



BLOCNotes

June 2018

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

| BLOC DIARY | | | Updated: 24-06-2018 |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|
| Dates | Time | Event | Location |
| 26-06-2018 | 20:00 | CRAZY FOR YOU: DVD viewing & distribution | De Bosuil |
| 09-09-2018 Sunday | 12:30 | BLOC BBQ | De Kam |
| 10-09-2018 | 20:00 | Oklahoma: Soloists | De Kam |
| 11-09-2018 | 20:00 | Oklahoma: Chorus & Soloists | De Kam |
| 22+23+24+25 November 2018 | 20:00 + 14:30 | Oklahoma | CC Auderghem |

CALL FOR BUILDING SPACE

We need a minimum of 50 square metres with a minimum height of 3.5 metres to build the Oklahoma set. Philip & Marie who are in charge of construction would like to hear from you if you know of such a space which can be made available between September and the end of November 2018.

Of course, ideally we would like to be able to use this space for free but there is a small amount set aside in the budget for a rental fee. If you have ideas, please write to the show email address at blocoklahoma2018@gmail.com.

SOCIAL NEWS

BLOC Member Sara Soumillion tied the knot with Charles d'Herbigny on Saturday 23rd June 2018. BLOC wishes the couple many Happy Years.

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.

DEADLINE NEXT BLOCNotes: 1st September

JUNE LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear BLOCNotes Reader!

And now for something completely different! From the dystopian terrifying *Urinetown* we move swiftly to '*where the wind comes sweeping down the plain.....*': the Oklahoma territory in 1906, about to become a brand new state. Now a 75 year old classic, our autumn production will take us to an entirely different place with a brand new cast and crew. (Sorry everybody that there was no break between *Urinetown* Get Out and *Oklahoma!* Intro evening but to get it all sorted before everybody disappears for the long summer break....well, we had no other option.)

Again, congratulations to all the Urinetowners. When I first saw the show in Edinburgh I was blown away by its vibrancy and energy which Emanuelle's production captured along with a good helping of irony and humour which I hadn't noticed so strongly before. It had its fair share and more of 'oh wow's' from those lucky enough to get a ticket. If we were anxious at the outset about audience numbers we didn't need to be – with a good trailer, excellent use of social media and word of mouth we managed, inspite of muggy weather, exam time, and other productions topping and tailing ours, to fill nearly all the seats. De Warandepoort had its pluses and minuses – audiences loved the place (unless they were queuing interminably for a drink at the bar) – cast & crew backstage not so much.

Urinetown was not easy music to sing nor were the dance routines a doddle and it would be ridiculous to pick out any one actor because it's an ensemble piece and really, I couldn't see a weak link – I could feel how alert, and well drilled the cast was – loving

every moment – enjoying what they were doing as they fed the audiences with the *Urinetown* magic. BLOC has quite a history of shows with wow factor that stick in your mind and *Urinetown* can be up there with the best of them.



So, while *Urinetown* was rehearsing, the November show had to be planned and prepared for. *Oklahoma!* Stage Director Marie Rousseaux has done a huge amount of work behind the scenes, choosing audition pieces, already rounding up her teams, designing her set and sorting out her rehearsal schedules. There are some classic songs to learn – we'll be taught them by Music Director Steven De Mesmaeker and Jean Emmett has agreed to be choreographer to teach us all hoe-downs, line dancing or whatever it is they did in early 20th century Oklahoma. Should be a whole lot of fun. Marie and Steven welcomed about 120 auditionees to De Kam and by the time this Blocnotes is published we should have a cast list. First rehearsal after the summer break will be 10th September for the soloists and on the 11th for chorus and soloists.

The show selection group is working on updating our list of yes-no-maybe shows for the future. The Committee aims to consider offers for May and November 2019 when we return from summer break, in order to take a decision by end September.

The Crazy For You DVD showing in the Kleine zaal of DE BOSUIL on Tuesday 26th June at 20h and rounds the season off for BLOC. So, until we meet again, best wishes for a peaceful, trouble-free, safe-journeyed summer. Perhaps see you in the courtyard of De Kam Sunday 9th September 2018 for the BLOC Annual BBQ?

DIANA x

MAKE YOUR PITCH FOR A BLOC SHOW –

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A SHOW?

The dates of performance are

- *end May 2019 at De Lijsterbes (196 seats) in Kraainem:*
- *end November 2019 at the Auderghem Cultural Centre (@660 seats).*

BLOC is looking for shows which accommodate a range of ages and nationalities, with good chorus opportunities. The November show invariably has a large cast and should be suitable for family pre-Christmas entertainment, with auditions held in June. The May show can be more edgy, innovative or just more suitable for a smaller audience, with auditions in January.

Before making a pitch, you must have a team in place (experienced stage director, stage manager, producer, musical director and rehearsal pianist), and know that the rights (if any) are available. Teams on stage and off are volunteers (BLOC only pays its musical directors and choreographers).

There is currently an ad hoc Show Selection Sub Committee chaired by Jeanette Marino, who is updating our Future Shows List but to make things simple, anybody interested should email.

blocchairman@gmail.com by 31st August 2018 at the latest.

Those interested should be ready to make their pitch to the committee mid-September 2018.



The BLOC Committee have appointed **a working group to look over a list of potential future shows for BLOC to perform.** The working group have taken a list that was prepared in 2015, and we are updating the list for

2018 and the coming years.

The working group would love to have **input from all BLOC members** - into which shows you think BLOC could perform in the future, and which shows you would LOVE for BLOC to perform!

Please let us know what you think in our online questionnaire:

<http://bloc-brussels.com/show-questionnaire>

Thank you,

The BLOC working group for potential future shows:
Jeanette Marino, Steven De Mesmaeker, Vivienne McKay, Tonia Jolly, Helen Krabb

CRAZY FOR YOU

*** DVD Viewing***

Date: Tuesday 26-06-2018

**Location: Kleine zaal,
De Bosuil
Jezus-Eik**

Time start: 20:00

Contact person: Dennis Elslander

Please bring some finger food to share



OKLAHOMA! 2018

Oklahoma! Director's thoughts.

After a very impressive number of people who came to the Oklahoma! Presentation evening and to the chorus auditions, the hardest task was to find THE Curly, THE Laurey, THE Jud, etc., who best fitted my vision.

Due to the interest shown for main parts we made the acting/reading as the first part of the soloist auditions. I really understand that this surprised quite a few people, and some felt frustrated as they didn't get the opportunity to sing. However, in my view, a musical is a play with musical numbers that continues the text; "they emphasize it, they embellish it and they illustrate it", especially through the dance. In Oklahoma! the text – as I have said many times - is even more important as it is written in "dialect of its specific time and place - Indian Territory, circa 1907". So, because of this, the interpretation of the dialogue was key before any of the singing – but, believe me, the quality of singing was never in question.

Then came the call-backs..... the bar was already raised very high at the soloist auditions and a selection had yet again to be made. Some very tight.

The candidates we didn't call back were either not what we were looking for or else there was no doubt they were. For those who were called back I, as Stage Director, was hoping they would give the "je ne sais quoi" that would make me think "yes, that's the one!".

For some of the roles, acting is primary and sometimes just a little thing makes the difference from even a perfect audition and a not-so-perfect one; a gesture, a facial expression, etc. And that's what happened during the call-backs. Furthermore, I like to give the candidates total freedom of their interpretation of the character. Then I compare whatever candidates come up with (and they all were very imaginative) with what I had in mind, which wasn't entirely set in stone beforehand, I must say, and see which one 'tickled' me the most.

I know how disappointing and frustrating it can be when you don't get the part you were hoping for and I also know that a lot of you take auditions very seriously, which provided us with performances of very high quality. We are well aware that it also takes time and dedication to learn new songs and texts by heart, especially at such short notice after the last production, and we are very thankful for all the energy you have invested, the passion and imagination you have shown at the auditions.

I wish I could have given everybody who auditioned a part in the chorus, or a cameo role or the solo role they were wishing for. At auditions a Stage Director has to make difficult decisions, difficult choices and can't please everybody – it's a risk and comes with the territory. With the vast numbers of auditionees at BLOC auditions these days, it's inevitable that not everybody will be happy with the results. For now, the main principals have been cast... agreed and announced (See below). Here is the list for chorus members who made it through; not all have confirmed yet their full participation. Cameo roles will be published after the summer break.

Oh, what an exciting experience so far!

But now it's time to build the brand new state of Oklahoma! where the waving wheat can sure smell sweet ...

HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER!

Marie

OKLAHOMA! 2018

After the auditions the following cast has been selected:

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Laurey | Emily McCoy |
| Curly | Pierre Halloy |
| Ado Annie | Jane McBride |
| Will | Andrew Pimm |
| Aunt Eller | Diana Morton-Hooper |
| Jud | John Baldwin |
| Ali Hakim | Alex Just |
| Andrew Carnes | Tony Lowe |
| Gertie | Anna-Rose van der Wiel |

Here is the **list for chorus members who made it through**; not all have confirmed yet their full participation.
Cameo roles will be published after the summer break.

Adela MOLINA, Agustin MARTIN, Alan GRAY, Alex JUST, Alice FERREIRA, Amina SKHIRI, Andrea CANIATO, Andy PIMM, Angela LOWE, Anna-Rose VAN DER WIEL, Annika NORDSTRÖM, Arachine HORN GEHRKE, Avril ANDERSON, Barbara BAUER, Barry SALTER, Beatriz FERRAZ, Blaise LANDSBERT-NOON, Carol PIQUEMAL, Caspar CHAPMAN, Celia PERRY, Christine VEDRIN, Christine JONES, Clara BARLOW, Constança FERRAZ, Denise WICKEN, Dennis ELSLANDER, Diana MORTON-HOOPER, Djavan VAN DE FLIERT, Emily MCCOY, Emma NOVAK, Eric MCCOY, Éva-Mária SZÁVUJ, Faris ZEBIB, Faye JOLLY, Felicity RAIKES, Filipa FERRAZ, George RAHIM, Gibrán SANCHEZ, Ginny TYSON, Giulia QUARTA, Greta PIKUTIENÉ, Hugo CHAVES, Ilaria ERNST-HITES, Jane MCBRIDE, Janet GRAY, Jeanette MARINO, Jenny MCCOY, Jenny FISCHER, Jeremy THOMAS, Jessica LOVETT, John BALDWIN, Julia JUST, Juliette MCCOY, Katalin (Katy) HUDECZ-ROMÁN, Kenneth ISAAC, Konstantin WÖBKING, Lara VAN DER WIEL, Lily SCOTT, Lisa ARMETTA, Lluís BRONSOMS, Lucy PIMM, Maitreya HORN GEHRKE, Marc TONNON, Marco MICHELON, Marta BRAUN, Michael BERRISFORD, Micol CANDONI, Oliver WRIGHT, Oscar THOMAS, Peter MOUNTAIN, Pierre HALLOY, Sam LATRICHE, Samuel KENRICK, Sara LAFUENTE, Sara PAULAMÄKI, Sari SAARENPAÄ, Satu TUOMIKORPI, Simon CAISSE, Sophie OUZET, Sophie CAISSE, Svea BRAIN JANGEN, Talita BERZ, Teresa ORTIGÃO, Thaïs FITZGERALD PRONO, Thomas ARNETT, Thomas LANDSBERT-NOON, Tonia JOLLY, Tony LOWE, Vilma ESKELINEN, Vratko JARON-KOHARI.

BUTT AWARDS 2018

Dear All,

On behalf of the **Brussels United Theatre Technicians**, I'm happy to announce that the voting is now open for 2018.

Anyone who's name appears in a programme for any of the more than 20 shows performed in Brussels & beyond, between September 2017 and June 2018, is eligible to vote by following this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/R6OlsX9BSmUiaWhF3>

N.B. Voting closes on the evening of July 3rd, to allow us to tally up the responses and prepare the awards.

The awards ceremony itself is being held at Charles Bouchard's garden, on Saturday 7th July from 14h onwards – with the first awards being presented from 15h. The address and how to get there will be sent to anyone who includes their details on the voting form.

Please spread the word (and the link above) far and wide through your groups and let's see how many votes we can generate!

Very best regards,

Steve O'Byrne, *A Brussels United Theatre Technician*

BLOC's SUMMER BARBECUE 2018

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



FOOD. (catered BBQ –
Delicatessen Vanhoudt)



DRINKS at the Latin Kam Bar

FUN....(of course)

SUN.....(we hope)

**When : Sunday 09 September 2018
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...

Guests pay € 18.00 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 4th September 2018 at 20:00.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

Oklahoma!

Music by Richard Rodgers
Book & Lyrics by
Oscar Hammerstein II

★
*Based on the play
"Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs
Original dances by Agnes De Mille*



★
Stage Director: Marie Rousseaux
Music Director: Steven De Mesmaeker

www.bloc-brussels.com



Poster design: Eva Komrad-Just

22ND - 25TH NOVEMBER 2018

AUDERGHEM CULTURAL CENTRE

Expat Information Fair

ING  Bulletin

 26.09.2018

 12:00 - 20:00

 ING Marnix

BLOC
will be at this
Expat
Information
Fair

SAVE THE DATE!



"SING G&S IN BRUSSELS"

INVITES YOU TO A FUN-FILLED SING-ALONG AFTERNOON WITH...



The Sorcerer

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S

***** MOST MAGICAL OF OPERETTAS *****



Ever wondered what a LOVE POTION can do?
Sing along with THE SORCERER and you'll find out!!

Sunday, 23rd September 2018 at 14:30
(doors open at 14:00)

at De Bosuil Cultural Centre (1st floor)
Witherendreef 1, 3090 Overijse (Jezus-Eik)

Vocal scores and libretti will be provided on the day.
Participation: €5 includes scrumptious tea!

singgasbru@gmail.com

Green Parrot Musical Productions

Many of you will know that we at Green Parrot put on large musical productions (with lots of kids!) here in Brussels. Since starting up, we have brought to Brussels :

Annie, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and Peter Pan

Delighted to say that our next production will be the hugely popular ***Shrek the Musical***, in Woluwe, during March 2019.

Christi-Ann Nancarrow (Head of Music at the BSB) is Music Director, with Kathy and Peter Lemerle directing/choreographing.

It will be a big, colourful production, based on the first *Shrek* film - so promises to be loads of fun !!

We are looking for 50-60 adults and teens, and about 50 children. There are lots of named parts and cameos for absolutely *all* ages, including one big scene for singer-dancers.

Auditions will be held *between* October 6th and 14th, in the usual Green Parrot, friendly work-shop style, with call-backs over the following week and a half or so.

Music rehearsals will start in November, with no rehearsals in December. **Blocking** starts in January 2019

This means that it is possible to be in both Oklahoma! and Shrek

All details will soon be on our website. Please spread the word, and hope to see you at our ***Shrek*** auditions!!!

Kathy, Peter and Christi-Ann

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



de kam

Uitgeverij van de Nederlandse literatuur

NEWSLETTER: UITGEKAMD

De Kam has a monthly newsletter: Uitgekamd. It is published in Dutch but there is an English, French and German version.

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>

**DE KAM and DE BOSUIL have
published their programme for the next
cultural season 2018-2019:
do have a look at their websites...**