

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Beauty and The Beast

A Pantomime by Box Hutchings



NODA
on every stage



Tickets and more information: www.faringdondramatic.org

Beauty and The Beast

A Pantomime by Bex Hutchings

A brand-new original pantomime by FDS's own Bex Hutchings. She came up with the idea driving home during last year's panto rehearsals, a single song sparked the flame for the entire show!

Be our guest in Little Snoring, where Belle is not living her best life. No friends, no good books and chased relentlessly by the repugnant Hugh. Belle is looking for adventure and boy does she find it! Drawing inspiration from the iconic animated film; enchanted castles, living furniture and a brooding Beast all beckon in this one-of-a-kind adventure. With dad jokes, poo jokes and a romance for the ages there is something for everyone in this tale as old as time retold.

Join us and see if you can guess which song in the show was the catalyst for the whole production!

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 – Little Snoring
- Scene 2 – The Woods
- Scene 3 – Little Snoring
- Scene 4 – The Woods
- Scene 5 – Enchanted Castle
- Scene 6 – Enchanted Castle (Kitchen)
- Scene 7 – Enchanted Castle

ACT TWO

- Scene 8 – Enchanted Castle
- Scene 9 – The Woods
- Scene 10 – Enchanted Castle
- Scene 11 – Enchanted Castle
- Scene 12 – Little Snoring
- Scene 13 – Little Snoring (Audience participation)
- Scene 14 – Enchanted Castle

There will be an interval of about twenty minutes between acts, during which refreshments will be available and (at evening shows) the raffle drawn.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Belle	Bella-Storm Rowley
Hugh Geego	Kevin Jones
Achoo	Heather Kent
Nelly) <i>The</i>	Isla Maline
Shelly) <i>Mean</i>	Jasmine Clark
Kelly) <i>Girls</i>	Tylah-Jay Edmonds
Mamma Kaye	Matt Wheeler
Phillipe Phillop (<i>Panto Horse</i>)	Jayne Hoyland, Ellie-May Smith
Ray	Andrea Forgione
Faye	Abby Valentine
Beast	Matthew Warner
Jobsworth	Verity Roberts
Lumens	Andrew Slater
Mrs Pans	Vixz Edmonds

Ensemble children:

Jade Atkinson
Wesley Belcher
Beth Boden
Emilia Forth
Isabella Gidney-Godwin
Liam Hoyland
Afshan Javed-Blouin
Nicola Lesniak
Layla Mackenzie
Jacob Moore

Xander Phillips
Beatrice Roberts
Cecily Roberts
Kiara-Skye Rowley
Tatum Rowley
Bertie Sharrocks
Amelia Smith
Coral Wakeford
Thea Wheeler
Evie Williams

Ensemble adults:

Hayley Wakeford
Samantha Rowley
Helen Barker
Kayleigh McLauchlan

Directed by **Bex Hutchings**
Musical Director – **Duncan Sinclair**

Musicians

Duncan Sinclair (piano)
Richard Lock (guitar)
Mike Fraser (bass guitar)
Nick Morris (drums)

Production Team:

Producer	Gary Field
Stage Manager	Debbie Lock
Backstage crew	Tony Edmonds, Debbie Lock, Bob Kent, Robbie McLaughlan, Amanda Linstead, Laura Seeney
Set Design	Bex Hutchings
Set building crew	Gary Bates, Tony Edmonds <i>with assistance from Richard Lock, Duncan Sinclair, Kevin Jones, Matthew Warner, Bex Hutchings, Vixz Edmonds and backstage crew.</i>
Wardrobe Team	Paula Read, Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Jan Crowdson, Julie Childs, Jane Cadogan, Pauline Stowers, Tatum Rowley, Kelly Jones
Sound and lighting	Gary Bates, Ian Chandler, Craig Atkinson, Alison Morris
Choreography	Bex Hutchings, Jade Atkinson, Bertie Sharrocks, Jayne Hoyland
Prompt	Sarah Nutbrown
Props	Christine Milne
Children's Safety	Julie Kent
Programme	Dave Headey
Box Office	Ian Lee
Publicity	Bex Hutchings, Ian Lee
FoH Manager	Shela Rowan
Front of House	Members of the society

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **The Elms Primary School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities

Cast Profiles

Bella-Storm Rowley (Belle)

Bella-Storm's passion for theatre began in South Africa, where she first performed in *Swan Lake*. After moving to the UK, she has taken title roles in **Romeo & Juliet**, **Moana** and **Annie** at FCC. Since joining FDS, Bella-Storm has performed in **Sleeping Beauty**, **The Ruby Slippers** and **Cinderella**, most recently as Dandini. She is delighted to be playing Belle in **Beauty and the Beast** and hopes you enjoy the show.



Matthew Warner (Beast)

Matthew says: "I've been with FDS for nearly 20 years now, most often in pantomimes (like the previous **Beauty and the Beast** in 2009) but also other productions both on and off the stage. At FCC as a teenager, I appeared in **Boogie Nights** and **Annie**, and I leaned into my love of musical theatre as a member of Musical Youth UK which even allowed me to perform in the West End production **Miss Saigon**."

Kevin Jones (Hugh)

Kevin has performed in numerous pantomimes and plays for Stanford in the Vale drama group – most recently **Cinders The True Story** (2020), in a range of roles from court jester to wizard. This is his third appearance in an FDS panto: he was thrilled to be offered the part of Aunt Em in **The Ruby Slippers** (2024) and last year was "ugly sister" Gertrude alongside an extremely talented group of performers, musicians in **Cinderella**.



Matt Wheeler (Mamma Kaye)

This is Matt's second panto with FDS – this time last year you may remember him as poor lovestruck Buttons in **Cinderella** and his friend Booba (Bob the Bunny), who is now off on his world tour. "I however, am delighted and grateful to be back for **Beauty and the Beast** with FDS." Says Matt. "Playing the wonderful Madame Kaye has been great fun and this year sharing the stage with my eldest daughter, Thea, for her first ever panto! Enjoy the show everyone."





Andrea Forgione (Ray)

We'll let Andrea introduce herself: "My name's Andrea Forgione and I've recently moved to Faringdon and become a new member of FDS! I'm really looking forward to my Panto debut as Ray. I grew up in Germany and moved to the UK for University. I now work as a teacher in Oxford and greatly enjoy acting & dancing. I've felt really welcomed by FDS and look forward to everyone enjoying the show!"

Abby Valentine (Faye)

Abby has appeared in countless pantomimes with FDS, starting with **Pirates of the Faribbean** in 2007 and followed by others including **Dick Whittington** (the title role), **Cinderella** and **Happily Ever After**. She was also in the FCC production of **Boogie Nights** and she has also been seen in **Wishing on a Star**, **Shakers**, **Sleeping Beauty**, and was the Fairy Godmother in **Cinderella** this time last year.



Isla Maline (Nelly)

Isla previously played a small role in **Cinderella** this time last year. She currently studies performing arts at Oxford City College, continuing to build her skills and confidence both on stage and in training. Isla loves exploring performance through movement and character (which she showed in last November's **Over by Christmas**) and is excited to keep developing her passion for the performing arts.

Jasmine Clark (Shelly)

Jasmine Clark is young and enthusiastic performer with a growing passion for theatre. She has taken part in FDS performances for the last four years and had a major role in **The Ruby Slippers**. Jasmine has performed at the Wyvern Theatre as part of the SYP project. She enjoys collaborating with other performers and creative teams. Jasmine continues to build her skills in acting and live performances.

Tylah-Jay Edmonds (Kelly)

Tylah-Jay, aged 15, has been involved with FDS **Cinderella** and **The Ruby Slippers**, where she has loved every moment of being on stage. She is currently working towards her LAMDA Grade and trains with Little Voices Swindon, where she continues to develop her acting and performance skills. Passionate and hardworking, she hopes to pursue performing further and is excited for the opportunities ahead.



Jayne Hoyland / Ellie-May Smith (Phillipe)

Our equine star is played by Jayne, who has been a regular in pantos and plays going back donkey's (sorry, horse's) years, and Ellie-May, who has been in just two (**Aladdin** and **Cinderella**) but has shown she can hoof it with the best. Are we going to tell you which end is which? Nay!



Heather Kent (Achoo)

Heather has always loved taking part in any shows she can, and hopes to pursue a career in musical theatre. She is currently studying this at 'Stagedoor Learning' Performing Arts Sixth Form in Cheltenham. Heather has appeared in four pantos with FDS, and she also took the role of Norma in **Be My Baby** at Buscot in 2023. Last November Heather learned a lot from directing **Over by Christmas**.



Vixz Edmonds (Mrs Pans)

Vixz trained in singing and musical theatre from a young age and later studied performing arts, which led to working within holiday parks. We welcomed Vixz to FDS as Fairy Peaceful in **Sleeping Beauty** (2023), she then played the Wizard in **The Ruby Slippers** (2024) and the Baroness in **Cinderella** last year. She stage managed **Enchanted April** (2024) and then directed **Entertaining Angels** in 2025.

Andrew Slater (Lumens)

Andrew says: "When someone suggested I could be the candle in Beauty and the Beast, I thought 'That's a bright idea' This is my 4th production with FDS and I am excited to shine in my first principal role. All acting is fun, but nothing can hold a candle to the laughs of Panto!" We all enjoyed watching Andrew as Private Pike of Dad's Army in November's production **Over by Christmas**.



Verity Roberts (Jobsworth)

As well as being a mainstay (and yes, she has dressed as a dame) of panto, Verity has appeared on the FDS stage in everything from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde; Neil Simon to Alan Ayckbourn. Verity was co-author of three successful pantos and her most recent appearances have been as Queen Dorothy in **Sleeping Beauty** (2023), accident-prone witch Blunda in **The Ruby Slippers** (2024) and Leggett (of Bodgit and Leggett) in **Cinderella** (2025).

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Since its formation in 1948 Faringdon Dramatic Society has mounted over 200 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare.

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

We would be really pleased if you would write us a review – your honest opinions will be much appreciated:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

where you can also find up to date details of the Society and membership.

Our May production is the play **Lark Rise** by Keith Dewhurst (from the book by Flora Thompson) at Coleshill Estate and tickets will be available from our Online Box Office.