

Faringdon Dramatic Society



Affiliated
to NODA

Presents a
Pantomime



Arthur's
Adventure

OR

Merlin
to the
Rescue

by Peter
Webster



Sat 28th JAN
Sun 29th JAN
Fri 3rd FEB
Sat 4th FEB

Faringdon Junior School

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Arthur's Adventure

or Merlin to the Rescue

A pantomime by Peter Webster

Mrs Tickleme, housekeeper to the Knight **Sir Jikal-Trusse**, sets the scene. The King is dead and a successor must be found. The Knights of the Round Table suggest various ways to settle the succession, but are eventually persuaded by **Merlin** the magician, to hold a tournament to decide who will try to pull the legendary sword from the stone, with whoever succeeds becoming King. Sir Jikal-Trusses's son, **Sir Loin**, briefs **Arthur** his squire, as to all the equipment he needs for the tournament and sends Arthur to fetch it, with the final instruction not to forget a thing. Of course, Arthur forgets something crucial – Sir Loin's sword; seeing one seemingly abandoned, he takes it and brings it to Sir Loin, who realising it is not his, asks Arthur where he found it.

When Sir Loin realises the significance of this, he takes the sword and sends Arthur away into the forest, so as to keep the secret to himself, much to the disgust of Mrs Tickleme and **Margaret**, his beloved.

All this is witnessed by **Morgan**, an enchantress, and her son **Robin**; Morgan plans to put Robin on the throne and decides to eliminate Arthur by sending Robin and her Dark Knights to capture him and throw him into the deepest dungeon.

Will Arthur find a way to evade her clutches and take his rightful place on the throne? Will Sir Loin live to regret his actions? How will Arthur and his friends find a way to defeat Morgan and ensure that all ends happily? Watch and you'll find out!

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between acts, when refreshments will be available and (at evening performances) the raffle will be drawn.

Act One

Scene One	Sir Jikal-Trusse's castle
Scene Two	A corridor in the castle
Scene Three	A glade in the forest
Scene Four	On the road
Scene Five	Merlin's hut
Scene Six	A dark place
Scene Seven	Sir Jikal-Trusse's castle
Scene Eight	On the road
Scene Nine	Merlin's hut

Act Two

Scene One	In the dungeon
Scene Two	A dark place
Scene Three	Sir Jikal-Trusse's castle
Scene Four	On the road
Scene Five	A glade in the forest

Cast:

<i>Arthur, squire to Sir Loin</i>	Emma Butcher
<i>Merlin, a wizard</i>	Sarah Couzens
<i>Sir Jikal-Trusse, Arthur's guardian</i>	Gary Field
<i>Sir Loin, his son</i>	Josh Dunn
<i>Margaret, Sir Loin's betrothed</i>	Lottie Allum
<i>Morgan Le Fay, an enchantress</i>	Suzanna Carter
<i>Robin Le Fay, her son</i>	Dom Allum
<i>Mrs Tickleme, Sir J-T's housekeeper</i>	Bex Massie
<i>Sir Plusse, a knight</i>	Helen Thrower
<i>Sir Reale, a knight</i>	Sandra Keen
<i>Sir Cuitous, a knight</i>	Verity Roberts
<i>Sir Veillance, a knight</i>	Debbie Lock

Bubo, an owl
Fear
Pestilence
The page
The bear
An animal
Another animal
The book
The automaton
The clock

Lynne Puddifoot
Sam Tate
Tiffany Jakovljevitch
Finlay Brand
Kia Howard
Henry Marlow
Alicia Howard
Isabelle Dawson
Kitty Marlow
Skye Farquhar

Dark knights:

Kayleigh Booth
Ellie Hickman
Millie Long
Helen Tate

Mice:

Fiona Merrick
Sarah Varnom
Matthew Warner

Courtiers:

Julie Biggs
Jan Crowdson
Katie Goodwin
Fiona Merrick
Loren Nicholls
Sarah Varnom
Matthew Warner

Courtiers / animals:

Finlay Brand
Isabelle Dawson
Skye Farquhar
Alicia Howard
Kia Howard
Tiffany Jakovljevitch
Henry Marlow
Kitty Marlow
Lynne Puddifoot
Sam Tate

Orchestra:

Becky Brand (piano)
Torin Brown (drums)
Richard Lock (guitar)
Martin Waymark (bass guitar)

Co-directed by **Amanda Linstead** and **Peter Webster**

Musical Director: **Jayne Hoyland**

Behind the scenes

Producer	Sandra Keen
Stage manager	Jeff Barry
Choreography	Debbie Lock, Ellie Hickman, Amanda Linstead
Set design	Jo Webster
Set creation	Jeff Barry, Amanda Harvey, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Carole Tappenden, Peter Webster - <i>with assistance from Gary Bates, Steve Greening, Paul Mountford-Lister, Anna & Richard Marlow, David Thrower</i>
Stage crew	Jeff Barry, Ceri Baker, Alan Merrick, Jo Webster
Props manager	Ceri Baker
Costume design & creation	Lynda Bates, Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield
Continuity	Carole Tappenden
Lighting design	Ian Chandler
Lighting	Tim and Paul Mountford-Lister
Sound	Gary Bates, Steve Greening
Make up	Jessica Biggs, Anna Marlow, Lyn Waugh
Publicity	Gary Field, Shela Rowan, Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Children's coordinator	Ian Lee
Front of house coordinator	Shela Rowan
Front of house team	Denise Monk, Derek Crowdson, Katie Dyet, Amanda Harvey, Dave Headey, Ian Lee, Alan Taylor, Carolyn Taylor

Emma Butcher (Arthur)

Emma has been flautist in the panto orchestra for the last two years, and this is her first move from the “orchestra pit” to centre stage. At FCC she was a “pink lady” in their production of **Grease** and hopes to study drama at university next year.



Bex Hutchings (Mrs Tickleme)

We are very pleased to welcome Bex to the stage in Faringdon for the third time. Her debut role was memorable “ugly sister” Petronella in last year’s panto **Happily Ever After**, and you may have seen her in **Side Effects** at Buscot Park Theatre. She’s really enjoying being a traditional pantomime dame!

Josh Dunn (Sir Loin)

Josh’s first time on stage was here at the Junior School, in their production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat** (he was Pharaoh’s assistant). Since then he has been more of a musician than an actor, playing guitar and bass, but he’s really enjoying this, his first panto with FDS.



Lottie Allum (Margaret)

As well as being a panto regular, Lottie has appeared in FCC’s production of **Annie**, and was a fairy in **A Midsummer Night’s Dream**. Dance is one of her great loves and she very much enjoyed working on the choreography in **The Scarlet Pumpernickel** three years ago.

Suzanna Carter (Morgan Le Fay)

This is Suzanna’s third appearance with FDS. Previously she has played Prince Charming (in **Cinderella**, 2012) and Jack (of **The Beanstalk**) in 2013. Suzanna has had a few years away whilst starting a family but she is delighted to be back. “I’m pleased to be playing a villain which is a new departure for me and I look forward to the shows”!



Dom Allum (Robin)

Dom has been in many FDS pantos and you may remember him as Sneak (or was it Squeak?) the mouse in last year’s **Happily Ever After**. He’s pleased to return to human form again and to play the role of Robin.



Sarah Couzens (Merlin)

Her first panto with FDS, Sarah's most recent appearances have been in **Living Together** (2015), **The Odd Couple** and **London Suite** (both in 2011). When she first joined FDS in 2001 Sarah took on the title role in **Daisy Pulls it Off** (where she gave "a very convincing performance") and also appeared in **Arsenic and Old Lace** (2004).

Gary Field (Sir Jikal-Trusse)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and although he first worked backstage it wasn't long before he stepped into the spotlight. He has been in numerous plays and taken several roles in panto (once as Bo Peep!). Gary directed **I Thought I heard a Rustling** (2009) and **Wife After Death** (2013), and is the current chairman of FDS.



Helen Thrower (Sir Plusse)

Helen joined FDS for **Jack and the Beanstalk** in 2013, and has been in several plays since. She has plenty of experience in drama, both at the Pegasus Theatre and in schools. At the Unicorn in Abingdon she has directed **Robin Hood**, **Oliver Twist** and **Cats**, and with FDS **The Scarlet Pumpnickel** and **Happily Ever After** (which she co-wrote with Verity).

Verity Roberts (Sir Cuitous)

Verity has taken leading roles in **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Cold Comfort Farm**, and **The Odd Couple**, and was Hermia in 2013's **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. She has had significant parts in no fewer than seven of our last nine pantos. Verity was co-author (with Helen Thrower) of last year's panto **Happily Ever After**.



Sandra Keen (Sir Reale)

Sandra has been acting for sixteen years, starting with a production of **Cinderella**, and has since performed a wide range of rôles including Lady Sneerwell in Sheridan's **School for Scandal**. At FDS we last saw Sandra on stage in **Wife After Death** (2013) and **Living Together** (2015).

Debbie Lock (Sir Veillance)

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years – she has appeared in a variety of productions and has directed several plays and pantomimes, most recently **Side Effects** at Buscot Park last year. She was last on stage in **Agatha Crusty** in November and you may have spotted her "mirror image" in the last panto **Happily Ever After**.



Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over sixty years ago in 1948.

Since then it has mounted around 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Our next production will be at Buscot Park Theatre, Buscot House, from **Thursday 11th May to Saturday 13th May**. We expect to present a comedy, 'My Friend, Miss Flint' by Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham.

Weather permitting, there will be an opportunity to picnic in the grounds, before the play starts.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **Hare in the Woods** for ticket sales