

FARINGDON DRAMATIC
SOCIETY PRESENTS

THE RUBY SLIPPERS

A PANTOMIME BY
REBECCA HUTCHINGS

The Elms Primary School, Faringdon

January 26th, 27th, 28th

February 2nd and 3rd

2024

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The Ruby Slippers

A pantomime by **Rebecca Hutchings**

This original pantomime, loosely derived and inspired by the story from 'The Wizard of Oz', was written by our own Bex Hutchings. This is a first for FDS where we fuse fairytale, steampunk and classic panto together to create an entirely new experience, aimed at delighting children and adults of all ages.

In this raucous re-imagining of a beloved classic, we follow Dorothy, Auntie Em, and Toto to the merry old land of Oz. As they head off down the yellow brick road, they'll make friends and enemies. Not to mention land themselves at the centre of a devious plot to change the fate of Oz forever. With all the characters you know and love, plus a few new friends to make, **The Ruby Slippers** will bewitch you from start to finish. With your brains, heart and courage we are sure to find out why there's no place like panto.

Act 1

Prologue – **Kansas**

Scene 1 – **Munchkin Land**

Scene 2 – Yellow Brick Road: **Creepy Forest**

Scene 3 - Yellow Brick Road: **Farmland**

Scene 4 – Yellow Brick Road: **Creepy Forest**

Scene 5 – Yellow Brick Road: **Woodland**

Scene 6 – **Witches Castle**

Act 2

Scene 7 – **Emerald City**

Scene 8 – Yellow Brick Road: **West**

Scene 9 – Witches Castle: **Dungeon**

Scene 10 – Witches Castle: **Witches Quarters**

Scene 11 – **Emerald City**

{Audience participation}

Scene 12 – **Emerald City**

Cast (in order of appearance) :

Dorothy	Annabel Whalley
Em	Kevin Jones
Toto	Tatum Rowley
Blunda	Verity Roberts
Glinda	Jayne Hoyland
Lion	Jason Boorman
Scarecrow	Dexter Kent
Tinman	Jonathan Waywell
Wicked witch	Lu Waywell
Nash	Heather Kent, Jade Atkinson
Bash	Xander Phillips, Bella Rowley
Crash	Grace Hatliff, Jasmin Clark
Gatekeeper	Byron Pound
Wizard of Oz	Vixz Edmonds

Adult Ensemble:

Helen Barker
Kayleigh Booth
Julie Childs
Lauz Kent
Julie Kent
Nell Tate
Sam Rowley

Under 18 Ensemble:

Cecily Roberts
Emilia Forth
Jacob Moore
Kiara Rowley
Tylah Edmonds

Directed by Bex Hutchings
Musical Director: Duncan Sinclair

Band:

Piano - Duncan Sinclair
Guitar - Richard Lock
Bass guitar - Mike Fraser
Drums - Nick Morris
Brass section – Ben Lewis, Nick Warr

Production Team

Producer	Richard Lock
Stage manager	Gary Field
Choreography	Bex Hutchings, Paula Read, Byron Pound, Jayne Hoyland
Lighting	Sam Tate, Ian Chandler
Sound	Craig Atkinson, Gary Bates
Backstage team	Alan Merrick, Derek Crowdson, Robbie McLauchlan, David Couzens, Carolyn Taylor, Tony Edmonds, Raymond Massie
Set construction	Alan Merrick, Derek Crowdson, Gary Bates, Gary Field, Richard Lock, Duncan Sinclair, Bob Kent, Jan Crowdson, Vixz Edmonds, Rebecca Hutchings, Tony Edmonds, Jonny Waywell
Costumes	Nell Tate
Costume team	Jan Crowdson, Kelly Jones, Paula Reed, Joan Lee, Afshan Javed-Blouin, Julie Childs, Jane Cadogan, Carole Tappenden, Bea Roberts
Props	Debbie Lock, Dave Headey, Carolyn Taylor
Make up	Jody King
Prompt	Alison Morris
Programme	Dave Headey
Publicity / Ticket sales	Ian Lee, Gary Field
Chaperone coordinator	Debbie Lock
Chaperones	Julie Kent, Sarah Couzens, Kirsty Phillips, Sarah Varnom, Jacob Bayliss
Front of House	Shela Rowan
Front of House Team	Joan Lee, Carole Tappenden, Fiona Merrick, Sarah Varnom, Katie Hatliff, David Couzens, Alan Taylor, Jeni Summerfield, Jill Headey

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 Profiles

Annabel Whalley (Dorothy)

Annabel has been performing since she was three, starting at Jill Stew School of Dance in Witney and then Stagecoach Faringdon. She has completed her Grade 4 LAMDA exam and performed in roles such as Chip in the **Beauty and the Beast**, Lord Farquaad in **Shrek**, **Matilda** in the FCC production and last year she was Kitty in **Sleeping Beauty**. Annabel loves performing arts; she is excited about taking her first lead with FDS and will no doubt continue to pursue her passion in this area.

Kevin Jones (Aunt Em)



Kevin was so excited when he got the part of Auntie Em in his debut for FDS, and even more excited when he read through the script. He's 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. But the role he has consistently found himself falling in love with is the dame. He's looking forward to further pushing his acting ability alongside an extremely talented group of performers, musicians, and everyone else involved.

Jason Boorman (Lion)

This is the first showing for Jason in an FDS show. He has acted, danced, and sung in many plays before including **Grease**, **Bugsy Malone** and **Fiddler on the Roof**, and loves the art; his passion and enthusiasm for bringing different characters to life will surely be apparent in what will be an amazing show. Please sit back comfortably, and allow yourself to be transported on a journey of discovery with Lion, as he discovers himself, in front of your very eyes, for who he really is!



Jonathan Waywell (Tinman)

Fresh off the back of running the set building team for **Act Naturally** in November, Jonny now joins FDS on stage for his debut performance. Although this is his first panto, he's no stranger to performing for a crowd, with pro-wrestler, DJ, rapper and musician all part of his stage C.V. Jonny says, "I've loved being involved with this production and hope to do more acting with FDS this year!"

Dexter Kent (Scarecrow)

Aged 15, Dexter is a veteran of FDS pantomime, having played minor characters in **Dick Whittington**, **Wishing on a Star**, and **Aladdin**. But his credits don't end there: he's also appeared in **Perfectly Frank** (a musical film), **Richard III**, **the Sound of Music** and **Oklahoma!** You may remember him as Bob, in last year's **Sleeping Beauty**. Dexter has attended both West Oxfordshire Academy of Performing Arts and Oxford Youth Music Theatre, and to no-one's surprise hopes to pursue acting as a career.



Verity Roberts (Blunda)

We've seen Verity in **The Importance of Being Earnest** (2007 - her first performance with FDS), as Flora Poste in **Cold Comfort Farm**, **The Odd Couple**, **Ladies Day** and (last year) **Confusions** at Buscot Park Theatre. She was Hermia in our outdoor production of **Midsummer Night's Dream** (2013). Verity has co-authored three successful pantos and has had significant parts in many others, including Snitch in **Dick Whittington** (2018), Widow Twankey in **Aladdin** (2020) and Queen Dorothy in **Sleeping Beauty** last year.

Jayne Hoyland (Glinda)

Multi-talented Jayne joined us as one of the two charming and very silly girls in **The Importance of Being Earnest** (2007). Since then she has performed regularly in many productions and taken on various other roles too; from prompt and front-of-house to producer and musical director for **Arthur's Adventure** (2017). Among her more recent acting roles were as Prince Charming in **Happily Ever After** (2016), **Wishing on a Star** 2019, **Our Country's Good** (2019) and last year she was back to being silly in **Act Naturally**.



Lu Waywell (Wicked Witch)

Lu has been in FDS pantos from childhood, starting with a rabbit in **Wind in the Willows** (2003). Since returning to Faringdon in 2021 post pandemic, she's been involved in most productions including **Confusions** and **Be My Baby**, and in last year's panto **Sleeping Beauty** she was Billy, the singing butler. In November last year Lu chose and directed her first FDS play, the hilarious **Act Naturally** on this very stage. This is her first go at being a baddie and she's thoroughly enjoying it.

Vixz Edmonds (Wizard)

Vixz trained in singing and musical theatre from a young age and later studied performing arts; this led to becoming part of the entertainment crew on a holiday park on the South Coast. After a sixteen year gap due to work commitments we welcomed Vixz to FDS last year as Fairy Peaceful in **Sleeping Beauty** and we're very pleased to see her back in this year's panto. On a personal note, Vixz would like to dedicate her performances to her ever-supporting friends and family.



Byron Pound (Gatekeeper)

Byron started performing at the age of 11, and has been lucky enough to have a speaking part in three of the previous pantos, in **Dick Whittington** (2018), **Wishing on A Star** (2019) and as a Fairy in **Sleeping Beauty** last year. Byron was recently Ted the policeman in **Act Naturally** and was involved in **The Sound of Music** at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham. He is currently studying Performing Arts at Stagedoor Learning in Cheltenham.



Bex Hutchings (Author, Director)

Having won the NODA Best Pantomime Performer award last year (for King Norbert in **Sleeping Beauty** – see photo!) Bex has now turned her hand to writing and directing – The Ruby Slippers is the result. Bex made her debut as an Ugly Sister (Petronella in **Happily Ever After**), then a traditional pantomime dame (Mrs Tickleme in **Arthur's Adventure**). In a very different role, you may have seen her as Tracey in **Side Effects** at Buscot Park Theatre (2016).



Acknowledgements

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

Since its formation in 1948 Faringdon Dramatic Society has mounted over 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies / 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'. **The Crucible** (2001) and **Dancing at Lughnasa** (2004) both won best drama production in London and the South East area from NODA.

Between 2012 and 2017 **Jack and the Beanstalk, The Snow Queen, Happily Ever After** and **Arthur's Adventure** were winners of the pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama Network.

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 next production will be **Enchanted April** by Matthew Barber at Buscot House Theatre from May 15th - 18th. Our website, local information and social media (look for **Faringdon Dramatic Society** on Facebook) will give details nearer the time.

Tickets will be available from our Online Box Office.