

# Faringdon Dramatic Society

*(affiliated to NODA)*

*presents*

# *Beauty* *and the*

# **B**EA**ST**

by  
Carolyn Taylor

in  
Faringdon  
Junior  
School

January 30 & 31  
February 6 & 7  
2009



# Beauty and the Beast

by Carolyn Taylor

All the best tales begin 'Once upon a time...' and end '...and they lived happily ever after', but a lot can happen in between! The magic of the Teller of Tales brings us the story of Beauty (Belle), her impoverished family, and The Beast. They are held captive in his palace and garden, with a collection of Nursery Rhyme characters, by the spell of the evil Taletwister. A stolen rose brings them together, but can the Teller of Tales bring their story to a happy ending, or will the Taletwister destroy their hopes of living "happily ever after" and, incidentally, manage to steal all the nursery rhymes from little children for ever?

It has been fascinating bringing an idea first to the page then to the stage. This interpretation of the story is inspired by the old French tale 'La Belle et Le Bête', rather than the more modern Disney version.

*Carolyn Taylor*

## Act 1

Scene 1 - Faringdon

Scene 2 - Dobbin's journey

Scene 3 - The Beast's Palace

Scene 4 - The Beast's Garden

## Act 2

Scene 5 - The Beast's Garden in winter

Scene 6 - The Merchants' House, Faringdon

Scene 7 - The Beast's Garden

Scene 8 - Dobbin's return journey

Scene 9 - Faringdon

Scene 10 - The Beast's garden

Owing to a change in licensing arrangements the bar is now located in the school Dining Hall. It will be open for interval drinks at evening performances, and drinks may be pre-ordered on arrival in the Main Hall.

At matinees, children's refreshments will be available in the Main Hall, and at evening performances in the Dining Hall.

## Cast in order of appearance:

The Teller of Tales	Karen Whiffen
Mr Merchant (Dad)	Alan Taylor
Belle Merchant (Beauty)	Lauren Bates
Henrietta Merchant	Clare Matthews
Heloise Merchant	Abby Benson
Johnny Merchant	Oliver Bilson
Jimmy Merchant	Rhys Lewis
Joe Merchant	Sebastian Allum
Bad Fairy Taletwister	Katie Dyet
Dobbin the tap-dancing horse	Joan Lee & Debbie Lock
Little Bo Peep	Gary Field
Little Jack Horner	Jack Porter
Boy Blue	Alfie Duffen
Mary-Mary	Afton Stinnie
Miss Muffett	Esme Cottier
'Vinegar' Jack	Barnaby Vogt
Beast	Adrian Wells
The Old Woman who lived in a shoe	Katie Goodwin
Solo dancer	Jenny Whiffen
Prince	Austen Roberts

### Orchestra:

Steve Page (keyboard)  
Debra Warner (clarinet, saxophone)  
Richard Lock (guitar)  
Martin Brown (bass guitar)  
Rebecca Whiffen (flute)  
Martha Kiff (flute)  
Mark Langley Smith (drums)

Written and directed by **Carolyn Taylor**

**Musical Director: Stephen Page**

**Dancers :**

Isabelle Clarke  
Anna Dyet  
Briony Farmer  
Verity Green  
Holly Hamer  
Amelia Hunt  
Ellie Kirwin Jones  
Meg Porter  
Monica Segola  
Alisha Snozwell  
Megan Taylor  
Julia Thomas

Rosie Townsend  
Daisy Vanags  
Jenny Whiffen

**Townfolk of Faringdon (chorus)**

Kirsty Bayliss  
Verity Green  
Lexie Hodgson  
Bronwyn Lavender  
Rachel Keaney  
Matthew Warner  
Hazel Wells

**Special appearances by:**

The Famous Five (minus Timmy the dog):

Julian  
Dick  
George  
Anne

Laurence Cain  
Huw Lewis / Matthew Warner  
Eilish Simpson  
Sally Hayter

Alice  
Peter Pan  
Harry Potter  
Frodo Baggins  
Sam Gamgee  
Catherine Earnshaw  
Hamlet  
Jill  
Heathcliff

Alice Stephens  
Anna Dyet  
Jake Thorpe  
Meg Thorpe  
Ben Draper  
Lexie Hodgson  
David Tennant  
Sasha Dobner  
Allan Dover

## Behind the Scenes

Producer	John Taylor
Singing Coaching	Adrian & Lois Wells
Choreography	Jenny Whiffen, Debbie Lock, Carolyn Taylor
Make-up co-ordinator	Nona Lewis
Stage management	Dave Headey, Sue Waine
Costumes	Joan Lee, Jeni Summerfield, Sharon Gerry, Lois Wells, Carole Tappenden, Carolyn Taylor
Set design	Jo Webster
Set construction	Peter Webster, Jo Webster, Gary Field, Alan Merrick, Jeff Barry, Nick Evans, Carole Tappenden
Stage crew	Alan Merrick, Nick Evans
Lighting	Ian Chandler, Gary Bates, Scott Gildert
Special effects	Scott Gildert
Sound	Gary Bates, Scott Gildert, Keith Merrick, Tim Mountford-Lister
Administration and publicity	Fiona Merrick
Programmes	Dave Headey
Poster design	Adrian Wells
Special Props	Gary Bates, Jo Webster
Props	Sandra Keen
Continuity	John Taylor
Backstage co-ordinator	Ian Lee
Front of House co-ordinator	Denise Monk
Front of House Team	Lynda Bates, Debra Keasal, Fiona Merrick, Ann Plant, Sarah Varnom, Carole Tappenden, Miriam Wells, Martin & Kathryn Whiffen, Jayne Isham, Ann Taylor, Lynda & Simon Wisbey

# Principal Characters

## Lauren Bates (Beauty)

Lauren has appeared in several pantos when younger, but Beauty is her first big acting role. It is one which gives her plenty of opportunity for her first love, which is singing. She was last seen in **Candleford** as the singer and in the very small role of Lavinia (so small it didn't even make the cast list).



## Adrian Wells (Beast)

Adrian has appeared in a number of FDS productions from **Lark Rise (1998)** to **Candleford (2008)**, enjoying such outings as **The Crucible**, **The Importance Of Being Earnest**, **Albert** and **Outside Edge** along the way.

## Karen Whiffen (Teller of Tales)

Karen has been a member of FDS for over twelve years, and has been involved in many productions as actor, director and backstage, as well as secretary to the society. She appeared as the servant Dunyasha in **The Cherry Orchard** and was last seen as grumpy Mrs Gubbins in **Candleford**. She is looking forward to her first stage appearance in a glamorous frock!



## Alan Taylor (Dad)

Alan has for the last few years specialised in cameo roles (most recently as the tramp in **The Cherry Orchard**) and the part of Beauty's Dad is his biggest for some time. However he has been one of the stalwarts of the society behind the scenes, particularly in set construction and stage management.

## Katie Dyet (Bad)

Embarking on her seventh panto with FDS, Katie observes, recalling her previous roles as judge, gypsy, simpleton, queen and pirate, that she has been the good, the bad, and the ugly. In her most recent appearance on stage she didn't say a word, yet received critical acclaim - as the mute Loony Joe in **Candleford**. She's enjoying getting her teeth into the part of the Bad Fairy!

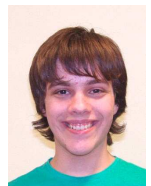


## Gary Field (Bo Peep)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and has worked backstage as well as being the current chairman of the society. His first role was the cynical manservant Yasha in **The Cherry Orchard** and he was most recently seen as the matrimonially troubled Bob in **Outside Edge** and as one of the blacksmiths in **Candleford**.

## Jack Porter (Jack Horner)

Jack has appeared in several FDS pantos - he was the Sergeant in **Dreamers** and Wendy's brother John in **Peter Panto** - but most recently he was one of the footmen in **Candleford**. His role in the Faringdon Community College production of **Fiddler on the Roof** gave Jack his first experience of solo singing - but he "prefers pie flinging".





### **Joan Lee (Dobbin – front)**

After making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, Joan was co-opted onto the wardrobe team in 1987 and has been there ever since. She acts and dances as well, and not only has she specialised in animal parts (being in her time a lion, a fish and a toad), she has equine experience as the back end of Black Bess in **Dick Turpin**. She is pleased to have been promoted to the front for Dobbin.

### **Debbie Lock (Dobbin – back)**

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years as an actor and director – She has appeared in a variety of productions from **The Crucible** to **Cabaret** and has directed pantomimes as well as the last production, **Candleford**. She has once before appeared on stage in animal costume - as the tap dancing crocodile in **Peter Panto** – but Dobbin is her first equine role.



### **Carolyn Taylor (Author and director)**

Carolyn has appeared in and directed many productions, recent highlights being directing **Outside Edge** which FDS took to Canada last year, and the role of Zillah in **Candleford**. **Beauty and the Beast** reveals yet another of her talents as it marks her debut as a playwright.

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities
- **Faringdon Junior School** for their co-operation
- **The Nut Tree** for box office facilities
- **Thanks A Bunch** for 'coming up roses'

and of course all the **parents** for their help with costumes, chaperoning and much more.

Because of an injury to his back, David Tennant is unable to appear.  
The part of Hamlet will be taken by his understudy, Allan Dover

## New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over sixty years ago, in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for "Dancing at Lughnasa" in 2004.

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)

Or email us at [webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk)

Over land, over sea,  
Over river, hill and tree  
Magic ring I conjure thee  
Take me where my heart would be

