

Faringdon Dramatic Society



Affiliated to NODA

Dick Whittington

a pantomime by Peter Webster

Sat 27th Jan 2.30 pm & 7.30 pm Sat

Sun 28th Jan 2.30 pm Sun

Fri 2nd Feb 7.30 pm Fri

Sat 3rd Feb 2.30 pm & 7.30 pm Sat

Faringdon
Junior School

www.faringdondramatic.com

70 years of FDS!

Dick Whittington

A pantomime by Peter Webster

Dick and his cat Calico have arrived in London Town seeking to make their fortunes, only to find that they are not at all welcome as the locals are very suspicious of strangers. However, Alderman Fitzwarren's adopted daughter Alice persuades her father to give Dick a chance by giving him a job, much to Fitzwarren's wife Phobia's displeasure. Calico is also taken on to help Tapioca Dripping, Fitzwarren's cook, keep marauding rats out of her pantry.

Captain Cockleshell and Salty Swab, the captain and mate of the good ship The Unicorn, arrive to collect their orders for the next trading voyage, only to find that they have to carry sacks of flour to the ship, much to their disgust. All set off to prepare for the voyage.

Captain Cockleshell and Salty, with a great deal of complaining, set out for The Unicorn with the flour; on the way they are waylaid by Snitch and his gang of rascally rats who relieve them of the flour and send the Captain and Salty packing. All this is witnessed by Dick and Calico, who set about the rats, recover the flour and head for the ship. The Captain and Salty confess their failure to Fitzwarren and their humiliation only ceases when Dick and Calico arrive to explain how the tables were turned and that all is well.

Phobia has noted Calico's money-making potential and devises a scheme whereby she will pay Snitch and his rats to cause mayhem and then she will offer to send Calico in to get rid of the rats (who of course are in on the scheme), in return for a nice fat reward. All she needs is somewhere to try out her little scam - and the answer is the rich kingdom of Barbary, exactly where Fitzwarren and his cargo would be heading. If she can get there first, she will be rich and Fitzwarren and Alice will be ruined. All of this is put to the rats, who are only too happy to join in.

Calico and his fellow cats are enjoying a night on the tiles when Phobia arrives to persuade Calico to join in with her scheme. But Calico does not like the sound of this at all and refuses to go with her, whereupon Phobia with the help of the rats captures him and drags him away to her ship.

How will Dick rescue Calico, foil Phobia's evil plan and ensure that all ends well?

Act I

Scene One	The Town Square
Scene Two	On the road to the harbour
Scene Three	The Town Square
Scene Four	A quiet place
Scene Five	The galley of The Unicorn
Scene Six	Another quiet place
Scene Seven	The Town Square

Act II

Scene One	The Town Square
Scene Two	On Highgate Hill
Scene Three	Aboard The Unicorn
Scene Four	Below Decks
Scene Five	The King's Palace

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:

Dick	Jack Metcalf
Calico, Dick's cat	Skye Farquhar*
	Lauren Elvidge-Tappenden*
Alderman Fitzwarren	Adrian Wells
Alice Fitzwarren, <i>his adopted daughter</i>	Millie Long
Phobia Fitzwarren, <i>his wife</i>	Katie Dyet
Tapioca Dripping, <i>the cook</i>	Joan Lee
Captain Cockleshell	Duncan Sinclair
Salty Swab, <i>the ship's mate</i>	Fiona Merrick
Snitch, <i>the chief rat</i>	Verity Roberts
Black Berry, <i>the pirate chief</i>	Helen Thrower
Boho, King of Barbary	Josh Dunn
Princess Poppy	Poppy Mawdsley

**Skye and Lauren play Calico in alternate performances*

The Rats:

Izzie Dawson
Kia Howard
Alfie Long
Dexter Kent
Henry Marlow
Byron Pound
Daniel Watson



The Cats (and citizens):

Lauren Elvidge-Tappenden
Skye Farquhar
Alicia Howard
Tiffany Jakovljevevich
Lynne Puddifoot
Willow Tate
Romilly Tinson
Samantha Viner

The Pirates (and citizens):

Kayleigh Booth
Jan Crowdson
Josh Dunn
Carole Tappenden
Sam Tate
Leo Thrower



The Crew (and citizens):

Julie Biggs
Katie Goodwin
Poppy Mawdsley
Helen Tate
Carolyn Taylor

Orchestra:

Fiona Williams (piano)
Nick Morris (drums)
Richard Lock (guitar)
Martin Waymark (bass guitar)

Directed by **Peter Webster**

Musical Directors: **Verity Roberts** and **Helen Thrower**

Behind the scenes

Producer	Debbie Lock
Stage Manager	Baz Da Sylva
Choreography	Debbie Lock, Verity Roberts and Helen Thrower
Set design	Jo Webster
Set creation	Jeff Barry, Alan Merrick, Baz Da Sylva, Carole Tappenden, Jo Webster, Peter Webster - <i>with assistance from Gary Bates, Steve Greening, Richard Lock, Richard Marlow, David Thrower</i>
Stage crew	Jeff Barry, Alan Merrick, Jo Webster, Derek Crowdson
Props	Carole Tappenden, Jo Webster
Costume design and creation	Lynda Bates, Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Tamsen Mellor-Gardener
Continuity	Sandra Keen
Lighting design	Gary Bates, Ian Chandler
Lighting and sound	Gary Bates, Steve Greening
Make up	Jessica Biggs, Anna Marlow, Lynn Waugh
Publicity	Gary Field, Shela Rowan, Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Children's coordinator	Ian Lee
Front of House staff	Charlotte Barnacle, Sarah Couzens, Derek Crowdson, Gary Field, Amanda Harvey, Dave Headey, Jill Headey, Debbie Lock, Denise Monk, Shela Rowan, Alan Taylor
FoH coordinator	Amanda Linstead

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** and **Waitrose** for raffle prizes.

Profiles of some of the Cast

Jack Metcalf (Dick)

Jack writes: "My name is Jack, I'm fifteen and I've been doing GCSE Drama for one and a half years. When I found out I had been cast as Dick, in my first appearance with FDS, I knew that it was the hardest challenge I would have ever had as an actor, but I still went for the role. With the help of an amazing crew and fellow cast, I hope I've found the character you'll see on stage!"



Millie Long (Alice)

Like Jack, Millie is studying GCSE drama at school. She has been taking part in FDS pantomimes for the last three years, but this is her first lead role. She's been involved in the Shakespeare Schools Festival with a performance of **Macbeth** in the Wyvern Theatre. and was Laurie Lee's sister Phyll in **Cider with Rosie** last year.

Katie Dyet (Phobia)

Katie has appeared many times in panto, most recently as the Evil Queen in **Happily Ever After** and Jack Frost in **The Snow Queen**. Other plays she has been in include **Candleford** (where she won critical acclaim but didn't utter a word!), **Wife After Death** and last year **My Friend Miss Flint**. Katie has been the chair of FDS and has taken numerous roles behind the scenes.



Joan Lee (Tapioca)

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. A panto star, she is more often seen in animal roles, being in her time a lion, two halves of a horse, a fish and a toad. Her last stage appearances were in **Steel Magnolias**, as **Agatha Crusty's** sister-in-law (2016) and Granny Trill in last year's **Cider with Rosie**.

Duncan Sinclair (Captain Cockleshell)

This is Duncan's fifth appearance in a Faringdon panto, having also taken various roles in Wantage, Aldbourne 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. This is his first outing as a sea captain!





Verity Roberts (Snitch)

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 eight of our last ten pantos. Verity was co-author (with Helen Thrower) of the panto **Happily Ever After** two years ago.

Skye Farquhar (Calico)

Skye has previously been in two FDS productions; as the talking clock in last year's panto **Arthur's Adventure**, and a schoolchild in **Cider With Rosie**. She also loved being a key member in her School's production of **Bugsy Malone** last summer. Skye has been practising to be a cat since she was just a year old, so this role is an extreme example of method acting for her, and she is relishing the opportunity!

Lauren Elvidge-Tappenden (Calico)

Lauren says "Hi, I'm ten years old and I'm really looking forward to being part of this production. I've previously appeared in **Cats!** and **Footloose** at the Wyvern Theatre and love drama, singing and dance. This panto is the purrrrrfect opportunity for me to do all three and I really hope you all enjoy the paw-formance!" Lauren was also one of the schoolchildren in **Cider with Rosie** last year.

Fiona Merrick (Salty)

Fiona's first foray into all things dramatic was a Dad's Army sketch in the 2005 Faringdon Arts Festival. Rather curiously Fiona seems to have been attracted to the letter C, having appeared in **Candleford**, **Cold Comfort Farm**, **Cinderella** and **Cider with Rosie**. Now she has moved on to the letter D!



Adrian Wells (Alderman Fitzwarren)

Adrian has been a part of FDS for over 20 years. He has been in award-winning productions including **The Crucible**, and has enjoyed a variety of roles in plays by Shakespeare, Chekhov, Wilde and Ayckbourn. He usually seems to play a "baddie" in pantomime so this year makes a welcome change!

Helen Thrower (Black Berry)

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 Pumpernickel** and **Happily Ever After** (which she co-wrote with Verity).



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 five pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama network. The most recent was for **Arthur's Adventure**, last year's panto.

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



Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me.
We pillage, we plunder, we rifle and loot,
Drink up me hearties, yo ho.
We kidnap and ravage and don't give a hoot,
Drink up me hearties, yo ho.

Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me.
We're beggars, we're blighters and ne'er do well cads,
Drink up me hearties, yo ho.
Aye, but we're loved by our mums and our dads,
Drink up me hearties, yo ho.