

Phil Noir

Theater am Sachsenring (TAS),
Cologne, 26th June 2011

By Elizabeth Hormann

Encouraged by the success of our first TAS outing (see Spring 2011 newsletter), we ventured forth again – this time with two members of the younger generation – to see the English production of “Phil Noir”.

Billed as a detective comedy, it was a hilarious spoof along the lines of Humphrey Bogart meets Mata Hari and Edward G Robinson with a nod to Tin Tin’s Thompson twins.

Pierre Shandy, best known for his cameo roles in German made-for-television films, played the

narrator and hard-drinking tough guy lead in this production and brought the 1940s back to life. Playwright Tony Dunham took on the roles of the sundry bad guys with bad hair and sinister Russian accents and Anne Simmering played the magnificently over-the-top femme fatale. It was a finely balanced combination of dramatic tension and slapstick that kept us in our seats (this time with cushions for enhanced comfort) and made us wish for more.

Apart from seats that don’t encourage lingering and a cell phone going off in mid-per-

formance and not letting itself be found [memo: next time go outside the theatre to rummage in your bag] it was greatly entertaining and afterwards the actors followed the audience outside and stayed for a chat.

On August 19, the TAS will open again with another Durham play – this one in German. “A Special Relationship” (see Spring 2011 Newsletter) will be back in late September, “Phil Noir” returns at the end of January (you might want to chat with the actors indoors then).

BESIG Conference 2011

The 2011 Annual Conference of the IATEFL Business English Special Interest Group will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia over the weekend 18-20 November.

More info at <http://www.besig.org/events/conf2011/index.htm>

ELTA-Rhine members can register for the members’ price:
Delegate early-bird registration from
1 July to 31 August 2011
Members £80
Non-members £130

Delegate registration from
1 September to 7 November 2011
Members £105
Non-members £155

Additional fee for Pre-Conference Event on Friday
£15