

It's April 2020 and the world is a very strange place. The Covid-19 virus is now prevalent in our community and everyone is staying home to limit the spread as much as possible.

The Brussels Light Opera Company has followed closely the government recommendations here in Belgium, and we have adapted our rehearsal and meeting schedules accordingly. Our committee have now had a number of online meetings, and given all the parameters at stake, the following decisions have been made:

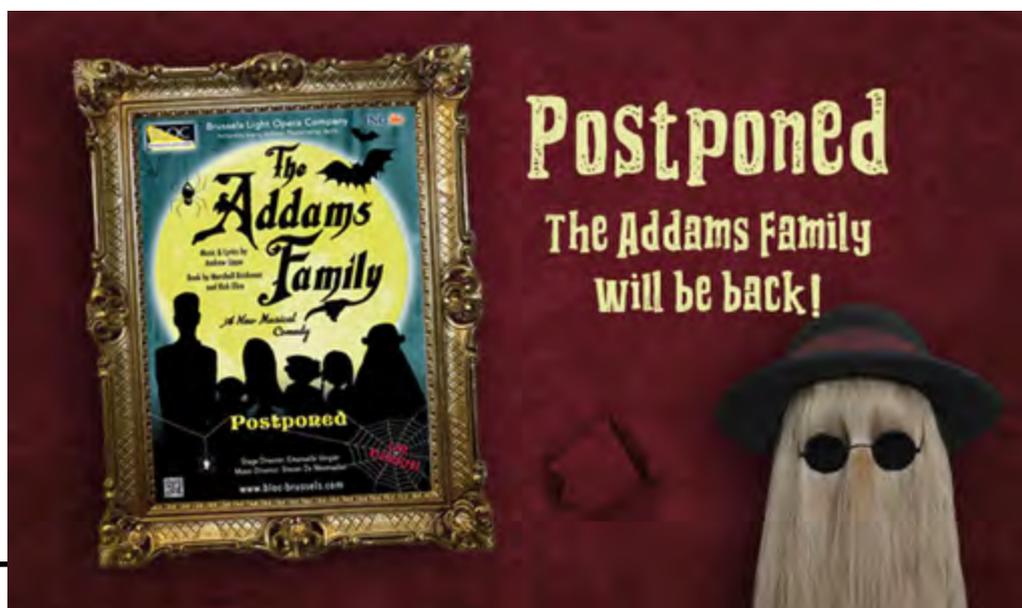
Our production of 'The Addams Family', which was to be performed in May 2020, **will be postponed until February 2021** (actual date and location to be confirmed). Customers who have already bought tickets for 'The Addams Family' have been contacted and given the opportunity either to receive a full refund, or to re-book their seats when the new dates for the show are announced. If you have bought tickets and have not been contacted, please send an email to tickets@bloc-brussels.com.

Our production of 'Chess', which was to be performed in November 2020, **will be postponed until November 2021**.

We will perform 'The Pirates of Penzance' at the beginning of June 2021, as planned. Once again, all dates and locations to be confirmed.

Our Annual General Meeting has also been postponed. **We now have a TENTATIVE date to hold a combined AGM and BBQ on Sunday 13th September**. This date and the location will be confirmed as soon as possible, taking into account the Covid-19 situation and whether or not we are able to secure a booking.

We thank all those involved in these decisions and the changes that they entail. It has been a tough few months, especially for the Addams Family team, and we are very glad for the cooperation and support that everyone has shown.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends,

When your BLOC Committee accepted their positions at the Annual General Meeting last year, I'm sure none of us envisaged that, months later, the world would be in the middle of a major crisis. As I wrote in the recent communication to you all, our logistical challenges have been huge and, given that we had made an effort to plan our upcoming shows well in advance, the necessary rescheduling of events became a real puzzle. The difficulty we faced during this rescheduling process was trying to predict when the Corona-virus situation would ease, and plan accordingly. We understand that the scenarios we have proposed are not ideal for everyone but, by postponing rather than cancelling shows, we've hopefully managed to keep the BLOC spirit intact whilst we look forward to brighter days.



Using Skype, etc. for our meetings and chats has enabled us to continue 'business (almost) as usual', but we miss, as I'm sure you all do, the real-life interaction that the virtual world denies us. However, you'll see from viewing our super 'promo video' of 'The Addams Family', that being online does offer some wonderful creative opportunities. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/BLOC.Bxl/videos/731196847418260/>

Our thoughts are with all those touched by this virus, including the health and service workers who continue to face risks on a daily basis.

Let's hope that, when this situation has passed, we will no longer complain when our favourite flavour of chocolate is out of stock in the supermarket, and we'll just be grateful there's toilet paper and soap available on the shelves!

Stay safe and healthy.

Tony Lowe



FUN AT HOME

While we are all finding ways to keep ourselves occupied at home - the BLOCNotes editors have collated and put together some "Light Musical" related fun - which we hope you will enjoy.

We have even found a prize to offer, so put on your thinking caps and send in your crossword answers! Last entries must reach us by Sunday 10 May 2020.

The answers for all the puzzles not in the competition are available on our website - see here:

http://bloc-brussels.com/newsletter/bloc-notes-april-2019/puzzle_answers

The answers to our competition crossword will be published on Monday 11 May, at:

<http://bloc-brussels.com/newsletter/bloc-notes-april-2019/crossword-answers>

Happy puzzling! - Helen

**WHO'S WHO ON THE BUS?**

The members of the Chesterton Heath Acting and Orchestral Society are heading off to put on a show in the neighbouring county. Can you tell who is sitting in which row of the bus, what they are wearing, their department, the item they are carrying with them, and what they are doing during the journey?

- The person reading a book is wearing a red bomber jacket
- The person who brought a pen is using it to do a crossword.
- Simon is wearing a green sweater.
- Natalie is chatting with some other members of the company.
- The cast member brought some safety pins, just in case.
- The violinist is wearing a trenchcoat.
- The person wearing a green sweater is sitting three rows behind the person wearing the black fleece.
- Sebastian is sitting in row 7.
- There is a pocket flashlight tucked into the bag on the seat behind the orchestra member.
- Someone is asleep in row three.
- The spotlight operator borrows a highlighter from the person in the next row.
- Chris is responsible for the ushers.
- The dressmaker is busy sewing as the bus rolls along.
- The person wearing a blue kimono tucked a pillow under their sleeping neighbour's head.

(Cont. over)

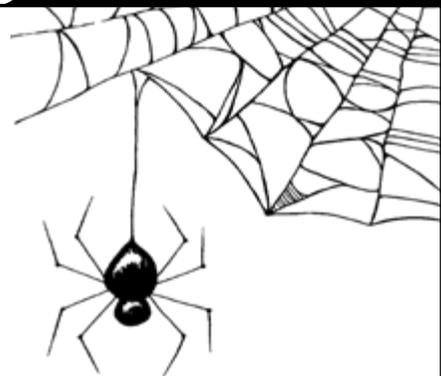
WHO'S WHO ON THE BUS? (CONT)

	Ushers	Lighting	Cast	Costumes	Orchestra	Row 3	Row 4	Row 7	Row 8	Row 11	Blue kimono	Black fleece	Red bomber jacket	Beige trenchcoat	Green sweater	Reading a book	Sleeping	Sewing	Doing a crossword	Chatting	Scissors	Safety pins	Pocket flashlight	Pen	Highlighter
Chris																									
Joanne																									
Natalie																									
Sebastian																									
Simon																									
Scissors																									
Safety pins																									
Pocket flashlight																									
Pen																									
Highlighter																									
Reading a book																									
Sleeping																									
Sewing																									
Doing a crossword																									
Chatting																									
Blue kimono																									
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Beige trenchcoat																									
Green sweater																									
Row 3																									
Row 4																									
Row 7																									
Row 8																									
Row 11																									

	Department	Bus row #	Wearing	Doing	Carrying
Chris					
Joanne					
Natalie					
Sebastian					
Simon					

The Addams Family

How many words or phrases relating to The Addams Family can you find here:



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

"...Stay out of my shit or I'll rip your leg off and bury it in the backyard!"

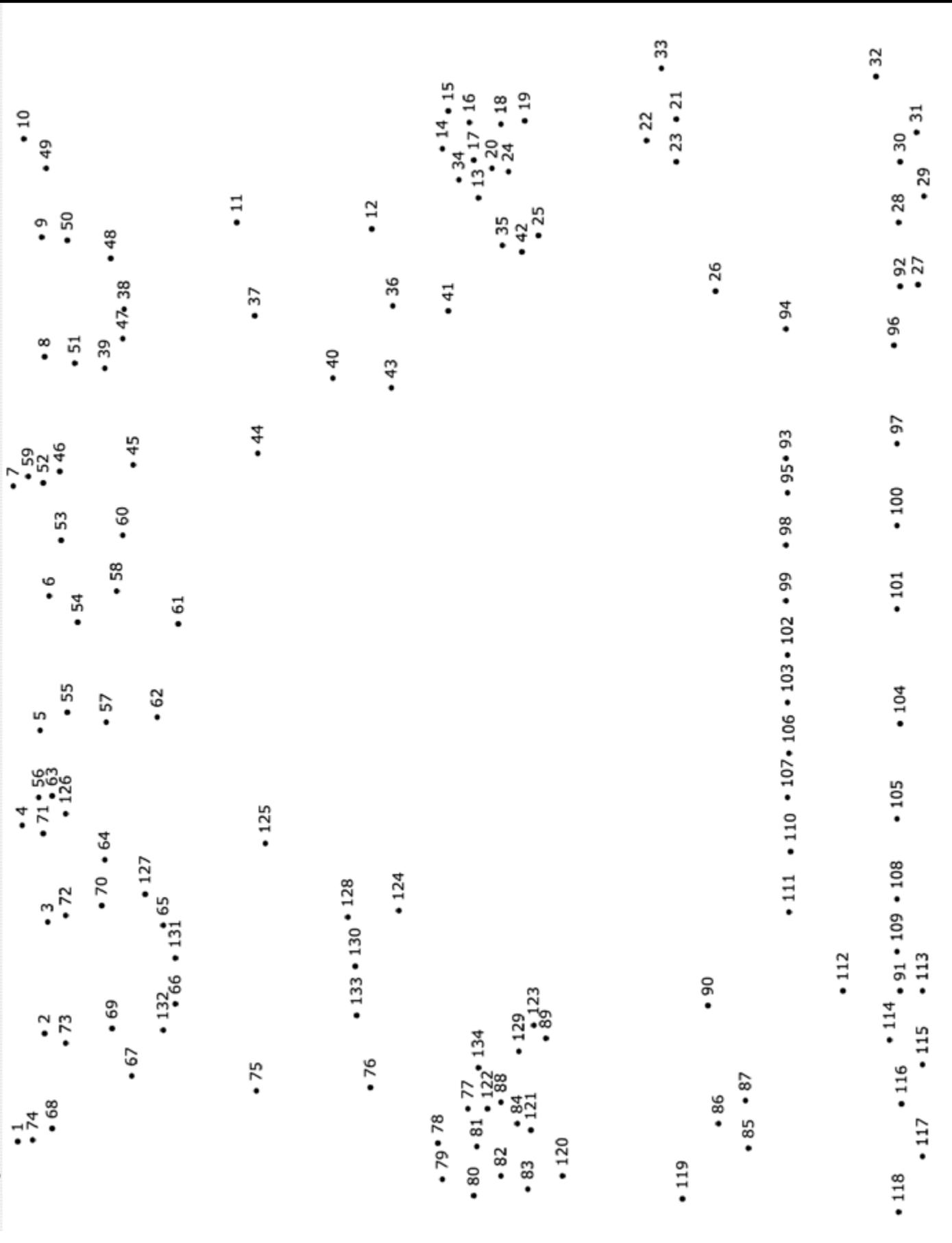
"...I love you..."

Grandma

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR MUSICALS?

1. In which musical would you hear the words sung, 'kiss today goodbye and point me towards tomorrow'?
2. In which musical would you hear the words sung 'it's a hard knock life'?
3. In which musical would you hear the words sung, 'In olden days a glimpse of stocking was looked on as something shocking'?
4. In which musical will you find the character 'Curly'?
5. Which is the longest running musical in the world?
6. Which musical tells the story of three drag Queens travelling across the out-back of Australia?
7. 'Boy For Sale', 'It's a Fine Life' and 'Food, Glorious Food' are songs from which musical?
8. Which famous musical featured the song 'Time Warp'?
9. 'The Movie in my Mind', 'Why God Why?' and 'Last night of the world' are songs from which musical?
10. In which musical would you hear the words sung, 'close your eyes and let the music set you free'?
11. What was the name of the High School in Grease?
12. Which rock musical tells the story of a group of struggling young musicians and artists in New York's lower East Side?
13. In which musical would you hear the words sung, 'what a glorious feeling, I'm happy again'?
14. In which musical will you find the characters Rusty, Poppa, Greaseball and Electra?
15. In which musical would you find the character Norma Desmond?
16. 'Rhythm of Life', 'Big Spender' and 'If My Friends Could See Me Now' are songs from which musical?
17. Name the rival gangs in West Side Story?
18. In which musical will you find the characters The Man, Swallow, Amos, Candy and Boone?
19. 'Love Changes Everything' is a song taken from which musical?
20. Which Shakespearean play inspired West Side Story?
21. Which famous musical featured the song 'Popular'?
22. Which puppet musical won the best musical in 2004 at the Tony Awards?
23. Which musical is based on a film from 2000 with the same name, set in County Durham, England?
24. What musical composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, is based on Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats (1939)?
25. Name either of the two musicals that Benny Anderson (ABBA) has co-composed the music for?
26. In which musical would you hear the words sung, 'all that jazz'?
27. Which musical tells the story about students at New York City's high School of Performing Arts?
28. Which famous musical featured the song 'A Spoonful of Sugar'?
29. Which musical is set in the plains of Serengeti?
30. What is the name of the Pie Shop owner in Sweeney Todd?

THEATRICAL DOT-TO-DOT



BLOC CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Try this personalised BLOC crossword. Send your completed answer sheet in to info@bloc-brussels.com by 23:59 on 10 May 2020 at the latest, for a chance to win an exclusive BLOC Oklahoma towel! A winner will be drawn randomly from all correct answers received before this deadline.

Across

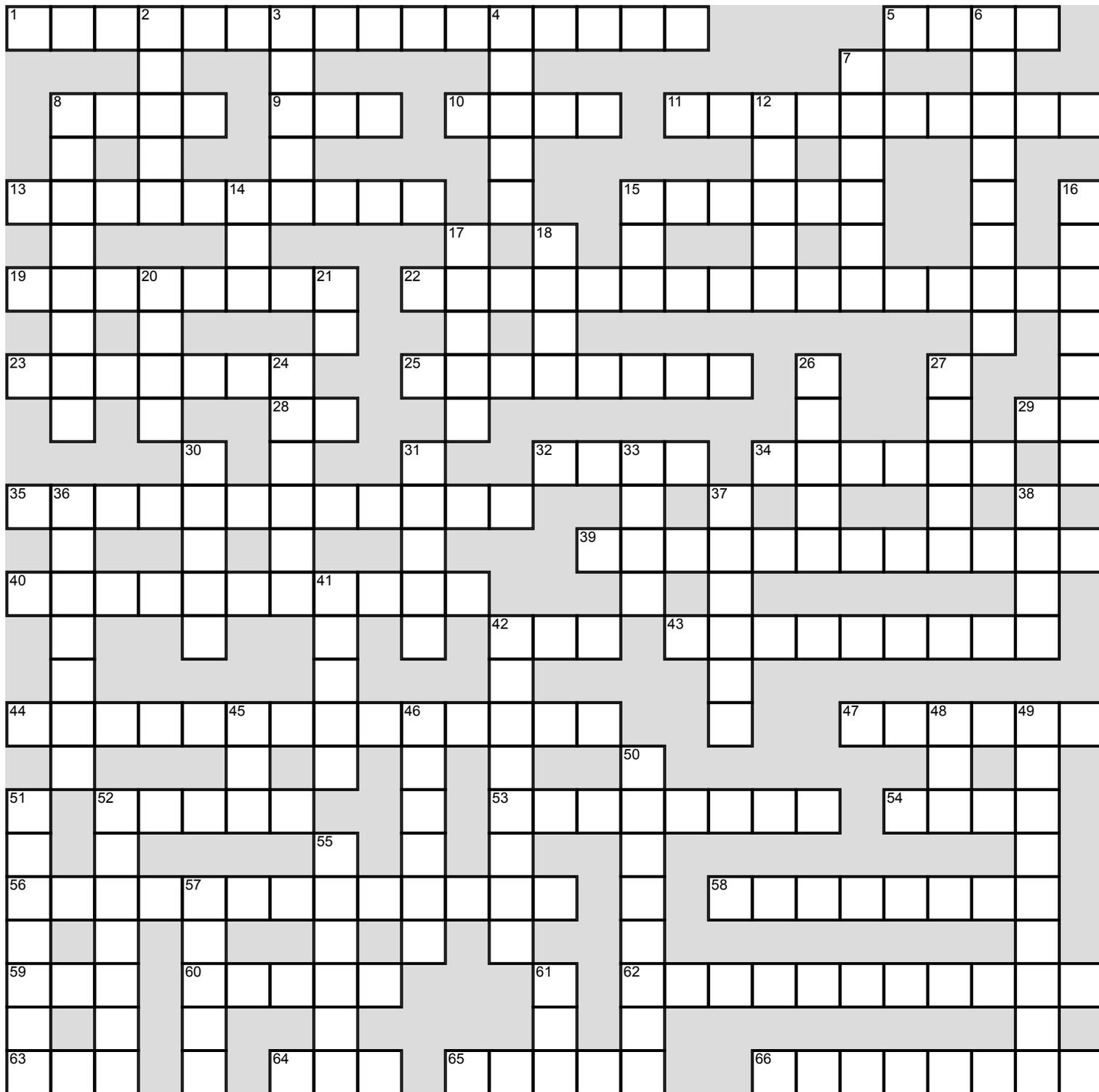
- 1 Musical about Teyve and his 5 daughters (7,2,3,4)
- 5 "Summertime, and the livin' is ___" (4)
- 8 "Feed the little birds, show them you care. And you'll be ___ if you do" (4)
- 9 "You can't get a man with a ___" (3)
- 10 "Strollin' with the one girl, Sighin' ___ after ___" (4)
- 11 Sally Bowles performs here (3,3,4)
- 13 Effie, Deena and Lorrell sing together in this group (10)
- 15 The workers in this factory want a 7 1/2 cent raise (6)
- 19 A funny thing happened on the way here (3,5)
- 22 "The rain in Spain stays ___ ___ ___" (6,2,3,5)
- 23 The "W" in "W.S. Gilbert" (7)
- 25 "In Cyberland, we only drink ___" (4,4)
- 28 "A Surrey With A Fringe ___ Top" (2)
- 29 "Off ___ see the Wizard" (2)
- 32 Where to move in relation to the woods (4)
- 34 Third oldest Von Trapp child (6)
- 35 "The sun comes up, I think about you. The coffee cup, I think about you. I want you so, it's like I'm ___ ___" (6,2,4)
- 39 Between acts (12)
- 40 "Green finch and linnet bird, ___ , black-bird" (11)
- 42 "I could have danced ___ night" (3)
- 43 Lilli is to Katherine as Fred is to ___ (9)
- 44 "Too late for ___ , Too late to go back to sleep" (6,8)
- 47 "Life's candy and the sun's a ball of ___" (6)
- 52 Annie's dog (5)
- 53 "Hair" takes place in the "Age of ___" (8)
- 54 "Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello ___" (4)
- 56 When Nathan refuses to marry Adelaide, she has a ___ reaction (13)

- 58 Theatre department who may need gels, gobos, cones, tilts, barndoors or doublers (8)
- 59 Annie who can't say no (3)
- 60 "As long as life is long, I'll love him, right or wrong, And somehow I'll be strong, As long as he ___ me" (4)
- 62 G&S's first 4 collaborations were Thespis, Trial by Jury, ___ , and H.M.S. Pinafore (3,8)
- 63 "There was something in the ___ that night, the stars were bright" (3)
- 64 " ___ dream will do" (3)
- 65 "Small and white, ___ and bright, You look happy to meet me" (5)
- 66 Bill Calhoun's girl (4,4)

Down

- 2 "You're the nimble tread, on the feet of Fred Astaire, You're an O'Neill ___" (5)
- 3 "I'm gonna wash that man ___ out of my hair" (5)
- 4 The akita in Rent (5)
- 6 Gilbert's partner (8)
- 7 Song from Hello, Dolly! "Before the ___ Passes By" (6)
- 8 Composer of Crazy For You (8)
- 12 On opening night, the BLOC Cast and Crew like to ___ the show's creative team.
- 14 "'Cause in the stratosphere, how could he lend an ___ , To all that jazz" (3)
- 15 "A kiss may be grand but it won't ___ the rental" (3)
- 16 One night here (7)
- 17 City of the Phantom's Opera (5)
- 18 What can Frank Butler do with a sweater? (4)
- 20 "Looking back I could have played it differently. Learned about the man before I ___" (4)
- 21 "Me and ___ Girl" (2)

BLOC CROSSWORD COMPETITION (CONT')



BLOC CROSSWORD COMPETITION (CONT')

Down (cont')

- 24 A book of which a musical has been named (6)
- 26 Alfred Doolittle is the ___ in "Get Me to the Church On Time" (5)
- 27 "Him", in "I don't know how to love him" (5)
- 30 Bernardo's girlfriend (5)
- 31 Sold by the engineer (5)
- 33 American stage award (4)
- 36 British stage award (7)
- 37 Bernadette who often starred in Sondheim's musicals (6)
- 38 Dorothy's dog (4)
- 41 "I can thrill you more, Than any ___ would ever dare try" (5)
- 42 Who says "A rooster in a chicken-coop is better off'n men. He ain't the special property of just one hen!" (3,5)
- 45 "Kiss the day goodbye, The sweetness and the sorrow. We ___ what we had to do" (3)
- 46 The George with whom we could spend a Sunday in the Park (6)
- 48 "You're just ___ good to be true, can't take my eyes off of you" (3)
- 49 "We never said our love was ___ , Or as unchanging as the sea" (9)
- 50 Washington's aide-de-camp (8)
- 51 Of whom it is said "water will melt her" (7)
- 52 Suddenly ___ (7)
- 55 "[D]on't be afraid of the dark. At the end of a storm is a ___ sky" (6)
- 57 "I feel pretty, oh, so pretty, that the city should give me its key. A committee, should be organized to ___ me" (5)
- 61 " ___ Bye Blackbird" (3)



A ghost light is a small, single bulbed light that shines on the dark stage throughout the night when a theatre is closed and unoccupied.

There are several explanations for why a ghost light should be left onstage.

- It can be purely practical - so that anyone working late, or the first person in the next day, can see where they are going.
- It may be a safety requirement for both the normal workers in the theatre, or any

emergency services who are called to the theatre when it is otherwise dark.

- It may be for those coming in to rehearse - so that they can see without having to hire in a technical just to find the light switches!
- Or it may be to keep the many theatre ghosts around happy. Some say that without the lights on , resident ghosts have been known to cause accidents.

Whatever the reason, many theatres do leave a light on stage when there is no-one in the theatre.

Although BLOC doesn't have (or need) our own theatre, our metaphoric "ghost light" is shining brightly and we look forward to welcoming each other back, when we may meet again.