

Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents

# Sleeping Beauty



by Ben  
Crocker

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023



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# **Sleeping Beauty**

A pantomime by **Ben Crocker**

A very warm welcome to Faringdon Dramatic Society's 2023 Pantomime **Sleeping Beauty**. It has been three 'long' years since we have been able to put on a production of this scale and as the Director, I have been very privileged to work alongside such an amazing and dedicated production team, wardrobe department, cast, band, and crew.

Sleeping Beauty is the fourth pantomime I have directed for Faringdon Dramatic Society, and I have enjoyed every moment. My vision for this production was to turn the writer, Ben Crocker's, pantomime into a vibrant display of colour, music and mayhem that will have you laughing from beginning to end. So, sit back and enjoy the show.

*Helen Thrower*

## **ACT 1**

- SCENE 1: The Royal Palace**
- SCENE 2: The Palace Gardens**
- SCENE 3: The Palace Kitchen**
- SCENE 4: The Topmost Turret**
- SCENE 5: The Royal Palace**

## **ACT 2**

- SCENE 6: The Royal Palace**
- SCENE 7: Between Here and There**
- SCENE 8: In the Clouds - Dreamland**
- SCENE 9: Between Here and There Again**
- SCENE 10: The Village Inn Near the Castle**
- SCENE 11: The Forest of Thorns**
- SCENE 12: The Royal Palace**
- SCENE 13: A Royal Sing Song**
- SCENE 14: The Royal Wedding**

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) :**

Billy (The Royal Butler)	Lu Waywell
Bob (Billy's Lackey)	Dexter Kent
King Norbert	Bex Hutchings
Queen Dorothy	Verity Roberts
Kitty	Annabel Whalley
Fairy Peaceful	Vicky Edmonds
Fairy Graceful	Byron Pound
Fairy Beautiful	Heather Kent
Fairy Thoughtful	Kayleigh Booth
Carabosse	Jacob Bayliss
Spindleshanks	Jade Atkinson
Princess Aurora	Kia Howard
Prince Orlando	Abby Valentine
Little Fairy	Tatum Rowley

Ladies in waiting (for Queen):

**Laura Kent**  
**Jayne Hoyland**  
**Katherine Miller**  
**Rachel Bowers**

Courtiers/Rats:

**Bella Rowley**  
**Amber Allen**  
**Grace Hatliff**  
**Emilia Forth**  
**Jasmine Clark**

Ladies in waiting (for Aurora):

**Cecily Roberts**  
**Lauren Habgood**  
**Julie Childs**

Directed by **Helen Thrower**  
Musical Director: **Duncan Sinclair**

**Band:**

Piano - **Duncan Sinclair**  
Guitar - **Richard Lock**  
Bass guitar - **Mike Fraser**  
Drums - **Nick Morris** and **Dave Martin**  
Woodwind - **Debra Warner** and **Kara Allum**

## Production Team

Producers	Debbie Lock, Carolyn Taylor
Stage manager	Peter Webster
Choreography	Paula Read, Duncan Sinclair
Lighting design & Lights	Ian Chandler, Steve Greening
Sound	Gary Bates
Props	Carolyn Taylor, Eloise Taylor Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden, Joan Lee, Lu Waywell
Set construction	Peter Webster, Derek Crowdson, David Thrower, Alan Merrick
Costumes	Helen Tate, Jane Cadogan, Jan Crowdson, Joan Lee
Make up	Jody King
Continuity	Alison Morris
Child coordination	Ian Lee, Helen Tate
Publicity / Ticket sales	Gary Field, Adrian Wells, Ian Lee
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House Coordinator	Shela Rowan
Front of House Team	Gary Field, Alan Taylor, Denise Monk, Carole Tappenden, Lynda Bates, Sarah Couzens, Sarah Varnom, Jeni Summerfield, Fiona Merrick, Carolyn Taylor, Dave Headey

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

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

**Ooh! Eeh! Ooh aah aah!**

## Cast Profiles

### Kia Howard (Aurora)

Kia seems to be making a habit of title roles! In 2017 she excelled in **Cider with Rosie**, but it was nine years ago, aged ten, Kia joined FDS for her first pantomime, as a very different Rose in **The Snow Queen**. In 2016 and 2017 she was in **Happily Ever After** (as Red Riding Hood) and **Arthur's Adventure**. Last year Kia took part in the FCC musical **Back to the 80s** and has also taken part in **Macbeth** in the Shakespeare schools festival at the Wyvern theatre.



### Abby Valentine (Orlando)

From a very young age Abby has appeared in countless pantomimes with FDS; starting with **Pirates of the Faribbean** and **Peter Panto**, and including **Dick Whittington** (the title role), **Cinderella**, and the Handsome Prince in **Happily Ever After**. She was also in the FCC production of **Boogie Nights** and following two years away as a family entertainer she came back to co-star as Kristian in **Wishing on a Star** in 2019. Oh, and Abby was also a cocktail waitress in **Shakers** (2019).

### Bex Hutchings (King)

This is Bex's third panto with FDS and having made her debut as an Ugly Sister (Petronella in **Happily Ever After**), then a traditional pantomime dame (Mrs Tickleme in **Arthur's Adventure**) she now gets a taste of cross-dressing as King Norbert six years later. In a very different role, you may have seen her as Tracey in **Side Effects** at Buscot Park Theatre (2016). She's also taken the title role in **Snow White** some years ago: "But she was a BAD Snow White!" says Bex.



### Verity Roberts (Queen)

We've seen Verity in **The Importance of Being Earnest** (2007 - her first), as Flora Poste in **Cold Comfort Farm**, **The Odd Couple**, **Ladies Day** and (last year) **Confusions** at Buscot Park Theatre. She was Hermia in 2013's outdoor production of **Midsummer Night's Dream** and has had significant parts in most of our pantos. Verity was co-author (with Helen Thrower, below) of three successful pantos and her most recent appearances have been as Snitch in **Dick Whittington** (2018) and Widow Twankey in our last panto **Aladdin** (2020).



**Ting! Tang! Walla walla bing bang!**



## Lu Waywell (Billy)

Lu writes: "My first appearance in an FDS production was as a rabbit in **Wind and the Willows** (2003) and I continued to take part over the following years with small roles in **Snow White, Dreamers and Peter Panto**. I have been a regular at Follyfest and in my years away I've lived all over the UK. After moving back to Faringdon, I rejoined in time for their first post-pandemic production as Milly Carter in **Confusions** (2021) and I could not be more excited to be doing panto!

## Dexter Kent (Bob)

Aged 14, 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!** He 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.



## Jacob Bayliss (Carabosse)

Jacob writes: "I joined FDS in 2017 for two small roles in **Cider with Rosie**, and since then they haven't been able to get rid of me! FDS has been great at filling the theatre shaped hole in my life since leaving the sixth form where I studied Drama for A Level. I've had the wonderful opportunity of performing at Buscot Park theatre in **Faringdon Follies**, and then in Alan Ayckbourn's **Confusions** (2022). This is the second time I've been the panto Villain - what must they think of me?

## Jade Atkinson (Spindleshanks)

Jade has been performing since she was four years old, taking part in every school talent show. She has been a member of Stagecoach Performing Arts in Faringdon for the past five years, securing leading parts like **Captain Daniels** (aka Jack Sparrow), Sandy in **Grease**, and the title role in **Shrek**. Jade has passed all her LAMDA exams with Distinction but this is Jade's very first role in a panto and she's really enjoying herself!

## Annabel Whalley (Kitty)

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



### **Vicky Edmonds (Fairy Peaceful)**

Vicky 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. She is very excited to be back performing after a sixteen year gap due to work commitments and until a recent career change, she was unable to fully commit. On a personal note, Vicky would like to dedicate her performances to her ever-supporting friends and family.

### **Byron Pound (Fairy Graceful)**

Byron started performing at the age of 11, and has been lucky enough to have a speaking part in two of the previous pantos, as Rat in **Dick Whittington** (2018) and as Malarkey in **Wishing on A Star** (2019). Byron was recently involved in **The Sound of Music** at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham and is currently studying Performing Arts at Stagedoor Learning in Cheltenham. Byron has enjoyed every moment working on this incredible show and hopes you enjoy watching it.



### **Kayleigh Booth (Fairy Thoughtful)**

Kayleigh started with FDS as a young chorus girl in **Cinderella** (2012) and pretty much every panto since including **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**, **The Snow Queen**, and **Happily Ever After** in 2016. Although she plays a good fairy in this panto, no-one would say Kayleigh was typecast. In the past she has been a Dark Knight (**Arthur's Adventure**, 2017), a nasty pirate (**Dick Whittington**), and a highwayman (**Wishing on a Star**) where she doubled as Clara.

### **Heather Kent (Fairy Beautiful)**

Heather is 14 years old and goes to Farmors School in Fairford. She has been attending Stagecoach Performing Arts in Faringdon for three years and loves to get involved in any shows that she can. Her favourite role so far has been Miss Trunchbull in **Matilda** last year. Heather hopes to pursue a career in the performing arts - this is her second panto with FDS and has loved getting to know the cast this year. She hopes you enjoy panto as much as she has rehearsing it!



### **Helen Thrower (Director)**

Helen joined FDS in 2012 and has been in many plays since. She has plenty of experience in drama, both at the Pegasus Theatre, the Unicorn in Abingdon, and in schools. To date she has directed and co-written three of our pantos, **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**, **Happily Ever After**, and **Wishing on a Star** (2019). You've seen her most recently as Black Berry, the pirate in **Dick Whittington** (2018) and as Duckling in **Our Country's Good** in 2019.

## 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](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

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

Our next production will be at **Buscot House Theatre** on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May this year. 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.