

WHITLEY BAY PANTOMIME SOCIETY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty



2015

A DAVID SWAN PANTOMIME

Congratulations



From L - R

David Linsdell
Vice-Chairman

Steven Bell
Chairman

Laura Beattie
Chorus Member

Mary-Ann Doyle
Chorus Member

Hannah Cairncross
Executive Member

Glen Hind
Crew Member

Sunday 19th October 2014 – a normal cold and blustery day to most of the population of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. But not for 5 brave members of Whitley Bay Pantomime Society who braved the elements and psychological trauma to launch themselves by ZIPWIRE off the iconic TYNE BRIDGE.

At 3:30pm the brave Zipstronauts checked in and kitted up before taking the arduous trek up Church Street and onto the Gateshead side of the bridge. A short but adrenaline inducing walk across the bridge to the launch site and it was NO TURNING BACK. Or was it?

Well for one member it was very nearly a failure to launch. Petrified of heights and having second thoughts, our Chairman Steven Bell (seen here as Penelope Pinchme) decided against participating when the first of two safety rigs clicked into place on the wire. A little counselling from the ZIPSLIDES UK staff and some rallying support from the other members and it was all systems go!

All 5 members safely down the wire and it was time for a celebration ... that everyone had survived to tell the tale.

A massive thank you to Zipslides UK and to all of our participants, supporters present on the day and those who sponsored our members to take part. All in all we raised a fraction short of £500 for our charity.

Feet firmly on the ground it's now time to get back to that drawing board and plan the next outrageous event.

Whitley Bay Pantomime Society

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

Headquarters: 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH Telephone: 01733 374790 Email: info@noda.org.uk Website: www.noda.org.uk

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is the leading representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. The Association has a membership of 2500 amateur theatre groups and over 2000 individual members staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of venues ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Covering a broad spectrum of age ranges NODA member societies meet the needs of all levels of both performers, whether dramatic, dance or musical, and those involved backstage, front of house or in society administration.



NODA aims:

- To give a shared voice to amateur theatre
- To help societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable amateur theatre to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

To achieve these aims NODA is divided into eleven regions, each headed by a regional councillor who sits on the national council (ruling body of the Association), and supported by a network of regional representatives and officials. These 190 volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association; the amateur theatre groups themselves and their members. To provide support and assistance to these volunteers the Association is administered from its headquarters in Peterborough by a knowledgeable and friendly staff who can deal with any enquiry about amateur theatre.

Membership of NODA provides theatre groups and individuals with a wide range of benefits including access to NODA's advice service at national and regional level, as well as representation to government, access to funding agencies, direct access to rights holders and the media as well as access to regional and national conferences, workshops and seminars to help share information on best practice. NODA also holds an annual residential Summer School (with bursaries available) offering training from professional tutors in a wide range of both performance and technical courses as well as a similar residential academy to provide similar performance based training for those under 18. NODA also holds an annual national and regional programme and poster competition to encourage the highest standards in design.

Through its trading arm, NODA Limited members have access to a varied range of products and services including insurance for both societies and individuals, long service awards that recognise the dedication made by individuals to amateur theatre, discounts on plays, vocal scores, libretti and technical books and a range of NODA branded merchandise. As a rights holder NODA Limited has 150 pantomimes by leading authors as well as a growing catalogue of plays and musicals.

A Message from our President



President
Steve Arnott

I am delighted to have been asked to write this my first message, as the new President of Whitley Bay Pantomime Society. In retrospect, I remember very well the society's 1968 production of *Sleeping Beauty*, which I saw as a schoolboy. I appeared in their 1981 show as King Stephan.

The story of *The Sleeping Beauty* is of French origin although these days, the word 'The' is often dropped from the title. At the turn of the last century, it was presented at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane by the eminent pantomime producer, J. Hickory Wood, with Herbert Campbell and Dan Leno as the king and queen. In 1958, Edmund Hockridge played the prince at the London Palladium against the tradition of a female Principal Boy, which is often the norm in professional productions these days. And of course, the famous female impersonator Danny La Rue appeared in 'Queen Passionella and the *Sleeping Beauty*' in London in 1967 at the Saville Theatre.

As a performer, you rehearse a pantomime without the missing member of the cast (the audience) who join you on opening night. It's all about participation. Oh yes it is! I hope you enjoy the show and please keep theatre alive in Whitley Bay.

Steve Arnott.



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Chris Johnson

DIRECTOR



Julie Cockburn A.I.S.T.D

CHOREOGRAPHER / CHORUS DIRECTOR



Julie loves pantomime, dancing and all musical theatre. She started dancing at the early age of two and a half and soon became a tot dancer, progressing through the ranks to become choreographer with the Whitley Bay Pantomime Society.

In addition to her dance career, which includes dancing with other local societies such as Tynemouth Operatic and Northern Opera, Julie has taken roles in pantomime as 'Baby Bear', 'Mother Bear' and the front end of the Pantomime Cow!

Julie has also choreographed two shows with Walkerville Musical Society, which she hopes to continue with in the future.

Andrew Mair B.A. (HONS) (DUNELM)

MUSICAL DIRECTOR



Having commenced piano lessons at the age of six Andrew's life has been filled with music. He attended The King's School Tynemouth where he was Head of School and a Music Scholar after which he completed a B.A. (Hons) degree in Music at Durham University.

During his University years Andrew was musical director for a number of University and Amateur Dramatic productions including: 'Kiss me Kate', 'Merrily we roll along', 'The Mikado', 'Cabaret' and 'Calamity Jane', as well as being accompanist for many more. Andrew is currently Musical Director for the Whitley Bay Gang Show and the locally renowned Backworth Male Voice Choir; he also undertakes a number of freelance engagements as a conductor, tutor, pianist and composer.

By profession he is a secondary school music teacher and enjoys the opportunities he has to nurture young musicians on a daily basis. Outside of music Andrew enjoys playing golf, supporting Newcastle United and walking the dog!

This is Andrew's first production with Whitley Pantomime Society and he is delighted to be working with such a talented cast and crew. Enjoy the show!

Previous Shows

1965	Aladdin	1990	Dick Whittington
1966	Babes in the Wood	1991	Jack and the Beanstalk
1967	Dick Whittington	1992	Ali Baba
1968	Sleeping Beauty	1993	Cinderella
1969	Mother Goose	1994	Aladdin
1970	Puss in Boots	1995	Robinson Crusoe
1971	Ali Baba	1996	Babes in the Wood
1972	Little Red Riding Hood	1997	Goldilocks
1973	Jack and the Beanstalk	1998	Sleeping Beauty
1974	Cinderella	1999	Dick Whittington
1975	Robinson Crusoe	2000	Cinderella
1976	Aladdin	2001	Jack and the Beanstalk
1977	Dick Whittington	2002	Aladdin
1978	Goldilocks	2003	Robinson Crusoe
1979	Babes in the Wood	2004	Goldilocks
1980	Ali Baba	2005	Babes in the Wood
1981	Sleeping Beauty	2006	Sleeping Beauty
1982	Jack and the Beanstalk	2007	Aladdin
1983	Puss in Boots	2008	Jack and the Beanstalk
1984	Robinson Crusoe	2009	Goldilocks
1985	Cinderella	2010	Sleeping Beauty
1986	Aladdin	2011	Cinderella
1987	Goldilocks	2012	Dick Whittington
1988	Babes in the Wood	2013	Humpty Dumpty
1989	Sleeping Beauty	2014	Aladdin

Officials

President - Steve Arnott
Vice President - Valerie Hopper
Chairman - Steven Bell
Vice Chairman - David Linsdell
Secretary - Angela Dowse
Treasurer - Judith Cairncross
Floor Members - Julie Smith
Hannah Cairncross
Gemma Rodgerson

Honourary Life Members

Mr. J. Graham, Mr. R. Maughan, Miss. M. Waite,
Mrs V. Hopper, Mr N. Wandless, Mrs E. Graham

Crew

Director - Chris Johnson
Stage Manager - James Parkinson
Deputy Stage Manager - Helen McGargle
Choreographer - Julie Cockburn
Musical Director - Andrew Mair

Props - Sarah Cosgrave
Wardrobe - Valerie Hopper, Jacqueline Appleby, Julie Smith

Booking Secretary - Eve Graham

Poster/Artwork - Steven Bell
Publicity Team - David Linsdell, Steven Bell, Leah Sowerby,
Front of House - Ray Hammond, Ann Hammond, John Purves,
Susan Gent
Programme Design - David Linsdell, Steven Bell

Sets & Cloth Hire - The Border Studio
Costume Hire - Alan Graham Costumes
Photography - Paul Appleby
Videography - John Burton
Webmaster - Colin Chambers
Additional Sets and Materials - Whitley Bay Pantomime Society

WEBSITE : www.whitleybaypantomimesociety.co.uk



SEARCH: 'Whitley Bay Pantomime Society' on www.facebook.com



Follow us on TWITTER : [@WhitleyBayPanto](https://twitter.com/WhitleyBayPanto)

Chorus



From L-R

Back Row

Sharon Cummings
Kevin Bradley
Tracy Clough
Tricia Tait

Front Row

Imogen Doyle
Mary-Ann Doyle
Laura Beattie

Absent

Susan McLay
Helen Walley

Tots



From L-R

Back Row

Molly Payne
Phoebe Gibbons
Madeline Dowse
Emily Cranston
Holly Spreadbury
Charlotte Douglas

Middle Row

Ellie Morrow
Harriet Aitken
Libby Hudson
Erin Gallagher
Tallulah Taylor

Front Row

Erin Clough
Millie Hudson

Vienna Tenant-Hodgson

Juniors

From L-R

Back Row

Charlie Lopez
Jessica Waldron
Rebecca Longstaff
Natalia Anderson

Middle Row

Lauren Jones

Front Row

Freya Conlin
Rachel Stevenson
Hannah Cranston



Seniors

From L-R

Back Row

Hannah Cairncross
Chloe Rogers
Jaimie Aitken

Front Row

Gwen Ballard
Philippa Bacon

Absent

Rhiannon Rowe



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Cast

King Rumbletum - David Swinton
Queen Gigglesbelly - Gemma Rodgerson
Princess Beauty - Sarah Harris
Penelope Pinchme - Steven Bell
Oddjob - David Linsdell
Cuddles - Julie Cockburn
Bounty - Leah Ashton
Smartie - Jen McGuire
Wispa - Lyndsey Fenn
Helga Pong - Joan Purves
Gormless - Robert Wilson Baker
Prince Handsome - Joanna Wingate
Squint - Kris Roberts

*David
Swinton*

AS
KING RUMBLETUM



My fascination with Pantomime dates back to annual visits to the Kings Theatre in Edinburgh to watch wonderful shows featuring the incomparable Stanley Baxter in the 1950s. However it was not until the '90s that I first performed in a Pantomime which, strangely, was Sleeping Beauty.

Since then I have taken part in more than 20 Pantomimes, playing Dames, Villains, an assortment of Kings and Emperors and generally befuddled old men.

Sleeping Beauty may have been my first Pantomime but I do not intend it should be my last.

Queen



Gigglebelly

Gemma
Rodgerson

AS
QUEEN GIGGLEBELLY

Almost twenty years since she last ventured onto a stage (at primary school!), Gemma first joined Whitley Bay Pantomime Society as a crew member during 2013's Humpty Dumpty. Plans to be part of last year's production of Aladdin were scrapped when Gemma discovered she was due to give birth in the middle of the rehearsal schedule!

Not one to let a small thing like having a baby get in the way of her desire to fulfil a not-so-secret ambition to get involved in amateur theatre, Gemma joined the Society's Executive Committee as a floor member at last summer's AGM. This fuelled her enthusiasm further, she finally got round to auditioning for a principal role in Sleeping Beauty – and here she is!

Gemma loves pantomime, and is excited to be part of one herself after seeing many shows as both a child and a parent. She hopes everyone who comes to see Sleeping Beauty has as much fun watching it as she has had rehearsing for it!

Princess



Beauty

Sarah
Harris

AS
PRINCESS BEAUTY

This is Sarah's fourth production with Whitley Bay Pantomime Society, and her third production of Sleeping Beauty!

She returns to the society after a long break during which she has appeared as lead soprano in a number of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and most recently appeared in The Ladykillers with Whitley Bay Theatre Company. In her spare time when she is not being a Princess, Sarah is an avid rock and roll dancer and also enjoys the odd bit of jazz singing!

Sarah has had an absolutely fantastic time rehearsing Sleeping Beauty, and it has genuinely been one of the most enjoyable, random and hilarious shows to be involved in. An unashamed 'Frozen' fan, Sarah hopes you enjoy the show and hopes you feel free to sing along nice and loud!

*Steven
Bell*

AS

PENNELOPE PINCHME



This is Steven's fourth consecutive year with WBPS in the role of Panto Dame, last year gracing the boards as washer-woman Widow Twankey. "This year is a promotion" by Steven's standards, as he leaves the laundry behind to work as the Royal Nurse.

This year has been a turbulent one for Steven who stepped up from Vice-Chairman to take over as Society Chairman at our AGM in June 2014. "Our new committee came in at a point where a lot of decisions were still left to be made regarding the Society, the Show and our future. We didn't even have a script chosen and it was 3 weeks before our Open Evening". Steven is delighted at how the show has turned out despite the many hurdles encountered. "The show is spectacular and I wouldn't have had this year any other way" he said.

Quite the busy schedule for Steven then, with no signs of relenting as he couples rehearsals and Chairman duties with tackling a part time Law Degree, which according to Steven all manages collectively to keep him out of trouble!

*David
Linsdell*

AS

ODDJOB



David is now in his fifth consecutive year with the society. He first appeared in Cinderella in 2011, and says he hasn't looked back since, although to be fair he probably hasn't had time to, having also been in 5 other shows with various local societies since then.

As well as appearing on stage, David joined our executive committee in 2013 and was recently elected to the role of Vice-Chairman. He has also taken over the running of the publicity team, so a lot of his time this year has been spent setting up fundraising events, selling advertising space in our programme and arranging adverts and other publicity for the society. He can often be found at society events, supporting the team, along with his 2 children, Nicole and Jake, who always help out with handing out flyers and other small jobs.

This year has seen David working as a supporting artist on local TV shows such as Vera and The Dumping Ground and he enjoyed this immensely, gaining more experience in the acting world and getting a sneak peek of working in the world of television.



*Julie
Cockburn*

AS
CUDDLES

Julie loves pantomime, dancing and all musical theatre. She started dancing at the early age of two and a half and soon became a tot dancer, progressing through the ranks to become choreographer with the Whitley Bay Pantomime Society.

In addition to her dance career, which includes dancing with other local societies such as Tynemouth Operatic and Northern Opera, Julie has taken roles in pantomime as 'Baby Bear', 'Mother Bear' and the front end of the Pantomime Cow!

Julie has also choreographed two shows with Walkerville Musical Society, which she hopes to continue with in the future.



*Leah
Ashton*

AS
FAIRY BOUNTY

Leah Ashton started her theatre life back at the age of 15 when she joined Morpeth pantomime society as a chorus member. In her time there she was involved on and off stage; singing, dancing, acting, set building, prop making, directing and even crewing with the lighting and sound team.

Developing a love of the stage she decided to embark on further training and studied a BTEC national diploma in stagecraft learning the trade of all things backstage. After qualifying Leah began her professional life stacking shelves. Yes indeed not how she expected it to turn out either. Realising a professional life involved travel and an unsecure pay cheque Leah settled for theatre as just a hobby.

Leah then joined The Whitley Bay Theatre Company and again took a turn at most roles before her latest move to join Whitley Bay Pantomime society where she looks forward to dazzling you with her wand skills.

Jen McGuire

AS
FAIRY SMARTIE



This is my fourth time performing with Whitley Bay Pantomime society. Having had a four year break I'm delighted to be back and working with such a talented cast. The last pantomime I performed in was Sleeping Beauty in 2010 and I played one of the good fairy godmothers. 'Fairy Merryweather'.

During the last seven years I have performed in not only pantomimes but also musicals and Plays. I have been a loyal member of whitley bay Theatre Company for seven years and performed in 'Allo Allo', Fawlty Towers, Hi - De - Hi, Calendar Girls, 'Noises Off', Father Ted, and most recently took the role of 'the Bucket Woman' (Hyacinth Bouquet) in Keeping up Appearances in July 2014.

Now I'm back with Whitley Bay Pantomime Society, again playing one of the fairy Godmothers 'Fairy Smartie'. I have enjoyed every second of rehearsals and laughed so much I've almost split my sides! I feel so proud to be a part of this production. The cast and production team have all worked incredibly hard putting together this magical masterpiece that all the family will enjoy. The perfect way to banish the January blues!

Lyndsey Fenn

AS
FAIRY WISPA



Lyndsey trained in drama and musical theatre at Newcastle College and has mainly worked with WBTC since 2003. She has been in many productions over the years, including Yvette in 'Allo 'Allo, Miss Brahms in Are You Being Served? and Peggy in Hi De Hi! Lyndsey has also appeared in Rumours, Habeas Corpus, Holiday Snap, Fawlty Towers and Calendar Girls with that society. She is a versatile actress, capable of playing a stroppy teenager in Caught In The Net, and her favourite role to date as tea-obsessed Mrs Doyle in Father Ted.

Lyndsey first joined Whitley Bay Panto Society in 2003, in the chorus of Robinson Crusoe. The following year, she enjoyed playing Goldilocks in Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In 2011, Lyndsey played Cinderella in the People's Theatre pantomime. Lyndsey is very excited at getting the chance to play the nervous and excitable Fairy Wispa in this years production of Sleeping Beauty.



*Joan
Purves*

AS
HEILGA PONG

Joan is married with two children. At the age of 50, Joan completed a BND in performing arts at North Tyneside College and went on to study drama for a short time at Northumbria University.

Joan has appeared in School for Seduction, Wire in the Blood and Byker Grove.

On an amateur level, Joan has played many parts with North Tyneside Community Theatre (formerly Tynemouth Pageant). She has also appeared with Tynemouth Amateur Operatic Society in Beauty and the Beast, My Fair Lady, Annie and the Melody Lingers On.

This is Joan's tenth pantomime with our Society. Joan is usually seen in the role of the Fairy with the Society. This is only the second time she has played the villain and she is "thoroughly enjoying it".



*Robert
Wilson Baker*

AS
GORMLESS

Even though Robert just started his A-levels in September, he has been lucky to gain both amateur and professional experience. He is fortunate to be making his Pantomime debut this year with the society he regularly watched as a young boy.

Robert has gained experience including: Children's Ensemble in 'Joseph' (2006-11) and 'Evita' (2009) at the major regional theatres, Son of Macduff in 'Macbeth' for Shakespeare 4 Kids (2009), various roles in 'Billy Elliot' as part of the Billy Youth Theatre project (2011), Mark Cohen in Rent and Enjolras in 'Les Misérables' (both 2014), as well as Peter Mortimer's critically acclaimed WWI play 'Death at Dawn' in collaboration with Tynemouth WWI Commemoration Project in September.

When he's not at school or acting, Robert is also starting to lay his roots as a compere. Robert would like to thank his family, friends and all the actors that have inspired. Robert is very grateful for the society to allow him to take part in their 51st Panto and is looking forward to making magic and the audience laugh with joy.

Joanna Wingate

AS

PRINCE HANDSOME

Joanna began her amateur stage journey in her teens with Whitley Bay Pantomime Society and later joining Whitley Bay Theatre Company in 2004. She studied Performing Arts at North Tyneside College, which led to her working as a Bluecoat Entertainer at Pontins.

Joanna has played a number of roles for both societies including: Goldilocks; Dandini in Cinderella, Ty-ping in Aladdin, Mimi Labonq in 'Allo 'Allo and the iconic Sybil Fawty in all four of WBTC productions of Fawty Towers.

Joanna has taken a brief break from treading the boards since becoming pregnant shortly after the 2013 Production of Humpty Dumpty. Though too young at the moment, Joanna can't wait until her beautiful boy Thomas can be in the audience watching her perform... He certainly is her little Handsome Prince Charming.

Joanna is pleased to be playing the Principal Boy once again in this production with friends old and new!



Kris Roberts

AS

SQUINT

As an avid writer of horror fiction and screenplays and an aspiring independent filmmaker, pantomime is a far cry from anything Kris is used to. However, he has thoroughly loved the experience and the character of Squint.

After completing his first stage production, The Full Monty in 2013, he has appeared in The Witches of Eastwick and enjoyed taking on principal roles in Grease and Boogie Nights. Sleeping Beauty is his fifth show - and the start of what he hopes will be a fantastic and busy year.

It has been over 15 years since Kris last saw a pantomime but he much prefers performing in them. He hopes that everyone has a great time watching the show and would like to thank everyone involved for a such a great time!



Special Thanks

Special thanks go out to all of the people who have helped to make this show possible.

We would particularly like to thank the staff at Playhouse Whitley Bay for their hard work and assistance throughout the year.

Thanks also go to the Volunteers who have undertaken the arduous task of emptying our storage unit of the vast amounts of scenery, props, costumes and general junk so that we could hand our tenancy back to the landlord. Thank you so much!

Thank you to all who donated prizes towards our tombola this year. Your help, as always, is much appreciated.

Thank you too to YOU, our loyal audience members who make each and every show a pleasure to perform. After all, you are the reason we do this each year!

Whitley Bay Pantomime Society would particularly like to thank the many volunteer crew who ensure the smooth running of each of our shows. Without them, our pantomimes would not be possible. Thanks go to all of you!

From all of us at Whitley Bay Pantomime Society to all of you out there, we wish you all the best for 2015.

Competition

For a chance to win TICKETS for our 2016 SHOW, **CINDERELLA** all you have to do is design the front cover to a **CINDERELLA** programme.

INCLUDE YOUR:

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1 Winner will be chosen by our executive committee from the entries received before our closing date at

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