

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY



presents

Affiliated to NODA

Dick Whittington

by Alan Frayn

28-29 Jan

4-5 Feb

Faringdon
Junior School



website: www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Dick Whittington

A pantomime by Alan Frayn

Dick Whittington is a character in a story that was adapted to the stage in 1605 and became popular as a pantomime subject in the 19th century, called *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, very loosely based on Richard Whittington. The story tells how Dick, a boy from a poor family, sets out for London to make his fortune, accompanied by, or later acquiring, his cat. At first he meets with little success, and is tempted to return home. However, on his way out of the city, whilst climbing Highgate Hill from modern-day Archway, he hears the Bow Bells of London ringing, and believes they are sending him a message.

ACT I

Scene 1: Olde London Town

Scene 2: Highgate Hill

Scene 3: Inside Fitzwarren's Store

Scene 4: Down in the Sewers

Scene 5: Later, Inside the Store

Scene 6: A London Street

Scene 7: Highgate Hill

ACT II

Scene 1: London Docks

Scene 2: The Galley

Scene 3: All Hands on Deck

Scene 4: Under the Sea

Scene 5: The Shores of Morocco

Scene 6: The Sultan's Palace

Scene 7: Outside the Palace

Scene 8: The Wedding/Finale

Cast:

Dick Whittington
Alderman Fitzwarren
Alice
Dolly Dumpling
Idle Jack
Captain Cuttlefish
Scupper
Tom
King Rat
Assistant to King Rat
Fairy Bowbells
Sultan of Morocco

Abby Benson
Gary Field
Jenny Whiffen
Michael Tipper
Seb Allum
Joan Lee
Lois Wells
Jo Garrard
Debbie Lock
Lawrence Cain
Carole Tappenden
Josh Ashcroft (Week A)
Matthew Warner (Week B)

Ratlings:

Becky Arlott
Kelsey Law
Addie-Rose Lewis
Kate Robbins

Native Guards:

Charlotte Allum
Emma Butcher
Megan Evatt
Phoebe Shaw

Chorus:

Nicci Armer
Kirsty Bayliss
Emily Carter
Anna Dyet
Katie Goodwin
Lucy Groves
Sally Hayter

Chloe Jordison
Beth Porter
Tara Preston
Verity Roberts
Georgia Stevens
Carolyn Taylor
Jo Webster
Hazel Wells

Directed by **Karen Whiffen**

Musical Director & Vocal coach:

Marianna Raho

Orchestra:

Harriet Warner (Piano/Recorder)
Debra Warner (Clarinet/Saxophone)
Elli Morton (Clarinet/Saxophone)
Richard Lock (Guitar)
Pete Haskins (Bass Guitar)
Alex Warner (Drums)

Turn again Whittington
Thou worthy citizen!
Lord Mayor of London



*You'll get a
chance to sing in
Act II!*

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

Behind the Scenes...

Stage Manager	Ian Lee
Set Design	Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden
Set Construction	Peter Webster, Jeff Barry, Alan Merrick, Richard Lock
Backstage crew	Peter Webster, Alan Merrick, Jeff Barry
Choreography	Jenny Whiffen
Props	Sandra Keen, Sarah Couzens
Producer	Dave Headey
Lighting design	Ian Chandler
Lighting	Paul Mountford-Lister, Martin Whiffen
Sound	Gary Bates, Gordon Belcher
Costumes	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Sharon Gerry
Prompt	Katie Dyet
Rehearsal pianist	Karen Vogt
Make Up	Lyn Waugh, Nona Lewis, Katie Dyet, Karen Whiffen
Publicity	Fiona Merrick
Posters	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House Coordinator	Sarah Varnom
Bar Manager	Adrian Wells
Front of House staff	Vern Dunkley, Lilly Dunkley, Dave Headey, Denise Monk, Fiona Merrick, Keith Merrick, Mary Mountford-Lister, James Murphy, Shela Rowan, Alan Taylor, Miriam Wells, Simon Wisbey

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
and
- **All the parents** for fetching, carrying, their help with costumes, and chaperoning

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed sixty years ago in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, 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

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk

Principal characters

Abby Benson (Dick)

Abby has appeared in several pantomimes with FDS, including **Beauty and The Beast** and **Aladdin**, but apart from the Community College production of **Boogie Nights** this is her first as a principal character. She has enjoyed the challenge of playing Dick Whittington, and hopes to participate in many more FDS productions in the future!



Michael Tipper (Dolly Dumpling)

Michael has been a huge fan of pantomime ever since seeing **Cinderella** in Plymouth 20 years ago. An actor friend suggested he would be a good dame (he was never sure why!) which then became one of his "Bucket List" goals. Michael is no stranger to being on stage as he delivers seminars to business audiences across Europe but this is the first time he has performed in Amateur Dramatics.

Debbie Lock (King Rat)

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years – she has appeared in a variety of productions from **The Crucible** to **Cabaret** and has directed four pantomimes, as well as the one act play **Albert**, which won the Wallingford drama festival. One of her highlights was appearing as the tap dancing crocodile in **Peter Panto**, and her last major role was as Stage Manager in **Our Town**.



Jenny Whiffen (Alice/Choreographer)

Last year Jenny played Elfine in **Cold Comfort Farm** but dancing is her first love and at 16 years old, is our youngest ever choreographer. She hopes the cast of Dick Whittington have enjoyed learning the dance routines as much as she has enjoyed devising and teaching them. Jenny recently won an award for tap dancing, and is currently training to be a student dance teacher.

Seb Allum (Jack)

Seb has now performed in five FDS pantos, most recently as Won Long Pong in last year's **Aladdin**. Playing Michael in Peter Panto has been his favourite role. In 2009 he took part in **Our Town** where he played two brothers. Seb loves acting and has ambitions to become a future Doctor Who and perform in the West End. He can't wait for the first night!



Jo Garrard (Tom)

Although she has appeared in Faringdon Pantos over several years, having been in the chorus of **Pirates of the Faribbean**, **Peter Panto** and **Aladdin**, Tom the Cat is Jo's first role in the spotlight and she is very much looking forward to it. We are sure it will be the first of many – maybe next time as a human being!

Gary Field (Fitzwarren)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and although he first worked backstage it wasn't long before he took his first role as the cynical manservant Yasha in **The Cherry Orchard**. He has appeared as Bob in **Outside Edge**, one of the blacksmiths in **Candleford**, and Bo Peep in **Beauty and the Beast**. His most recent appearance was as Urk in **Cold Comfort Farm**.





Joan Lee (Captain Cuttlefish)

Joan joined the Dramatic Society in 1987, and after making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, has been on the wardrobe team ever since. In her panto career Joan has specialised in animal parts, being in her time a lion, two halves of a horse, a fish and a toad. Recent “human” credits include and Miriam in **Outside Edge** and librarian Ellen in **I Thought I Heard a Rustling**.

Lois Wells (Scupper)

After many years’ absence, Lois has now taken two major roles in less than a year, having played Judith in **Cold Comfort Farm** last June. In the past she has taken a number of pantomime character roles such as Mole in **Wind in the Willows**, Mystic Maggie (with echoes of another Maggie) in **The Pied Piper**, and Velda Vixen in **Snow White**.



Carole Tappenden (Fairy)

Carole has been with FDS for many years but her last major appearance on stage was as the stern but kindly headmistress, Miss Gibson, in **Daisy Pulls it Off** back in 2001. Since then most of her work for the society has been literally behind the scenes, designing, constructing and painting sets for many recent productions, and helping front of house.

Karen Whiffen (Director)

Karen has directed several pantomimes for FDS, including the award-winning Snow White in 2005, but this will unfortunately be her last with the Society, as she is moving with her family to Lancashire in the summer.

Despite a number of sleepless nights, Karen has enjoyed directing Dick Whittington, and would like to thank her team for all the help and support they have given. She hopes the cast and audience will enjoy the show, and would like to wish FDS all the best for their future productions. She will be back - OH YES SHE WILL!!!



John Taylor

We are dedicating this production of Dick Whittington to the memory of John Taylor, a long-standing member of Faringdon Dramatic Society, who died very suddenly at the end of November.

John was a great contributor to FDS in so many ways: directing, acting, producing, managing Front of House, and chairing for some years. He was our 'elder statesman' who was always ready with sage advice or an encouraging word, supporting every production in some way since he and Ann moved to Faringdon.

Exactly a year ago he played the pompous Emperor in **Aladdin**, and only a week before his death gave a superb performance as WW1 veteran Gustave in **Heroes**.