

# Faringdon Dramatic Society



Affiliated to NODA

presents

# Wishing on a Star

a brand new pantomime by Verity Roberts & Helen Thrower

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> - Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> - Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2019

Faringdon Junior School

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

# Wishing on a Star

A Pantomime by **Helen Thrower** and **Verity Roberts**

In the ancient Kingdom of Durocornovium, a star falls to earth once in a hundred years to take her rightful place on the throne. But this time things are a little different. This time the Star has not fallen in quite the right place and everyone wants to find her.

Kristian wants the Star to take back to his one true love. The Princes want the Star so that they can remain in power, and the Witches of Savernake want the Star to help them regain their youth and beauty. All must brave the dreaded dragon, a den of delinquents and a forest of thieves but who will get to her first? Will finding the Star make all their wishes come true? And will they all live happily ever after...?

## Act 1

Prologue

Scene 1 - the Town Square

Scene 2 - Merleberg Castle

Scene 3 - the Witches' Lair

Scene 4 - River Tamesis

Scene 5 - the Dragon's Cave

Scene 6 - the Witches' Lair

Scene 7 - the Starving Crow

## Act 2

Scene 1 - the Starving Crow

Scene 2 - the Witches' Lair

Scene 3 - On the road

Scene 4 - Castle Savernake

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

## **Cast:**

Kristian: **ABBY BENSON**  
Star: **ANDREA BOND**  
Dame Ariel Bucket: **SARAH VARNOM**

### ***The Witches of Savernake:***

Griselda: **SCOOBY CARTER**  
Esmerelda: **MILLIE GREEN**  
Ifelda: **JANIE EYRE-BROOK**

### ***The Princes:***

Fitzroy: **JACOB BAYLISS**  
Odo: **ALISON MORRIS**  
Sigurd: **MATTHEW WARNER**

Boatman/Innkeeper/  
Dandy Highwayman: **DUNCAN SINCLAIR**  
Galaxy the Minstrel: **JAYNE HOYLAND**  
Scaringas: **CAROLYN TAYLOR**  
Louisa: **MILLIE LONG**  
Clara: **KAYLEIGH BOOTH**  
Isabella: **KIA HOWARD**  
King Goddard: **RODDY BENSON**  
Lord Uppham: **GARY FIELD**  
Malarkey: **BYRON POUND**

Directed by **Verity Roberts** and **Helen Thrower**  
Musical Director: **Martin Waymark**

*Servants to the Princes:*

Servant 1: James Colson

Servant 2: Samantha Viner

Servant 3: Tom Sutton

Customer 1: Skye Farquhar

Customer 2: Maisie Brame

Customer 3: Ruby Rixon

Customer 4: Lauren Habgood

*Highwaymen:*

Isobelle Dawson

Sam Tate

Kayleigh Booth

Simon Couzens

Millie Long

Debbie Lock

Kia Howard

*Minstrels:*

Jan Crowdson

Jack Metcalf

Carole Tappenden

Julie Childs

Lynne Puddifoot

Finlay Farquhar

Henry Marlow

*Sprites/Draglets:*

Tabitha Green

Hanna Miozga

Iona Sucksmith

Lilyana Isaksen-Clarke

Romilly Tinson

Willow Tate

*Imps :*



Daniel Watson

Pearl Hampshire

Alfie Long

Dexter Kent

Cecily Roberts

Griffynn Isaksen-Clarke



*Orchestra:*

**Christopher Fletcher-Campbell** (piano)

**Nick Morris** (drums)

**Richard Lock** (guitar)

**Martin Waymark** (bass guitar)

# Production Team

Producer	Debbie Lock
Choreography	Andrea Bond
Stage manager	Jeff Barry
Backstage crew	Alan Merrick, Derek Crowdson, Jo Webster
Props creation	Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden, Jan Crowdson
Continuity	Sandra Keen
Lighting design	Ian Chandler
Lights and Sound	Gary Bates, Steve Greening
Set design	Jo Webster
Set build	Alan Merrick, Jeff Barry, Peter Webster, Derek Crowdson
Costume	Joan Lee, Lynda Bates, Helen Tate, Jan Crowdson
Makeup co-ordinator	Anna Marlow
Programmes	Dave Headey
Child co-ordinator	Ian Lee
Chaperone supervisor	Helen Tate
Publicity	Adrian Wells
Web publicity / ticket sales	Ian Lee
Front of house manager	Sarah Couzens
Front of house	Peter Webster, Dave Headey, Denise Monk, Alan Taylor, Shela Rowan, Fiona Merrick, Jeni Summerfield

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Gifted Magpie** for ticket sales,
- **TESCO** for donation of raffle prizes.

## Profiles of some of the Cast

### Andrea Bond (Star)

Andrea is a Dance and PE teacher, who we last saw on stage as wicked Citronella in **Happily Ever After** (2016). Before that she was the heroine Gloria in **The Snow Queen**, Florence in **Jack and the Beanstalk** and the title role in **Aladdin**. In the past Andrea has taken on other principal roles such as Cinderella and the Sugar Plum Fairy and her highlight to date was representing her county in the Millennium Dome in 2000.



### Sarah Varnom (Dame)

Sarah is making a rare appearance in Panto. A year ago she won accolades for her role as Laurie Lee's mother in **Cider with Rosie**, but she has enjoyed all manner of roles from Wicked Witch to Lady Bracknell. In 2010 Sarah directed **Heroes** which was performed as part of a dinner/theatre experience and was a huge success, winning the NODA Flame Award that year.

### Abby Benson (Kristian)

Abby has appeared in countless pantomimes with FDS, including **Dick Whittington** (the title role, in 2011), **Happily Ever After**, **Beauty and The Beast** and **Aladdin**, and was also in the Community College production of **Boogie Nights**. She has just returned from two years as a family entertainer in hotels, so **Wishing on a Star** is something of a busman's holiday for her!



### Duncan Sinclair (Boatman/Innkeeper/Highwayman)

This is Duncan's sixth appearance in a Faringdon panto, having taken various roles in Wantage and Cirencester over the years. You may remember him as ugly sister Hernia in **Cinderella**, the Ogre in **Jack and the Beanstalk**, Gaston Legroom in the **Scarlet Pumpernickel** or Dame Trott in **Happily Ever After** two years ago. And in **Dick Whittington** last year he was incompetent seaman Captain Cockleshell.

### Alison Morris (Prince Odo)

Alison lives in Witney and made her debut with FDS as Laurie Lee's sister Marge in **Cider with Rosie** (2017). For ten years Alison has been a member of two choirs, taking roles in sketches and musicals performed in the Summer with Witney Inter-Church Singers. She previously played Ratty in the St Mary's Church production of **Wind in the Willows**. This is her first go at Pantomime, and she's thoroughly enjoying it.





## Matthew Warner (Prince Sigurd)

As well as appearing in many FDS pantos, Matthew has taken part in school productions such as **Boogie Nights** and **Annie** (as newsman Bert Healy) and is a member of Musical Youth UK where his most recent role was in **Les Miserables**. He has also appeared at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and in April 2014 joined the company in **Miss Saigon**.

## Jacob Bayliss (Prince Fitzroy)

We saw Jacob on stage last year playing the part of a new member of FDS in **Faringdon Follies** (basically, himself!). His debut actually came in 2017 when he stepped in at short notice to take a couple of small roles in **Cider with Rosie**, one of which entailed him being beaten to death! This is his first appearance in Panto and he feels on slightly safer ground, but is still keeping a wary eye out for those witches.



## Janie Eyre-Brook (Ifelda)



Janie first appeared in an FDS production (**Beside the Seaside**) over forty years ago. Since then she has been a member of several different groups and appeared in a wide variety of productions including **My Friend Miss Flint** (2017), **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, **Our Town** and **Present Laughter** She has also appeared in the "background" of several films and even pressed her body against Pierce Brosnan in **The World is not Enough** (well, someone had to do it).

## Scooby Carter (Griselda)

This is Scooby's fourth panto appearance with FDS. Previously she has played Prince Charming (in **Cinderella**, 2012), Jack (of **The Beanstalk**) in 2013 and the evil Morgan Le Fay in this year's panto **Arthur's Adventure**. The last time we saw her on stage though was in the hilarious comedy **My Friend Miss Flint** as the infamous Lucy. Scooby has had a few years away whilst starting a family but she is delighted to be back.



## Millie Green (Esmerelda)

"Oh, go on Mum, audition for one of the witches!" Millie had only come to the casting with her daughter Tabitha (one of the sprites) but was surprised to say the least when she ended up with a leading role. She has been a member of Bishopstone Dramatic Society for some years and has a degree in psychodrama, which is not as far removed from pantomime as you might think.

## Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed **seventy years ago**, in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. 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' and we have won four of the last six pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama Network. The most recent was for **Arthur's Adventure** in 2017.

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](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

Watch out for our next production at Buscot Park Theatre, which will be a light-hearted comedy - **Airport Tales** by Carol Libman, in collaboration with Garrison Little Theatre, Fort Erie, Canada.

**Friday May 17 and Saturday May 18.** Book the date!

