

THE NEW COURIER

Nº4 March 2004

Institut d'Estudis Nord-Americans

Monthly Publication

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Panoramic view of the New York's new Skyline

If you want to study English in the USA as you do at the IEN, you can. Choose your destination and dates and the Department for Studies in the US will help you with the processing. Contact us and have a great summer while learning English and living with people from all over the world.

For years, we've had the opportunity to help students who want to travel to the US and make their

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LEARN ENGLISH, TOUR THE
US, MEET NEW PEOPLE AND
MAKE THIS SUMMER A UNIQUE
EXPERIENCE!

We are at your disposal:

Studies in the US:
Tel. 807 317 425
Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30
AM to 2 PM
Wednesday, 3:30 to 6 PM

March 17th, St. Patrick's Day



St. Patrick's Day is Ireland's greatest national holiday as well as a holy day. The date marks the anniversary of the death of the missionary who became the patron saint of Ireland. It is a happy holiday for the Irish wherever they may be - in Dublin, Chicago, New York City, Boston, San Francisco or elsewhere. And in cities outside Ireland, it's a celebration that includes the general population, not just those with Irish blood. The day is celebrated with parades, speeches, festive dinners, and dances. Green is the color of the day, with thousands of little shamrocks worn even by those whose forefathers never touched the shores of Ireland. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to

wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. During this time, he worked as a shepherd outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English militia marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped

Irish immigrants reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.

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ENGLISH SUMMER CAMP
AT LA MASELLA, JULY 2004
www.ien.es www.abrigalmasella.com



Don't hesitate to contact
us for detailed information

SPRING TRIMESTER REGISTRATION

Here are the dates you need to remember

SPRING 2004 REGISTRATION
March 15 - 26

REGISTRATION OFFICE SCHEDULE

10 AM to 2:30 PM and 3:30 to
8:30 PM Monday through Friday

Remember you can both register and pay for your course by calling 93 240 28 50. You can use your debit or credit card, or if you prefer, direct withdrawal from your bank account.



Michigan ECCE, your first certificate in English!

The ECCE (Examination for the Certificate of Competency in English) is an official English language examination offered by the University of Michigan that measures competency in English at an upper-intermediate level, and is the North American alternative to the Cambridge First Certificate Exam.

The ECCE is designed for individuals who have basic linguistic competence to perform essential communicative transactions in all four skill areas: listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

The examination is intended for learners who have acquired at least an intermediate competence in English language use. Such learners can communicate adequately with users of English who are able and motivated to make allowances for a non-native speaker of the language.

Who should take the ECCE? The Examination may be useful for adolescents wishing some external measure of their competence in

English, or adults wishing to obtain documentation for employment or promotion purposes, international business, or tourism. We recommend the exam for adults who have completed the Institute's Upper Intermediate 2 and above.

Format and Content

LISTENING SECTION (ABOUT 25 MINUTES)

There are 50 multiple-choice items, delivered via audio recording. The tape is played only once and items are not repeated.

GRAMMAR, VOCABULARY AND READING SECTION (80 MINUTES)

There are 100 multiple-choice items in this section. The grammar, vocabulary and reading items can be answered in any order.

WRITING SECTION (30 MINUTES)

A problem or topic of interest is presented briefly in a short letter or an article like one that might appear in a newspaper. The task is to produce

a short letter or essay (one page or about 150-175 words).

SPEAKING SECTION (10-15 MINUTES)

Face to face interaction with an examiner

Important information about exam registration

TEST REGISTRATION:

May 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 (9:30 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 - 7:00 PM)

TEST DATES

Speaking Test:

May 18
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

May 19
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

May 20
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Written Test:
May 21
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

TEST PRICE:

150€
Price for IEN Students: 135€
If you have any question please contact the Academic Office at 93 240 51 10

ECCE Preparation Course

The IEN offers a special preparatory course for students who want to take the University of Michigan Competency Certificate (ECCE, Exam for the Certificate of Competency in English) in May. This course is a 5-week intensive (6 hours a week) which runs from March 24th to May 5th. This course is open to adult students who have finished Upper Intermediate 2. Junior/Teen students should consult the Junior/Teen office for level equivalency. Price: 280€

*Days and times to be announced

FILM CLUB

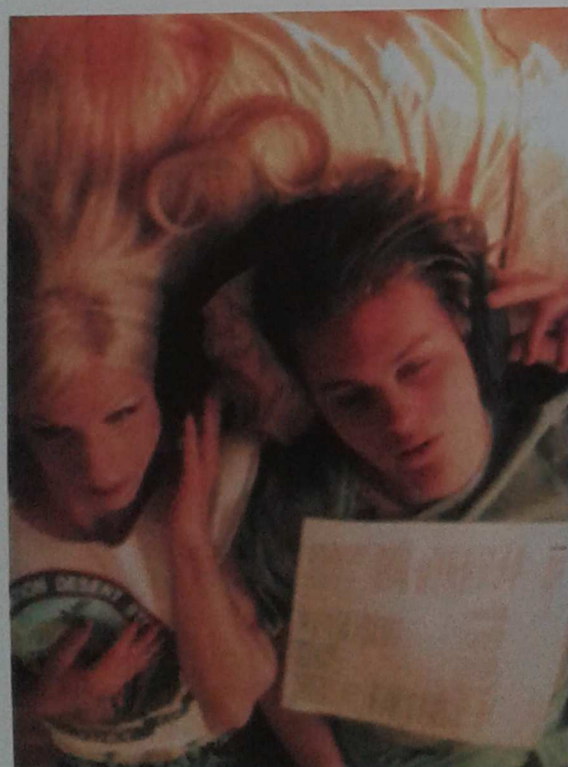
American Independents Cycle

This month we will show:

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch"
Public Prize winner at the Sundance Festival 2001

"You Can Count on Me"
Grand Jury Prize winner at the Sundance Festival 2000

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH



Hedwig and the Angry Inch

This film tells the story of a transsexual rocker Hedwig Schmidt, an East German emigrant whose sex change operation has been botched and who finds herself living in a trailer park in Kansas. The story is based on an immigrant woman who used to baby-sit for librettist John Cameron Mitchell, while working as a prostitute. In her Kansas trailer, Hedwig finds herself lost and alone, lashing out in rebellion against her physical and emotional mutilation, all the while motivated by an overpowering desire to find her "other half", whoever or whatever that might be.

Poignant meditation on loneliness, gender confusion and the romantic notion that sex is an effort to reconnect two halves of one ideal being, Hedwig and the Angry Inch features an exciting rock "n" roll score by composer Stephen Trask.

Free! Wednesday, March 10th, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

If you enjoy literate, intimate dramas, rich in texture, this is the film for you.

In a small, rural town in upstate New York, a petulant, irritable but good-hearted stoner/drifter (Marc Ruffalo) comes home to borrow money from his church-going sister (Laure Linney), a single mother with an eight year-old son (Rory Culkin). Their parents had been killed in a car crash when she was a teenager, so she had virtually raised her younger brother. Writer Kenneth Lonergan, making his directional debut, is less concerned with plot than with his theme of trust and his complex characters, particularly their dialogue. Their words are an awkward condensation of how they feel and what

they think they should feel, what they should say. And Lonergan's meticulous care includes the supporting roles: Jon Tenney as the sister's occasional beau and Matthew Broderick as her bullying new boss at the bank, an uptight, married man with whom she has a disastrous affair. You can spot the perceptive Lonergan himself as the



laid-back pastor who asks, "Do you feel your life is important?" Eventually, of course, both siblings must re-evaluate



You Can Count on Me

their lives and their relationships. Mark Ruffalo and Laura Linney deliver subtle, terrific performances. Using Loretta Lynn's "The Other Woman," amidst Lesley Barber's classical music, gives it a delicious touch. You Can Count on Me is a beautiful balance between realism and entertainment.

Free! Wednesday, March 31st, at 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

Jubilee Jazz Club



March Calendar

Thursday March 11th

HOMENATGE A
BILL EVANS (II)
Dvd Bill Evans Trio

Thursday March 25th

HOMENATGE A
BILL EVANS (III)
Lecture with musical
illustrations and visuals

Directed by Pere Ferré
i Joan Sardà

Free! Thursday, March 11th
and 25th at 8:00 PM, IEN
Conference Room

AMERICAN HOLIDAYS

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day in New York

Traditionally, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated as a religious holiday in Ireland and other areas. Ironically, scores of Irish citizens make the trip across the Atlantic to experience the more festive American flavor of Green Day, akin to the pilgrimage to New Orleans for Mardi Gras. Whether you go to church, to the parade or to a pub, this is one of the city's most exuberant annual celebrations.

New Yorkers have their own unique way of celebrating St. Patrick's Day, The Wearing of the Green. Green clothes, green flowers, and green hats are standard, but you'll also find unique green

beers, green bagels, green water fountains, and even a green Empire State Building.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

This is one of the New York City's greatest traditions. On this day, everyone is Irish! The annual procession marches up Fifth Avenue past St. Patrick's Cathedral at 50th Street all the way up past the Metropolitan Museum of Art at 83rd Street.

The first official parade in the City was held in 1766 by Irishmen in a military unit recruited to serve in the American colonies. For the first few years of its existence, the parade was organized

by military units until after the war of 1812. At that point in time, Irish fraternal and beneficial societies took over the duties of hosting and sponsoring the event.

Up to 150,000 people participate in this enormous showing of the green. Groups of every kind are included. As many as three hundred fifty colleges, high schools, fraternal, civic, and nursing organizations, accompanied by Irish societies, prominent Irishmen, police, and city officials, have stepped out to the music of one hundred eighty-nine bands. There are green hats, ties, skirts, confetti, ribbons, carnations, and banners, and until recently the traffic lines were painted green. The St. Patrick's Day parade is one of the few remaining where no cars, floats, buses, trucks or other vehicles are allowed.

On St. Patrick's Day there are more "Irishmen" in that small area than the city of Dublin!

St. Patrick's Day Pinch

School children have started a little tradition of their own. They pinch classmates who don't

wear green on this holiday. Wearing green is strictly a U.S. custom, as the color green is not popular in Ireland. Green is connected to the old green flag and a time when Ireland was not free. Green is also a color connected with hope and nature.

St. Patrick's Day The Facts

Did you know that 21 American Presidents are descended from the Irish? Of the 42 American Presidents 21 have been of Irish descent.

James Hoban designed America's premier residence, the White House. An Irishman, originally from County Kilkenny, he emigrated to America in 1791. Living first in Philadelphia, he moved to South Carolina where he designed the State Capitol at Columbia. He won the competition to design the White House in 1792. When the British Army destroyed the White House, in 1814, he was involved in the reconstruction. Other famous examples of his architectural work include the State Department and the War Office. He died in 1831.

THE SIGNS

The shamrock

The origins of the shamrock are lost in antiquity, but legend suggests that it was used by St. Patrick in the fifth century to demonstrate the meaning of the Trinity. The shamrock is found on Irish medieval tombs and on old copper coins, known as St. Patrick's money. The plant was reputed to have mystic powers...the leaves standing upright to warn



of an approaching storm. It is said that Patrick had a difficult time trying to convince the people he met in Ireland to believe in the Holy Trinity. Reflecting for a moment, Patrick picked a shamrock from the earth, and pointed to the three leaves on the shamrock, living proof of the Holy Trinity. Since then, the shamrock has become the symbol of the land of Ireland.

Leprechauns

Leprechauns are little make-believe people from Ireland. They are the little old men who are shoemakers for the fairies. They usually stand about 2 feet tall. Treasure hunters can often



track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. The legend is that if you catch one you can force him to tell you where he hides his gold.

Blarney Stone

The Blarney Stone is a stone set in the wall of the Blarney Castle tower in the Irish village of Blarney. Kissing the stone is supposed to bring the kisser the gift of persuasive eloquence. The legend says that an old woman cast a spell on the stone to reward a king who had saved her from drowning.



Kissing the stone while under the spell gave the king the ability to speak sweetly and convincingly. It's difficult to reach the stone. Kissers have to lie on their back and bend backward or downward holding iron bars for support. Today we say that people who can talk a lot and convince others to believe things.

Recipe: Irish Coffee



- One stemmed whiskey or grog glass
- Very hot strong black coffee
- 1 tablespoon whipped cream
- 2-3 teaspoons sugar
- 1 measure of Irish Whiskey

Heat the glass.
Heat the whiskey and pour into the glass.
Fill with very hot black coffee, in which the sugar has been dissolved.
Float the cream on top.

Tip! Turn a teaspoon upside down and hold it against the rim inside the glass. Pour in the cream slowly over the spoon.

*The secret lies in the combination of the piping hot coffee with a slight taste of Irish Whiskey and the cold soothing cream on top.

St. Patrick's Word Search

Beer	Green	Lucky
Blarney Stone	Ireland	Potogold
Castles	Irish	Rainbow
Clovers	Leprechaun	Shamrocks
Eringobrough	Luck	Whiskey

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E R   N G O B R A U G H H L N
N H T W C F N Q D N T R O S W
O Z H O A G R B U   P Q L H W
T S J B S S H A M R O C K S H
S V   N T M H A M E T K C
Y S P I L C S P C L O V E R S
E U W A E R G L J A G B J   K
N B J R S V X C J N O K I A E
R E P A J V F I F D L U C K Y
A E E D L M H B P V D W M H K
L R Z R A U E T M X A E J A T
B B X P G D B S H U R Q P R D
  
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*Answers next month

Answers February's Crossword
Across: 1. Rose, 3. Valentines, 5. Chocolate, 9. Heart, 10. Retica, 11. Red, 12. Dart, 13. New
Down: 2. Sweetheart, 3. Valour, 4. Lover, 6. Card, 7. Amore, 8. Tarot, 12. Dear

TEACHER'S PROFILE

This month we've talked with Francis McCabe. Francis is one of our Saturday Junior/Teen Program teachers and he's Irish.



Francis, where were you born?
I was born in Dublin, Ireland

This month we're celebrating St. Patrick's Day. What does this holiday mean to you? How do you celebrate it in Ireland? Do you celebrate it here?

To be quite honest, it doesn't mean a lot to me

here, as I hardly know any Irish people here now. Over the past few years, St. Patrick's Day celebrations have developed into a 6-Day Festival with events that include street theater, fireworks, music, exhibitions, and of course, the traditional parade through the town center. The odd thing is that St. Patrick, our patron saint, was not Irish at all but British. It seems only

fair, as we in Ireland owe a lot to Britain.

Why do they celebrate it in such a big way in the USA? What connection does this holiday have between the two countries?

Many people who immigrated to the United States came from Ireland. More than half of the soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War had Irish ancestors. Today, Irish descendants in the United States put on a noisier and bigger celebration than the people in Ireland. Every year, on March 17th, or the preceding Saturday, cities with a large population of Irish Americans have parades. Green is one of the national colors of Ireland so green stripes are painted on the streets where the parade will travel. People wear green shirts, ties, hair ribbons and hats. Many American bars even serve green beer on that day and green dye is thrown into some rivers to turn them green!

How long have you been in Barcelona? What brought you here?

I have been in Barcelona for over 18 years. I always liked the idea of living on the continent and had tried a year in each France and Germany, after studying modern languages. Then, back in Dublin for another two years, but I couldn't settle down. I still had a hankering after the

continental way of life and I suppose I came here out of a sense of adventure. I certainly don't regret it and returning to live in Ireland would be unthinkable.

Have you always been a teacher?

I started out as a primary school teacher in my early 20s and have been involved in some kind of teaching since then. At one stage, I took up chartered accountancy for two years, until I realized I was in the wrong shop. I have had part-time jobs as a Christmas postman, bread delivery man and even sold ice-cream in a German railway station. But I have always come back to teaching.

Tell us what you like to do and what hobbies you have.

My hobbies would include reading, swimming and movies. What I most like about Barcelona is bringing up my kids in a trilingual atmosphere. I also like the fact that there are so many people here from so many different countries. I enjoy parties or dinners where there is a mix of nationalities and languages. Sometimes I come across people expressing anti-American sentiments and I relish the opportunity to say how much I am in disagreement with them and how much I love American culture.

Past Events



St. Valentine's Day



**Jubilee Jazz Club:
Big Mama at the
lecture she gave on
the COTTON CLUB
on January 29th.**

SOURCES

www.fineline.com, www.hedwiginabox.com, www.imagi-ation.com (Book John Cameron Mitchell), www.movies.go.com, www.hollywood.com, Roger Ebert www.filmmonthly.com, Celebrations, the complete book of American Holidays by Robert J. Myers, www.jeannepasero.com, www.geocities.com, www.nyctourist.com, The American Book of Days by Jane M. Hatch, www.jimsdell.com, www.ny.com

March Activities

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY OR EVENT	PLACE
4 Thursday	22:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH Restaurant El Mussol About 20€	Theater
10 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" Directed by J. Came- ron Mitchell	Conference Room
11 Thursday	22:30 PM	BASIC DINNER Restaurant El Mussol About 20€	Conference Room
11 Thursday	8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB	Theater
25 Thursday	8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB	Theater
31 Wednesday	7:00PM	FILM CLUB "You Can Count on Me" Directed by Kenneth Lonegran	Conference Room

MONTHLY REGULAR EVENTS

Twice a month at 7:00 PM	FILM CLUB in the IEN Theater. American Independents
Every other Thursday at 8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Concerts and lectures.
Once a month at 10:30 PM	BASIC DINNER (for Basic 1 through Pre-Intermediate 2)
Once a month at 10:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH (all other levels) Practice your English in a natural setting while you eat, drink, and socialize with IEN teachers and fellow students!

*Tickets are available at the reception desk (approximately €20.00).