



BLOCNotes September 2019

Editor: Dennis Elslander

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<http://www.bloc-brussels.com>

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by e-mail due to technical problems*

BLOC DIARY			Updated: 03-09-2019
Dates	Time	Event	Location
02-09-2019	20:00	Kiss Me Kate: soloist rehearsal	De Kam
03-09-2019	20:00	Kiss Me Kate: chorus rehearsal	De Kam
15-09-2019	12:30	BLOC Annual BBQ	De Kam
21 till 24-11-2019	20:00 + 14:30	Kiss Me Kate	CC Auderghem

BLOC's Membership Fee 2019

The calendar year is well under way and this means that we have to renew our BLOC membership or become a member :-)

As a performing member the fee for each person is 40 Euros.

If you are a non-performing member the fee is 20 Euros.

Both membership type fees are for 2019 calendar year.

The account is BLOC and the account number to pay to is: BE54 3101 7807 3797. In your payment please mention your name and 2019.

The fee is for every member of 16 years and older. Only paid-up BLOC members are entitled to vote so please renew your membership for 2019 on time.

**DEADLINE NEXT BLOCNotes:
1st October 2019**

Message from the (new) chair

Dear BLOCNotes Reader!

Wow, it's been a busy year so far and rather exciting! The new committee have now had chance to meet and I feel very confident that you'll be happy with the work that we'll be doing for



our society. We're here to listen to your input and act upon your suggestions in our goal to continually improve BLOC .

Well 'The Sorcerer' was certainly a magical time for us all. Angela and I were overjoyed with the result and so grateful to literally everyone involved. Your enthusiasm and hard work made the dream come true for us. As Lionel, our MD said, it was 'a triumph'. We hope that for those of you who didn't know the works of Gilbert & Sullivan, 'The Sorcerer' has made you thirsty for more. As you know, I had the opportunity to be onstage with you for the Sunday performance and, my word, what a happy environment! It was honestly one of the happiest casts I have ever had the pleasure to be with and from audience comments, it showed! Well done to you all. (p.s. the after -show party was great!).

Without a moment to lose, we're off with 'Kiss me, Kate'. 'Another openin', another show' - what fun! With Diana Morton-Hooper directing, I'm in no doubt there will be terrific ideas in abundance, and, with her experience, this has the makings of one 'classy' show. Along with Vivienne McKay at the musical helm, and Jean Emmett showin' us how to 'shuffle those shoes', the show is guaranteed to make the audience 'So in love' with BLOC.

The committee is now looking for suggestions for our 2020 summer and autumn shows. The deadline for summer show proposals is October 15th.

If you've an idea for a show and can back it up by giving us as much information as possible, including who you may have (or have asked) to be part of your production team (Director(s), Music Director(s) and Producer(s), then please let us know. Ideally we would ask you to meet with us and 'pitch' (explain and present) your idea in order to establish its viability.

As a large club, there are many happy times but, unfortunately, some sad times. It is with sadness that I announce the recent passing of Diederik Wilbreninck, a member of the then Gilbert & Sullivan Society, whose work for charities throughout his life was so commendable. He was a larger-than-life character who always put everything into his work and projects. Our thoughts are with his family.

I'm also saddened to inform you of the passing of Vivienne McKay's mother. Vivienne recounted how at nearly 93 years of age, her mother lived life to the full and will be sorely missed by both family and friends. Our thoughts are with Vivienne and her family.

We wish Avril Anderson, Tonia Jolly and Marie Rousseaux's mother, who have been poorly recently, speedy recoveries.

On a happier note, congratulations to Paul Gosme and his wife Silvija on the birth of baby Alma, and to Filipa, Celia and Alex on becoming grandparents. Congratulations also to Lara Timmermans who married during the summer and also to Josephine and Andy Fisk, who also 'tied the knot'. We also send our very best wishes to Emanuelle Lennuyeux - Vergier who gets married in the next few days.

So, I hope you all had a wonderful summer and I welcome you all back. If you can, please come along and have fun at the BLOC BBQ at De Kam on Sunday 15th September (see advert from Dennis). Also, if you're not involved in 'Kiss me, Kate', don't let that stop you popping along for a quick drink and chat in Koen's bar. He, and we, will always be pleased to see you!

Tony Lowe

BLOC'S BARBECUE

2019

FREE FOOD FOR ALL 2019 PAID-UP BLOC-MEMBERS!!!

FOOD by Traiteur
Delicatessen Vanhoudt



DRINKS at the Latin Kam Bar

FUN...(of course)

SUN: Of course: BLOC = SUN

**When : Sunday 15 September 2019
from 12.30 PM**

13.00 PM BBQ food served. (catered, so be there!!!)

**Where : Cultural Centre "De Kam"
Beekstraat 172
1970 Wezembeek-Oppem**

Please bring a dessert...

BLOC 2019-members: FREE & Guests pay € 18.50 per person

**As this is a catered BBQ, you MUST book, even as a member!!!
Contact your social secretary URGENTLY.**

E-mail: dennis.elslander@telenet.be

DEADLINE enrolment: Tuesday 10th September 2019 at 20:00.

Call for proposals for 2020

The committee will be considering options for our 2020 shows at our first meeting after the summer break. We would therefore like to invite all members (and other interested parties) to present to us their proposals for possible shows for the company to perform.

Artistic Vision

The foremost consideration of the Committee is the artistic concept and vision of the Stage Director. What is this show to be? We would like to know which version of a show the director is planning, which time period and style they plan to set the show in, what kind of scenery, costumes, suggested solutions to any perceived problems etc. The more thoroughly thought through a proposal, the better it is.

Practical considerations

Although the list is longer and cannot be ignored, the practical considerations about a show are the secondary concern of the committee.

Good shows for BLOC are those that have onstage opportunities for a number of people, from a wide range of ages and nationalities. Our November shows should be suitable for **family pre-Christmas entertainment**, whilst the May show **may be more innovative or edgy, or may be another great family show.**

The committee will also consider (among many elements):

- Does it have an appropriate number of lead parts (more is better but all things in moderation) and is it conceivable that we will be able to cast those roles from the current membership of the company?
- Does it have enough material for the chorus to perform (the masses get fidgety if they have nothing to do)?
- Is the musical difficulty suitable for a BLOC show - not too easy, not too hard?
- Is the size of the orchestra suitable for a BLOC production?
- Are we likely to be able to sell tickets to this show in Brussels (is it well known, does it appeal to a wide range of patrons, is it about a popular topic?)

What are the staging requirements (can we feasibly build the necessary sets, does the theatre booked have the technical capabilities required)?

The May 2020 show will most likely be performed in De Bosuil - which seats just over 300 audience members, and has (with creative solutions) space for a maximum of around 45 cast members. For our November show in 2020 we will most likely be performing in the Auderghem Cultural Centre which seats around 660 audience members, and we have squeezed in around 80 cast members.

In order to make a proposal for a show, it is HIGHLY recommended that the person making the proposal has spoken to others, and has as many people on board as possible in the following roles:

- Producer
- Stage Director
- Musical Director
- Choreographer (if relevant)
- Rehearsal Pianist
- Stage Manager

A team with experience is always an asset, however we are also looking for people who are willing to coach or mentor those who are new in their roles.

Another relevant consideration is always whether or not the rights to perform a particular show are available. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ANY RIGHTS HOLDER YOURSELF - but contact Alexander Just, our treasurer, who deals with all rights enquiries on behalf of BLOC. Alex is very discreet and is happy to make enquiries *the appropriate way* without anyone else knowing, if a proposal is not yet ready to be made public.

If you wish to make a proposal to the BLOC Committee - please email blocchairman@gmail.com by 15 th October 2019 at the latest to let us know the basic outline of your proposal, and be prepared to present your proposal to the Committee in person in a Committee meeting shortly after this deadline.

Kiss Me, Kate

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter
Book by Sam and Bella Spewack

KISS ME, KATE is presented by arrangement
with TAMS-WITMARK, www.tamswitmark.com.uk

www.bloc-brussels.com



21st - 24th November 2019

Auderghem Cultural Centre

Stage Director: Diana Morton-Hooper

Music Director: Vivienne McKay

Live Orchestral!