

BLOC PRODUCTIONS



INFORMATION PACK

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE POST OF

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

BLOC Productions is looking for an experienced, energetic and enthusiastic Musical Director for its production of 'Kiss Me Kate' at The Bristol Hippodrome between 10 – 14 November 2020.

The person appointed will share the Director's artistic vision and ethos and have the capability to maintain BLOC's reputation for the highest possible production standards.

BLOC Productions:

BLOC is a non-professional company that has been dedicated to performing Light Opera and Musicals for over 80 years. It is currently the only non-professional company that performs once a year at The Bristol Hippodrome. It didn't have a production in 2019 due to the long run of 'The Lion King' and is therefore determined to return to the theatre with a strong and successful production in 2020. BLOC was the first Company to be offered the rights to 'Evita' by The Really Useful Company and last year one of the first companies to be offered 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. All our productions feature a large live orchestra.

Under the Chairmanship of Andrew Carpenter, the Company is managed by a Committee of Trustees which collectively acts as Executive Producer. A dedicated Producer will then be appointed from within the Committee to work closely with the Production Team to ensure the smooth running of the production.

Recent productions have included 'White Christmas', 'Sister Act', 'Sunset Boulevard', 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'My Fair Lady'. Last year's production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' recently won both NODA's regional award for Best Musical and The Rose Bowl's Bristol Evening Post Award for Best Musical.

"The show was a visual treat from start to finish, from the hundreds of hand-made confectioneries to the stunning car itself. James Hartland and his team must be congratulated on their realisation of the Chitty Car and its ability to fly ten feet in the air. We were expertly transported from windmill interiors to the big top and it seemed as if a child's book had come to life on stage. The characters were warm and engaging, the singing was rousing and the choreography perfectly quirky. Many congratulations on a superb show!"

Rose Bowl Adjudicator's citation.



The Bristol Hippodrome:



The Hippodrome is owned by ATG and is one of their Number One Touring venues. It was designed by Frank Matcham in 1912 and seats 1,850 on three levels. The stage facilities include a fly tower. Each year it hosts a large number of large-scale touring shows. Candidates must convince the interviewing panel of their ability to direct the music for a show in a large and prestigious professional theatre.

The Company:

To be a performing member of BLOC one has to audition. Once selected all performing members are eligible to participate in the current show. So cast sizes have varied from 40 – 100 when children are also involved. For 'Kiss Me Kate' we expect the company will be about 50.



The Musical Director will need to be aware that not all performers are a triple threat (acting, singing, dancing) and dealing with the range of enthusiastic talent within the Club is an essential skill that all members of the Production team need to have. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a professional, friendly, approachable personality and must also fully support BLOC's policy of commitment to equality and diversity.

Principals:

Aspiring principals are auditioned by a panel including the Director, Musical Director and Choreographer. All performing members are eligible to audition.



BLOC always attracts the very best of local talent to audition for these roles and performance standards are exceptionally high.

Role of the Musical Director:

The Musical Director, working closely with the Director and Choreographer, will contribute to creating the overall vision of the show. He or she will be responsible for preparing and rehearsing all the musical elements of the production including principals, ensemble and orchestra. This may involve writing some vocal and orchestral arrangements specifically for this production after discussion with other members of the Creative team and the Licensees. The Musical Director will be responsible for assembling and conducting a professional orchestra of approximately 16 players.

Production Team:

The Creative team comprises Director, Musical Director and Choreographer. We have appointed John Cousins to be the Director and he will be involved in the appointment of the Musical Director and Choreographer. There is superb technical backup in all departments

and the possibilities are only limited by imagination or, more realistically, by budget constraints. This team comprises Production Manager, Stage Manager and Heads of Department (Lighting, Sound, Costumes, Make-up, Properties etc.).

Rehearsals:

These will begin in April/May when the Director and Creative team will outline their vision for the show and explain the audition process for principals.



The company rehearses on Mondays for Company numbers and on Wednesdays for Principal Scenes. For four weeks before the Show there are also all-day Sunday rehearsals.

Rehearsals take place at Cotham Church Hall from 19:30 - 22:00. Other venues around Bristol are also used from time to time.

Show Week:

Get in: Sunday 8 November

Light Plotting: All day Monday 9 November

Technical Rehearsal: Monday 9 November 18:00 - 23:00

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday 10 November 13:00 – 17:30

Opening Night: Tuesday 10 November 19:30

Then Performances are Wednesday matinee, Wednesday evening, Thursday evening, Friday evening, Saturday matinee, Saturday evening.

Support:

The Director, Musical Director and Choreographer will work very closely with the Producer regarding creative vision, planning, decision-making and adherence to budget.

Close collaboration between the Management Committee, the Creative Team and the Production Team will be fundamental to the successful delivery of the production.

Applications:

If you are interested in applying for this post please submit a CV plus a covering letter with two references to Philip Hallworth, the Company Secretary, **by midnight on Wednesday 15 January** Email to: phallworth@me.com

We would welcome applications from candidates who are able to provide evidence of a demonstrable commitment to the quality and standards expected of BLOC Productions, and on which our reputation is founded.

Interviews:

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for an interview with a panel on: **Sunday 26 January** between 10:00 – 16:00.

Fee:

The fee may be discussed at interview. It will be commensurate with experience and is subject to our budget parameters.

For more details:

Either: visit BLOC Productions Website: www.blocproductions.co.uk

Or: contact Philip Hallworth, Company Secretary: phallworth@me.com

Production Photographs: Stewart McPherson Photography