



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

-Contact

July 2016

In this issue:

President's Words
Sir Winston Churchill Home
British Embassy
Medical Column
Back in Time
Silver River Lodge
Cooking Corner
Link o' the Month
Andy Capp
And more...

Instituto Anglo

20th Anglo Congress

Joint Invitation

**Screening of the
Battle of the Somme**

Club Uruguayo Británico

**Education:
Time is Playing Against It**



Contents

President's Words	2
Upcoming Events	3
Social News	3
Joint Invitation	4
Sir Winston Churchill Home	5
British Embassy	6
Christ Church	8
Instituto Anglo	9
The British Schools	10
Club Uruguayo Britanico	11
British Cemetery	12
Silver River Lodge	13
The City of Montevideo Pipe Band	14
Medical Column	15
Special Contribution	17
Back in Time	18
Tongue in Cheek Productions	20
Caroline's Cooking Corner	21
Link of the Month	22
Andy Capp	22



President: Richard Empson
president@britsoc.org.uy
099 658 497



Vice President: Jeanine Beare
vp@britsoc.org.uy
099 652 559



Secretary: Susan Mc Connell
secretary@britsoc.org.uy
094 384 020



Treasurer: Ivan Zimler
treasurer@britsoc.org.uy
091 211 003



Newsletter Editor: Geoffrey Deakin
editor@britsoc.org.uy
098 586 168



Webmaster: Joanna N Hambrook
webmaster@britsoc.org.uy
099 744 479



Chairman Sir Winston Churchill Home
and Benevolent Funds: Andrea Davies
swch@britsoc.org.uy
099 123 906

Auditor: Ian McConnell
imcconnell@winterbotham.com
099 155 663

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Montevideo, Uruguay

British Embassy & BSU Battle of the Somme

Page 4

Medical Column The statue on my shelf

Page 15

Special Contribution Sport News

Page 17

Back in Time The Centre

Page 18

Caroline's Cooking Corner Macaroons

Page 21



PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Dear members

Last month I let you know that the British Hospital Guild was one of two British institutions that were slowly winding down. I am very glad to correct myself in this respect: it appears that in a very welcome reverse of fortunes the Guild has renewed itself and is very much alive! Congratulations to those who managed this transformation and my best wishes to those who will lead the institution into a promising future :-)

At the June lecture-supper, Laura Raffo talked about the global, regional and local issues affecting the Uruguayan economy. The lecture was interesting and enlightening, and the event was enjoyed by all, but unfortunately, it was attended by a fairly small amount of people. This being the case, the Executive Committee will be looking into alternative events that may help do draw greater numbers of people. For a start, in early August the Society and the British Embassy will be offering a screening of the film 'Battle of the Somme' followed by supper at the British Ambassador's Residence, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of that tragic WWI battle (which took place between July 1st and November 18th of 1916). And in September you can look forward to an after-office get-together including a talk on the

medium and long term consequences that exiting the European Union will have on the UK.

Let it be noted that the Society avoided Brexit-related events prior to last month's referendum because discussion of politics and other issues of partisan or sectarian character are expressly barred by our statutes.



However, the consequences of the British people's vote will affect many of us directly and are of interest to all, so the Society will not shy away from discussing them. I will also state here publicly that I personally regret the path the slim majority of British people have set the UK on. Results make it clear that England has forced Scotland and Northern Ireland down a road they would have preferred to avoid, and that the old (who will be soon the nation's past) have forced a decision on the young (who are the UK's future) that they may well live to regret. Let us hope the country's political leaders steer a course that does not end up wrecking the ship.

Richard A. Empson





UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 6 July at 12:15 pm

Lunch Invitation

Club Uruguayo Británico
Hotel NH Columbia

Thursdays, 14 and 28 July

Informal Scottish Dancing

St Andrew's Society in Uruguay
The Alpen Club

Friday, 29 July at 7:00 pm

Chronicles of a Neighbourhood

British Cemetery
Chapel of the British Cemetery

Wednesday 3 August at 7:30 pm

Screening of 'Battle of the Somme'

The British Ambassador and
The British Society in Uruguay
British Residence (Jorge Canning 2491)

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August 2016

12th Anglo Congress

Instituto Cultural Anglo Uruguayo
Radisson Montevideo Hotel

24 August - 3 September

Chicago the Musical

The British Schools
Auditorium

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays

Elizabeth Hambrook.....	5 July
John Biscomb	6 July
Vivi Miles	20 July
Freddy Carter.....	20 July
Zara Davies	24 July
Paulina Salvo	27 July

When is your birthday?

***Do you know any member's birthday
or special occasion that we can
publish here and celebrate together?***

Let us know at editor@britsoc.org.uy





JOINT INVITATION

Screening of 'Battle of the Somme'

The British Ambassador and The British Society invite members of The Allies and the British Community to attend a screening of the film 'Battle of the Somme' followed by supper at the British Residence (Jorge Canning 2491) on Wednesday 3 August at 19:30 hrs. Entrance fee will be \$400, which will be donated entirely to The Allies.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo



THE BRITISH SOCIETY
IN URUGUAY

Seating is limited so book your place as soon
as possible contacting secretary@britsoc.org.uy
or 094 384 020



The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme Offensive, was a battle of the First World War fought by the armies of the British and French empires against the German Empire. It took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916 on both sides of upper reaches of the River Somme in France. It was the largest battle of the First World War on the Western Front; more than one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history.



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL HOME

MB Miss Eileen Kellerd

Eileen passed away 14th. June and the funeral took place the following afternoon.

The service was ran by Rev. Diego Frisch and it was nice to hear Eileen's succinct life story. It was lovely to count with the presence of HM the Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns and Jane Silverwood, members of the British Community and her friends. We also want to acknowledge the amazing care Eileen got while she lived at the home.



The SWCH Committee



On Grandparent's day Sunday 19th June we had tea and Leticia played the violin, she plays at the Sinfónica del Sodre. She played beautiful songs of J. S. Bach and some in English by the Beatles which we all sang along.

The SWCH is very grateful to the British Hospital for such a lovely surprise of inviting Leticia to play for the Residents, for the gifts and lovely cards that each was given.

Andrea

Page



At the Big Lunch,
Joan Lucas Calcraft received second prize for
 the Bunting Competition.
Congratulations!



BRITISH EMBASSY

BREXIT

As you all know, on Thursday 23 June the EU referendum took place and the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. The UK is preparing for negotiations with the European Union, but as Prime Minister David Cameron assured “there will be no initial change in the way our people can travel, in the way our goods can move or the way our services can be sold.” Please check [this website](#) for the latest information.



URUGUAY MISSION TO UK

A delegation of seven Uruguayan companies, Exports and Investment promotion agency Uruguay XXI, and Technology University UTEC travelled to the UK to take part in the [London Tech Week](#). The trip was jointly organised by UKTI Inward Investment and the Uruguayan Chamber of Information Technologies (CUTI) and included a series of networking events.



BRITISH EMBASSY

BRITISH PARLIAMENT SIMULATION



The Consul, Katharine Felton, was invited to attend a simulation of a British Parliamentary debate on the refugee crisis. This was organised by Formate, a training programme in politics run by Fundación Casa de los Lamas, a think-tank linked to Partido Nacional. Dozens of young people took on different roles emulating those in Parliament.

100 YEARS OF A COURAGEOUS EXPEDITION



Ambassador Ben Lyster-Binns was invited to participate in various ceremonies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first naval Antarctic Uruguayan expedition. At the Naval Museum the Ambassador, along with Navy authorities, unveiled a plaque and opened an exhibition about the courageous endeavour that attempted to rescue Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance crew who were stranded in the South Atlantic.



Embajada Británica
Montevideo



CHRIST CHURCH



Interdenominational Service in English weekly at 11am. Join a Bible Study or discussion group in English or Spanish at different times during the week.

We have a fun, young, dynamic community of people with varying levels of interest and commitment gathering to develop friendships and pursue personal spiritual growth. People from every continent, multiple languages groups, and all walks of life. You are welcome to visit any time and are invited to volunteer to make a difference in the community through encouraging and serving others.

Contact Pastor John Hamilton 094 368 761



RED OAK
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Mariano Uriarte 6572

Contact us at 098 69 1235

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INSTITUTO ANGLO



Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st, August 2016

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ANGLO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS USD 60

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* 1 a 6 pagos



* 1, 2 y 3 pagos

For more information please contact

www.anglo.edu.uy / anglo.congress@anglo.edu.uy / [f 12TH ANGLO CONGRESS](https://www.facebook.com/12thAngloCongress)

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the next 20th and 21st of August the 12th Anglo Congress will be held in Montevideo. Given the steady growth in attendance we've had these years, we've had to find a bigger venue:
Radisson Montevideo Victoria Plaza Hotel.

We'll have national and international speakers to make this an excellent opportunity for professional development and comradeship.

Follow the latest news updates on
Facebook 12th Anglo Congress.
Contact us at anglo.congress@anglo.edu.uy



INSTITUTO ANGLO

ANGLO CULTURAL: 2016 CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

It seems that the list of special anniversaries gets more crowded every year. This year English Heritage are planning to commemorate 950 years since the Norman invasion and 50 years of hurt (i.e. since England won the World Cup in 1966, we remember watching it in grainy black and white at a friend's house). The First World War commemorations also continue, with perhaps the most poignant being the forthcoming anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and the less well remembered but just as vital Battle of Jutland.

Of most relevance to a cultural institute specialising in the English Language, of course, is the 400th anniversary of the death of the Bard of Avon. Shakespeare is everywhere this year, and the Anglo has been involved in several special events. This month in particular has been full of Shakespeare.

'The Company' has been presenting "Twelfth Night", spoken in English but with subtitles in Spanish, for a wide range of audiences, at The Anglo Theatre. Rave reviews resulted in an extended run throughout May. 'Teapot Plays in English' gave performances of "The Tempest" at Teatro Solis in late May early June, again spoken in English but this time with English subtitles. Sponsored by The Anglo, the British Embassy in Uruguay and the British Council, both The Tempest and Twelfth Night were part of the unprecedented global programme of events "Shakespeare Lives" which celebrates William Shakespeare's work in 2016.

Shakespeare was also central to the IX Congreso Nacional and VIII Internacional de Literatura, of which the Anglo was among the sponsors, and the theme continued with a talk in Spanish entitled "Shakespeare y la Medicina de su Tiempo", which took place in the Anglo Pocitos, where Profesor Roberto Puig presented his as yet unpublished research in this area. Profesor Puig is Profesor Emérito, Ex-Catedrático de la Facultad de Derecho de Montevideo, Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay, Ex-Presidente del Colegio de Traductores Públicos del Uruguay, Promotor, Co-fundador y ex-Asesor de los cursos de Traductorado

de la Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay, and a writer and historian.

Shakespeare also makes an appearance in this year's season of filmed productions from the Royal Opera House, a cycle of Opera and Ballet to be screened by Movie Punta Carretas Shopping, and sponsored again by the Anglo. Among a wealth of superb classic productions from Covent Garden is the Kenneth Macmillan ballet of "Romeo and Juliet".

Fulfilling its educational role, the Anglo has teamed up with 'The Company' productions to show three plays specially designed for Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary school pupils over late May, June and August. These are "The Snow Queen", "Troy" and "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" respectively. All of them show at The Anglo Theatre and it is hoped that there will be more than 12,000 young students enjoying and learning over the course of the season. These follow on from 'Tongue in Cheek' productions version of "The Monkey's Paw", an educational play in English for teenagers, which played to more than 1,000 students to The Anglo Theatre in May.

A more contemporary theatre is also represented in the programme with performances of Samuel Beckett's 'Endgame'. Although Beckett is seen by some as being less accessible, he was after all influenced by meeting James Joyce early in his career, he is one of the 20th century's most acclaimed authors, with a string of classic modern plays, and a Nobel Prize to boot; but not so many people know that he was also a profound lover of cricket. The first performance was aimed at drama students, and was followed by an open discussion about the play and its author with the Director Jorge Denevi and cast, which included Pepe Vazquez in the lead role. A further performance for the general public was presented a few days later.

For more information about any of these events or to get updates on the Anglo Cultural Programme of future events, please email anglocultural@anglo.edu.uy or follow us on Facebook/AngloCultural.



THE BRITISH SCHOOLS

THE BRITISH SCHOOLS



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UNTIL THE PREMIERE

PERFORMANCES

August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

TICKET SALES

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



CLUB URUGUAYO BRITANICO




LUNCH INVITATION

WEDNESDAY
6 JULY
12:15 HOURS

EDUCATION: TIME PLAYING AGAINST IT

PROFESSOR
PABLO DA SILVEIRA

HOTEL NH COLUMBIA
RAMBLA GRAN BRETAÑA, 473
DRESS CODE: BUSINESS

MORE INFORMATION 

BRITISH CEMETERY



PROGRAMME

Friday 29th July 7:00 pm

At the Chapel of the British Cemetery
**"CHRONICLES OF A
 NEIGHBOURHOOD"**

BUCEO

The neighbourhood and its
 urbanization process.



Every neighbourhood has its history and the Buceo neighbourhood, which today is so hectic and overcrowded with constructions, had its urbanization process too.

The neighbourhood started growing between the dunes and the coast. Among barracks, hospitals, cemeteries and meat curers.



**Talk By
 Arch. Américo Rocco**



SILVER RIVER LODGE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEMASONRY IN URUGUAY

The next Masonic movement of any note in Uruguay appears to have been about the year 1827, when some French Masonic emigrés formed a Lodge in Montevideo named “Les Enfants du Nouveau Mond” under a Warrant from the Grand Orient of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, a body which did not appear to have been accorded recognition by the existing regular Masonic authorities of the period. This lodge is reputed to have worked intermittently up to the year 1842. In that year it was reorganized and renamed “Les Amis de la Patria”, and a petition was sent to the Grand Orient of France for the Lodge to be constituted under the Obedience of that Grand Orient. This petition was granted and the Lodge constituted under its new name in 1844. The famous General José Garibaldi is stated to have been a member of this Lodge at one time. This French Lodge still exists, working under the Grand Orient of France. It is a vigorous entity, and is the oldest existing Lodge in the Republic of Uruguay. In 1828 a number of Uruguayan Brethren, initiated in foreign Lodges, formed a lodge named “Asilo de la Virtud”, (Virtues Refuge), and worked without a charter until 1830, when they obtained a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. They worked in the York Rite, but in 1832 passed to the Antient and Accepted Scottish Rite. This Lodge warranted other Lodges in the Republic from time to time, some of which lapsed, whilst others continued for a number of years, one of them, “Constante Amistad” being in existence in 1856 when the Grand Orient of Uruguay was formed. The Grand Orient of Brazil also formed some Lodges in Uruguay between 1835 and 1855, of which the “Sol Oriente”, “Union y Beneficencia”,

and “Decretos de la Providencia” were in existence in 1856, and passed to the Grand Orient of Uruguay at that time. In 1855 some of the existing Lodges, under the leadership of Bro. José Gareda, formed a Grand Orient of Montevideo, but this body did not receive recognition from the Grand Orient of Brazil, which was the principal Masonic Authority in South America at that period.

In 1856 Bro. Gabriel Perez, Uruguayan Consul in Rio de Janeiro, obtained a Constitutional Charter from the Supreme Council of 33° in Brazil to form a similar body in Uruguay. He came to Montevideo and founded the Grand Orient of Uruguay with its Supreme Council of 33°, and this Masonic Authority immediately began to warrant Lodges in various parts of the country.

This gave rise to friction between the Grand Orient of Uruguay and the Grand Orient of Montevideo, which resulted in the dissolution of the latter body, and most of its Lodges passed over to the Grand Orient of Uruguay, including the Lodge “Asilo de la Virtud”, which was thenceforth known as “Madre Asilo de la Virtud”, being the senior Lodge working under the national Masonic Authority.

The Grand Orient of Uruguay was accorded recognition by the leading Masonic Authorities of the period, and Bro. Gabriel Perez was the first Sovereign Grand Commander and Grand Master, and it has continued as the sole national Masonic Authority of Uruguay to the present date. It proved an active and progressive organization.

This address will continue in our next issue...



THE CITY OF MONTEVIDEO PIPE BAND

The City of Montevideo Pipe Band – Brief History and Activities – By Daniel Pereira Pierce

Born and bred in 2007 from what was called The Southern Cross Pipe Band, our sole commitment is to continue with Scottish traditional bag-piping, drumming and highland dancing in Uruguay. For world standards we are a small pipe band, with at least 15 active members who regularly get together and practise every week from March to December. Our agenda is quite full, relative to what we can take as all of us study and/or work. Performances in public are mainly with the British community like the St Andrew's Society's annual Caledonian Ball, their annual Picnic, Cayleys, and activities by the local English-speaking schools like the British Schools, St. Andrew's School, Dickens Institute, Instituto Crandon, St. Brendan's School, Anglo School, smaller events like Burns' eve, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, ANZAC day, business promotions, birthdays, weddings, and funerals. To further promote our tradition, we've done talks and demonstrations to kids in schools but not to much avail, we believe mainly because of the cultural distance there is and to the times where everything has to be now! Don't forget legend says it takes 7 years to become a proper piper, and add some interest for being so far from the world piping centres.

Our instruments, uniforms and paraphernalia are original from Scotland, much to our cost of bringing them from so afar, but worth it to enhance our image with true sound and true colours! We also

maintain an important library of bag-piping scores, drumming scores and highland dancing tutorials and videos from original sources in support of our above mentioned practices.

The band is one of the founding members of the South American Pipe Band Association (SPBASA) around 2004, and have participated in these most exciting massed bands gatherings which took place in Buenos Aires and Santiago.

We are a recognised institution by the British Society of Uruguay, even if we unintentionally skipped (and are sorry for doing so) this last Council meeting!

And last but not least, we do our utmost to preserve a healthy and good team and friendly spirit in all our activities, above a perfect performance or a fantastic technique.



This said, feel free to contact us at directiva@montevideopb.com or dpereirapierce@gmail.com for engagements, gigs or classes!

MEDICAL COLUMN

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

THE STATUE ON MY SHELF

A decade or so ago, a patient gave me a small statue, measuring about 30 cm tall, which depicts a long-legged man, in a white coat, a stethoscope hanging around his neck, holding a black bag in his right hand and at the same time looking at his wristwatch on his left hand. It unequivocally evokes the image of a jack-of-all sorts doctor, lagging behind or trying to keep in time for the many demands of the day (or night). To make it even clearer, the engraving under the base reads: 'The Doctor. Made in China'. It has always been on one of the shelves in my Medical Advisor's office.

It's the typical Marcus Welby image of the primary care doctor who cares and tends for his patients every day and night, either in his surgery, at home, in the emergency room or during admission to the hospital. Before I began medical school in the early 1970's, this was the idealised image of a caring, dedicated, unselfish, under-slept, overworked and beloved physician. It was to some extent what I believed my father to be and the way many living patients of his remember him. It was a time of few available laboratory tests, which even if ordered urgently would take some hours to be reported. Imaging was basically rudimentary x-rays. Cardiac studies were limited to electrocardiograms. Scopes were done with rigid metal tubes poked into patient's natural orifices with less vision resolution than a WW2 submarine's periscope. The ultimate test was to consult a senior physician or renown specialist, who would





MEDICAL COLUMN

...Continued

Dr Jorge C Stanham MBE
jorgestanham@yahoo.com

ruminate and muse about the patient's history, physical findings and scant tests, to bring up an elaborate diagnosis. Specialists were mostly surgeons, who operated on patients under anaesthesia administered by non-physicians. It was a realm of medicine based on study, experience, wisdom and mostly trust: patients trusting physicians; physicians trusting specialists and consultants; trust in the colleagues who would report on the results of tests, many of which we'd nowadays consider obsolete and maybe misleading.

All this has changed dramatically. The personal relationship between patients and their doctors has given way to systems which arise in response to increasing technology, complexity and especially costs. The relationship based on the art of medicine and the trust of patients has been replaced or displaced by precise tests, scientific evidence, new drugs and devices in a climate of cost constraints in a highly complex environment, where the organisations, either public or private, local, regional or national call the big shots. Hospitals, insurance systems, pharmaceutical and medical device companies are the main actors on the stage. Individual doctors are overshadowed by organisations and many, especially the senior generation, feel that the present state of health care is in dissonance with the ideals that brought them into the profession during their youth.

To a great extent, I am part of that senior generation. Although some of the changes that have happened in the last half century may have made me feel upset, I am absolutely sure that the spirit of the doctor who inspired the statuette on my shelf is still alive. We're reaching a point where many of the changes in diagnosis and treatment that we have today are brought into question. "High-tech-low-touch" medicine is not what we wanted. There is at present a revival in the interpersonal, the narrative and the meaning aspects of health and healthcare. We don't carry a black bag anymore. Even though we may be seeing patients with a tablet, a smart-phone or smart-watch and have all the databases available via the Internet to interpret the patients' symptoms, the doctor in the white coat with the black bag pressed by time is still alive.





SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

by Mark Teuten
mteuten@teutenabogados.com

SPORT NEWS

Well, June was an awful month wasn't it? And I'm not talking about Brexit. It seems a bit senseless to be discussing sport after recent events, but here goes:

Local news first: Congratulations to British lady Alison Wakely for finishing second in the recent Sierras de Rocha 16K race. Apparently this is not just your normal road race, but quite a killer layout involving steep climbs and water crossings – so very well done to Alison – who lives in Rocha, so obviously knew the course! So other British ladies (and men), take note and try to beat that.

On the international scene the month got off to an awful start – Uruguay were knocked out of the Copa America with Suarez not even getting on to the pitch, England fans then proceeded to take us back in time to the 1970/80's in Marseilles by wrecking the city and the team itself conspired to lose to Iceland. Well done England!

But, having got June out of the way, July is looking a lot rosier. Wales have redeemed the nation (and I speak as a Welshman) by playing as a team and enjoying themselves. A great win against Belgium this week puts them into a semi-final of the European championships against Portugal and who would say they don't have a chance of winning that?

With Djokovic's shock exit from Wimbledon, Andy Murray is now in pole position to win and we should definitely claim that as a British victory if it happens, because it doesn't look as if the Scots are going to be around for long.

The Tour de France has also just started with that well-known Kenyan (sorry, I meant Brit), Chris Froome, going for his third win.

And the best of all is that rumour has it that the English FA are in discussions to try to persuade Arsene Wenger to take over as England manager. It would be a delicious irony indeed if, having resisted having a foreign manager for so long, it took Brexit for the FA to decide to appoint an EU manager!



UEFA
EURO2016
FRANCE



BACK IN TIME

by Tony Beckwith
tony@tonybeckwith.com

THE CENTRE

From the street it looked like any another warehouse. Shabby and nondescript, just a few blocks from the port of Montevideo. If the railroad had run through that part of town, this place would have been on the wrong side of the tracks. But that was the outside. When you stepped through the door at Calle Paysandú 1076, you entered The Montevideo Players Centre, a cosy place where my family and I spent quite a bit of time in the late 1950s and 1960s.

The Montevideo Players Society was started on July 14, 1949 by a handful of theatre aficionados. It was actually Uruguay's first independent theatre company, formed just a few months after the government launched the country's Comedia Nacional. The Society has been active ever since and is now the granddaddy of English-speaking amateur dramatic groups in Latin America. During the first few years the members of the troupe were transients, wandering players in the time-honoured tradition. They rehearsed in each other's living rooms until, in 1958, they managed to rent the premises mentioned above, and The Players finally had a place to call home. It was supposed to have been a temporary arrangement, but they were there for over a quarter of a century, until 1986, when they found permanent digs in an old house at Acevedo Díaz 2324, where they remain to this day.

The Players presented "Simon & Laura" in 1957 at the Teatro Victoria. This play, by Alan Melville, was a soft British satire about a couple of actors who play husband and wife on what would now be called a reality TV show. The script called for them to have

a child so, at the suggestion of one of my teachers at school, my parents were approached and, to my boundless delight, agreed to let me take the part. I was twelve at the time, and that was my introduction to The Players. I was thrilled for this chance to hang out with a group of older people, most of whom I considered incredibly cool, and was delighted all over again when my parents also showed an interest and joined the group. My father discovered his inner Thespian, and my mother and brother decided they liked being part of the backstage crew, so it became a family affair and we were all involved in theatre for many years after that. By that time the group was installed in the warehouse on Calle Paysandú, and



work soon began on making the place comfortable. The first priority was, naturally, a decent place to meet and socialize—which was code for a bar—and it wasn't long before the front room was ready to host the first of many events: fund-raisers, anniversaries, New Year's Eve celebrations and, of course, cast parties.



BACK IN TIME ...Continued

Every theatre group needs a place to build and store sets. Preferably a space where it won't matter if paint is splashed around and walls are bumped and gouged. The warehouse had a large covered loading dock behind the building, which was ideal. A theatre group must also have a ready supply of members who enjoy hammering and sawing and painting; hardy souls who don't mind getting dirty for a good cause. People like my brother, Christopher, who couldn't imagine anything better than wearing grubby overalls and puttering around with a hammer in one hand and a bottle of beer in the other.

When people think of amateur dramatics they usually think of actors and directors, and of course you couldn't produce a show without those highly visible members. But no play can be put on without a backstage crew to work the lights, sew costumes, gather and manage props, create sound effects, apply makeup and, as my mother used to do, sit in the prompter's box at the front of the stage, following the script and whispering a few precious words when actors forgot their lines. Volunteers are also needed for front-of-house duties like manning the box office, handing out programmes, and ushering the audience to their seats.

The back room at the Centre—that is, the one between the bar and the set-building area—was the rehearsal room, and that's the one I remember most clearly and fondly. It had a very high ceiling, and a couple of tall windows that gave onto the driveway leading to the loading dock. Rickety metal folding chairs were ranged along the wall, facing the low platform that was used as a makeshift stage. There was a pervasive aroma of dampness that one got used to, and it was freezing in the winter and sweltering hot in the summer. But it was our clubhouse and we loved it.

The rehearsal room was where the plays came to life. Plays by Jean Anouilh, Noel Coward, Edward Albee, Peter Schaffer, Oscar Wilde, Neil Simon, Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard, Samuel Beckett, and many others. This was where we rehearsed the lines

and the moves, and came to grips with the characters we had been chosen to play. A place where we could disengage from our ordinary daily lives and lose ourselves in events and relationships far removed from our own. In my case, this involved exploring emotions I had never thought much about—joy, sorrow, fury, jealousy—and learning how to make them mine. Learning how to make room within myself for others, and how to see myself through other eyes. None of us had any formal training; none of us had been to acting school. We drew inspiration from whatever plays and films we might have seen, and from literary works we might have read. We encouraged each other, and watched as we slowly blossomed, gained confidence, and finally summoned up the courage to let go of the script and start acting. There came a moment in every play when, over the beers and post-mortem that followed our rehearsals, I realized that I had finally managed to step outside of myself and enter the character I was supposed to be playing. Nothing in my “ordinary” life came anywhere close to being as intoxicating as that feeling, and I'm fairly sure that was true for the other actors as well.

After two or three months of rehearsals at the Centre, it was time for the technical rehearsal at whichever theatre had been rented for the production. This was always a long night, when lighting and sound effects could take hours to perfect, and we all walked around on eggshells as grim-faced backstage boys struggled to accomplish what, to a young actor, looked like daunting tasks indeed. Next came the dress rehearsal that usually dragged on into the wee small hours of the morning, when tempers were strained to the limit and raw nerves could snap over the slightest thing. Our mantra during those tense hours was: “It'll be all right on the night!” And, to our constant amazement, it always was. The curtain finally went up, and we were all swept away by “the smell of the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd.”¹

¹ Michael Paloma, actor, entertainer.

TONGUE IN CHEEK PRODUCTIONS

THE MONKEY'S PAW

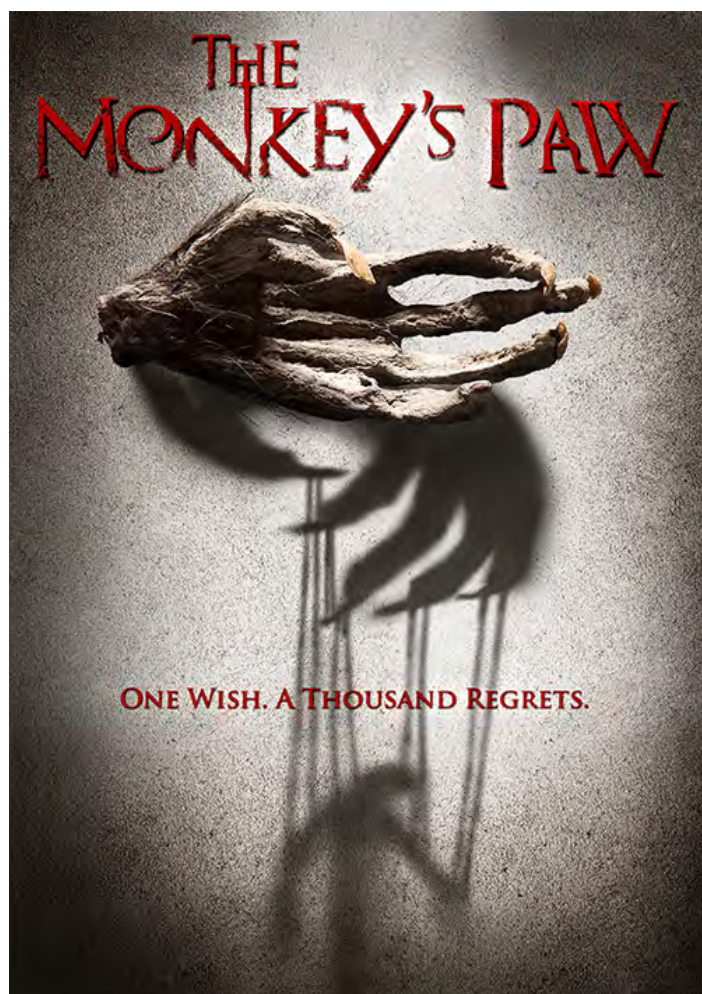
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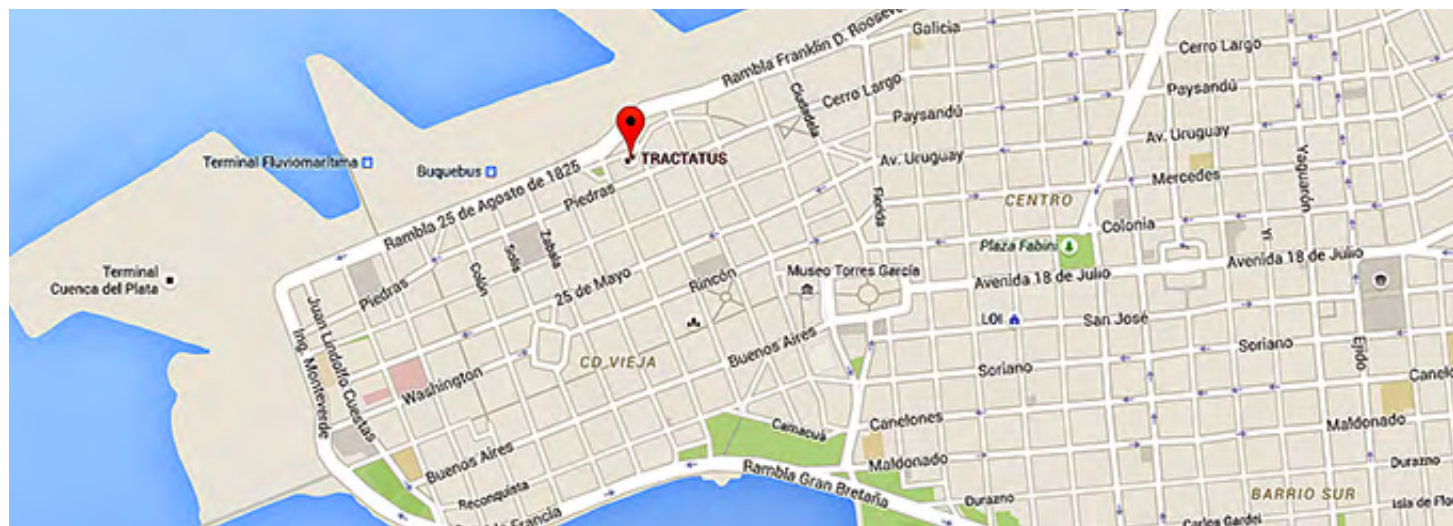
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CAROLINE'S COOKING CORNER

by Carolina Conde
carolinaconde@teachers.org



Macaroons

Ingredients

- 4 large egg whites
- 70g caster sugar
- 230g icing sugar
- 120g powdered almonds
- Salt, a tiny pinch
- Food colouring (optional)

Instructions

This recipe makes approximately 40 shells or 20 filled macaroons. Preheat the oven to 150°C. Place egg whites and caster sugar in a bowl and mix with electric mixer until stiff enough to turn the bowl upside down without it falling out. Continue to whip for 1-2 more minutes. Add gel or powdered food colouring and continue to mix for a further 20 seconds. Sift the powdered almonds, the icing sugar and the salt twice, discarding any almond lumps that are too big to pass through the sieve. Fold into the egg white mixture. It should take roughly 30-50 folds using a rubber spatula. The mixture should be smooth and very viscous.

Pipe onto trays lined with baking paper and bake in the oven for 20 minutes. Check if one comes off the tray fairly cleanly, if not bake for a little longer. Let stand for five minutes and fill them with dulce de leche.

Enjoy!

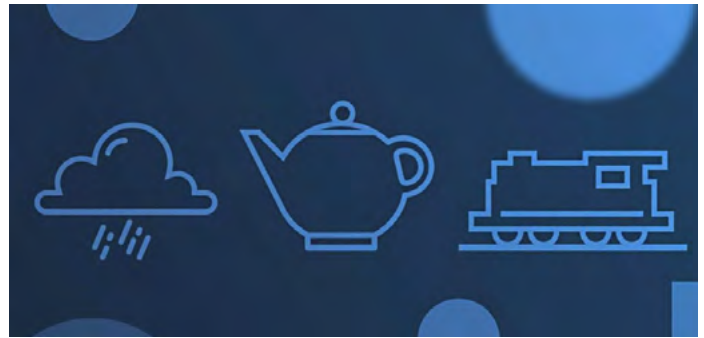


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