the German Schuko rim earth type, mains 220V, 50Hz so any electrical equipment you bring must have compatible Schuko connectors.

Please contact us if you intend using any equipment drawing over 10A, as it will be necessary to use different connectors.

The theatre has a good supply of Lee gels. If you would like to borrow theatre gels for any special lighting, please advise the colour/Lee number on the *Lighting Questionnaire* and we will check if it's available.

7.5 Cyclorama and rear black curtain

Each Participant will have the choice of using the cyclorama or rear black curtain. We need to know which you want in order to be able to plan the performances for that evening (see *Stage & Set Questionnaire*).

7.6 Lighting bars

Several stage lighting bars will be used for top and back lighting. Front lighting will be from the auditorium lighting bridge and an apron bar.

Plus: There are upright bars (booms) stage-left and stage-right behind the proscenium. These will be allocated as requested by Participants.

7.7 The lighting/sound booth

The lighting/sound booth is situated at the back of the auditorium. The view of the stage is good. During the performance, it will be possible to accommodate one lighting person and one sound person from the participating group. The booth is physically and acoustically isolated from the auditorium. The lighting/sound booth is not accessible from the auditorium.

7.8 The lighting board and its operation

The lighting board used in the theatre is a Strand 530. At the time of preparing this document; the theatre were in the process of procuring an ETC Ion desk but the availability of this equipment has not been confirmed. More than likely, either will be capable of producing whatever effects you require. That said, however, if you anticipate using features other than cue-to-cue, tell us as soon as possible so that we can let you know if can be done.

During your two-hour rehearsal period, the lighting board will be programmed by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel under the direction of the participating group's lighting person. During your performance, the lighting board will be operated by your lighting person or – and only if absolutely necessary – by Festival Stage Management or theatre personnel.

7.9 Special lighting effects

Full details of all special lighting effects must be provided when the lighting questionnaires are returned. The Festival Stage Management team reserves the rights to refuse the use of any such effect not deemed sufficiently professional and/or safe.

8. DEADLINES & PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

8.1 Deadlines

Please understand that non-compliance with deadlines may result in stage management penalty points and/or financial penalties.

5th FEBRUARY	Deadline – for advising if you are interested in visiting the theatre
13th FEBRUARY	Theatre visit for participating groups
19th MARCH	Deadline –return of ALL questionnaires, i.e., Play & Stage Performance Slot, Stage & Set, Lighting, Sound
19th MARCH	Deadline – submit two (2) copies of the script (in the original, NOT photocopied!) plus performance rights – to reach Gill Atkinson by this date – see postal address on page 1
6th APRIL	Deadline – for submission of Publicity and Programme information
6th APRIL	Running order announced
24th APRIL	Deadline – for submission of request for a written copy of your group’s adjudication
3rd MAY	Deadline – for submission of vehicle information including parking name and contact details of van driver
3rd MAY	Deadline – for submission of names and roles of badge holders;
13th MAY	FESTIVAL BEGINS – WELCOME TO FEATS 2010

Note: with the exception of scripts, which must be mailed (regular postal service) to the Festival Stage Manager (see above), all other documents should be emailed to the address as stated on the document.

8.2 Provisional Timetable for each day of performance

GROUP A	Unloading 08:30 – 08:45	Introductory meeting* 08:30 – 08:45		
GROUP B	Unloading 08:50 – 09:05	Introductory meeting* 08:50 – 09:05		
GROUP C	Unloading 09:10 – 09:25	Introductory meeting* 09:10 – 09:25		
GROUP A	Pre-rehearsal chat** 09:50	Rehearsal 10:00 – 12:00		
LUNCH				
GROUP B	Pre-rehearsal chat** 12:50	Rehearsal 13:00 – 15:00		
GROUP C	Pre-rehearsal chat** 15:20	Rehearsal 15:30 – 17:30		
EVENING MEAL				
GROUP A	Setup 19:20 – 19:30	Performance 19:35 – c.20:25	Strike 20:30 – 20:35	Interval
GROUP B	Setup 20:40 – 20:50	Performance 20:55 – c.21:45	Strike 21:50 – 21:55	Interval
GROUP C	Setup 22:00 – 22:10	Performance 22:15 – c.23:05	Strike 23:10 – 23:15	Adjudication

* Introductory meeting will allow the Participant groups stage managers to ask any questions and resolve any other issues. It will also allow the groups lighting and sound people and the Festival lighting and sound people to discuss any lighting and sound requirements for the performance.

** Pre-rehearsal chat (for each group's cast and crew) is an introductory talk, by the Festival Stage Manager, explaining what will be happening during the two-hour rehearsal period.

The Performance times are currently based on all performances running at the maximum 50 minutes. An updated timetable will be issued once actual performance running times are known.

9. OTHER INFORMATION

9.1 THE ADJUDICATOR

The FEATS 2010 adjudicator is Ms. Jan Palmer-Sayer. She will appraise each performance after the last strike. The following morning she will meet each group for no more than 30 minutes (exact times and location for each group to be confirmed) for a private discussion. Please wear your badges. She will meet the groups performing on the Sunday that same evening after the award ceremony if they so wish and if this can be arranged.

FEATS is marked according to the National Drama Festival Association (NDFA) recommended marking system as adopted by the Guild of Drama Adjudicators (GoDA) as follows: 40 points for Acting, 35 points for Production; 15 points for Stage Presentation; 10 points for Originality, Endeavour and Achievement, giving a total of 100.

Any group wanting a written adjudication, the cost is GBP25.00 (pounds sterling) must please let Gill Atkinson know by **24th April**. Please note that the adjudicator retains copyright of written adjudications and they should therefore not be published without her consent and payment of an additional fee.

9.2 AWARDS

Nine prizes are available for award at the end of the Festival. The Adjudicator will decide the allocation of these prizes with the exception of the Stage Management Award, which will be decided upon by the Festival Stage Management team.

Trophies presented on a rotational basis:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Best Production | (Yet to be named) Cup for Best Production |
| • 2 nd Place | The ECC Centennial Cup |
| • 3 rd Place | The Taché Diamonds Award |
| • Best Original Script* | The DAW-Verulam Award |
| • Best Stage Presentation | The Grand Duchy Cup |
| • Stage Management | The Marcel Huhn-Bruno Boeye Trophy |
| • Adjudicator's Discretionary Award | The Don Luscombs Award |

* For the definition of an original script please see rule 12.

Individual Prizes:

- The Blackie Award for Best Actress
- The Blackie Award for Best Actor

The Marcel Huhn/Bruno Boeye Award for Stage Management

This is the only prize not awarded by the adjudicator but by the Festival Stage Management team. Among the things we'll be looking for are organisation, planning and preparation; compliance with the rules of the festival and the directions of the Festival Stage Management team; promptness and completeness of the responses to the questionnaires; safety consciousness; general attitude and approach; production effectiveness; use of stage facilities; and teamwork. These criteria will not be judged in any particular order, except that we regard safety as of paramount importance.

All-Winners Festival – The winner of FEATS 2010 will be eligible for invitation to take part in the 37th British All Winners Festival (BAWF), run by the National Drama Festivals Association (NDFA), which will be held at the Thameside Theatre, Grays, Essex, from Sunday 25th to Saturday 31st July 2010. The adjudicator will be Paul Fowler, GODA.

Directly after the final adjudication and awards ceremony of FEATS 2010, the Festival Stage Manager will need to know whether or not the winner would like their name put forward. Please ensure you have discussed this in advance, with your cast and crew.

9.3 FRINGE FESTIVAL 2010

The Fringe will take place in the church hall of St. Marien Kirche, just a few minutes' walk from the Kurtheater and hotels – right in the centre of Bad Homburg. The church hall has a small stage, which we will equip with basic lighting and a simple sound system. The stage's playing area is about 4,00m x 8,30m. The venue can be transformed into a workshop space; the stage area can also be used for / during workshops, if needed. Antonia Kitzel is our Fringe coordinator and can be contacted on akitzel@gmail.com. Further details will be circulated in due course.

9.4 TICKETS - FESTIVAL, PARTY & PRIZE DRAW

All tickets are available for purchase through the FEATS 2010 Ticket Shop on the FEATS website www.festfrankfurt.org/F2010 and we encourage early booking.

Festival Ticket prices for FEATS 2010

4-night season ticket € 55 per person

3-night season ticket € 45 per person

Single night € 17 per person

Discount: buy 10 single tickets for any night, pay for just 9. So, if you can't visit all the performances, get a group together and pay €153 instead of €170 for ten people to enjoy a wonderful night of the best theatre.

Prize draw ticket price to New York and back: a trip for € 2.50 per person

Yes, it's really true! KLM will fly two people round-trip Economy Class from the nearest KLM airport to you in Europe via Amsterdam to New York. At FEATS – and in our online shop – we will be selling numbered tickets for just €5 each. On the last night of the festival the lucky winner of one pair of air tickets will be drawn. So don't hesitate, buy as many tickets as you like now and possibly surprise a friend, loved one, spouse with a great trip!

Note: Any legal recourse is specifically excluded.

9.5 HOSPITALITY DESK

The Hospitality Desk will be open for business as from Thursday 13 May in the foyer of the Kurtheater and will provide useful information for visitors and participants alike. However, we have made an effort to provide you with comprehensive leisure information on the website that you can study in advance, print out and bring with you. On the site, do also

check out the links to *Leisure and Service* and *Hotel and Eating* maps. There will also be a number of printed hospitality packs in your hotels.

After the performances and adjudication on Saturday 15 May, there will be a party in the Kaiser-Friedrich-Saal, which is in the same building as the theatre, up one flight of stairs from the foyer. Food and music are included in the price of the ticket and a cash bar (accepting tokens) will serve liquid refreshment. Party tickets can be purchased online in advance along with theatre tickets and food & drink tokens. Since we need to advise the caterers how many guests to cook for, please book party tickets by **29 April**. We can probably squeeze in a few more after that date, but early booking would help us a lot!

9.6 PARKING

In the very centre of town there is ample parking, but you will need to pay and 4 days will get expensive. However, you really don't need to drive far out of the centre of town to find free street parking within easy walking distance of hotels and theatre. Some suggestions are included in the leisure and emergency services map on the website, and our Hospitality Desk staff will help with information and directions.

9.7 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire brigade (Feuerwehr) or an Ambulance (Krankenwagen): **112**

Police (Polizei): **110**.

These numbers can be dialled from any phone without inserting coins or pressing special buttons. Also any mobile 'phone (called a Handy in Germany) can call these numbers free of charge, even without a card inside.

The nearest accident and emergency treatment is at the hospital:

Notdienstzentrale Hochtaunusklinik
Urseler Strasse 33, 61348 Bad Homburg
Tel: (06172) 140

This is the main road leading off the Hessenring away from the Schlossgarten towards Oberursel, and the [hospital](#) is shown on our website Google map by a red cross.

9.8 HOTELS & VENUES



All prices below are per room per night and are optioned for the nights 12-16 May (except Youth Hostel 13-15 May). **Direct booking** please – let them know you are coming for the English theatre festival – except for Youth Hostel, see below. Early booking is encouraged – we will make this hotel info public as of 19 March. Any questions? Mail hospitality@feats.eu.

Haus Daheim 10 doubles @ € 80
Elisabethenstr. 42
www.hotel-haus-daheim.com
hotel-haus-daheim@gmx.com
Tel. +49 6172 6773 50, Mrs. Wolff

Parkhotel
17 singles @ € 89
30 doubles @ € 89
7 “twins” (separate beds) @ € 89
6 apartments for up to four people @ € 89 per room plus € 35 per person # 3 and 4
Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 53 – 55
www.parkhotel-bad-homburg.de
info@parkhotel-bad-homburg.de
Tel. +49 6172 801 1, Mrs. Bianca Schmid

Maritim
20 doubles @ € 92
Ludwigstr. 3
<http://www.maritim.de/de/hotels/deutschland/kurhaushotel-bad-homburg>
info.hom@maritim.de
Tel. +49 6172 660 0, Mrs. Marietta Bussa

Youth Hostel (13-15 May – booking via hospitality@feats.eu)
20 doubles @ € 66,80 (*price of € 33,40 will be charged per head*)
Mühlweg 17
http://www.djh-hessen.de/articles_info.php?tPath=91&articles_id=23
Tel. +49 6172 23950

Don't be fooled by the denomination “youth hostel” – this place is modern and nice, no dormitories but double rooms.

9.9 EATING AND DRINKING

There is plenty of choice for eating and drinking in Bad Homburg to suit all tastes and wallets. A completely subjective choice by the Festival chairman is provided below and the Google map on our website shows their locations as well as some supermarkets.

Name	Address	Type	Comments	Open
Am Römerbrunnen	Kisseleffstr 27 (in the park)	Mediterranean	Upmarket. Beer garden in good weather	12-23
Café Klatsch	Louisenstr 107	Bar, café, restaurant	Good quality, reasonable prices. Good brunch Sat & Sun.	Until 0.30
Casa Rosa	Kaiser Friederich Promenade 107	Italian	Upmarket, good.	12-15 & 18-23
Feldberghof	Top of Feldberg (see map)	Bar, café, restaurant	Reasonable prices. Great views in good weather	Mo-Sa 11-22, Su 10-22
Flamm's	Elisabethenstr 38a	Alsace	Flammkuchen & wine	Th 18-23, Fr-Sa 18-23.30, Su 18-22
Kartoffelküche	Audenstr 4	Potato heaven	Good food, reasonable prices	12-14 & 18-24
Kronenhof – Graf Zeppelin	Zeppelinstr 10	German restaurant & brewery	Reasonable prices	11-23
Louisen-Lounge	Louisenstr 84	Bar / lounge	Shake it easy	Th 12-01, Fr-Sa 12-02, Su 14-23
Luna y Sol	Louisenstr 114	Spanish	Good tapas, reasonable	Th 12-01, Fr-Sa 12-02, Su 14-23
Mai Thai	Ludwigstr 2	Thai-Vietnamese	Also takeaway	Mo-Sa 10-22
The Melting Pot	Saalburgstr 67	Indian & Ayurvedic	Good food, service can be slow	Sa-Su 12-14.30. Tu-Su 17.30-23
Muy Bien	Gallery under theatre	Spanish	Good tapas	Mo-Fr 11-21, Sa 11-19
Pane e Vino	Louisenstr 42	Italian bistro	Wide selection, good	Mo-Sa 09-24, Su 11-24
Zeder	Louisenstr 103	Lebanese	Good quality, reasonable prices. Also takeaway	Mo-Sa 11-23.30, Su 12-23

9.10 SUGGESTIONS OF THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Shopping

Though a small town, Bad Homburg has a wide range of shopping, from department stores and chains to small boutiques. Explore Louisenstrasse and the surrounding streets.

Wine Festival

Now, as luck would have it, Bad Homburg is holding its 24th wine festival from 14 to 16 May. This means that the centre of town – yes, right outside the theatre and all along Louisenstrasse – will be full of stands serving wine and other victuals for your enjoyment. There will be a few fairground rides too. The wine festival also means that many shops will be open on Sunday 16 May (to make up for the fact that they will be closed on Thursday 13th – Ascension Day).

Around Bad Homburg

The **Taunus** hills and forests are a paradise for walkers and cyclists. Our leisure map (on the website) shows a couple of suggested excursions.

See also <http://www.taunus.info/en/> or

<http://www.wanderkompass.de/wanderort/taunus/bad-homburg.html> or

<http://www.regioausflug.de/taunus/map.php> or

<http://www.taunusklub.de/> for suggested walks. These sites are all local and in German only, but well worth pursuing. On the last one of these links go to the menu on the left and browse in the section <Den Taunus erwandern> for some great suggested walks. These routes can also be cycled.

The following two sights are close to Bad Homburg and worth visiting (both are also shown on the leisure and emergency services map):

Saalburg

This is a rebuilt Roman fort, archaeological museum and UNESCO World Heritage site. The Limes was the border between the Roman Empire and the Germanic tribes. Well worth a couple of hours. Gorgeous walks and cycling in the surrounding woods.

http://www.saalburgmuseum.de/english/home_engl.htm

Hessenpark

Open air museum. Over 100 buildings from all over the state of Hessen - many of them hundreds of years old – have been reconstructed on 160 acres. Many handicrafts are kept alive here. A great morning or afternoon. Open 09:00-18:00

http://www.hessenpark.de/english/frame_find.html

Frankfurt

For those interested in venturing further afield, there is of course Frankfurt. If you'd like to visit Frankfurt, but aren't sure what to do or see there, try

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/germany/frankfurt-am-main> and the further links shown

there to [sights](#) (mainly museums) or [shopping](#). Our own Google map also shows a selection of museums and shopping.

Rhine boat trip

For a long, lazy day – if it's sunny – try a boat trip along the Rhine and cruise past ancient castles steeped in legend. There are two main companies offering these, *Köln-Düsseldorfer* (KD) and *Bingen-Rüdesheimer* (BR).

For KD see <http://www.k-d.com/englisch/index.html>. It's best to drive to Bingen (80 kms from Bad Homburg), get a boat going downriver (i.e. north) to Boppard, and get a train back from there to Bingen. The boat journey takes a bit under 2.5 hours and the train journey back some 35 minutes. See <http://www.bahn.de/international/view/en/index.shtml> for train timetables.

For BR see <http://www.bingen-ruedesheimer.com/rhine-cruise/lorelei/index.html>. Here you also start from Bingen, but disembark at St Goar after a boat journey lasting 90 minutes. You'll still have been through the best bit of the Rhine valley, and will get the train back to Bingen from St Goar – some 25 minutes.

If you are planning to make this journey, do look up the timetables to ensure you allow enough time to get back to Bad Homburg for the shows! Our Google map shows you where the [boat trips](#) start and finish.

Mainz

If timing permits (on the way back from Bingen after a boat trip?), the [Gutenberg Museum](#) is well worth a visit. This is where movable type was invented, thus starting the information age. Mainz cathedral is a Romanesque one and St Stephan has nine famous Chagall windows. These are all shown on the Google map.

Rheingau and Rheinhessen

Both these areas produce lots of wine, some of it excellent. Rheingau is an area west of Wiesbaden ([Kloster Eberbach](#) is shown as a link on the map) reaching up to the bend in the Rhine, while Rheinhessen is the wine growing area along the Rhine south of Mainz.