



**BLOC DIARY** Updated: 27-02-2018

Dates	Time	Event	Location
<b>22-03-2018</b>	<b>20:00</b>	<b>BLOC A.G.M.</b>	Paarse zaal, De Kam
04-05-2018	20:00	Crazy for You: DVD viewing	De Kam
31-05 & 01/03-06-2018	20:00 + 14:30	Urinetown	De Warandepoort
09-09-2018	12:30	BLOC BBQ	De Kam
22+23+24+25 November 2018	20:00 + 14:30	Oklahoma	CC Auderghem

**BLOC 's Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) 2018**

**Thursday 22nd March 2018 at 20:00**

**Paarse zaal, De Kam, Beekstraat 172, 1970 Wezembeek-Oppem**

**The draft agenda for the 2018 AGM, the draft minutes of the 2017 AGM and the list of nominations for the Committee will be sent to the BLOC Members 2018 in the next few days**

**BLOC's Membership Fee 2018**

**As a performing member the fee for each person is 40 Euros for the calendar year 2018. In your payment please mention your name and 2018.**

**If you are a non-performing member the fee is 20 Euros for the 2018 calendar year.**

**The account is BLOC and the account number to pay to is: BE54 3101 7807 3797.**

**The fee is for every member of 16 years and older.**

**DEADLINE NEXT BLOCNotes: 20th March 2018**

## FEBRUARY LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear BLOCNotes Reader!

The picture on the right was taken in 1978 – the first full stage production of our club. I'm third from the right if you're wondering, dressed in one of BLOC's 70 odd Mikado kimonos. I got to wear one again on 23<sup>rd</sup> February when BLOC and SingG&S Brussels performed something old and something new – a selection of Gilbert & Sullivan plus a couple of upbeat numbers from BLOC's forthcoming production of Urinetown – for De Kam's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Evening. The Grote zaal was bursting at the seams and whether flushed with wine or admiration for our soaring voices, the atmosphere was electric – if you can imagine such a thing on a cold wet windy February evening in Wezembeek..... A great honour to be asked by De Kam to be part of their celebrations.



Urinetown is now up and running and already sounding good. The cast is full of young faces – sometimes on older bodies as of course, singing keeps you looking young, however many years it says on your passport. Steven DeM, Emanuelle & Meera are buzzing with enthusiasm, the cast is catching it and Marc Tonnon has already gathered his troops to market the show. Selling tickets for spring shows is always a challenge so we're asking all of you to get out there and sell sell sell.

The new storage facility in Overijse is now choc-a-bloc full. We cannot thank Philip and Marie enough for building the shelving and racks that now house costumes, props and set. They worked long hours non-stop for two weeks – almost like building a couple of sets – to Philip's design. A massive thank you too to all those who came and moved everything from Machelen to Overijse over a period of 4 days. Lawrence the Props Master has already installed his meticulous numbered system and after a certain amount of costume culling, Tonia's BLOC Wardrobe will hopefully be inventoried in a similar manner. We want to thank everyone who helped by offering them a drink on BLOC at De Kam so Tonia has a list and some special tickets to give to those who helped who are on that list.

Other news is that Jeanette Marino has agreed to head up a small team of people with good musical theatre knowledge/experience in order to update our list of possible future shows. This is something Annina Alanen did a few years ago, picking out shows suitable and unsuitable for BLOC (and we've done about 80% of the 'yes' list). We have to look for shows with enough for chorus (or with possibilities for adjustment so that there IS enough for chorus), suitable for the voice ranges we have currently, for our age ranges and abilities, and for which the rights are available....that we can afford. However much we want to do Les Miz or Mamma Mia, the rights are just not available.....yet.....so choosing shows is never easy. Modern shows cost a fortune, often with small casts, so we tend to look to more classic, older shows. Finding audiences becomes challenging in a climate of uncertainty both economic and security-wise. And you have to put on a show people want to be in and that people want to watch. It's fun but it ain't easy!

The Annual General Meeting 2018 is on Thursday 22nd March 2018 in the Paarse zaal of De Kam, starting at 20h and ending up in Koen's bar afterwards – this is YOUR chance to have your say. Read more further on in BLOCNotes.

See you at De Kam?

DIANA x



## WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO THE AGM!

Hi everyone!

*(I posted some of this on Facebook a little while back but maybe it's useful for non-Facebook folk to read the updated version too)*

We're looking forward to putting on a great show in a great theatre at the end of May and you can look forward to yet another major production at the end of November at another even bigger theatre. Did you know that BLOC's shows have budgets which most amateur drama groups couldn't even begin to dream about? And it doesn't happen by accident. It takes a lot of discussion, energy, organisation and commitment from a lot of people to keep the club going year after year to achieve this.

The current BLOC 'brand', if you like, is something that has evolved steadily over the past 6 to 8 years into something very special. We offer productions with extremely high standards of music, acting, costumes, props, set...drawing audiences of nearly 4000 in any one year and at the heart of this process is a committee of at least 7 who are responsible ultimately for driving the club forward.

If BLOC is to continue to prosper and develop in a fast changing world the club needs to adapt and looking around the room at rehearsals I see a large number of knowledgeable, intelligent artistically ambitious people who can make a contribution to this..... and we need you.

Can I illustrate what can happen if people don't become involved? There was a referendum in the UK in 2016 which voted for the UK to leave the European Union - 18-25 year olds were in favour of the UK

remaining in Europe by a majority of 80 to 20. The reason the vote was lost is that they didn't bother to turn up so their future was being decided by people who have a much smaller interest in the future. We need you to come along, contribute your ideas and get involved in BLOC's future. Because without you we may well get it wrong.

At the head of the Committee is a chairman. This is a job I've been doing for the past 4 years and I have said I will do it for one more year, but only one more. Somebody suitable should prepare to take over from me - and it has to be somebody who has a good general knowledge of musical theatre, organisational and administrative skills, the time and energy to carry these out with the ability to head a Committee who make decisions on the future of the club. It is also important that it is somebody who puts the interests of BLOC as a whole above personal ambition in terms of performing or directing. And who serves or who has served on the Committee.

But it's not just about the chairman! And you don't have to be on the committee to be part of BLOC's organisation - there are so many tasks to be done to make it all work. We welcome new blood, new energy, new ideas. The AGM is where you can have your say - let us know how you feel, share gripes and joys, get them sorted.

So please come to the Annual General Meeting 2018 on Thursday 22nd March 2018

and **have your say!** It's at 20h in the Paarse zaal. And if you're a paid up member you'll be offered a lively evening and a drink on the house!

Diana Morton-Hooper



Music & Lyrics: **MARK HOLLMANN**  
Book & Lyrics: **GREG KOTIS**

The Musical

# URINETOWN



Box Office will  
open to the  
general public in  
March 2018  
(more in next  
BLOCNotes)

*Urinetown*  
was produced  
on Broadway in  
September, 2001  
by Araca Group and  
Dodger Theatricals  
in association with  
TheaterDreams, Inc.,  
and Lauren Mitchell

A  
drop of  
HOPE can  
change the  
world

Stage Directors  
*Emanuelle Vergier*

Music Directors  
*Steven De Mesmaeker*

**31<sup>st</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018**

De Warandepoort Cultural Centre







# de kam

De Kam celebrated the start of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The celebrations started on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**It started with a PREMIERE:  
BLOC sang in public a song in DUTCH!!!**

A Big Thank you to all those BLOC members who sang in the opening event.

The audience certainly appreciated our songs and we may have sold some tickets for our next show "Urinetown".

Also a Big Thanks you to Sing G&S Brussels and Tony Lowe for contributing with a lovely medley of G&S hits and the evergreen "If I Were A Rich Man".

Your Bloc representatives at De Kam 25: Dennis and Tonia



Books in all languages and for all ages welcome as well as DVDs and CDs



Every 4th Wed of the month from 18.30 til 21.00

@ Le Chapelier Fou restaurant, Ch de la Hulpe 190, 1170 Brussels

## Brussels Bookswappers Club 2018 dates

24 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 25 Apr, 23 May,  
27 Jun, 25 Jul, 22 Aug, 26 Sep, 24 Oct,  
28 Nov, 19 Dec

Each month there will be a literary roundtable.  
Please like our FB page or ask to be added to our  
mailing list for more details

BrusselsBookswappersClub 

BrusselsBookswappersClub@  
gmail.com



# Jet's School of Dance

presents

## "Alice in Wonderland"

a dance show with jazz, tap and hip hop. Come and see this classic story unfold with all the usual fun characters and a few unusual ones too!

Jeanette and her dancers dedicate this show to Susan Heron, friend and ballet teacher who tragically died last year due to cancer.

Performances on **Saturday 3rd** and **Sunday 4th March 2018**  
at 15 hrs

at De Warandepoort Theatre, Tervuren.

Tickets € 10 Adults and € 8 children.

For more information contact: Jeanette Marino

E-mail: [jetmarino@gmail.com](mailto:jetmarino@gmail.com) or Mobile: 0476886476