

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 *'Me and My Girl'* at The Bristol Hippodrome between 1st – 5th October 2024.

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 ninety years. It is currently the only non-professional company that performs once a year at The Bristol Hippodrome. BLOC was the first Company to be offered the rights to 'Evita' by The Really Useful Company and one of the first companies to be offered 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. In 2022 BLOC brought 'Elf – The Musical' to the Hippodrome stage for the first time and it played to sell out audiences every performance.

Under the Acting Chairmanship of Phil Hallworth, the Company is managed by a Committee of Trustees which collectively acts as Executive Producer. A Producer is appointed by the Committee to work closely with the Production Team and the Hippodrome management, to ensure the smooth running of the production.

Recent productions have included 'Sister Act', 'Sunset Boulevard', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'My Fair Lady', 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' (which won The Rose Bowl Award for Best Musical), 'Elf – The Musical' and 'A Christmas Carol'.

"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.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



Elf-The Musical

A Christmas Carol

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

At BLOC Productions, we believe in the power of creativity and the strength that comes from embracing diversity and inclusivity. We are on a mission to build a vibrant and dynamic creative team that reflects the richness of perspectives from all walks of life.

In our quest to produce truly extraordinary and ground-breaking work, we recognise that diversity fosters innovation, and inclusion creates a culture where every voice is valued. We encourage individuals of all backgrounds, experiences, and abilities to join our creative family.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, we commit to providing an environment that celebrates differences, promotes equality, and ensures that everyone feels seen, heard, appreciated and are safe. We believe that a diverse and inclusive team not only enhances the quality of our productions but also enriches the overall creative process.

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 1,957 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 – up to 80 if children are also involved! For *'Me and My Girl'* we expect the company will be about 40.



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 and ability 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 between 10 -16 players.

Production Team:

The Creative team comprises Director, Musical Director and Choreographer, each with an Assistant. The Director will be appointed first and they 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 to the Company 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 (t.b.c.) from 19:30 - 22:00.

Show Week:

Get in: Sunday 29 September

Technical set-up: All day Monday 30 September

Technical Rehearsal: Monday 30 September 18:00 – 22:45

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday 1 October 13:00 – 17:30

Opening Night: Tuesday 1 October 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 18th December**.

Email to: secretary@blocproductions.co.uk

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.

NB: At BLOC Productions, we firmly believe that diversity is the cornerstone of excellence and therefore we welcome and encourage applications from creatives for all backgrounds, regardless of race, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, nationality, disability, age, or any other characteristic that makes you unique.

If you require any adjustments to make the application, interview, rehearsal process or the role itself more accessible to you, we encourage you to discuss this with us so that we can accommodate and allow you to do your best. Any information you choose to declare will be treated in confidence and in accordance to law under the GDPR regulations by the committee and only shared with your permission.

Interviews:

Shortlisted candidates will be informed by 22nd December and will be invited to attend for an interview with a panel on: **Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th January** sometime 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: secretary@blocproductions.co.uk

Production Photographs: Stewart McPherson Photography

By applying to this role you are providing consent for us to store your personal data per our Privacy Policy which is available upon request and is compliant with the GDPR. You can withdraw consent at any time by contacting the Committee.

BLOC Productions is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1195809)