

And the next show is.....

INTO THE WOODS

By Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine
Hampton Hill Playhouse - Tuesday 22nd - Saturday 26th May 2012

Into the Woods blends the familiar fairy tales of Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood with the story of a childless Baker and his Wife, who attempt to reverse a Witches' curse on their family in order to have a child. This amazingly creative musical follows the characters as their stories intertwine on the journey towards "Happily Ever After". However, the show then goes on to deal with the consequences that traditional fairy tales conveniently ignore.

Our production is set against the back drop of a Blitz battered London. It promises to be original, challenging and highly entertaining... but don't take our word for it, come and see it for yourself!

Alternatively, why not get involved – either as a performer or back stage. Please come along to the pre-audition presentation at St Michaels Church Hall, near Barnes Bridge station, on Thursday 5th January where you will be able find out all about the auditions and meet the friendly and sociable members of BROS TC.

For more information please go to - www.brotheatrecompany.org

The Sing-A-Long Song Words

I've Got A Lovely Bunch Of Coconuts
I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts
Here they are all standing in a row
Big ones, small ones, some as big as your head
Give them a twist a flick of the wrist
That's what the showman said
I've got a lovely bunch of coconuts
Every ball you throw will make me rich
There stands my wife, the idol of me life
Singing roll a bowl a ball a penny a pitch

Written by - Loz Keal

BROS
THEATRE
COMPANY
presents an old fashioned modern
pantomime for children of all ages

Dick Whittington & his Cat

TO
LONDON
15 Miles

The Arthur Cotterell Theatre, Kingston
13th - 17th December 2011

From the Chairman

Hello Boys and Girls!

Welcome all of you to only the 2nd BROS pantomime in 80 years - yes, 80 years and until now, no sign of Dick! The cast have been having a ball (sorry, wrong pantol!) rehearsing and are all looking forward to bringing to life all of the characters we know so well. Dick Whittington & his Cat is full of all the elements we have come to expect from a pantomime - men dressed as women, women dressed as men, outrageous costumes, familiar sing-a-long songs and some of the best worst jokes ever! The biggest difference between DW and other pantomimes is that this is a true story - oh yes it is - and there is something particularly heartwarming, in these economically difficult times, to see a self-made man become Lord Mayor of London - an aspirational tale if ever there was one.

As ever I am in awe of the talent and commitment of everyone involved in getting the show on the road. BROS is very fortunate to have the support of so many talented performers and technicians and I would like to thank them and also say a special thank you to our volunteers and supporters, the unsung heroes who have been tirelessly promoting the show and undertaking box office, front of house and bar duties all week. Our thanks also to John Davey and his team here at the theatre for their help and the patient, good natured way they've dealt with our enquiries. We are pleased to have enjoyed the support of technical students from the college during show week.

And finally, it just remains for me to say - panto would be missing it's heart without the contribution of you, the audience. So please boo, hiss, cheer and sing along with gusto and enjoy the show - you're in for a real festive treat!

Merry Xmas and a very Happy 2012 to you all.

Lottie Walker
BROS Chairman

BROS

BROS Theatre Company was originally founded in 1908 as the Barnes Operatic & Dramatic Society and performed it's first show 'The Mikado' in February 1909, and here we are one hundred years later still creating opportunities for performers and audiences to experience the best that amateur theatre can provide.

For details of productions past, present and future and other aspects of the company, including how to join or become involved in any other way please visit – www.brosthreatrecompany.org

RECENT PAST SHOWS

When Midnight Strikes

Hampton Hill Playhouse, Oct 11

Guys and Dolls

The Minack Theatre, Cornwall, May 11

Crazy For You

Richmond Theatre, Oct 10

What You Will

Hampton Hill Playhouse, May 10

Cinderella

Parkshot Studio Theatre, Richmond, Dec 09

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Hampton Hill Playhouse, Nov 09

Evita

The Minack Theatre, Cornwall, May 09

BROS Centenary Gala

Richmond Theatre, Oct 08

Production Team

Writer & Director Loz Keal
Musical Director George Carter
Choreographer Melanie Edwards
Production Manager Helen Edwards
Wardrobe Mistress & Audition Readings Zoe Harvey-Lee
Costume Assistant & Committee Liaison Wendy Godwin
Stage Manager Drew Barnes
Stage Crew Helen Edwards & Ian Nethersell
Lighting Designer Mike Bradbury
Stage & Lighting Assistants Technical Students from the College, Alex, Emma & Hollie
Set Design & Construction Rob Arundel
Properties Loz Keal, Veronica Martin, Jane Bean & Siân Walters
FOH & Bar Manager Alan O'Shea
FOH & Bar Staff Team Leader Clare Henderson Roe
TicketSource Master Chris Morris
Box Office Sue Bell & Robin Pierce
Flyer & Programme Design Loz Keal & Richard Taylor

So many people do so much more than their listing alludes to – thank you all for the extra bits.

The Production Team would like to thank Debbie Goldberg (St. Michael's), Andrew Hunter (Vernon Hall), John Davey, Ian Tyrrell and Paul Comerford (Arthur Cotterell Theatre) and BROS members and friends old and new, for being part of this week's front of house team and for playing the role of the audience at rehearsals.

The Production Team

Loz Keal – Writer & Director



This is Loz's second time writing and directing pantomime for BROS. Since the last time, 2 years ago, he has also written Cinderella and Beauty & the Beast, performed as Pantos On Ice for Bracknell Ice Rink – and seen his long version Cinderella excellently performed at a local junior school. Currently working on next year's Panto On Ice, Alice in Wonderland, and polishing Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs which is due to be performed Christmas 2013. He has a website for enquiries and feedback – www.lozkeal.co.uk



George Carter – Musical Director

George has been musically directing since a young age, starting with pantomime. Having done a fair few since then in Devon, his home county, he happily accepted this years role as the part of MD (oh yes he did!). He hopes everyone has a fun filled performance and would like to thank Smels, Loz, his band of merry men 'The Cool Cats', and the company for making this all happen.



Melanie (Smels) Edwards – Choreographer

Smels has spent a lot of time in Pantoland, probably the best place for her! Camp choreography, flying, innuendoes, sequins, men in tights, panto pink lights and fairies - who could ask for anything more? (Ooops wrong show).

Cast Biographies



Sarah Perkins. Over 10 years ago, Sarah thigh-slapped as the Pied Piper in the pantomime 'Rats' and after also dragging up in BROS' 'What You Will', she can often be heard saying 'Why am I playing a man again?'



Lucy Hennessy. In her first title role, Lucy has embraced her inner feline and enjoyed the challenge of learning to express a range of emotions with just the word 'meow'. (Easy to write, hard to perform – Ed).



Bonnie Allen. After playing the deep and meaningful role of Twyla in BROS' 'When Midnight Strikes,' Bonnie is enjoying the light-hearted fun and frivolity that is pantomime.



Jonathan Warriss-Simmons. Jonathan has relished the opportunity this show has given him to practise his ballet. And comic timing. But mostly ballet.



Edz Barrett. Dame again! Is that shock I hear in your voice? New frocks. New wigs. Same jokes. Enjoy!



Steve Green. After years of practise, finally a chance to be a real 'dirty rat'. Steve is loving the challenge of playing the villain after years of fighting with bras and heels! (His own – Ed).



Marc Evans. Marc loves dressing up and musical theatre. Thanks to his family's support he gets to do both quite a lot.



Nicky Burgess. Nicky can't wait to spend the week dressed in sparkles and making wishes come true!!



Hannah Reynolds. Hannah is mildly perturbed to have been cast as a man again... But not enough to stop her joining in the thigh-slapping fun!



Caroline Hayes. Caroline's friends are concerned that she is being typecast as the least clever person on stage a little too often!



Michelle Radcliffe. Michelle didn't write her biog before disappearing for a two week holiday. (See if you can spot her; she's the one who looks tanned and relaxed – Ed).



Nate Adamson. A BROS newbie, Nate is pleased that there is absolutely no camp in this pantomime whatsoever.



Laura Crowley. Laura's previous roles vary from Fairy Godmother to Snooker Ball. Highlights include dancing on Blue Peter (and getting the badge!). A lover of all things musical, cheesy and Christmassy, she's excited to be part of a BROS panto. (Cheesy? – Ed).



Juliet Manners. Juliet is enjoying her second BROS panto - she will be wearing lots of silly wigs. And dancing and singing a bit too!



Louise Vinter. Louise appeared in Dick Whittington, Bournemouth Pavilion, in 1988 as a dancing rat to Andrew Sachs' King Rat. She's delighted to make a return to panto with BROS and finds the jokes much funnier as a grown-up.



Siân Walters. Siân made her stage debut aged five playing a snowflake. She works in TV-land, which is rather like pantoland at times, loves sci-fi, a good cuppa and John Barrowman (yes she does know – Ed).

The Real Story of Dick Whittington, his Cat & his Pantomime

Not only based on a true story, Dick Whittington is also one of the few home-grown pantomime subjects. Whereas many owe their origins and popularity to European folk stories and fairy tales, the pantomime version is taken from Great Britain, along with Robinson Crusoe and Babes in The Wood and arguably Jack and The Beanstalk.

The real Richard Whittington was a philanthropist born during the 1350s in Gloucestershire. He was the younger son of Sir William Whittington, Lord of the Manor of Pauntley, in Gloucestershire, and as such he was neither poor nor an orphan. However, his elder brother inherited the estate upon Sir William's death in 1358,

Richard travelled to London to find work and served an apprenticeship, eventually becoming a 'mercier' who dealt in valuable cloth from overseas, such as silks, velvet and cloth of gold. By selling these materials in quantity to the Royal Court, Whittington became wealthy. He became Mayor in 1397, and was re-elected three more times.

He did indeed marry Alice Fitzwarren, (or Fitzwaryn) the daughter of a Sir Ivo Fitzwarren of Dorset and became an Alderman, before taking the honorary title of Sheriff in 1393.

His wealth was such that he made loans to both King Henry IV and Henry VI. He also made large charitable donations, including the founding of the Whittington School in London, the rebuilding of Newgate Gaol, and an almshouse where the poor and homeless could live. Whittington's charity still operates today.

It was under the patronage of King Richard II that he first became Lord Mayor of London in 1397. He was elected again the year after, and twice more, in 1406-7 and 1419-20. Technically, therefore, he served four times as Mayor, although two of the terms were back to back. He was never actually 'Lord' Mayor, as this title was not used until a much later period, but the Mayor was a very important position: the holder was head of

government for the City of London. He became a member of parliament in 1416.

Dick died in 1423 and sadly nearly all of his good works were destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. There is a window in the Guildhall serving as a memorial, and a small stone image in the crypt.

How a cat came to feature so heavily in the pantomime version is not clear. He may well have had a cat, but certainly it does not feature in any accounts of his life. Possibly the answer lies in his life as a merchant. His fortune depended on the sailing vessels bringing goods from Africa and the Far East and more humble sailing vessels carrying coal were known as 'cats', so that could be one reason the story became confused with the humble moggy. Another theory is that the French word 'achat', which means 'a purchase' might have found itself intertwined in his legend.

The story of Dick Whittington, thrice Mayor of London, has survived over the centuries and still appeals to people, perhaps because of the idea that they also could dream of going to the big city and making their fortune: certainly London remains a magnet for all kinds of people hoping to better their position.

On Highgate Hill to this day, the spot where legend has it he stood and decided to return to London, there stands a statue of his cat, in front of the Whittington Hospital.



Cast of Characters

(In order so you might know who they are)

Dick Whittington	Sarah Perkins
Tommy The Cat.....	Lucy Hennessy
Alice Fitzwarren	Bonnie Allen
Idle Jack.....	Jonathan Warriss-Simmons
Sara The Cook	Edz Barrett
King Rat.....	Steve Green
Alderman Fitzwarren, Sultan & Chorus	Marc Evans
Fairy Bow Bells.....	Nicky Burgess
Captain Crabsticks.....	Hannah Reynolds
Mate Mackerel	Caroline Hayes
Princess & Chorus	Michelle Radcliffe
Wazir, Gorilla & Chorus.....	Nate Adamson
Chorus.....	Laura Crowley, Juliet Manners, Louise Vinter & Siân Walters
Prince Handsome & Champion The Horse	Themselves
Camel, front	Ian Nethersell
Camel, rear.....	See details in the bar for tonight's guest rear

Carter & the Cool Cats

MD & Keyboards	'Uncle George' Carter
Bass Guitar.....	Jack Darkins
Drums/Percussion.....	Chris Hadland



Act I

Scene I – 'Dick Whittington & his Cat'

Scene II – On The Road To London

London Is London Alice & Chorus

I'll Be There For You..... Dick & Tommy

Scene III – The Town Square

The Boy Does Nothing..... Alice & Chorus

Scene IV – Fitzwarren's Emporium

Busy Doing Nothing..... Idle Jack & Chorus

If I Were Not Upon The Stage Captain, Mate, Alderman,
Jack & Sara

You'll Be In My Heart..... Dick & Alice

Good Morning Londontown..... Chorus

Scene V – On The Road From London

Impossible Dream..... Fairy Bow Bells & Company

Act II

Scene I – Onboard The Ship

Entr'acte/Impossible Dream-Reprise..... Fairy Bow Bells & Company

You'll Be In My Heart-Reprise..... Dick & Alice

Copacabana Company

Bohemian Rat-sody King Rat

Scene II – A Beach

Scene III – The Sultan's Palace

We Go Together Sultan, Sara, Princess, Jack,
Dick, Alice, Wazir, Tommy,
Captain, Mate & Chorus

Scene IV – "Dick Whittington & his Cat"

Walk down..... The Band