

ttc

Dick Whittington

By Daniel Wain
Directed by Bill Compton



Sat 8 Dec – Sat 15 Dec 2018

£1.50



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An infra-red hearing assistance system is available in the auditorium but not in the Coward Room. Personal systems with a T-switch will require an additional unit available in the foyer. 'In ear' headsets are also available.

Wheelchair positions are available in both stalls and the balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the theatre, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.



Director's Notes



Our pantomime's journey from page to stage has been a long and interesting one...

Back in early 2017, Lottie Walker and I first talked extensively about us pulling it off together. We both agreed that we wanted a traditional Victorian panto which would be suitable for all the family. I remember saying to Lottie that if she was keen to have me then I would be up for it.

Finding a script was the first challenge. The reality was that nothing we found was suitable; in Lottie's own words, "The problem in identifying one seems to be that anything too 'traditional' is also too old fashioned as they all seem to have been written between 1960-1980!" Not long after, we were reminded that TTC member and stalwart Danny Wain had previously shown an interest in unleashing his ink onto the page. After a couple of meetings with Danny and a rundown of what we wanted, *Dick Whittington* was born!

It was fun to read the first three-hour long draft, not so much fun to have to cut some very funny scenes, lose some lovely songs, trim the Palladium scale staging to something that you can fit onto the Hampton Hill Theatre stage, and still try to bring it all off in under two hours.

At the casting we were completely spoilt for choice, the result of which is we have one of the most tireless and hugely talented bunches of people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Everyone has been amazingly collaborative and the cast has been the epitome of team work from start to finish.

At this point, I would like to say a personal thank you to Emma Knight for all her time, energy and commitment to producing the fantastic choreography for the show. Emma worked closely with Asha as Tommy and the Ensemble as Rats to bring their characters and movement to life. You are an inspiration to watch and work alongside and I really hope we get to do so many times over in the future.

Secondly, I would like to thank James Hall for finding the time to fit us into his busy schedule and help to surface those lovely harmonies and sweet voices. I always enjoy working with you James and hope to continue to do so for many years to come.

Thirdly, I would like to thank Lottie Walker for her unfiltered enthusiasm and all the late-night chats when things were going off-piste. As much as nobody likes a bit of stress, it does remind you that you are still alive. I will definitely miss working so closely with you and I hope I get the chance to do it with you some more... especially late at night.

Finally, I am really not looking forward to this production being over as it has been just about the most fun I've had on a show. I guess at some point I will just have to accept it when someone says to me, "it's behind you".

Bill Compton



Have you been fascinated by the magic on stage today?
Are you creative and/or practical with a burning desire to
find out how that magic happens?

TTC are always on the lookout for new members to help with
Wardrobe, Stage Management, Lighting, Sound etc.

We would love to hear from anyone looking to put their
practical and creative skills to work. We've a full and very
diverse programme coming up, so if you'd like to be involved in
a production but don't crave the spotlight, please let us know.

Initial enquiries to Lottie Walker

ttcartistic@teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk and she'll point
you in the right direction.

The History & Traditions of Pantomime



Pantomime as we know it today is almost uniquely a British entertainment and its conventions are a mystery to theatre-goers from other countries. Explaining to visitors from overseas that men dressing as women, women dressing as men, speciality acts that have nothing to do with the storyline, audience participation and slapstick are all 'normal' can be quite a challenge!

The modern-day pantomime originated in the 16th century Italian tradition of Comedia dell Arte, where stories were told by performers using mime, music, dance, slapstick and acrobatics. The style became very popular in England and its stock characters, Harlequin, Columbine, Pantaloona and Clown began to appear in British plays, although they largely remained silent mimes. In the 18th century our local actor/manager, David Garrick produced pantomimes, or "harlequinades" at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

The popularity of pantomime grew and over the next 100 years or so, the traditions that are recognised today began to be introduced. The first 'transformation scene' (such as Cinderella's transformation into a princess fit for a ball or Aladdin's arrival in the magic cave) occurred in 1849 in Planche's *Island of Jewels* and the first ever pantomime dame was music hall star Dan Leno, who played Mother Goose in 1902. The use of popular folk stories and fairy tales became prevalent during the 19th century and during the Victorian era pantomime became one of the many traditions associated with Christmas. And can we imagine Christmas without a panto..?

OH NO WE CAN'T!



The Real Dick Whittington



Dick Whittington is the only pantomime to be based on the life of a real person. Sir Richard Whittington (1354 - 1423) was a merchant and politician. Four times Lord Mayor of London, he was also an MP and sheriff of London.

He really did marry Alice Fitzwarren, the daughter of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren of Wantage. The couple had no children and Alice pre-deceased Richard, who when he died left most of his considerable fortune to good causes.

In his lifetime he rebuilt St Michael Paternoster Church, which was located next door to his London home in College Hill and where he was buried. He also financed much of the building of Greyfriars Library, the rebuilding of the Guildhall, improvements to St Thomas' Hospital and the building of some very early public lavatories!



His bequests when he died included financing the rebuilding of Newgate prison, the repair of St Bartholomew's Hospital, the building of a library in the Guildhall and creation of almshouses (now relocated to Sussex). The Whittington Charity, set up with Sir Richard's original funds, is now managed by the Mercer's Company and he is remembered on Highgate Hill, where there is a statue of his cat not far from the Whittington Hospital.

The story of 'Dick' entered into folklore soon after he died. His good works were noticed and appreciated by Londoners who were grateful for his bequests but had no idea where his money had come from, and the tale of young Dick selling his cat to raise funds soon emerged. This story probably originates from a portrait of Sir Richard with his hand resting on a cat. The first recorded publication of *Dick Whittington and his Cat* was published in 1605 and the first recorded *Dick Whittington* pantomime was produced in 1814.



Running Order



Act One

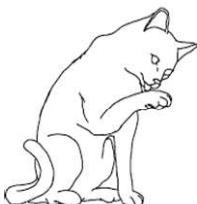
- Prologue
- Scene 1** The Road to London
- Scene 2** Old London Town, outside
Fitzwarren's Stores
- Scene 3** A Quiet Back Street
- Scene 4** King Rat's Lair
- Scene 5** Inside the Stores
- Scene 6** Highgate Hill
- Scene 7** The Docks of London



There will be an Interval of 20 minutes

Act Two

- Scene 1** The Fairy Cloud
- Scene 2** Onboard the Brexitania
- Scene 3** At Sea
- Scene 4** Under the Sea
- Scene 5** The Shores of Morocco
- Scene 6** The Sultan's Palace
- Scene 7** Outside the Guildhall
Finale

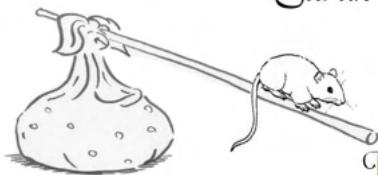


Cast

Dick Whittington

Alice Fitzwarren

Sarah the Cook



Idle Jack

King Rat

Fairy Bowbells

Alderman Fitzwarren

Tommy the Cat

Sultana of Morocco

Town Crier, Dandini,

Robber, Captain Tide-End,

First Mate Cummings, King

Neptune, Sultan of Morocco

Ensemble



Rebecca Dowbiggin

Kelly-Marie Tuthill

Marc Batten

Daniel Wain (Sunday
matinee & Thursday
evening performances)

Lara Parker

Edz Barrett

Danielle Thompson

Jim Trimmer

Asha Gill

Mia Skytte-Jensen

Dave Dadswell

Stephanie Beecroft

Leigh Dent

Nicky Shaw

Anna Strain

Siân Walters

And **The Right Hon. Sir Vince Cable** as Himself

Musicians

Keys 1 James Hall, Keys 2 Jonny Smith, Guitar Joe Olney,

Bass Dan Tigg, Drums James Bennetts

Production Team

Director

Bill Compton

Choreographer

Emma Knight

Musical Director

James Hall

Production Manager

Lottie Walker

Stage Manager

Kathryn Smith

Deputy Stage Manager

Meaghan Baxter

ASM



Wardrobe

Vicky Horder

Inara Stamp

Joe Evans

Alison Barker

Margaret Williams

Sound

David Gates

Dickson Cossar

Patrick Troughton

Gary Stevenson

Jack Tidball

Props

Jojo Leppink

Production Photographer

Joe Stockwell

Additional Photography

The production team and cast would like to thank Shona Brown & Sir Vince Cable's Office, John Gilbert, Zoe Harvey-Lee, Enid Segall, Stephanie Sugden and Geraint Thomason.

As ever we are indebted to the TTC Board for their support and all our wonderful Bar, Box Office and Front of House Volunteers without whom there would be no show.

Thank you!





Cast Biographies



**Rebecca
Dowbiggin**
**Dick
Whittington**

Lancashire lass Rebecca is extremely excited to be treading the boards this festive season. She last performed in pantomime exactly a decade ago (oh yes she did!), when she played Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*. This is Rebecca's first show with Teddington Theatre Club. Having moved to Hampton only very recently, she is delighted to have been so warmly welcomed into the company (oh yes she is....!).

Kelly-Marie moved to Hampton last year and was thrilled to discover a local theatre company. She trained at the Urdang Academy nearly 10 years ago and performed in several music videos, which included being a body double for Kylie Minogue, before moving on to dance teaching for several years. Kelly-Marie currently works full time in conferences and events, whilst scaring people at the weekend at Thorpe Park during the Summer and Fright Night seasons. She is passionate about performing and very pleased to be back on stage after a break of six years.



**Kelly-Marie
Tuthill**
**Alice
Fitzwarren**



Marc Batten
Sarah the Cook

Marc has directed numerous productions for TTC including: *What the Butler Saw*, *Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and, most recently, *The Matchgirls*. He has also directed two TTC pantomimes, *Sleeping Beauty* and the Swan-nominated *Cinderella*. He decided to try his luck on the other side of the footlights this year to enjoy the festive fun from a different perspective. Marc is following a family tradition by

playing Sarah the Cook – his father previously played the role.

Lara joined TTC in March 2017 having previously been with the Edmundian Players in Whitton, where she is still a supporting member. She will never forget her favourite role as the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz* – complete with a green face! Since then, she has been busy in *Breadcrumbs* (TTC), *The Wind in the Willows* (TTC), *A Month of Sundays* (TTC) and most recently *The Real Inspector Hound* (OHADS). She's looking forward to some panto hilarity (and is pleased not to be playing the cleaner AGAIN!).



Lara Parker
Idle Jack



Edz Barrett
King Rat

Another year another panto! Edz is really pleased to be able to be join in the fun again this year. Edz started his career in panto 30 years ago playing King Rat at the Planet Theatre in Slough. More recently he has been cast as Dame so it is a joy to be able to play a part that only requires one costume, although the rhymes for King Rat are proving to be an interesting challenge.



Danielle
Thompson
Fairy BowBells

It's that time again at TTC - panto time! - and Danielle is making her third panto appearance for the Club. She previously played Chester the Jester in 2015's *Sleeping Beauty* and half of the comedy duo as Merlot in 2016's *Cinderella*. In 2015 Danielle was choreographer for the PLOS panto, *Beauty and the Beast*. Her first love, though, is performing. Danielle has performed in a wide range of shows and her favourite roles include the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* and, most recently, Winnie in TTC's *The Matchgirls*.





Jim Trimmer
**Alderman
Fitzwarren**

Jim is a veteran of local theatre, regularly appearing with TTC, BROS, RSS and OHADS. He was most recently seen in *The Real Inspector Hound* for OHADS. Previous TTC productions have included *A View From the Bridge*, *Under Milk Wood*, and *Dick Barton Special Agent*. Jim is deeply honoured to be cast as Alderman Fitzwarren (less of the Fitzy if you don't mind) a role to which he will bring dignity, gravity and just a touch of camp. At least this one doesn't involve a troublesome 'tache.

A well-known face in local theatre, Asha has performed this year in *Macbeth* for RSS and *Pink Mist* for TTC. After such serious material she is looking forward to being involved with a comedy. Asha also works on the other side of the footlights and has directed *Dial M for Murder* and *Soldiering On*, one of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* for OHADS. Next Christmas she will be back at RSS, directing *A Christmas Carol*. She works as a subtitler and support worker for deaf and disabled students, so her knowledge of British Sign Language has come in useful for this silent role!

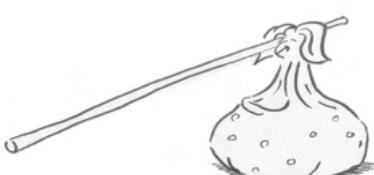


Asha Gill
Tommy the Cat



**Mia Skytte
Jensen**
**Sultana of
Morocco**

Mia is a regular on the Hampton Hill stage, having performed regularly with TTC. Previous work for TTC has included *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The End of the Affair*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Country Wife*. For OHADS, Mia appeared in the studio production of *The River*. More used to tragedy than comedy, this will be the first panto Mia has performed in and is also her solo singing debut. Please be kind and wish her luck.



Dave has appeared in many Christmas shows since he joined TTC around 15 years ago. Rehearsals for these shows are always great fun and this one has been no exception. His most recent appearance was as the odious Mr. Mynel and a spoon-playing docker in *The Matchgirls*. Other recent roles include Albert the Horse in *The Wind in the Willows* and Mike, a longshoreman in *A View from the Bridge*.



Dave Dadswell
**Many, many
roles...**



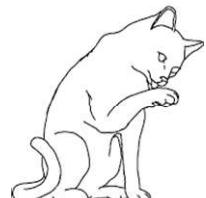
**Stephanie
Beecroft
Ensemble**

Stephanie has been dancing since the age of five, taking many ISTD and RAD exams and competing in national competitions. As a teenager she began performing in cabaret shows and pantomimes with a local amateur dramatics group, taking part in shows including *Dick Whittington*, *Aladdin* and *Hairspray the Musical*. Stephanie has been dance captain in a number of previous shows which she enjoys, as supporting others to dance brings her great joy. More recently, Stephanie has recently taken an interest and education in theatrical lighting design and programming.



**Leigh Dent
Ensemble**

Leigh has been performing since the age of seven, when she performed as a snowflake at the Royal Albert Hall. Leigh is a founding member of Quick Fix Theatre and works to support various charities through community theatre performances. Recent performances include *The Matchgirls* for TTC and as the Fairy in *Dick Whittington* with Concorde Productions. Leigh's film and TV appearances include *EastEnders*, *Holby*, *Cuckoo*, *Killing Eve*, *Lucky Man*, *The Favourite*, *The Muppets*, *Slumber* and *Kingsman*.





Nicky Shaw
Ensemble

Nicky learnt to fly in 2012 when she played the title role in *Peter Pan the Musical* for Concorde Players and she has hardly been out of boys clothing since. She has played various 'Simple Simon' and comedy roles in pantomimes over the last six years, has narrowly avoided being eaten in Concorde Players' *Little Shop of Horrors*, and this summer appeared as Nell in TTC's *The Matchgirls*. She's glad to get her dancing shoes back on for TTC this winter for panto!

Anna is still waiting the call to be on *Strictly Come Dancing* and fulfil her childhood dream, but she's glad to be free this year so she can be in *Dick Whittington!* This is Anna's TTC debut but she appeared on the HHT stage with BROS in *Made in Dagenham*. She has also appeared in *The Dream* at St Paul's Covent Garden, *Les Miserables*, *Evita*, *Oklahoma*, *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Narnia*. As well as performing in both leading and ensemble roles, Anna has choreographed numerous shows, including for her dance group when she lived in Uganda.



Anna Strain
Ensemble



Siân Walters
Ensemble

Siân made her stage debut aged five playing a snowflake and has been involved in all things theatrical ever since. She joined TTC in 2012 and is also an active member of BROS Theatre Company, both performing and working backstage. In 'real life' Siân works in TV-land (which is rather like Pantoland at times) and when not treading the boards enjoys relaxing with a good book, her two cats and the perfect cup of tea! She's a self-confessed sci-fi geek who harbours a 'not so secret' desire to appear in *Doctor Who* and would love to sing with John Barrowman.



Production Team Biographies



Bill Compton
Director

Over the past 24 years Bill has been involved in at least 74 productions either as an actor, director or designer. Last year he was nominated for an Arts Richmond Best Supporting Actor Swan Award for his portrayal of Christopher Tavistock-Smyth in TTC's *Too Long an Autumn*. Next year, he will be directing the Madness musical, *Our House*, for YAT. In his spare time Bill likes to dabble with a full - time job, see his beautiful wife as they pass each other by the back door and spend time playing Star Wars / Lego / Disney Princesses with his four wonderful children.

This isn't Daniel's first taste of Dick. His play *Look Behind You*, published by Josef Weinberger, was set backstage during a run of the same panto. He also wrote a summertime *Cinderella* for the Edinburgh Fringe and, as Ugly Sister, was officially recognised as one of the two most photographed weirdos on that year's Royal Mile. Lesser local roles recently include Captain Hook, Iago, Ricky Roma, Henry VIII, Uncle Vanya, Brooklyn longshoreman Eddie Carbone and poet Philip Larkin. Next, here in March, Daniel will be playing *The Dresser*. Oh, still looking for that last-minute stocking filler? See him in the bar and he'll sell you a copy of his play!



Daniel Wain
Writer &
Alternate Sarah



Emma Knight
Choreographer

Whilst Emma has only taken to the stage with TTC once, playing the lead in *The Matchgirls* earlier this year, she is a familiar face behind the scenes, having choreographed several shows, including last year's enchanting production of *The Wind in the Willows*. Emma has performed many times at Hampton Hill Theatre with BROS, for whom she is the Secretary. She would like to apologise for

insisting on featuring the somewhat irritating earworm *Baby Shark* in the show but hopes everyone will enjoy joining in.

James trained at Kingston University and The Institute of Education before specialising in musical theatre and teaching singing. Previous credits as Musical Director include *Pinot the Musical* – Wimbledon Studio for Sing in French Ltd, *The Vera Lynn Story* - UK Tour Practically Perfect Productions, *Miller Plays the Musicals*, BROS Theatre Company, *Side By Side By Sondheim*, TTC and *Dazzle!* Richmond Theatre. James currently works for Guildford School of Acting and City of Westminster College and has previously taught singing at Italia Conti Arts Centre and APT Drama School. He is the resident musical director of Theatre Box Epsom.



James Hall
Musical
Director



Lottie Walker
Production
Manager

Lottie has her fingers in many theatrical pies, both in front of and behind the footlights. As a performer she spent her formative years in variety with a few forays into serious theatre. Most recently at HHT she has performed in *A Woman of No Importance*, one of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads* and as Lily Pepper in *Red Peppers*. As a production manager Lottie works with several companies including TTC, BROS and Tarts on Tour. She is currently at the planning stage of a tour and Edinburgh Festival Fringe run of two small scale plays.



Kathryn Smith Stage Manager

Kathryn joined TTC in 2010. Initially she worked with the front of house team, but since 2014 has turned her attention backstage. This is her seventh production with TTC, having previously been involved in *The Linden Tree*, *Proof*, *Dick Barton*, *Betrayal*, *The Collector* and, most recently, *Echoes of the War*. Other productions include *High Society* (BROS) and *The Erpingham Camp* (YAT).

Alison Barker & Margaret Williams Wardrobe

Margaret and Alison have been teaming up for well over a decade to dress some of TTC's shows, as well as assisting with others and helping to maintain and organise the wardrobe stock. Both particularly enjoy making costumes from scratch and seeing their efforts being re-used or recycled in future productions. This year's pantomime has certainly provided the opportunity to work on some interesting and quirky costumes!

Patrick Troughton Lighting Design & Operation

Patrick spent many years playing jazz across the UK and Europe in a 30-piece Glenn Miller jazz orchestra so is used to being on stage. However, these days he is more often spotted backstage set building, lighting and as stage crew. Having previously worked for the Beck Theatre in Hayes, he is now a regular part of the team at TTC with recent shows including *The Wind in the Willows*, *A View from the Bridge* (where he made a rare onstage cameo appearance), *A Month of Sundays* and *The Ruling Class*.

Gary Stevenson Lighting Design & Operation

Gary has been a member of TTC's backstage team since 1997 and over the years has lit many shows including *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Cabaret*, *Stags and Hens*, *Be My Baby*, *Albert Make Us Laugh*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Peter Pan*. More recently he has designed the lighting for *My Boy Jack*, *Dick Barton Special Agent*, *Cinderella*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *The Matchgirls* and *Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense*.

Word Search and Colouring In!

W K X P E T A E E C F Y I C Y
A H D A Z N Y C A J L P H A R
O L I N D M U T F V C R Z N I
R L J T M I S T H E I Z P E A
D M J O T O D B P S X I A M F
U I T M F I I F T E Q D L G J
M Z M I N T N M G Q N J J F S
P P Z M D K A G C D R J B P M
P L K E C S U F T O D A A W Q
S L L E B W O B R O O W D V K
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G Z H G E A Y J E K Z R Y G J
G V E V X W T A R E M B J Y A
R G P E O F B V L B I Y U N C
Y I F P T A D J L S A R A H K

Word Search

BOWBELLS
CAT
CHRISTMAS
COOK
FAIRY
JACK
NEPTUNE
PANTOMIME
RAT
SARAH
TOMMY
WHITTINGTON



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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to Arts Richmond. This production is entered for the Arts Richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

Coming soon at Hampton Hill Theatre

The Winter's Tale

By William Shakespeare

A poignant tale of love lost and found

Sat 26 Jan – Fri 1 Feb 2019

Auditorium

Lilies on the Land

By the Lions part

God speed the plough and the women who drives it

Sat 3 Mar – Sat 9 Mar 2019

Coward Studio



For up-to-date information on TTC and the Theatre, and to book tickets online, please check our website: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.

Telephone enquires open two weeks before each production.

Call: 0845 838 7529 (Open Monday to Saturday 1.00pm to 8.00pm)

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Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Theatre. To find out more please visit our website www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you can find in the Foyer.