

BLOC

MUSICALS & LIGHT OPERA

Notes

September 2020

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Helen Krabb

It says on the BLOC website that the "Brussels Light Opera Company ... performs ... high-quality productions as well as enjoy[s] varied social activities." Lately, we haven't managed much of either of these, but never fear...



The BLOC committee has met frequently (albeit virtually) in the past few months, and we are still keeping a close eye on the submissions, negotiations, and resulting regulations relating to the events and cultural industries.

Unfortunately, given the current development and spread of the COVID-19 virus in Belgium, it would be unrealistic of us to plan to organise any rehearsals in the coming months. We have therefore taken the very hard decision to postpone our production of *The Addams Family* once more. We now hope to be able to produce *The Pirates of Penzance*, as planned, in June 2021 and *The Addams Family* in November 2021. For those of you who are impatient to join or see our production of *Chess*, it is still on the cards - planned for November 2022. Obviously all these plans may need to be further adjusted, depending on the regulations in place at those times.

All the cast and crew of *The Addams Family* should have received communication about this development directly from TAF production team. If you missed that email, please get in touch with them directly.

Our annual summer barbeque has also now been cancelled. We will certainly miss the chance to see you all, and hope to organise another social event when the circumstances allow.

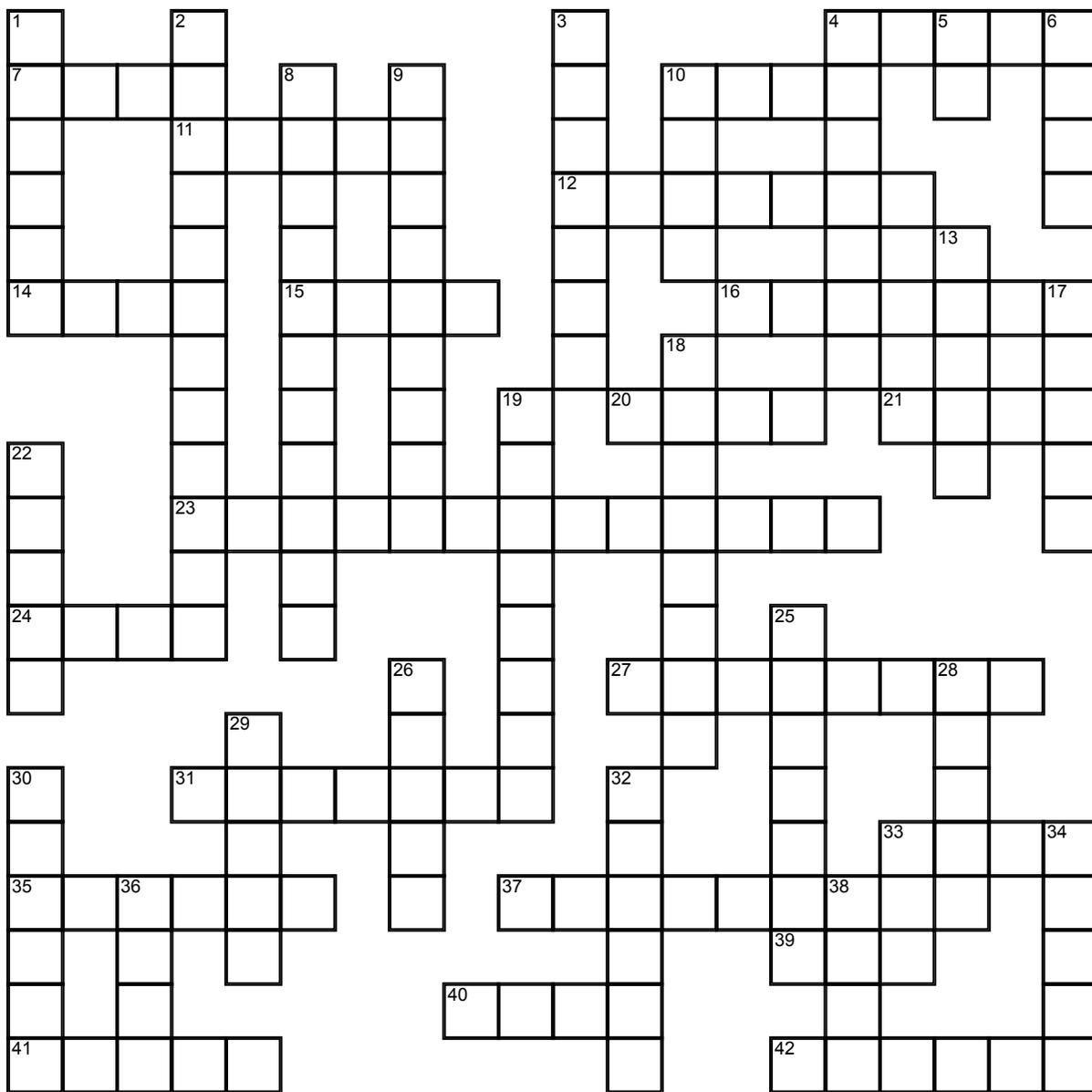
Our Annual General Meeting has now been re-cast as a virtual meeting. All current members should have received information about this via email. Please check the information carefully - as this time we need you to take action before the event!



Stay safe and keep your theatre lights burning,

The BLOC Committee

BLOC's SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD



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Across

- 4 Pirates of Penzance (PoP): the daughters, 1 of 4.
- 7 PoP: "Beautiful (4 across), I would if I could, but I am not ____."
- 10 TAF: "Just watch me pulled in a new direction. I should ____ in the dark, not obey every spark"
- 11 TAF: "Pluck the arrow from its quiver, Hold it in your hand be ____"
- 12 Chess (C): The American, Freddie ____
- 14 TAF: "Let's Not Talk About Anything Else But ____"
- 15 TAF: "So keep your sunshine, And keep your ____"
- 16 C: "My land's only ____ lie around my heart"
- 20 C: "If these people can't strike blows for freedom with a valid ____, we don't need 'em"
- 21 C: "And how great the relief, Working for one who believes in, Loyalty, heritage, ____ to his kind come what may"
- 23 PoP: "Climbing over ____ " (5_8)
- 24 PoP: the pirate maid
- 27 C: "Play at this level there's no ordinary venue. It's Iceland - or the Philippines - or ____ - or - or this place!"
- 31 TAF: The Addams Family pet
- 33 C: "Nothing is so ____ it lasts eternally"
- 35 Chess Act 1 Scene 1 takes place in ____
- 37 The Addams Family characters were originally created by ____ Addams.
- 39 C: "And ____ ask me why I love her"
- 40 PoP: the daughters, 2 of 4.
- 41 PoP: "With Cat-Like ____, Upon our prey we (15 down)"
- 42 C: "The bars are temples but the ____ ain't free"

Down

- 1 PoP: the pirate lieutenant
- 2 The original Broadway cast of The Addams Family featured ____ as Morticia (4_8).
- 3 C: Freddie's challenger ____Sergievsky.
- 4 C: "Heaven help ____" (2_5)
- 5 C: "Where I want to ____"
- 6 TAF: "It's family first and family ____"
- 8 PoP: "From marathon to Waterloo in order ____"
- 9 TAF: the daughter
- 10 C: "Someone moved in - I ____ my door. Someone to treat her just the same way as before"
- 13 PoP: "Away, away! my ____'s on fire"
- 17 PoP: "With Cat-Like (38 across), Upon our prey we ____"
- 18 PoP: Frederic waits for his twenty-first ____
- 19 C: Freddie's second
- 22 Chess music and lyrics by ____ Ulvaeus
- 25 PoP: Major-General ____
- 26 PoP: the daughters, 3 of 4.
- 28 TAF: "Give us shadows and give us ____"
- 29 Chess: Music by ____ Andersson
- 30 TAF: "You have to swear to me. Yes, promise to the core. It's ____ six o'clock, they're ____ at the door!"
- 32 PoP: the daughters, 4 of 4.
- 34 C: "I opened ____, They walked right through them. Called me their friend, I hardly knew them"
- 36 Chess lyrics also by Tim ____
- 38 TAF: "You have to see the world in shades of gray. You have to put ____ poison in your day"

MICHAEL MORRICE

We are sad to announce the recent death of Michael Morrice, aged 75, former member of the Brussels Gilbert and Sullivan Society (now BLOC). Michael, stagename Michael Ducarel, appeared as Pooh-Bah in the Brussels Gilbert and Sullivan Society's production of *The Mikado* in 1985, and was the Master of Ceremonies for our Music Hall show in 1987. Michael was also well-known for his wonderful portrayal of the Mikado with the New D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. A larger-than-life character, he will be remembered for his magnificent bass voice, his joie de vivre and his infectious laugh. He will be sadly missed.



Michael Morrice as Pooh-Bah (far right), with John Reed as Ko-Ko (centre), and Tony Malein as Pish-Tush in "The Mikado" (Brussels, 1985)