

A BRAND
NEW
PUNCHY
EDITION

A Look at
**Porto
bello
Market**

**Kate
Nash**
in Concert

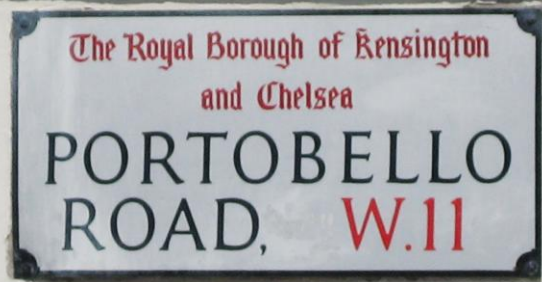
Dancing the
**Lindy
Hop**



JABS
July 2010

JABS
Journal of American
and British Studies

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Notting Hill and its famous Portobello Market - a must see for everyone who visits London

TEXT JULIA LENTE, SWANTJE GAIDIES

Portobello road, Portobello Road Street where the riches of ages are stowed.

Anything and everything a chap can unload

Is sold off the barrow in Portobello Road.

You'll find what you want in the Portobello Road.

(Musical Bedknobs and Broomsticks „Portobello Road“, 1971)

Whoever believes that Portobello market only offers junk, will be positively surprised when visiting this market for the first time.

Beside second-hand products and cheap jewellery, you also get the chance to pick up some precious antiques as well as London's latest fashion. Even hungry visitors are spoilt for choice by all the food stalls selling whatever you wish for - from fruits and vegetables, fresh bread and cakes to hot food and more. If you're

lucky enough to grab a seat in one of the numerous pubs or restaurants, you can take a break and have a snack while watching the hustle and bustle on Portobello Road.

For those who desire a longer rest, the calm and romantic Holland Park near the market invites the public for some relaxation by reading a book and watching squirrels.

London's most popular market used to be a farming area, named after Puerto Bello, a Caribbean town, which was captured by Admiral Vernon in 1739. Not until the second half of the nineteenth

century did the market develop from a country lane into a flourishing shopping street. Situated in the heart of Notting Hill, the old and mostly colourful houses surrounding the main road are reminiscent of their Victorian past and serve as an eye-catcher. The popularity of the area grew with the shooting of the successful film *Notting Hill* in 1999. Ever since, many people have been tempted to have a look at all the famous settings, among them the blue door, the travel bookshop, the garden fence and so on. In case you fail to find the places, do not hesitate to ask one of the friendly stall owners.

We would suggest you start at Notting Hill Gate and follow the stream of people. A coffee to go might help you to endure the crowd of tourists, especially on a busy weekend. In one of the side roads, halfway, on the left-hand side, you

should not miss out on the unique Spice Shop, offering a range of over 2,500 products (www.thespiceshop.co.uk). Another insider's tip for women or men who want to get their girlfriends a lovely present is a stall at the end of Portobello Market, where you can buy fashionable jewellery at an affordable price (www.junkjewels.co.uk). Although it is worthwhile and fun to go the same way back to the tube station, often discovering something new at a second glance, we can also recommend a walk back along the side streets parallel to Portobello Road. Don't worry if you have problems in finding a public toilet-

from our own experience we know how difficult it is to find one in this area. Of course foreigners don't like to run into a pub or coffee shop without buying a drink but as everyone does so, you can do so as well! Trust in us. ;-)

Those who have not visited Portobello yet, have hopefully become curious about it and won't miss it out on their next London trip!



You should have made us merry happy, Kate

But obviously, you didn't want to stick around...

TEXT JANA BECKER, FRANZISKA KRUTSCHKE

Kate Nash, aged 22, is an indie-pop singer from London. In 2006, Lily Allen, and later Fiction Records, noticed the songs Kate Nash had uploaded on MySpace.

Her debut album "Made of Bricks", which includes her most famous hit "Foundations", reached number one in the UK charts the following year. Kate Nash was awarded the Brit Award as Best Female Artist in 2008. Her current album "My best friend is you" cannot be pinned down to one distinct music style.

It is less pop and contains elements of the 60ies, punk and riot grrrl. Nash's lyrics tell stories about the life of a young woman that almost every girl can identify with.

Kate Nash is an incredibly authentic person. Her



songs speak for themselves:

"It's like as soon as I've got an opinion it just has to come out."
("Mariella").

Even her love songs are rather unconventional. In "Birds" a boy declares his love for a girl the following way: "Birds

can fly so high and they can shit on your head. They can almost fly into your eye and make you feel so scared. But when you look at them and you see that they're beautiful, that's how I feel about you."





After weeks of waiting, the 27th of May finally came around. The Kate Nash concert in Dresden's Schlachthof was completely sold out. After quite some time waiting outside and inside, the opening act, Sister Lovers from Ireland, performed their rock songs for almost 45 minutes. It was not bad, but you got the feeling of a school band playing Brit rock you have heard before.

Then, the waiting continued. Sound check, change of instruments, more sound check. Feet started to ache already. Finally, the lights came back on, some kind of circus music was played and she entered the stage.

Kate Nash performed all the songs of her new album "My best friend is you", but

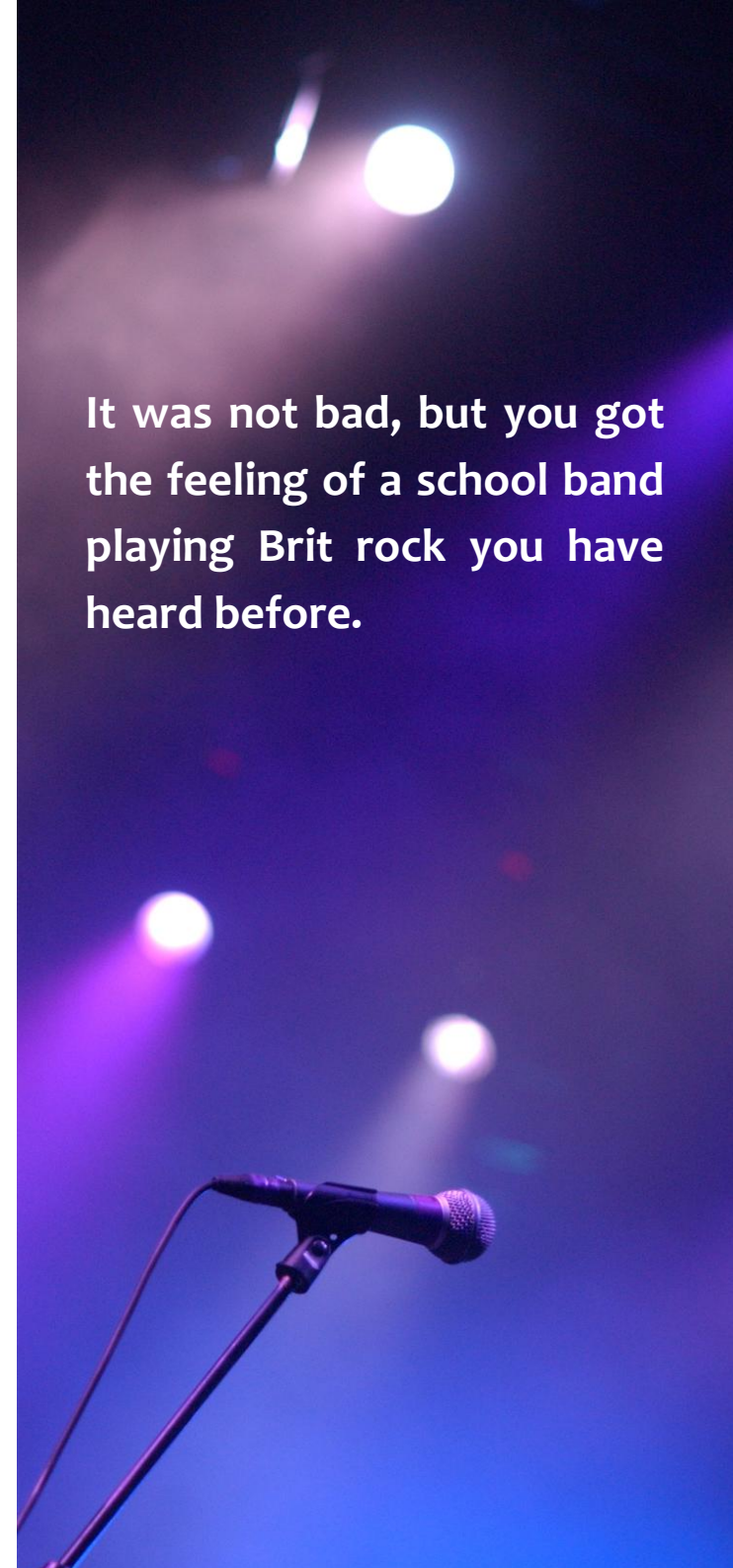
sadly only three of her older songs. At first, her stage demeanor was that of the likeable girl next door. She shyly thanked the audience after every other song while straightening the front strands of her hair.

Her live performance was great. She was playing the guitar and the piano and you really felt that she is a musician to the tips of her fingers. Plus, her Cockney accent definitely is a treat to the ear.

After two songs already, people were heated up. Therefore, Kate had some trouble in calming the audience before performing one of her quieter songs "I hate seagulls". After that, however, the heat did not seem to return. The guy in the audience who constantly shouted "Jubeln!" was annoying rather than encouraging. That might have been because Kate Nash's riot grrrl songs do not suit everyone's taste. She was in the mood to scream a lot and walk over her piano.

All in all, it was a one-hour show, encore included. The brevity of the gig left the audience a bit surprised. We were not unsatisfied, but neither were we merry happy the way we had hoped to be.

It was not bad, but you got the feeling of a school band playing Brit rock you have heard before.



The Job as a Snowsport Instructor:

More than Just Party, Fun and Flirting

TEXT CAROLIN ILGEN



Surrounded by beautiful unique scenery, blue sky and sunshine, enthusiastic snowsport vacationers often envy anybody who is able to enjoy the advantages of the snowy mountains for more than one or two weeks of vacation. Many of them may have the idea that working as a skiing and snowboard instructor would be the ideal job to combine indulging in your hobby with the necessity of earning money. It is no surprise that people think this way since they are only able to see the positive side of a skiing instructor's life.

The daily routine of a snowsport instructor seems to be nearly perfect and admirable for some vacationers. Already in the morning they are welcomed enthusiastically by the, at least most of the time, young and good-looking skiing instructor.

During the day the guests explore the slopes of the entire ski resort press the snooze button of their alarm clock and roll over to go back to sleep for another thirty minutes, the snowsport in-

structors are already on their way to work because their day starts much earlier than the skiing lessons do. There is a lot of organizational work to be done and the individual skiing skills need to be brought to perfection. For this reason, on some days the skiing instructors have already been skiing for at least 1.5 hours when the ski lessons start at 10.30 a.m.

While the guests participating in a ski or snowboard lesson have a rather relaxed day off, the instructor is highly concentrated during the whole day because he or she has to ensure that the guests have a pleasant, varied, successful and, first and foremost, safe skiing day.

This might not be a great problem when teaching adults, but since the majority of all students are children at the aged 3 to, let's say, 13, the chance to teach adults is rather small. As it is known, children have a mind of their own, and they easily get distracted by the smallest things. Not seldom do children depart from the group without

the instructor noticing it. In many cases it is not done on purpose and the instructor is able to meet up with the lost student very quickly because one of the colleagues has picked the child up and informs you by giving you a ring. However, my own experience as a skiing and snowboard instructor has also proved the opposite.

Once, a boy in my colleague's ski school group decided to ski down to the village on his own because he was tired of skiing. Although the instructor had counted the children just one minute before, the boy managed to leave the group without anybody finding him for almost 2 hours. The whole ski school and the ski patrol was informed and involved in searching for



the boy, but he could not be found. The last chance everybody saw was to advise the boy's parents to look for him at the hotel down in the village, and, indeed, they found the boy happily playing in a mound of snow in front of the hotel and waiting for his parents. In cases like this, it is the trembling uncertainty that makes the ski instructors' nerves be on edge, since it is their full responsibility in case of the child had been injured seriously or had even died.

Once, a boy in my colleague's ski school group decided to ski down to the village on his own because he was tired of skiing.

As this little anecdote shows, being a snowsport instructor is not all about fun, flirting and partying, but also requires discipline, leadership traits and strong nerves. Nevertheless, it is the best part-time job a student who loves skiing or snowboarding and enjoys working with children can ever imagine doing during the semester break.

So participate in an instructor training course, gain your snowsport instructor



certification and send your job application directly to the ski school you want to work at! Very often the ski schools offer an application corner on their homepage on the internet. If you think you meet all the requirements, pluck up your courage to become a ski and snowboard instructor, and you will probably never regret your decision!

Here you can find some useful information:

Austria:

<http://www.skilehrer.at/>

Switzerland:

<http://www.snowsports.ch/>

Germany:

<http://www.skilehrerverband.de/>

You Don't Have Time?

TEXT JANA GRAUMANN

Haven't you ever toyed with an idea for an incredibly long time and always deluded yourself by saying: "No way. I don't have time." ?

So have I. However, somehow I finally managed to get my act together and I tried out what had always tempted me.

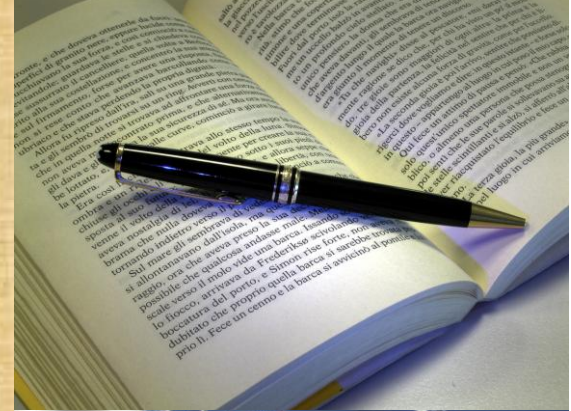
When I first sat on the unicycle, I struggled desperately with my balance. I should mention that I had done gymnastics for

over ten years, so I did not expect balance to be such a serious problem. Instead, before the unicycle course even started, I had predicted for myself an outstanding career with my newly acquired skill. I had wanted to cycle around the gym without any help - of course, after the first session. Alas, I hardly managed to sit straight on my new friend, previously intended to earn

me great fame and fortune. Wiggling around the gym, clinging on to my precious flatmate, who herself was doing a power workout holding me; I could barely hide my deception. Has it always been that hard to try out something new? I could not remember. Am I the only one having problems trying new things? Do students at the TU Dresden overcome obstacles in their daily lives? Time to find out what challenges you take up:



"I started to learn how to play the guitar. I've got computer learning software. It is not as easy as I thought it would be. Having no teacher and no fixed times and dates for practicing, I need to motivate myself all the time. Sometimes, this just does not work." (FRANZISKA)





"I would like to try canoeing on the Elbe. I have thought about it for years, but I need to put words into action! Enjoying the quiet of the river, stress-free..." (KEITH)



"I tried writing for the first time a few years ago. I felt a bit nervous about the prospect of someone else reading it. It was also challenging to develop a plot and ideas as well as a dialogue that was flowering." (MAREEN)

"I have started learning Spanish, and I am still pulling through. I felt and still feel very confident since I am a speaker of French, which helps me a lot due to its similarities to Spanish. Now I would try rock climbing." (OLLI)

"While I was visiting my host parents in Missouri a friend of theirs started talking about her hobby: pole-dancing. I guess I said something like: "Wow that's probably a lot of fun" and ended up promising her I would come along to practise next time. I was scared (I can't even move sexily and walk in heels, how am I supposed to pole-dance?). When we entered the club, I realized that pole-dancing is not so much about dancing sexily but about fitness. I ended up hanging on the pole upside down having an awesome time." (STEFANI)



"I tried the martial arts (Jujutsu) for the first time. The room was crowded when I arrived and everybody was running around hitting others as they passed. It was a strange feeling at the beginning, also because I did not have the proper gear, but now I feel much more empowered." (FALK)





'Hop around the clock'- dancing the Lindy-Hop

TEXT RAHEL STORCH

Back in the teen days: While most of my classmates go to the obligatory ballroom dance class and would later use their newly acquired skills extensively in the local disco, I don't feel as if

this could be a fun thing to do. Besides, my loosely fitting baggy pants would make the performance of quick steps and turns with a boy (!) impossible. Nevertheless, I love any music with a groove, I am passionate about the Hip-hop culture and I adore dancing, so it was only a matter of time until I tried breakdancing. Someone should have told me how many muscles it takes to lift yourself up! I gave up after three weeks.

Breakdance, obviously, was too hard and couple dances were ranked 9 out of 10 on my personal list of uncool things you should never be caught doing in public - end of story!? I had to move to Dresden to find out that a couple dance existed which is full of style, improvisation, relaxed movements and, great advantage, encourages girls to wear flat shoes.

The dance is called the Lindy Hop and originated in 1920's and 30's Harlem, New York. The "Lindy" got its name from

Charles Lindbergh, who "hopped the Atlantic" during this time. The Savoy Ballroom in Harlem served as headquarters for this style of dancing, as the "home of the happy feet" was one of the few racially integrated ballrooms where black and white people could share their moves. Every night, the ballroom was filled with two swing or jazz bands and thousands of talented and creative dancers. These lucky circumstances helped the Lindy to become such a lively and

From the first lesson, you get carried away by the swing sound and you simply can't stand still.

joyful dance.

Jens and Angelika, both young and very likeable dancing teachers, try to share their joy of Lindy every Thursday in a university sports course. When asked about his motivation to start and continue

dancing Lindy, Jens replies: "In 2007, my girlfriend back then went to the Hutball in Dresden. She watched people doing boogie woogie and rock'n'roll, which didn't look normal to her, but she was really impressed.

At first, I wasn't too convinced, but I checked Lindy videos on Youtube. And then it was just: 'Wow, that looks great'!

It reminded me a little of breakdance, but with a partner. After that, I started listening to Jazz and totally fell in love with the music. Eventually, the relationship ended, but my passion about Jazz and Lindy thrived.

Nowadays, it is the music which pushes me to keep going. It's extremely contagious", Jens enthusiastically finishes. What he states, is true. From the first lesson, you get carried away by the swing sound of Duke Ellington, Count Basie or Ella Fitzgerald and you simply can't stand still. Just as Jazz combines European and African musical origins, Lindy draws on these different dance traditions. The embrac-

ing hold comes from Europe, while the breakaway and the solid, earthy body posture originated in Africa. A very special element of Lindy Hop is the huge amount of improvisation. You are encouraged to develop your own style and moves. This reduces the strictness and increases the fun - at least for me!

Just as breakdance, the stylistic freedom seems vast and it's only a matter of time until you try to step a little aside from the regular patterns or routines. After a while, you can start practicing "aerials", the acrobatic and impressive air steps with your partner. During class, Jens and Angelika support the changing of partners, because Lindy is a social and open dance, not only should you dance it with many partners, but you are also allowed to switch from Jack (leader) to Jill (follower). The gender roles are not fixed; however, if you decide to become a leader, it takes a lot of practice. Jens says: "In my opinion, everyone can learn it. The most important thing is musicality and the joy to

dance. Generally, it helps a lot if you haven't been one of those guys rather standing at the bar than on the dance floor."

Nowadays, the lindy scene is thriving internationally. There are many communities



throughout the world including many regional varieties, which all develop their distinct moves, habits and styles. Comparing the lindy communities of Leipzig and Dresden, Jens states that if you go out dancing in Leipzig, you feel as if you have traveled with a time machine. Leipzig's Lindy Hoppers dress up in vintage clothes and try to be as close to the culture of the 20's and 30's as possible, while Dresden's dancers often stay casual and more modern.

The international Mecca of Lindy is a small village in Sweden, Herräng, which has held an international dance

camp for already twenty-five years. Thousands of Lindy Hoppers come to Sweden in order to celebrate, dance and share their skills with each other. From Savoy to today, Lindy has become a worldwide dance movement that brings people back onto the swing dance floors.

While Jens and Angelika had to travel to workshops and find out on their own how the lindy is danced, we are in luck of having teachers we can copy and bombard with questions. We might not yet look as relaxed and cool, but we're on our way.

If you would like to find out

more about Lindy Hop and where to learn it, visit www.jam-circle.com, which lists dance classes, dance events and workshops in Dresden and other cities nearby.



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Sylvia Plath

TEXT AND DRAWINGS Mia Funke

Among other authors such as Oscar Wilde, Dylan Thomas and Emily Dickinson



I shut my Eyes and all the World drops dead

son Sylvia Plath is often considered one of the neurotic poets. Born in 1927, she started writing at the early age of 8. During her short life she wrote mainly poetry as well as one novel, 'The Bell Jar'.

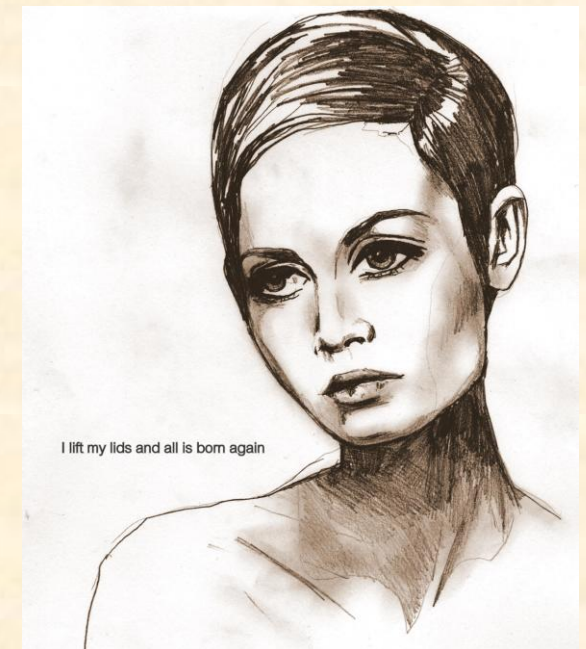
Throughout her whole life she suffered from depression and anxiety; her marriage to fellow poet Ted Hughes failed to give her life stability. In 1963 she then committed suicide.

Mad Girls Love Song

This is a poem by Sylvius Plath which was originally published in New York's 'Mademoiselle' magazine in 1953. As most of her work, this poem is considered to be highly personal. This is the reason why her poetry is often regarded as being confessional, because she opens her inner thoughts to the reader.

The poem's structure is in contrast to its context, as it is about a young girl's romantic feeling towards another person. The poem is a villanelle, structured into 6 stanzas with

the typical repetition of several lines to underline the meaning. It is interesting that the poems' structure mirrors the inner necessities of the lyrical I as this 'mad girl' constantly repeats her words of love, which makes her appear a bit crazy. She is not sure if her beloved one really existed. This is why she appears to be 'mad' to the reader. The poem is dream-like, this is why I illustrated it this way. I wanted the illustration to be surreal to underline the mental status of the 'mad' girl.



I lift my lids and all is born again



(I think I made you up inside my head)

Mad Girls Love Song

I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead;
I lift my lids and all is born again.
(I think I made you up inside my head.)

The stars go waltzing out in blue and red,
And arbitrary blackness gallops in:
I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

I dreamed that you bewitched me into bed
And sung me moon-struck, kissed me quite
insane.
(I think I made you up inside my head.)

God topples from the sky, hell's fires fade:
Exit seraphim and Satan's men:
I shut my eyes and all the world drops dead.

I fancied you'd return the way you said,
But I grow old and I forget your name.
(I think I made you up inside my head.)

I should have loved a thunderbird instead;
At least when spring comes they roar back again.

Dresden International School – Bringing an international system closer to you

TEXT CLAUDIA ROHMEIER

Going abroad and spending your life in a foreign country is a challenge which numerous people have to face nowadays because of job opportunities. In order to offer these people the chance to take their families with them, different cities provide an international school for the children of these foreigners. An example of these schools is the DIS, Dresden International School, which was founded in 1996 with the aim of contributing to Dresden's economic development. Dresden International School is a part of the European Council of International Schools; however, the school is a rather small part of this Council in comparison to Berlin or Munich.

The school's program follows the guidelines of the International Baccalaureate

World and provides children aged 2 to 18 the possibility of receiving that certificate. When the DIS was founded, it started out with about 13 pupils, but since then it has grown to almost 500 students from a number of different countries.

One great advantage of these English – speaking schools is that the students are provided with the opportunity to be accompanied through their learning process by highly qualified native speakers, like Joyce Larson. Joyce came to Dresden International School in 2006 and since then, she has been managing the time - consuming task of being a primary school principal. Even though she told me that this job did not only involve reviewing student reports or attending parent – teacher meetings, but also cleaning up students' vomit or the trash in the schoolyard, she still loves this position. When having a closer look at her specific responsibilities, it becomes obvious that this position goes far beyond a 40 hour week. The responsibilities of a primary school principal involve tasks like overseeing the welfare of all students, consulting teachers regularly, advising the



DIS Principal on staffing needs and general duties like organizing holiday programs or meeting Board members.

By now, you might be wondering why anyone would do such a job when it is so time - consuming and stressful. Although, Joyce also points out that it is a wonderful opportunity to explore a different country. There are even teachers who travel every two years to a different continent with their families in order to work at these types of school.

Anyhow, one aspect which makes these schools so special is the fact that there are supposed a great number of students from different countries who are given the opportunity to share different customs with each other in order to do jus-



tice to the feature of internationality. Yet, this also means that international schools are highly dependent on a city`s economic situation because there need to be enough jobs for foreigners, like at AMD or Infineon in Dresden.

Now, given the fact that there was the world economic crisis last year, the number of foreign students at DIS has decreased sharply which means that the school lost about 50 children initially and this is still an ongoing process. For instance, the school lost their whole Filipino community and a great number of Asian; students which meant that the students` ratio is about four German students to one foreign student. Besides that it is not only about losing students. The world economic crisis also caused increased shipping prices on which the schools are dependent in order to provide efficient material from abroad.

I know this was just a short overview about the Dresden International School and what it means to be a primary principal in Dresden, but I hope you have gained an insight and might even try an internship at these schools.



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“Friendly, but weird!”

TEXT CHRISTINA TROG

Thousands of brave soldiers, sharp-edged swords, silver-shining shields, freshly polished suits of armour on a muddy battleground. Man against man. Blood is running over tired faces. Everybody wants to save their lives by ending another. Hours of barbarous fights for just one centimetre of land. It is five o'clock, the sunrays are not warming anymore and everybody wishes to finish the fight as soon as possible. And all of a sudden, a cheerful voice: “Stoooooooooooooop!” And everybody is turning around. “It’s tea time!” And everybody stops. And surely, you know immediately: the initiator of that interjection has to be an English man.

A similar scene, where this image of tea-



time is clearly depicted, can be found in Uderzo’s and Goscinny’s “Astérix chez les Bretons” published in 1966. (By the way, Astérix’s tribe is the one who brought the tea to Britain – before that, the islanders were only drinking hot water with milk.)

If you ask a French teenager about England, the first words mentioned are: London, pub, soccer, and - of course- tea.

Additionally, the two French granddaddies of comics point out the British affection for mint sauce and rugby; they even mention overeager gardening and the myth of the bad weather.

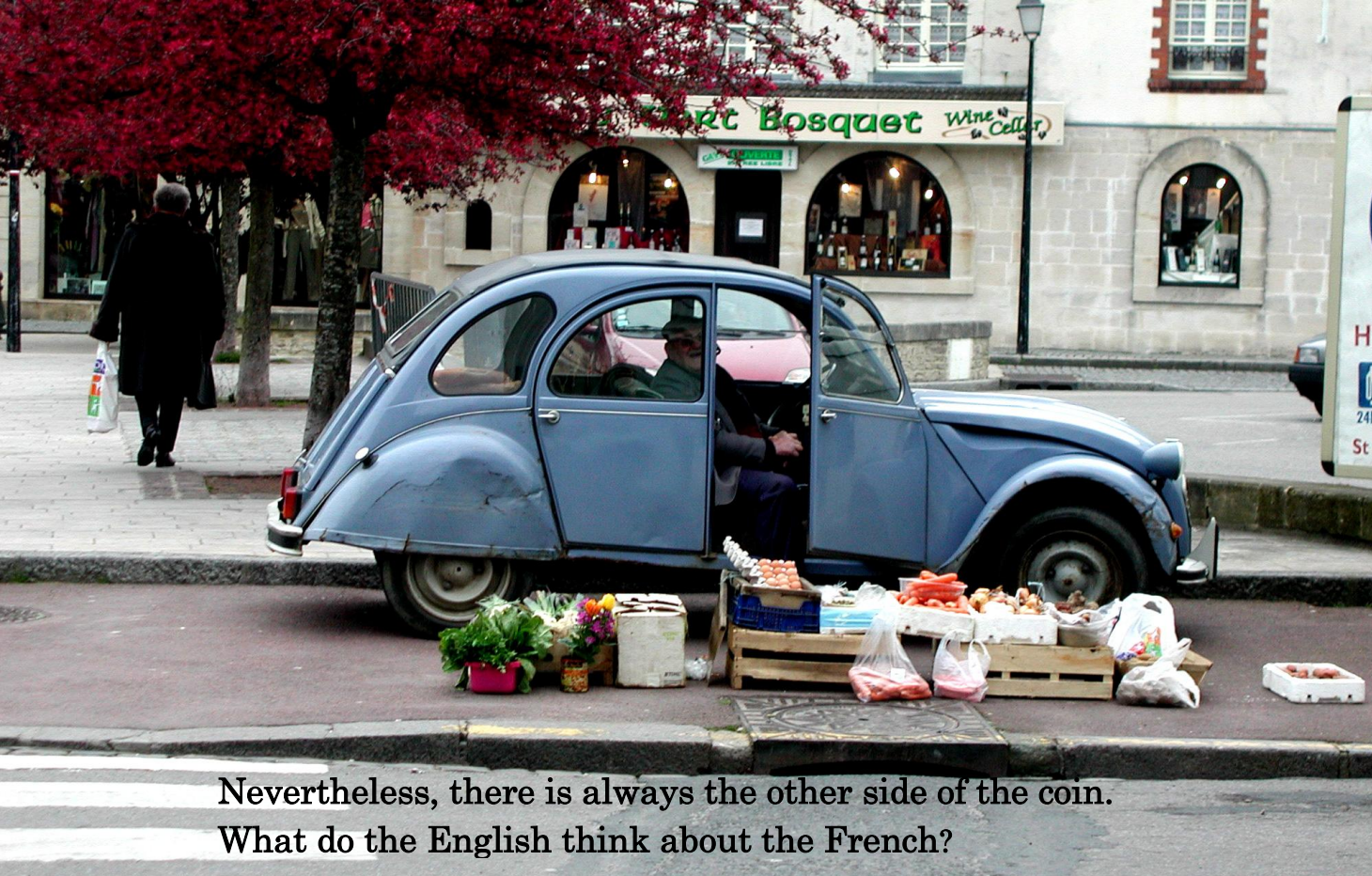
Today, the French image of the English is not significantly different and stereotypes can still be found.

And what do they think about the English people? They are seen as a successful people without the ability to cook - al-



ways friendly to foreigners, but cold in showing feelings - tolerant in understanding the bad accent of French English-speakers, but not able or willing to speak French. In general: they are friendly, but weird.

Remarkable is the French affection for America. They imagine that there, everything is just cool and “awesome” and a clear preference for the United States is visible. How come? Is it the historically rather difficult relationship between England and France? As everyone knows, the two countries fought lots of battles and wars – a fact that might transport a kind of enmity from generation to generation. Or is it the incredible influence of American music and films on the daily life of young people?



Nevertheless, there is always the other side of the coin.
What do the English think about the French?

Probably, the tendency to America is due to the American self-confidence which has an appealing effect on teenagers in various countries. The American way of life, although seen very unilaterally, seems to be the non plus ultra and the majority really likes to visit the United States in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, it is important to mention that the image of England is not directly dependent on the image of America – they are clearly seen as two separate countries,

despite the fact that the one is more attractive.

To get an impression of that, one really has to read Stephen Clarke's "A Year in the Merde" published in 2004. There, you have a pretty funny description of the life of a British journalist in Paris – with all its difficulties like cheek-kissing for hours. How to rent an apartment without going bankrupt? How to survive in a Parisian restaurant with a grumpy waiter? Surprisingly, this book and the several followers like "Merde actually", "Merde happens" or

"Dial M for Merde" have been a great success both in England and in France. It seems as if stereotypes really serve to create bestsellers. The risk of provoking overreaching nationalism is accepted in silence and somehow the not insignificant influence on each other's culture sinks into oblivion.

But nevertheless, stereotypes are helpful for creating one's own identity. Last but not least, to console the English: in the French imagination, the typical German drinks beer 24/7, they work very hard until they die, we only eat sausages and sauerkraut, men are not charming at all and nobody really has a clue how to dress. So dear English people: ça pourrait être encore pire (it could be worse).



Being A Mature Student

TEXT KATHARINA DARGIE

Being a student is a challenge. Being a mature student is often considered to be even more of a challenge. The reasons why people of a mature age decide to go into higher education are manifold. Some decide to tackle a further hurdle after having completed an apprenticeship of some kind, some want to top up their first course of study by a second degree, others seek an additional qualification whilst working already as teachers or otherwise, and still others free themselves after having raised children. There are probably as many reasons for signing up for a course of study at university at a mature age as there are mature students. The group of mature students at university is anything but a homogenous group. Still, there are certain aspects which somehow give mature students the feeling of being different when compared to the “normal” students who enter university directly after school.

Compared to Germany, the British mature student is often considerably younger in age due to the long established bachelor programs organized in three or four year courses so that young people finish their first degree in their early twenties. A student who has passed his or her mid-twenties is thus already considered a mature student. As Germany has only recently changed to the Anglo-American bachelor and master system, students are still roughly five years older when finishing their first degree. Thus, it is easier for middle-aged mature students to blend in with the “ordinary” mass of students. This, however, is exactly the problem mature

students face, i.e. having to make their different characteristics fit into the rigid German system. For some the problem starts with their application to a university without having completed their Abitur. There are exemptions within the German system of higher education, but every exception is accompanied by so many requirements again that one is nearly always sure of not meeting all of them: either one is too old, or too young, or one has not had a regular job long enough, or you need to be a master craftsman, or, or, or...

The UK department for children, schools and families has assessed the potential of mature student recruitment to higher education in Britain. They have realized that mature students tend to have different characteristics to younger students as far as their entry qualifications, social background and mode of study is concerned. In the UK, it is possible to apply for university as a mature student even when one does not meet the ordinary entrance requirements. It lies within the competency of the universities to decide whether they accommodate a mature student by making an individual offer. Some universities refrain from insisting on formal qualifications all together and provide entry tests or offer interviews to mature applicants.

The system in the UK is far more flexible than that in Germany at present. In Germany, it can be quite frustrating to try and have a previous qualification accepted by a university even when they are qualifications



gained at another German university. A mature German student might come to feel that his or her previous qualifications are not worth the paper they are testified on especially when they are non-academic in nature.

Of course, each university, no matter whether situated in Germany or elsewhere, will have to ensure that students, regular and mature, can provide evidence of their ability to study, but the UK is the living proof that this can be done in an individual manner, judging each case as it comes. The main

policy of the UK is to encourage life-long learning and to increase the number of students who seek education at every stage of life irrespective of age. Nobody should be put off higher education by thinking it is too late. Universities welcome mature students because of their exceptional enthusiasm, experience and skills.

Two major factors of worry for mature students are their social status and their financial situation. Most mature students in the UK are recruited from the lower middle class and skilled working class background. Wanting to go to higher education, mature students have to think about how to finance their studies. In the UK, many mature students go for part-time courses in order to raise the money. In Germany, however, the distinction between a full-time and a part-time student is only indicated by the length of time a student needs to complete his or her studies. A mature student might thus feel embarrassed by the fact that he or she is labeled as lazybones just because he or she needs to work part-time whilst studying in order to raise the necessary funds. Often mature students cannot get a student loan as there are strict rules as to who is entitled. Other means of financing are grants or special awards, but in Germany these are often restricted by an age limited of 27 or 29.

As far as the second major factor, that is the social status, is concerned, mature students in Germany and the UK alike have to make

arrangements as to how to provide care for their children and how to make family members adjust to the situation of going into higher education. In the UK, nursery schools take children from the age of two and a half upwards and many universities have childcare centres attached to help families. Unfortunately childcare in the UK is often provided by private institutions which cost dearly. In this regard, Dresden is a positive example of how families can be supported.

Saxony in German provides affordable places in childcare centres for more than 90 % of the pre-school children between three and six years of age and for 45 % of children between one and three years of age. Unfortunately, there are only very limited resources to find care for babies and toddlers up to one year of age. Still, mature students need extra support from the immediate family and the university staff as children get ill or other family matters disturb the course of study, which often makes it impossible for a mature student to keep up even such a seemingly simple demand as that of regular attendance.

Being a mature student myself, I would welcome more flexibility in the rigid German system of higher education, giving people from non-academic backgrounds the chance to prove their ability to study unconditionally. It might also be worthwhile for a university to recruit ma-

ture students who offer other comparable qualifications besides the presently compulsory Abitur. A qualified nurse might be apt to study medicine, a kindergarten-teacher to study social science, or an electrical engineer to study computer science. Also, it would be a milestone if university qualifications were accepted and acknowledged at all universities within a given country as a matter of course.

Furthermore, an official distinction should be made between full-time students and part-time students with the latter getting full acknowledgement. Also, it should not be possible to refuse loans, grants and awards on the mere pretext of age. Mature students might not have taken the trodden academic footsteps of the many regular students, but they have nonetheless something to offer as far as their alternative experience and skills are concerned.





I'm a Sorb

TEXT ANNA SCHIMMLICK

When I was a little child I used to spend a lot of time with my grandparents. The more time I spent with them, the more it became clear to me that they were different – that I was different. What made me realize this were conversations between my grandparents. They suddenly switched from the language I knew (German) to another, to my ears a strange-sounding language, which I

couldn't understand. At that time, I cannot remember my exact age, but I must have already been at kindergarten, I did not have a clue what language it was nor that there might be others outside the little world I was growing up in. It made me somewhat angry that I could not understand what they were saying and it was my deepest infantile conviction that my grandparents did it on purpose in or-

der to be able to talk about topics which were none of my business.

Later on, I found out that these strange, but also familiar sounds were called the Sorbian language. I grew up among a minority group living in the Eastern part of Germany, the Lower Lusatia, and we are called the Sorbs or Wendish people. Unfortunately, I was not raised bilingually, therefore, I finally started learning Sorbian on the day of my school enrolment and kept learning the language until I finished school thirteen years later. During my primary school time the Sorbian lessons were just voluntary and I was a member of a Sorbian children's choir. Later on I attended the Dolnosorbiski Gymnaziumje in Cottbus, which is one out of two grammar schools where students can learn the Sorbian language and get involved with the Sorbian culture and its traditions. The other grammar school is situated in Bautzen and differs from the one in Cottbus with respect to the fact that students learn the Upper Sorbian language, not the Lower Sorbian language as in Cottbus. For a long time, I thought that our minority group was regionally limited and only to be found in Germany, but I was proven wrong.

During the big European emigration wave in the 19th century approximately

5,000 Sorbs left Germany in order to find social, intellectual and economic freedom overseas. Due to this fact, the Sorbs and their distinctive culture are not only to be found in Germany, as I thought as a child, but also on every continent of the world. Australia, Nebraska, Texas and further states of North America, Canada, South Africa and South America served as the new home for numerous people from Lusatia. Today one can still find traces of their cultural heritage. The most obvious traces of Sorbian emigrants are family names and place names. In Australia, for instance, the town *Peter's Hill* was named after a Sorbian emigrant. In Canada the *Budarick-Lake* and the station *Wojto* show their Sorbian heritage, as well. One more example of Sorbian place names overseas is the town *Serbin* which be found in Lee County, Texas.

However, evidence for the Sorbian cultural heritage is not only provided by Sorbian names, but also by museums, schools and clubs which were mostly established after the 1970s when cultural awareness increased and the need to find one's identity became more and more important for people overseas. Mostly, emigrant's descendants are not able to speak the Sorbian language anymore, but, in order to maintain their traditions they celebrate Sorbian cus-

toms regularly. In the last few years, Sorbian descendants from overseas and their relatives back in Germany have been searching for each other and numerous visits took place overseas and in Lusatia, respectively.

In the last few weeks, my grandparents have also found out that an ancestor of my grandfather was one of the emigrants who went by ship from Hamburg to North America in order to have a better life with freedom, independence and fewer worries. My grandfather's ancestor travelled and boarded the ship in Hamburg with a friend, but, unfortunately, there no evidence could be found at all of his arrival in America or other facts that prove that he had survived the long journey. We will never know what might have happened to him on his journey or after his arrival. To be honest, after my Abitur, which was in 2002, I hardly had the chance to speak Sorbian anymore and this language vanishes with every year going by. Also my grandparents struggle to remember the words and seldom speak Sorbian in daily life. I hope that this language will not be extinct in a few decades and that the Sorbian communities will

keep fighting for their survival in order to make other children die of curiosity, because they have no idea of the Sorbian language – just as I had no idea before I learned it.





The Unexpected Culture Shock Close to Home...

And the Lack of it in a Country Far Away

TEXT MARIE SEGURNA

Imagine you have never been abroad for longer than the average length of a summer vacation. You are interested in foreign languages, the people who speak them and in these people's cultures. There are always general facts and stereotypes we already know, opinions and impressions we already have of places and people by having read articles on the internet and in newspapers, having seen films, documentaries or the news on TV. Some of these other countries and their people's cultures seem to be quite similar to what we are used to,



others, on the other hand, we know or expect to be different. The surprise of how different a seemingly similar culture can be and how easy it is to live in an area which I had thought of as challenging before, was for me a very interesting experience.

My experience with other countries and cultures had been limited to various vacations in England, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Russia and some other places in Europe. I had experienced the differences and similarities to my home country and I thought I knew what I had to expect during my one-year stay in England and my three-month stay in Ukraine. England I saw as too similar to Germany, in terms of culture, to even think about what might be hard for me to get used to and Ukraine seemed rather exotic in comparison. Therefore the thought of going to Ukraine for these three months made me far more nervous than going to England for a whole year.

I can honestly say that I enjoyed both trips quite a lot. It started with the food, getting used to which took quite some time. Furthermore, I found it hard to deal with my host family's eating habits because they quite rarely got together for meals and when they did, we had the

same dish every time, pot roast with instant gravy and overcooked vegetables. The parents' interaction with their children and the way everyone seemed to spend their free time on their own rather than as a family was new to me, too. When the parents came home from work, instead of spending time with their

The everyday life in England was shockingly different from what I had expected.

children, they wanted their peace and quiet and sent them to their rooms. I know, of course, that this family is certainly not representative for every English family. Back then, however, they were the people I was surrounded by and got my impressions from.





Going to Ukraine was different. I was very much aware of the fact that I would spend the following months in a place that was not going to be like any place I had ever lived in before. In addition to that, I felt less comfortable speaking Russian than I did speaking English. Because of my nervousness I tried to find out as much as possible about Odessa, the city I would be living in, about the people I would live with and about the food that I could expect there. Like in England, I lived with a family of native speakers i.e. Russian.

Living with this particular family was not hard to get used to because they reminded me of my own family, in terms of communication and how they spent their free time as a family. Furthermore, unlike in England, I had expected life to be different here and was then surprised at

how easy it was to adapt to it. Yes, life was different, but that did not come unexpectedly. The food was different but good, the people were pleased about the fact that someone wanted to learn their language and life began after work. Whoever came home wanted to talk to the others or went out with friends. There was rarely an evening when everybody spent their time on their own. There seemed to be more of a family life the way I knew it from home.

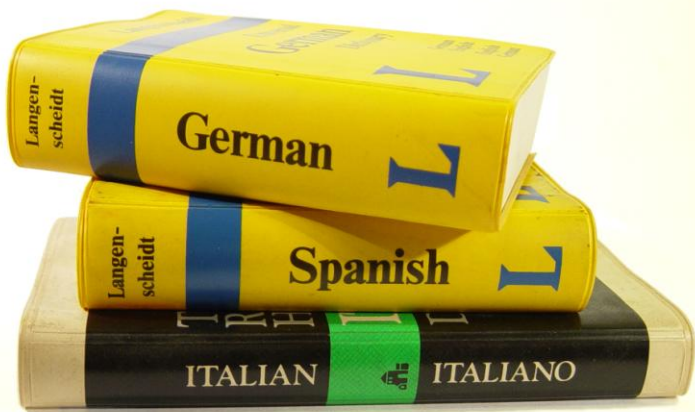
I think the amount of information I had about both places was about the same, but the expectations, on the other hand, were different. The less thought I gave to the possible differences in everyday life, the harder a time I had adapting to my new surroundings. The more I worried, the bigger the pleasant surprise was in the end when I realised that not as much as I had thought was different and that the existing differences were interesting rather than hard to get used to. I am very much aware of the fact that knowing one family in either country does not make me an expert on these countries' cultures. And for my next trip, wherever it might take me, I know now that whether I feel comfortable in a foreign place will be up to me.



Do you speak Swahili, Turkish and Japanese?

Yes, you do!

TEXT MELANIE DACHER



With a little help of German, you are able to understand various phrases from different languages.

Imagine:

You are on a hiking tour with people from all over the world. By accident your group enters a dark cave and some of the Finns call for a "taskulampu". Fortunately, a Russian fellow finds one in his Rjuksak (рюкзак) and hands it to the tour guide. But one of the hikers suddenly breaks a leg by stumbling over a stone and the Japanese doctor prescribes a "Gipusu".

If you like, you can make up a Happy End, but more importantly try to find out

what languages you are able to understand by solving the quiz below...

Write in the German words for the following (see Quiz):

In case you are still not satisfied with your performance in Turkish, Swahili or some other languages, go to:

www.studentenstiftung.de

This non-profit organisation tries to improve the quality of studies at the TU Dresden. One of the numerous projects at the time is to offer courses of seemingly rare languages since for example Vietnamese, Swahili and Turkish are not being offered by any language institutions at the TU Dresden. So, if you wish to attend a Turkish course, a sign language course or support the organisation of Studentenstiftung Dresden, you will find further information at www.studentenstiftung.de.

Quiz:

Frajer (Albanian for „cooler Typ“) 13 _____

Bormašina (Bosnian) _____ 9 8

Rutsjebane (Danish) _____ 11 1 _____

Kahvipaussi (Finnish) _____

snitsel (σνίτσελ) (Greek) _____ 7 _____

kirushuwassa (Japanese) _____

Orugasumu (Japanese) _____ 17 _____ 3 _____

Elwa (Polish) _____ 5 _____

Valsa (Portuguese) _____

Rucsac (Romanian) _____ 15 _____ 10 _____

Waflja (вафля) (Russian) _____

Bremspakne (Slovene) _____ 16

Bia (Swahili) _____

Libesbrřf (Czech) _____ 12 _____

Haymatlos (Turkish) _____ 2 _____

Otoban (Turkish) _____ 14 _____ 6

Dryl (Polish) 4 _____

Solution:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17



Seize the Opportunity to Watch English Films

OLIVER HESS, MARU CECCON, JENNY PISTORIUS

Watching a film in its original language from time to time is a good opportunity for everyone to improve his or her English language skills. For students of English Studies this activity is a must and should actually become a habit for us (I count myself as a student of English studies as well). Many benefits can be reaped from watching English films.

Since mastering the English language fluently and in near native-like fashion is considered to be the main objective of our studies, undubbed films may play a big part in achieving that objective. You get the chance to experience real English in real contexts (well, as real as a film can be). This might differ significantly from the English that we learn at university. It may help to acquire a feel for which words English natives employ rather frequently and which not. Watching a film in its original English language may also enhance your listening skills since you as the spectator are highly keen on figuring out the plot of the film and therefore perking up your ears. Besides, comprehending the various English dialects, which are spoken across the world, often constitute a huge problem for many students. This problem can

be solved by picking a film in which either the story takes place in Ireland, Scotland or Australia or in which the actors are of Irish, Scottish or Australian origin. It can cause great amusement to rack your brain about what is actually going on in the film.

Apart from that, English films that have not been dubbed are also suitable for cultivating the understanding of English humour. This may become particularly crucial when sitting in a comedy club in an English speaking country and trying to get the joke of the comedian. It can be fairly embarrassing to be surrounded by a whole regiment of people and you are sitting there silently and looking like a picture of misery; or strenuous, pretending to burst out in laughter and thereby constantly fearing that somebody will blow your cover. For refining your sense of English jokes, films in their original versions can be a perfect antidote for avoiding this awkward situation.

Another positive side-effect of undubbed films is that the viewer can enjoy the real voices of the actors, which might vary considerably from their German equivalents and be more suitable for the nature of the character.

You, my dear reader, should at that precise moment feel the urge to grab your things, go out on the street and watch out for the nearest facility that may still your desire for English films. To avoid getting lost, you should first have a look at our well-researched overview of cinemas in Dresden perfectly capable of quenching your thirst for English films.

Programm kino Ost

Website: <http://programm kino-ost.de>

Having recently undergone extensive renovation, the “Programm kino Ost” today welcomes its audiences in newly designed auditoriums. Although now being much more modern than before, it has managed to preserve at least some of its charm from its earlier days.

The theatre, which has long been a veritable Dresden-Striesen institution, shows independent label and low budget productions and





erally films with more serious and intellectual backgrounds. Bigger productions by well-known directors that meet the expectations of the theatre's rather sophisticated audiences round off the picture. A selection of films in their original versions is shown in English, French and Spanish. Usually, they are subtitled, which is great for language learners as well as for more proficient speakers who simply want to make sure that they really got that last joke! Special events at the "ProgrammkinO Ost" include the traditional annual week-long festival "Deutsch-französische Filmtage", with a particularly large number of films presented in their original French version. Last but not least, the theatre offers cinemagoers a convivial bar and lounge area with a decent variety of beverages at moderate prices, which makes the waiting for a film or the discussion afterwards much more enjoyable.

Schauburg

Website: www.schauburg-dresden.de

The "Schauburg" cinema is for the Neustadt what the "ProgrammkinO Ost" is for Striesen – the classic place to go to if in need of some off-mainstream film material.

Just a few weeks ago, the "Schauburg" - among others- hosted the International Short Film Festival – a perfect occasion to check out something new, especially if it is offered in the original English version! Presented by the very likeable staff and peppered with some funny "making of" comments by two British directors, who were on site, the cinema showed a selection of short films inspired by the promising motto of "Deadly Encounters". While this does not happen every day, even at the "Schauburg", it is a great example of how this rich-in-character picture house stands out from the crowd.

Three auditoriums, all named after legendary directors, await their audiences, who are invited to stick around in the comfortable bar area before enjoying their film of choice. The "Schauburg" is a place you will want to go back to!



Website: www.filmfestdresden.de/english/home.html

Versatile, international, topical, exciting and innovative: that's how the festival programme at "Filmfest Dresden" is described. Every year in April, the best short films from around the world can be marvelled at in the cinemas - Schauburg, Thalia, Kleines Haus.

In 10 separate screening programmes, roughly 70 films from almost 20 countries worldwide flicker across the silver screen, chosen from over 2,000 short fiction and animated films which are not allowed to be longer than 30 minutes or older than 2 years. The best short films are selected by an international jury and win an award as well as prize money. There is also a large selection of special programmes at "Filmfest Dresden".

The most popular here traditionally include a selection of the best British films called "British Focus". This is accompanied by further programmes from different countries, as well as genre- or

theme-related compilations and retrospectives.

We saw a selection of short films from Iran, which was called “Iran persönlich”, in Iranian with German subtitles and also a collection of the “British Focus” named “Deadly Encounters” in the original version without subtitles. The films were very shocking, entertaining and full of British humour. We recommend everyone go there next year in April!

Kino im Kasten (KIK)

Website: www.kino-im-kasten.de



Another cinema in Dresden where one can find films in the original language is the “KIK” or Kino im Kasten.

This little cinema run by volunteers who are mainly students of the TU Dresden is located at the August-Bebel-Straße number 20 in the Hörsaal 3. It was established 15 years ago in spring of 1993. The KIK shows only independent films, some of which are in English with German subtitles (look out for the “OmU” sign) and a few are shown in the original version (“OV”).

The prices are very student friendly; a ticket costs only 3 euros.

Some films shown recently have been:

- **In Bruges** (OmU) by Martin McDonagh with Colin Farrell, Ralph Fiennes
- **Man on the moon** (OmU) by Milos Forman with Jim Carrey, Danny DeVito
- **Coffee and Cigarettes** (OmU) by Jim Jarmusch with Roberto Benigni
- **Blow Up** (OmU) by Michelangelo Antonioni

Thalia

Website: <http://thalia-dresden.de/>

Finally, the “THALIA” is a very nice little independent cinema with an attached café (the coffee there is great) in the “Neustadt” in Dresden; it is located at **Görlitzer Strasse number 6**. You can get there easily by tram **13** (Görlitzer Strasse / Nordbad). A ticket costs 5 euros; on Mondays and Tuesdays and before 5.30 pm you pay only 4 euros.

It shows only three films a day; one of them is often in English with German subtitles. Currently they are showing “A single man” by Tom Ford with Colin Firth and Julianne Moore.



Mic Christopher (Troubadour) 1969 -2001

TEXT MARIE LUISE SCHILLING PICTURE JACK POLLOCK



*...And getting closer to our dreams
There'll be a mark here when we
leave
So everybody'll know that we've
been 'round...*

What comes to your mind when you see people playing music in the streets? Will you stop for a second, listen and maybe spend some money, or do you just feel annoyed and see street musicians as another sort of beggar?

Well, whatever the answers might be, Mic Christopher proves the fact that busking as a kind of music college does produce real and everlasting talents.

“Everything I know, I learned on the street. That’s where I learned to overcome my fears. I’m able to sing and play because of busking.”

Mic, who was born in Yonkers, New York, in September 1969 but raised in Clondalkin, a suburb of Dublin/ Ireland, played his first guitar at the age of 12 and became part of the famous Dublin music circuit when he was 14. At that time, he met a lot of Irish musicians who influenced his work and personality, such as his best friend Glen Hansard (lead singer of The Frames and The Swell Season, actor in *Once* and *The Commitments*).

After the years of playing music in the streets of Dublin and London, where he also stayed for one year, he formed his band The Mary Janes in 1990 with some fellow Irish artists.

“We’re a rock group without a drummer.”

Nine years, two albums (Bored of their Laughing and Sham), many energetic gigs and a six-week stay in Bosnia (to work with the charity organization *War Child*) later, Mic was not satisfied because he felt that the band’s potential was never achieved and so they split up. Being disillusioned with the music industry, he took up his first day job as a motorbike courier and that is when his first severe accident happened, which meant changing everything. Due to the fact that he nearly died that time because he broke his neck, Mic decided to do what he had always wanted to do and followed up his words with actions.

His whole outlook on life became much more optimistic and he wrote his most powerful songs. Thus, his song *Heyday*, which was released on his first solo EP in 2000 and years later featured in an ad for Guinness, is about “every day being your best day.” In 2001, Mic and Glen went on their last tour together through America and

Europe. Just the two of them and two guitars. The Troubadours.

In October that year, Mic was offered the big chance to go on tour with The Waterboys, which meant so much to him because he admired this band; moreover him being a huge Elvis fan as well. Furthermore, he began to work on his first solo album. On 18 November 2001, he supported the band in Groningen, Netherlands. Later that night, Mic slipped on some stairs and was found unconscious. He lapsed into a coma and eventually died from head injuries and a severe infection, aged 32, on 29 November 2001.

On his anniversary in 2002, his album *Skylarkin'* was released by his friends and family during a big tribute party in Dublin and won Meteor Best Irish Album in 2003.

On the one hand, Mic Christopher left his great and inspiring music, which will always speak for itself, and on the other hand memories and experiences that are best described by his friend as the following:

“We saw too much beauty to be cynical, felt too much joy to be dismissive, climbed too many mountains to be quitters, kissed too many girls to be deceivers, saw too many sunrises not to be believers, broke too many strings to be pro's and gave too much love to be concerned where it goes....”

For further information, see:

www.myspace.com/themaryianes

www.micchristopher.co.uk

YouTube: “Troubadour” the Leargas tribute to Mic Christopher, broadcast by RTE, Ireland 2003 (four parts but highly recommended)

YouTube: just enter *Mic Christopher and Glen Hansard* and lots of footage, especially of their last tour, comes up



Equality – It Is Just Not For Everyone

TEXT MAREEN SCHUSTER

For a small minority of democrats, November 4th, 2008, was a bittersweet day. Elated by the victory of Barack Obama, the excitement and joy was clouded by anti-gay amendments in several US-states. With a margin of 52% to 48%, Proposition 8, a proposed amendment to restrict marriage to between a man and a woman, passed in California. Its success came as a surprise to a certain extent, shattering the previous more-liberal-than-other-states- image of the state. The passage was followed by days of protests, not only in cities in California but in cities all over the United States, Chicago and New York City being only two of them.

While two other states, Florida and Arizona, also passed anti-gay-marriage amendments, and Arkansas passed an anti-gay-adoption bill, the California Proposition was unique in banning same-sex marriage. At the beginning of 2008, the state Supreme Court of California legalized same-sex marriage and

granted marriage licenses from June 16th on. This period ended with the election on November 4th. Gay people could no longer get married, though already existing marriages continue to remain recognized. In recent months, the legality of Proposition 8 has been debated in court and closing statements will be held in June.

At the moment, five US states allow same-sex marriage; Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont as well as the District of Columbia. Three other states recognize same-sex marriage performed in other states and foreign countries. In all other US states, the marriage certificate is not worth the paper it is written on.

Worldwide there are a total of eight countries that have legalized same-sex marriage, giving same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples. The first was the Netherlands in 2001, followed later by Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Sweden and Norway. This year, Portugal became the 8th country to join.

Other countries in Europe and on other continents have different definitions of same-sex relationships, from civil unions to registered cohabitation to simply allowing same-sex relations. However, in some places, simply being gay is still considered a crime, carrying penalties of up to life in prison and even death.

Germany belongs to the group of countries that have legalized civil unions and registered partnerships, offering almost the same rights as marriage. But taking a closer look at the law, there are some important differences, proving that with respect to equality, close is not quite the same. One of the most important, and most illogical, difference is the inequality when it comes to income taxes. Even in a civil union, same-sex partners are still seen as single and taxed accordingly and are therefore

not given the same tax benefits. When it comes to inheri-



tance, a same-sex partner is seen as a stranger and treated as such, having to pay higher taxes when receiving an inheritance after their partner has died, no matter whether they are in a civil union or not.

Another important difference is the adoption law. Currently, same-sex couples cannot adopt a child together. German law only allows adoption by straight, married couples or single parents. The only possible adoption is therefore a single adoption by one of the partners and not by both. Step-child adoption, though, is possible when the father gives up his parental rights or the mother hers.

There are more differences; some that are being considered for a change towards equality, some still ignored and not likely to change in the future.

The discussion of changing civil unions to marriage may seem like a fight over semantics, but when one looks at the inequality when it comes to the actual letter of the law, it is an important change to make, one for which there is no logical argument against. Giving gay people the same rights and protections as straight

people should not even be something that needs to be discussed or debated. But for some reason it still is.

Looking beyond the law and the rights it guarantees, raising civil unions to the same level as marriage and giving it the same name would also be a big step to the further normalization of being gay. It is often said that in today's society being gay is no longer seen as something 'not normal' and it certainly has gotten better. But despite homosexuality no longer being criminalized here, it would be naïve to assume that gay people face hardly any problems nowadays.

Violence against homosexuals is still high and even on the rise in Germany. After all the years of fighting for tolerance the reality still does not look much different. Even in Berlin, the city which is seen as the gay capital, crimes and violence against gay people is high; some of the attacks are not even random but incidents where the perpetrators will purposely wait for their victims in front of gay bars in order to beat them up brutally.

Every law to protect gay people or further equality is not simply a gesture without

real consequences. Even if it does not change much in law, it normalizes homosexuality in the eyes of society, it by making a minority part of society and not something at the fringes of what is considered normal and acceptable.

Whether or not marriage should be opened up to homosexuals should not be something requiring a majority ruling. Rights for a minority are never something to be decided upon by the majority; Proposition 8 in California is one case in point. Marriage is something everyone should have access to, independent of their sexuality or anything else as long as both parties are consenting adults.

So far, I have not heard any arguments against same-sex marriage that are not rooted in homophobia, prejudice, bigotry, ignorance or illogical fears. None of these concepts should be a part of the decision-making process. A country that writes about everyone being equal in their constitution should then make laws that actually follow that thought.

As of now, Germany does not.

“The Bad Godesberg phenomenon” or: Tolerance Is Not Enough

The Difficulties of Integration

TEXT JULIA POJAROVA

“Angst vor den neuen Nachbarn” a documentary recently shown on the RTL presents young foreign criminals in Bonn’s district of Bad Godesberg. Housebreaking, robbery, rampage have entered everyday life there under the term “The Bad Godesberg phenomenon”. As the documentary reporters suggest, the problem of failed integration of many young foreigners does not only exist in Bad Godesberg and Neuköln but it is also an important issue for the whole Germany. Indeed, alone in Saxony the school drop-out rate among young foreigners reaches 20.6%.

But what does it mean to be a young immigrant? How do foreign youngsters define integration? And finally, what can be done to protect us

all from the next Bad Godesberg, Neuköln etc. phenomenon? I made an attempt to answer these questions when I visited ZMO Jugend – a Centre of Integration for children and young people from immigrant backgrounds in Dresden.

What does it mean to be a young im-

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migrant? Nearly all of my respondents, children and young people aged 11 to 20 associate their first steps in a new country with loneli-

ness, confusion, insecurity and the lack of self-confidence. “Teenagers in particular, experience immigration very painfully” – says Valentina Ohngemach, the principle social worker of ZMO. There is a bunch of factors that influence this. One of them is that many young people feel as if they are a “backpack”: it was not their decision to move, but the parent’s. Besides, while adults are able to concentrate on trying to settle, ignoring the lack of social contacts and the poor language knowledge, social interaction during infancy and adolescence is indispensable for children’s social and psychological development.

Another remarkable issue is that



young immigrants are often confronted with grown-up's problems: *"The most difficult for me was when I realized, for the first time in my life, that my parents were not omnipotent, that they were even more confused and lost and they knew even less about life in Germany than me. This frightened me a lot"* – tells me a 15-year old Alex from Kazakhstan. As a result, many children are forced to assume the role of an adult in their families.

The problems mentioned above are only the tip of the iceberg. Add to them the lack of language knowledge and the hormonal burst of puberty, you will understand why teenagers are considered a high-risk group when it comes to integration. This group is therefore a target group of ZMO Jugend in Dresden.

Established in 1996, ZMO Jugend aims to support the process of integration of children and young people, mainly from the former Soviet coun-

tries: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan. The program assists youth by providing supervised, after-school activities such as help with homework, creative activities (arts and crafts), sports, discussion groups and counseling. All activities are supervised by social workers or by other professionals: e.g. the theatre project "Kontakt" is run by professional actor Wladimir Tschurikow; artists, musicians and dancers are responsible for some other projects. The centre brings newcomers together with German children through sports events, concerts, festivals and other events that unite foreign and German communities and increase the participation of foreign youngsters in wider society.

Nevertheless, ZMO is not a remedy for successful integration. There are several problematic aspects. One of them is the danger that particularly the older teenagers refuse to try hard to integrate into society and prefer to limit their social environment to contacts within their Russian-speaking

group. Moreover, there are no native Germans among the supervisors and course leaders, and therefore there are no positive role models among adults from German society in the centre. This demonstrates that integration should not only concern one Centre of Integration, but the whole of society and all institutions, in particular schools and many of us – future teachers and pedagogues. As Sir Peter Ustinov once mentioned "It is not enough today to be tolerant".

Seven years ago I entered the ZMO centre for the first time. I have already been in Germany for a year, one of the toughest periods of my 16-year long life, a year of loneliness, insecurity and failures. The following four years became a great time in a dancing group called "Hope" of the ZMO Jugend, a period when I made many new friends and a time of new feeling of self-esteem and the confidence in my own ability to overcome all obstacles on my way to successful integration.

The World Cup in South Africa

Where diversity
and harmony
meet

TEXT DONNA STEICHERT

PICTURE MARCELLO CASAL JR



The Dream

It is the dream of almost every boy in Europe to grow up to be a famous football star. This dream is shared by many boys around the world - especially in Africa and South America. This dream come true could change their lives and give them the chance to go from a life of poverty to a life of fame and fortune.

One person who fits this description is *Benedict Saul McCarthy*, the leading scorer for the South African National Team. Benni, as he is called, was born in Cape Town and grew up in Hanover Flats on the Cape Flats, an area known for its high unemployment rate and violence. His older brother helped pave the way by becoming a professional football

star. His younger brother played University soccer in the US. Benni currently plays for West Ham United as a striker and has played for several other European teams during his career. Unfortunately, Benni McCarthy was scratched from the Championships on June 1st because of fitness problems.

The Challenge

32 nations competed for the World Cup 2010. The teams played at the recently built or renovated stadiums in 10 locations in South Africa from June 11th to July 11th. It was a month of suspense, determination and fair play. Africa hosted the World Cup Championships for the very first time. South Africa felt it to be its duty to welcome the world and show its continents' beauty, diversity and hospitality.

The Ball

As for every World Cup Championship, Adidas designs a new football with the best available technological developments which suit the climate and the fields played on, uses the best materials and is most aerodynamic. It is loved by strikers and despised by keepers. This official match ball, the Jubulani, pays tribute to both football and South Africa. There are 11 colors used to represent the 11 players on the field as well as each of the 11 cities welcoming the players and for every official language in South Africa.

The Hope

As in all African nations, children have to pay school fees in order to attend school. For most families a regular education above the grade school level cannot be financially realized. That is why many families are dependent on support. The hope of the African continent lies in the education of its children. They could be tomorrow's doctors, teachers, scientists, lawyers, bankers or carpenters. Many non-profit organisations are active in Africa including World Vision, Missio, Missionswerk Frohe Botschaft and Compassion. Often this is not one-way and one-child support, but help for the family as well. The best way of supporting is to help so that the families can help themselves. With mini-projects such as running a small grocery store or building up a families livestock so that they can sell surplus helps them to become independent. The investment in the education of a child, however, is the greatest investment of all.

The Terminology

Get ready for a crash course in football jargon à là South Africa:

jubulani means celebrate or celebration

bafana bafana is how the South African National Team is called

laduma! means literally "it thunders" or GOAL!

vuvuzelas are plastic horn-like instruments which make the trumpeting sounds of elephants – they are a "must have" for South African football fans

The Locations

Fans started arriving a week before the championship began. The teams stayed and played in Durban, a city with a population of about 3 million. Durban lies on the east coast and is very attractive for tourists because of its sandy beaches and cafés. The Durban stadium was built on the premises of the former King's-Park Stadium and holds nearly 70,000 fans.

Johannesburg is located in central South Africa and has about 3.2 million inhabitants. It is known for trading. Two stadiums are located here: Ellis Park Stadium – built in 1928 as a rugby stadium, rebuilt in 1982 and renovated in 2009 and Soccer City – a stadium which holds 88.460 fans. 40 % of the population of Johannesburg live near this stadium, in Soweto, the largest Township in South Africa. Soweto is home to the Apartheid.

Cape Town on the Cape of Good Hope, is a city with a population of about 1.3 million. It is known for the Table Mountain, a mountain which offers a view of the ocean as well as over the city of Cape Town. The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, a harbour area which offers shops, cafés and museums and Robben Island are also well known attractions. The Green Point Stadium was built in 2009 and holds 66.005 fans.

In the heart of South Africa lies Mangaung/Bloemfontein, a city of about 800,000 inhabitants. Mangaung means the place of the cheetah and Bloemfontein means the fountain of flowers. The name is very fitting for a city whose citi-

zens consider themselves open minded with a peaceful air. The Free State Stadium was built in 1952 and renovated in 2008 and holds 45,000 fans.

Nelson Mandela Bay/Port Elizabeth lies on the protected Algoa Bay and offers not only 40 km of beautiful beaches but also Ado National Park. The Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium has room for 46,000 fans.

Breathtaking Mac Mac Waterfalls await those visiting Nelspruit. This city is found in the fertile plains along the Crocodile River and has 21,541 inhabitants. The Kruger National Park and the Cultural Area of Shangani are sightseeing highlights for visitors here. The Mbombela Stadium was built especially for the World Cup and has seating for approximately 45,000 fans – more than twice the number of the city. Polokwana is an industrial city about the size of Dresden. It benefits from being near three other South African countries: Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Two attractions in or around this city include the Jembe Tavern and Makapan's Cave. The Peter-Makaba Stadium resembles a baobab

tree and was also built especially for the World Cup and holds over 45,000 fans.

Rustenburg is found approximately 100 km north of Johannesburg. It is at the foot of the Magalies Mountains. Sun City and the Valley of Waves are two natural tourist attractions near Rustenburg. The Royal Bafokeng-Stadium also holds around 45,000 fans and was built in 1999.

Between the tropical Savanne and the Highveld Plateau lies Tshwana/Pretoria. The National Zoo South Africa and Freedom Park are two main attractions this city has to offer. The Lotus Versfeld Stadium is the oldest stadium played at. It was built in 1906 and was renovated in 2008. Almost 50,000 fans fit into this stadium.

The Security

How safe is the World Cup? This is a question which occupied the minds of many who live outside of Africa. South Africa has an extremely high crime rate and approximately 50 murders daily.

41,000 officers – 31,000 permanent officers and 10,000 reservists - were provided by the South African Police Force, costing the government 640 million Rand. 86,000 additional security personnel were on duty. Furthermore, each team was expected to bring at least two police officers to protect their own team to support the security forces. Representatives from South Africa helped at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the UEFA EURO Cup 2008 and the Beijing Olympics to learn from the host countries' experiences.

In an article from December 1st 2009, Harriet Alexander, writing for "Telegraph World Cup 2010", explained that 200 specially trained officers would be on call to deal with terrorist threats and even more intervention units were to deal with crowd control. 10 new water cannons would be used if needed and 40 helicopters would be patrolling the air around the stadiums during the event. A multilingual helpline would be available 24 hours a day for those in need. Troublemakers were to be dealt with before entering the country at the border.

The teams were not to move outside their hotel accommodations during their stay. If they did, they were to be accompanied by a full escort with armed security guards and bullet-proof vests.

Thank goodness these measures worked.

The Results

Although Public Viewing wasn't invented for this World Cup, it seems that most football fans really enjoyed watching the matches with as many people as possible – at home, at a restaurant, in Dresden on the Elbe or in Berlin at the Brandenburger Tor. Peace, friendship and - except for the final - fair play were the mottos of the World Cup Games in South Africa.

Uruguay came in fourth, Germany third the Netherlands in second place and Spain became World Champions for the first time. Spectacular games, beautiful stadiums in really good condition and lively and satisfied

spectators round up the picture which we had of the Championships. After a month of rooting and hopeful anticipation, there will be a bit of a vacuum in the lives of football fans. But it was worth every minute and we will look forward to the next championships.

Who would have thought that Jogi Löw would receive the "Bundesverdienstkreuz" for his work in shaping a young team to a team which showed the world their determination, quality sportsmanship and high spirits. Way to go, Jogi!



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