



***BlocNotes***  
***January 2011***

**New Editor: Dennis Elslander**  
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**The BLOCNotes Archive is now on-line, see**  
**<http://www.bloc-brussels.com/BLOC/>**

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**  
**28<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

Dear Members and Friends,

So we're into 2011 and, as promised, BLOC launches two activities on consecutive days. Barbara Campbell and David Miller introduce *THE THREEPENNY OPERA* on Tuesday 11 January at 20.00 in De Kam, and the following evening Elizabeth, Sari and their team begin *DANCE TO THE MUSIC* (same time, same place, Wednesday 12 January).

At the risk of making my note like Situations Vacant, may I follow up my plea, first for a Publicity Manager for *THE THREEPENNY OPERA*, and secondly for a Producer for *HELLO DOLLY!* This isn't just a vague and hopeful request for someone new to offer for these important jobs *eventually*. We actually need both posts filled *now*. The first needs to promote an exceptional and unusual BLOC production in May and requires someone with determination and a sense of adventure\*. The second needs someone to join the production team for our big show in November and requires good administrative and organisational skills and a friendly social sense. There are experienced previous producers very willing to advise.

If you can offer for either post, you will be making a huge contribution to the success of these shows.

Ken Woollard  
Chairman

\* I'm very pleased to hear, at the moment of going to press, that Cynthia Lewis has offered to help with publicity for *THE THREEPENNY OPERA*, but she would be very happy to work with anyone else who might be interested.

DATES FOR THE BLOC DIARY			Status: 05/01/2011
Dates	Time	Event	Location
11 January	20.00	<i>Presentation of ThreePenny Opera</i>	De Kam
12 January –8 April	20.00	<i>Dance to the Music: 1900 – 1920 – music and dance course</i>	De Kam
18+25 January	20:00	<i>ThreePenny Opera: pre-audition sessions</i>	De Kam
30 January	20.00	<i>Auditions for ThreePenny Opera</i>	De Kam
4-7 May	20.00	<i>ThreePenny Opera</i>	De Kam
24-27 November	20.00 & 15.00	<i>Hello Dolly</i>	Auderghem Cultural Centre

**READ ALL ABOUT IT!**



**BLOCNOTES HAS A NEW EDITOR!!!**

As of this edition I take over BlocNotes from Sheila Hewitt. Sheila has been the editor for the last eight years. She has done a very good job in keeping BlocNotes alive and kicking to inform us about our wonderful society. Sheila has enjoyed her eight years as Editor and through it she came into contact with many people who she would otherwise never have known. Thank YOU, Sheila for your work on BlocNotes.

Please send me all your contributions to my e-mail address: [dennis.elslander@telenet.be](mailto:dennis.elslander@telenet.be). (Do not use any other e-mail address you may have from me).

Dennis Elslander  
New Editor of BlocNotes

## The ThreePenny Opera

Barbara Campbell is thrilled to be embarking on the project to direct Brecht/Weill's ThreePenny Opera which has long been a favourite of her. She is especially delighted to be working once again with BLOC and with David Miller as music director. BLOC will be exploring a new repertoire with this production and she hopes it will be a fulfilling and satisfying experience for participants and audiences alike.

The team, Lisa and Ken, David and Elizabeth and Barbara look forward to seeing you all on the following dates:

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Presentation show</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 20:00 at De Kam
<b>Auditions</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2011 (more details to follow), De Kam
<b>Performance</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2011 at De Kam

The piece was first performed in 1928 and was based on John Gay's 18<sup>th</sup> century satire the Beggar's Opera. It's divided into 9 scenes with a prologue (The Ballad of Mac the Knife). The background for the opera is that a procession is to take place to celebrate the coronation of the queen.

### CAST

There are 3 male and 4 female principal roles of which one male, Tiger Brown, sings just one duet which might also suit a Rex Harrison-type non-singer. In addition to the principal roles, we will be looking to cast an ensemble of 8-10 players to take on the smaller roles, with some doubling. As there is little music written for these parts, we would be particularly keen to cast people who also play an instrument, and who could join the band for certain numbers when not involved in the action. Other vocal opportunities for this ensemble will be explained at the presentation evening, and indeed, the most iconic song in the whole work, Mac the Knife, is attributed to a nameless ballad singer (who will be cast along with the principals at auditions on 30th January.)

### PRESENTATION AND PRE-AUDITION SESSIONS

At the presentation evening on 11th January, Barbara will outline her plans for the production and David will introduce the music.

On the two subsequent Tuesdays prior to auditions, we'll be dividing the sessions into 2 parts so participants can spend half the time preparing the music and the other half on ensemble-building activities and exploring the text. Most casting decisions for chorus roles will be taken during these two sessions so members wishing to audition for the chorus should plan on attending one or both of them.

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### AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Please let me know at [bloc.brussels@gmail.com](mailto:bloc.brussels@gmail.com) when you change your email address, otherwise you will probably no longer receive information from BLOC.

Philip Bennett, Membership Secretary

## **MEN!!!**

### **NEW RECRUITS ARE WANTED FOR:**

#### *THE BRUSSELS MADRIGAL SINGERS*

The Brussels Madrigals Singers, a small international *a cappella* chamber choir (working language English), is looking for new members. Our repertoire covers Renaissance to contemporary. We rehearse at St Andrew's Church of Scotland, Chaussée de Vleurgat 181, 1050 Brussels from 19.45 to 22.00 on Sunday evenings. We are looking for experienced singers with sight-reading ability to join us for rehearsals, with a view to auditioning. For more information, please phone Bernard Mills (Chairman) on 0476 397 340, Julius Stenzel (Musical Director) on 02 675 26 05 or e-mail [info@brusselsmadrigals.be](mailto:info@brusselsmadrigals.be). See also our website [www.brusselsmadrigals.be](http://www.brusselsmadrigals.be).

and

#### *THE BRUSSELS AMERICAN COMMUNITY CHORUS*

Adults and students 12 years and older. All nationalities can join. Men are especially needed. No audition or experience is necessary. The chorus meets every Monday from 19.30-21.00 in Kraainem. The music includes holiday songs and Broadway pieces. The group performs several times during the year.

For details, contact [Lamdm@attglobal.net](mailto:Lamdm@attglobal.net) or 02 757 06 21 (ignore change in dial tone).

### **Message from Linda Gibson-Beaumont**

A heartfelt thank-you to all you BLOC members who expressed sympathy for the death of my dear mother, Marian, who was a regular supporter of our shows. Your messages describe her as "lovely, elegant, feisty, fun..." - what a wonderful tribute! She led a long and fulfilling life, even remarrying at the grand old age of 86 (she is survived by her husband, Ron). At the end, she passed away peacefully and painlessly, a fact for which I am profoundly grateful. She was 94 years young... *Linda Beaumont-Gibson*

# What's On?

Reservations and further information on productions by regularly-featured groups from:

ATC [www.atc.theatreinbrussels.com](http://www.atc.theatreinbrussels.com)  
BATS [www.batsantwerp.be](http://www.batsantwerp.be) and 0495/31.76.87 or [BATS\\_tickets@yahoo.com](mailto:BATS_tickets@yahoo.com)  
BSS <http://shaksoc.com/> - for tickets: <http://tickets.shaksoc.com/> or 0475.59.27.03  
ECC [www.theatreinbrussels.com](http://www.theatreinbrussels.com) or 0477/40.87.04  
ETCetera <http://www.europeantheatreclub.eu/>  
ITG <http://www.irishtheatregroup.com> or 0475/58.54.62  
Kam Klub [www.kamklub.be](http://www.kamklub.be), <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Wezembeek-Oppem-Belgium/Kam-Klub/60518989581?ref=ts> or Dave Skinner (tel. (h) 02.767.74.49, (w) 02.296.24.82, or [david.skinner@ec.europa.eu](mailto:david.skinner@ec.europa.eu))

The website for all the main groups in Brussels is: <http://theatreinbrussels.com/portal/>

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**The ATC** presents *Anton in Show Business*, by Jane Martin, directed by Christine Marchand at the Warehouse Studio Theatre from 18-22 and 25-29 January. Tickets: €13 or €11 for groups of ten or more Tuesday-Thursday.

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The first **Kam Klub** of 2011 will be on Saturday 29 January in the Paarse Zaal starting at 20.00. This evening will feature Marlis. For more details please check the Kam Klub's website: [www.kamklub.be](http://www.kamklub.be).

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**The ITG** are holding further auditions on January 12th for its production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* which will be performed from 22 March to 2 April 2011. The audition are held at the home of the director, Liz Merrill at Avenue Jean Burgers 1 in Uccle, (Phone 02.611.35.46).

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**The British School of Brussels Pantaloons** present *Aladdin*, this year's family panto. Showtimes:  
- 26 January 17.30  
- 27-29 January 19.30  
- 29 January 14.00  
At the Brel Theatre, BSB, Leuvensesteenweg 19, 3080 Tervuren. Tickets on Sale Saturday 4 December 09.30 in the Social Area, Brel Theatre, then from 12 noon at the BSB Christmas Bazaar. Afterwards from the BSB Community Office. Tickets cost €12 adults and €8 students. Info from [www.bsbpantaloons.com](http://www.bsbpantaloons.com)

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**The BSS** will perform William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* from 8-19 February at 20.00 with a matinée on 12 February. Directed by Tracie Ryan. Venue: Espace Théâtrale Scarabeus, 19-21 Rue Creuse, 1030 Brussels.

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**BATS** of Antwerp present their annual pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Arenberg Schouwburg, Antwerp, on  
- 29 January 20.15  
- 30 January 15.00  
- 31 January 20.15  
Tickets from 070/22 21 92 or 03/2024646 or [ticket@arenberg.provant.be](mailto:ticket@arenberg.provant.be); [www.arenbergschouwburg.be](http://www.arenbergschouwburg.be); [www.batsantwerp.be](http://www.batsantwerp.be). Prices: adults €15, students €10, under 12s €7.

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# WHO'S WHO in BLOC?

## Committee Members

Function	Name	Home phone number	E-mail address
Chairman	Ken Woollard	02 767 80 51	<a href="mailto:kgwoollard@gmail.com">kgwoollard@gmail.com</a>
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Committee Member	Rachael Bateman	02 306 55 15	<a href="mailto:rachael.bateman@hotmail.com">rachael.bateman@hotmail.com</a>

## Non-elected posts

Function	Name	Home phone number	E-mail address
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<b>New members contact person</b>	Annika Norström	0476 32 44 40	<a href="mailto:annika.norstrom@gmail.com">annika.norstrom@gmail.com</a>
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*Any corrections or alterations to Dennis Elslander please*