



BLOCNotes

April 2016

Editor: Dennis Elslander

The BLOCNotes Archive is also on-line, see

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

BLOC cannot accept responsibility for non-receipt of BLOCNotes by e-mail due to technical problems

A word from our Chairman, Diana Morton-Hooper

Dear BLOCNotes Reader,

BLOCBusters is gaining momentum as rehearsals progress. Into the Woods and Cabaret both have around 15 or so in their casts and Urinetown has over 30. Some familiar faces are trying out new challenges - chances for new soloists and great upbeat ensemble numbers too. Most departments in the production team are covered but we shall need volunteers to help Peter de Schepper run the bar (we're running our own at De Bosuil this time) and I shall need some help front of house. If you think that could be you, please email the production address: blocbusters2016@gmail.com.



After much hard work on the BLOC Statutes to get them up to date and within all the Belgian legal requirements, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 13th April. 24 lovely helpful people showed up and we had 12 proxies - but this was short of the legal requirement of two-thirds of the current membership so.....the evening was well spent with comment and really useful input from those present. Thank you so much. The Committee - or Board as we're called in the Statutes - really appreciated seeing all the faces who were able to attend. The document was revised and as the rules stated we needed another EGM within 15 days so a select few met again in the Paarsezaal on 27th April and now the Statutes are ready for publication in the Moniteur Belge.

To tell you honestly, and much to my disappointment, the decision to do Yeomen of the Guard in November had been met with a distinct lack of enthusiasm by more than those keen to do it. So.....as you will all know now, the November production will be Alan Menken's A Christmas Carol - the musical. It ticks so many boxes - great family show/crowd-puller/lots of cameo roles/ lots of singing both in unison and in harmony/ hardly any dialogue: potential for a lot of fun. We'll be re-vamping the Deeks-Rousseaux-O'Reilly construction with wider walkways, two sets of stairs, shops, bedrooms, offices, hovels.....creating a Dickensian London of the 1840s-50s so lots of the Victorian-type BLOC costumes will get an airing too. We've delayed making a decision on May 2017: we have an offer for Blood Brothers and a Gilbert & Sullivan so far.

BUT FOR NOW - IT'S ON WITH BLOCBUSTERS. From mysterious woods (and a familiar WOZ truck), with beautiful but black of heart characters, to a vampy sinister Berlin of the 1930s with slinky dancing/ fabulous songs in a decadent club, to a Gotham City full of ragged filthy people desperate to pee.....but ready to raise the roof with great ensemble song & dance routines. Really, if you're between 13 and 103, you shouldn't miss it. The box office is open - hurry and get your seats and give your support to the hard working cast and crew. Ticket sales are slow so we're counting on you ALL for a good turn out. You won't be disappointed.

In the meantime, see you at De Kam!

Diana x

DEADLINE NEXT BLOCNotes:
15th May 2016

BLOC DIARY			Updated 02-05-2016
Dates	Time	Event	Location
26/29-05-2016	20:00 & 14:30	BLOCBusters Performances	De Bosuil
14-06-2016	20:00	Christmas Carol: Introduction evening	De Kam
19-06-2016	14:00—18:00	Christmas Carol: pre-audition rehearsal	De Kam
Monday 20 & Sunday 26-06-2016	19:30 & 14:00	Auditions Christmas Carol	De Kam
11-09-2016	12:30	BLOC BBQ	De Kam
24/27-11-2016	20:00 & 14:30	Christmas Carol	Auderghem

BLOC Committee Meeting

Main points from Wednesday 7th April 2016

Statutes review: EGM planned for 13-04-2016

Wizard of Oz: Treasurer waiting for final expenses so cannot yet close the financial report

BLOCBusters: the stage directors must provide the final list of their songs in order to settle the copyright; casts complete for the 3 shows; poster design by Thoms Landsbert-Noon ready for printing;

Show selection: November 2016: three proposals were initially received but two withdrew: one as another group will do the proposed show and the other because the main functions are not filled but will propose again for Spring 2017; the Committee decided for “Christmas Carol” directed by Diana Morton-Hooper, music director: Steven De Mesmaeker, stage manager Marie Rousseaux, production managers Martin Blackwell and Meera Laurijssen; auditions will be held in June 2016 (*see the agenda above for the dates*)

Show selection: Spring 2017: will be postponed till a next meeting, but before the end of 2016.



BLOCNotes April 2016

BLOC-Busters

A springtime extravaganza of musical theatre

Featuring excerpts from...



Stage Director
Marie Rousseaux



Stage Director
Dennis Elslander



Stage Director
Emanuelle Vergier

Box Office is OPEN!!!
Buy your tickets now!!!

26th-29th May 2016

De Bosuil Cultural Centre
Witherendreef 1, 3090 Overijse

Music Director
Steven De Mesmaeker

Book your tickets at
www.bloc-brussels.com

Tickets:
Adults.....€20
Under 16s.....€15

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – the Musical

will be performed 24 – 27 Novemer 2016
Auderghem Cultural Centre

Stage director: Diana Morton-Hooper Choreographer: Jeanette Marino
Musical Director: Steven De Mesmaeker Assistant Musical Director: Lionel Bams
Stage Manager: Marie Rousseaux Costumiers: The Jolly Sisterhood
Producers: Meera Laurijsson & Martin Blackwell
Party Organisers: Dennis of Orange & Belgo Peter of Russia

Introduction evening: Tuesday 14th June @ 20h00

Practice the songs: Sunday 19th June @ 14h00

Solo auditions for Scrooge, Marley, Bob Cratchit, The Ghosts of Xmas Past,

Present & Future: Monday 20th June @ 20h00

Chorus & Cameo auditions: Sunday 26th June.

For more information e-mail: blocxmascarol2016@gmail.com



de kam

Vereniging voor de Nederlandse taal in België

NEWSLETTER: **UITGEKAMD**

De Kam has a monthly newsletter: Uitgekamd. So far it was published in Dutch only but it now also available in English, French and German. If you're interested in receiving newsletter electronically, you have to register via de kam's website.

Here is the link: <http://dekam.be/en/newsletter>



The Chairman/Producer BLOCBusters is interviewed for FM Brussels

Feats

BRUSSELS 2016

Thursday, 5 May - Sunday, 8 May

Over the bright blue sea...

All aboard for the next "Sing G&S in Brussels" event
on Saturday, 7th May
at the Salle de l'Epi (470b, rue de Genève, 1030 Brussels).



Come along and celebrate

GLOBAL GILBERT & SULLIVAN DAY 2016

with a sing-through of

HMS PINAFORE

**Passengers board from 14:30. Ship sets sail at 15:00.
Back on dry land for 18:00.**



If you'd like to join the HMS PINAFORE cruise, please contact us at:
singgasbru@gmail.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream

2016 Opera Summer School
for actors, singers, instrumentalists, dancers and
those interested in technical support

Spend a week rehearsing a musical version of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, either as an actor, singer, instrumentalist, dancer or technician. The highlight of the course will be a final performance at Jack Windmill, in front of an audience. This is a unique and original concert length production incorporating the RSC's 30 minute edit and music specifically composed for the course by Marisa Cornford. Participants can choose which areas they would like to be involved in and they can be in more than one!

Actors: Casting for the roles will be made during the first few days. Could you be a Puck, Titania, Oberon, Hermia, Lysander, a member of the mechanicals etc? Work with the Drama Tutor: **Tony Lewis** for a week of rehearsals, workshops and fun!

Singers: We need solo singers and also chorus members. All voices types required: sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Dutch mezzo-soprano, **Jacobine van Laar** will coach the solo singers on a one-to-one basis, and the chorus members will be under the guidance of répétiteur, **Marisa Cornford**.

Orchestra: Live music throughout the play will be provided by a small chamber orchestra, consisting of strings, wind, brass and percussion. Minimum standard is grade 5; parts can be adapted to suit the players' ability. There will be some improvisational opportunities too! Professional viola-player, **Dan Cornford**, will direct the proceedings.

Dancers: Members of the whole cast are invited to participate in the dance element of the course. Specialist dance roles can be combined with acting and singing. Dance coach: **Candy Barker** will be giving her expertise.

Technical support: Help us to design and build the set, work on the lighting and the props. There will be opportunities to provide media support, including photography, daily blogs and facebook updates etc. **De Gill Bates** will coach the participants.

This is going to be an exciting week, especially as we are in the 400th year of Shakespeare's death. The setting at Jack Windmill will be inspirational too! If you're interested and would like to know more, please visit our website for further information and registration: www.operasummerschool.co.uk



Be part of:
Opera & Orchestra Summer School
A Midsummer Night's Dream



**20-26 August 2016
Jack Windmill, Clayton, nr Brighton UK**

**More information and registration on
www.operasummerschool.co.uk**



The Brussels Bookswappers Club

7th Birthday Party

Wednesday 25th May 2016 From 19:30 till 21:30

Le Chapelier Fou

190, chaussée de La Hulpe, 1170 Watermael-Boitsfort

**What? Books (fiction, non-fiction, children's books, comic strips, ...),
DVDs & CDs ... in all languages welcome**

STIB –MIVB: Bus 17 and Tram 94

Info: brusselsbookswappersclub@gmail.com

Facebook page: The Brussels Bookswappers Club

Desirée and Dennis Elslander

Proudly present

Integrated Harmony

By Robert Elslander



From Tuesday 23rd May till Sunday 29 May 2016/

Exhibition Hall

GC De Bosuil

Witherenstraat 1

3090 Jezus-Eik)

Opera & String Orchestra
Summer School

produces

Dido & Aeneas



23-30 July 2016
Netherlands, Markelo

06-13 August 2016
France, Touffailles

More Information and Registration on
www.operasummerschool.co.uk