

HARDEN PLAYERS PRESENT...

Dick Whittington

AND HIS AMAZING CAT



8-10TH AND 14-16TH MARCH 2024

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Dick Whittington

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been fantastic getting back into the director's chair for another Harden Panto and a privilege to work with Lisa's script. *Dick Whittington* has become more myth than reality over the years, and you'll spot that we have taken more than a few liberties with accuracy in an effort to take you on a magical journey with our hero and his dancing cat. The important thing is that you have as much fun as the cast have done over the past few months, pulling together a show filled with singing, dancing, laughter, booing, and more than a few dad-joke groans.



A nod to all those behind the scenes who don't get a mention in the programme – the crew backstage under Jackie's guiding eye, the volunteers on front-of-house and refreshments under Ksenia's stewardship, and members of Harden Congregational Church who help keep us safe during performances. I would also like to acknowledge our friends at Keighley Playhouse, Keighley Musical Theatre Company, Bingley Amateurs and HAOS Productions for the loan of several costumes and props.

Being part of a production team for panto is always a great experience and I was buzzing to be working with the musical talent of Sheila and Jonathan this year. We didn't know how keenly we would be tested – due to circumstances beyond his control, Jonathan was unable to be with us through January and February. I would personally like to thank him for the significant amount of work he dedicated in the short time before he had to leave us to getting the music shipshape and hammering out the core choreography with the cast. Sheila thought she had hung up her panto Musical Director badge some time ago and it was an extraordinary task she took on in the New Year to get back into role with someone else's creative vision already in play. As always, she has risen to the occasion and given me no end of advice and guidance in her Assistant Director role to boot.

Sit back, but don't relax – join in as much as you like and remember to give the cast the riotous applause they deserve at the end!

Kathryn Sullivan
Director, Dick Whittington

THIS PAGE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF BRIAN FOSTER

CAST



AMANDA PETYT – DICK WHITTINGTON

It's Amanda's 'turn again' to play Dick Whittington. Her great-great uncle was the MGM lion-tamer who appeared in early *Tarzan* movies; she's channeling this fearlessness in her portrayal of the pantomime hero.

HELEN KAPIL – FLUFFLES

This is Helen's first appearance with Harden Players and she's absolutely thrilled to be part of such a friendly society. Her most recent roles have included Chris in *Calendar Girls* for HAOS and also the part of Vi in *Victor, Vi and the Volvo* for Northern Edge Theatre Company, where she was privileged to perform at both the Brighton and Edinburgh Fringe. Helen would like to thank her family for their constant support.



SARAH WHISTLECRAFT – ALICE FITZWARREN

Returning to the village after twenty years, Sarah made her Players debut last year in *Mother Goose*. Sarah has previously performed with Keighley Musical Theatre Company and the Bradford Players. She is also one of the founding members of Ilkley Stage Singers. She is enjoying being back and having fun with old friends.

JANE FENWICK – IDLE JACK

This is Jane's third panto for Harden Players and her first role as a male. She is still waiting for the role of ice-cream seller but the Players had other ideas for her (which she is pleased about really and thoroughly enjoying herself on stage.)



PAUL ADDY-ARMITAGE – SARAH THE COOK

This is Paul's third panto with Harden Players and he is delighted to be back, this year as the dame. He has been performing in musical theatre for twenty-five years at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and the Victoria Theatre, Halifax. Paul loves panto and hopes you enjoy the show.

RACHAEL LEE – ALDERMAN FITZWARREN

This will be Rachael's hird panto with Harden Players. She is hoping she won't embarrass herself – particularly with the dance moves – and that you all enjoy it.



ANTONY SHENTON – CAPTAIN GROG

Antony has been a member of Harden Players for over thirty years. In our latest panto, he plays a highly regarded sea captain as he sets sail with the crew towards America. But where will they all end up...?

NICK PARKER – KING RAT

This will be Nick's twenty-sixth year with the Players and he has appeared in many pantos and plays over the years. He was Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, Felix Ungar in *The Odd Couple* and Algernon Moncrieff when we did *The Importance of Being Earnest* back in 2006, to name a few. Last year he donned the frock for the first time and played the titular dame role in *Mother Goose*.



DAWN BREAR – FAIRY BOWBELLS

Dawn has been involved in theatre since a very young child and has performed with many community theatre companies, including Halifax Light Opera Society, Halifax Amateur Operatic Society, Halifax Players and Halifax Musical Theatre Company. This is her first pantomime with Harden Players. She is trying to fit as much as possible into her sixtieth year, starting with this show, and is looking forward to sprinkling some fairy magic! Oh yes she is!!!

ADAM BUTT – SPLAT

This is Adam's fifth appearance with Harden Players and his third panto, where he is taking up a role reminiscent of his debut performance in *Treasure Island*, alongside a reuniting dynamic with Nick and and comedy-duo buddy Mark. Whatever happens on the night, blame it on the boogie!





MARK FOSTER – PRATT

Mark is a stalwart of Harden Players and has played varied roles, including an ugly sister in *Cinderella* and Captain Alberto Bertorelli in *'Allo 'Allo*. He was delighted to play a Pratt in *Dick Whittington*!

JOHN HAMILTON – PHARAOH

John is featuring in his third pantomime after only coming along to play in the band! After taking on Billy Bones in *Treasure Island* and the legendary Fairy Trevor in *Mother Goose*, this year's Pharaoh will be a sight to behold.



JANE GERDES – RATTY MINION

Jane's first performance with Harden Players was when she was about four years old. Jane has been in the chorus and played various parts before. After having a break from being on the stage, she's enjoying being back with never a dull moment.

GEMMA O'HORA – RATTY MINION

Gemma joined Harden Players last year for *Mother Goose* alongside her son Elliot. Her first pantomime was such a fun experience that she couldn't wait for the next one! She's delighted to be back this year as a rat to sing, dance and act the fool once more.



CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Alex Whistlecraft, Dominic Sullivan, Elliot O'Hora, Jasmine Butt, Meredith Ainsworth, Rachel Whistlecraft, Poppy Pennington, Sabrina Butt

MUSICAL DIRECTORS

JONATHAN ADDY-ARMITAGE & SHEILA SHENTON

Sheila has been MD for Harden Players for thirty-six years. She has enjoyed supporting cast members to get the most out of their sound.

Jonathan is an experienced musician and was our MD last year for *Mother Goose*. He has enjoyed turning his hand (and feet) this year to some of our choreography!



BACKSTAGE CREW

Stage manager

Jackie Smith

Lighting

Philip Goode

Sound

Mark Anslow

Set building manager

Ian Hales

Set construction/props

Ian Hales, John Penrose

Backdrop design

Heather Lumley

Costume lead

Sarah Whistlecraft

Publicity

Ksenia Butt, Lisa Firth

Programme design

Lisa Firth

Box office

Ksenia Butt, Harden Post Office

Chaperones

Jo Jones, Lisa Firth, Ksenia Butt

Producer

Ksenia Butt

Director

Kathryn Sullivan

Assistant director

Sheila Shenton

Musical directors

Jonathan Addy-Armitage, Sheila Shenton

Adapted from a script by Lisa Firth

We would like to thank:

Harden Post Office for ticket sales

Harden Congregational Church for their continued support

Everyone who has helped with refreshments and front of house

Our fantastic audiences, without whom none of this would be possible!



THROUGH THE YEARS

Harden Players - messing about on stage for nearly half a century!



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Visit our website for galleries of past productions: hardenplayers.org.uk

THIS PAGE SPONSORED BY NICK PARKER

JOIN THE FUN!

We're a very friendly society, always on the lookout for new talent – and as you can see, we have a lot of fun! If you can help in any of the following areas, we'd love to hear from you:

Set builders

Backdrop painters

Prop makers

Costume makers

Make-up whizzes

Musicians

Scriptwriters

Actors

Singers & dancers

But it's not all work and no play! We are a very social group who love to make new members feel welcome, with regular trips to the pub and theatre. Harden Players is a great way to make new friends while doing something for the community, and you can be involved in our social activities as much or as little as you want. We would also love to recruit new young members to join our children's chorus.

For more, visit our website at hardenplayers.org.uk, contact us on hardenplayers@hotmail.co.uk, or find us on Facebook.



Q&A with the kids' chorus

What do you enjoy most about panto?

Doing something I love with my friends

I get to hang out with my friends and perform

Making new friends and having fun with them

Sharing the experience and hanging out with other kids

Being a sailor!

The walkdown - we've never been allowed to do that bit and I have always wanted to!

Performing

What panto would you love to see next year?

Aladdin

Peter Pan

Alice in Wonderland

Wizard of Oz

Beauty & the Beast

Harry Potter

Robin Hood

DW
AF

Favourite character?

Alice

Fluffles

King Rat

Splat and Pratt

Pharaoh

Favourite song?





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