



Dick Whittington

The Garrick Pantomime paved with Gold!



Friday 9
December 2022 -
Tuesday 2
January 2023

Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE

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Altrincham Garrick Playhouse is more than just a Community Theatre – it's a cultural and creative hub for the Arts in Altrincham. In the main, the Playhouse is run by volunteers who play a critical role in providing high-quality performances and experiences to our local community. Volunteers of all ages and abilities have discovered a warm welcome as well as new challenges, with many younger members having found the Playhouse to be a springboard to future careers.

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Welcome

When that time of year approaches and pantomime season is in full swing, Dick Whittington and his Cat have become a

permanent fixture on the stage year after year. In fact, their popularity stems from the traditional tale which was performed in the theatres of the 19th century, dating back to 1814.

With such a folkloric tale of a poor boy from Gloucestershire who sets out for London, determined to make his fortune, it is unsurprising that its popularity grew and grew, branching out into different adaptations ranging from pantomime, opera and as a puppet play performed at Covent Garden. In fact, such an early interpretation was recorded by the famous diarist Samuel Pepys in his entry on 21st September 1668; he commented: "To Southwark Fair, very dirty, and there saw the puppet show of Whittington, which was pretty to see".

Today, this tale continues to entertain generations every Christmas season, and in keeping with our mantra of offering 'something for everyone', Dick Whittington is a pantomime for all of the family. Following the outstanding success of last year's Peter Pan, we are thrilled to be working again with Tom Whalley, one of the brightest young writers of pantos in the UK today, who has created a script that is brilliantly funny, relevant and colossally entertaining whilst still retaining all of the 'traditional' elements for which pantos have become renowned over the years. We're also delighted to have Daniel Ellis at the helm of this production (as well as appearing in it!). Dan is one of the exciting, vibrant young theatre-makers who are establishing reputations for their excellent work on stages across the North West. We hope that you'll agree when you witness Dick Whittington, and that you all have a fabulously enjoyable time!

Later in this programme you'll see a montage of all of the main-stage shows that we are producing in the next few months, and we urge you to book tickets early for all of these productions to avoid any disappointment. We especially wouldn't want you to miss out on either our Easter half-term staging of *The Jungle Book*, or next October half-term's unmissable production of the family favourite musical, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*... and if you turn to the back cover, you'll find out which panto we'll be staging in 2023. Tickets for this are already on sale, so if you don't want to miss out, book now! Additionally, there is so much going on here at the moment, including being able to see the National Theatre Live right here with *Altrincham Garrick Picturehouse*, and the hugely popular *Garrick Show Choir* who are currently in the process of planning another sensational performance. Together with the season of LGBTQ+ themed plays in our Studio Theatre, Stand-Up Comedy nights from *Manford's Comedy Club*, and a brilliant collection of *Concerts* for all ages, we really do have 'something for everyone'! Our new Season Brochure, featuring details of all of the above and more, is now available – pick up your copy before you leave the Playhouse today! You can also keep up to date with all that's happening by visiting our website regularly, or by following us on facebook, twitter or instagram.

We also urge you to 'get involved' and join us, as either a fully-fledged member or as a 'Friend'. In addition to becoming part of a vibrant, welcoming community of like-minded people, you'll also benefit from being able to purchase tickets for our shows at significantly reduced prices. Find out more by e-mailing admin@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk. You won't regret it!

We sincerely hope that you have a fabulous time at today's performance, have a safe journey home and a wonderful festive season, and we hope to see you back here soon!

Joseph Meighan

Artistic Director
Altrincham Garrick Playhouse

Sarah Reilly

Operations Director
Altrincham Garrick Playhouse



**Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE**



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The Real Dick Whittington

Richard (Dick) Whittington (1358 – 1423)

Whilst the fictional account of his life describes his epic journey from a poor family to the riches that the city of London had to offer, in fact, the real Dick Whittington was not from a lower class background. Furthermore, his feline companion has yet to be corroborated by any evidence.

The folklore of a boy and his cat was widespread throughout Europe, thought to have perhaps originated in medieval Persia. However the legend based on Whittington appears to have taken on a life of its own.

Richard Whittington's actual story begins in the 1350s, born into a wealthy titled family in Gloucestershire. His father was Sir William Whittington who served as a Member of Parliament, and his mother was Joan Maunsell who was the daughter of an MP. Richard was therefore no stranger to the demands of political life, in fact it seemed to run in his family. Two of his brothers, Robert and William both served as MPs.

Richard soon found himself in an equally prominent position, whilst also making noteworthy contributions in the form of a variety of public projects, endorsements and investments in infrastructure.

As he was not the eldest son, Richard knew he would not inherit his father's estate and thus he made his way to London, seeking to make his own fortune. In order to do this he went to the City of London and began learning the ropes as a mercer, a trader of fabrics, which was a burgeoning business at the time.

Before long, his chosen profession was beginning to pay dividends and he quickly grew to become a very successful merchant specialising in luxury fabrics - silks, damasks, velvets and cloth of gold - and benefiting from some extremely important clientele, including members of the royal family and the higher echelons of society.

It is believed that in two years alone, he sold garments to King Richard II worth around £1.5 million in today's money. His successful career as a trader thus allowed him to become a money-lender and, by 1397, he had lent considerable amounts of money to the King.

Now as a wealthy man in his own right, a businessman in favour with the king, Whittington moved in diplomatic and highly influential circles. His close relationship with royalty continued, even when Richard II was deposed. Whittington had already established a professional relationship with the soon-to-be King Henry IV and by the time he ascended to the throne, Whittington found himself in a similar relationship to the one he had enjoyed with his predecessor.

Over the years, Whittington's kudos as a member of the inner circle close to royalty held him in good stead in a variety of more professional positions. By the 1380s he was serving as a Councilman for London and by 1393 he was an Alderman and Sheriff of the City of London.

In June 1397 he succeeded Adam Bammes as Lord Mayor of London after Bammes passed away suddenly before his second term was finished. King Richard II subsequently rec-

ommended Whittington for this position and so it was decided. A few months later he was formally elected on 13th October, after Whittington had displayed his credentials when he restored the city's liberties from the King.

Whittington used his new sway in monarchical circles in order to gain further political influence. His loans allowed him input over policy matters and civic issues of which he was heavily involved.

In 1401, amongst many other generous gifts to London and its inhabitants, Whittington gave a donation for a new nave at Westminster Abbey, and provided for a public water-tap to be installed in the wall of St. Giles Cripplegate.

Perhaps most remarkably he was able to maintain consistent relationships with subsequent heirs to the throne despite infighting and disagreements between successors.

Whittington held the position of Mayor four times, in 1397, 1398, 1407 and 1420. His re-appointment in 1398 after one year in the job showed how he had also won over the public.

In 1416 he, like his brothers, became a Member of Parliament, yet another professional role to add to his long list of accomplishments.

Whilst Richard II had helped him to acquire the role of mayor, Whittington would maintain his influence with subsequent kings, including Henry V to whom he lent money. In return he was offered a job as a manager of the expenditure used for the completion of Westminster Abbey.

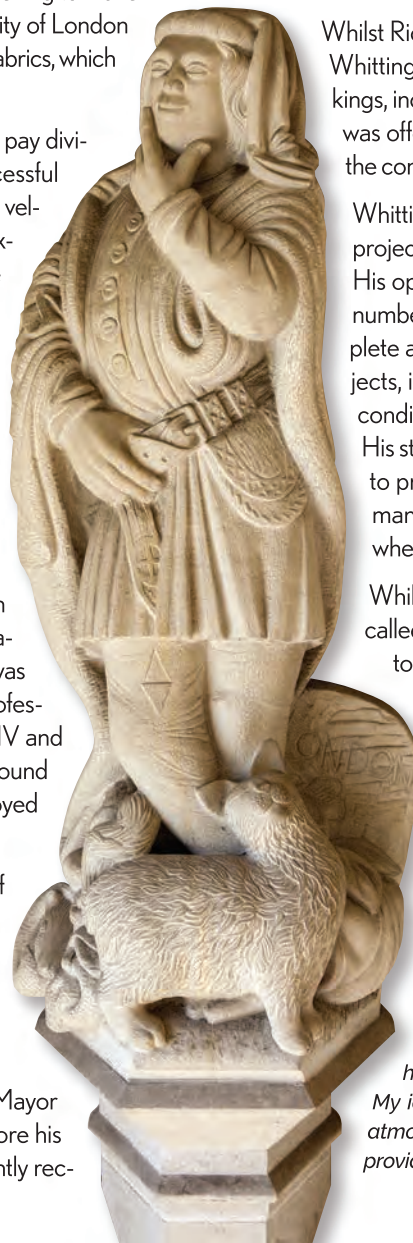
Whittington's influence with trade, expenditure and public projects led to his involvement in many royal commissions. His opinion was sought, trusted and put into practice on a number of occasions. During his service, he helped to complete and finance a number of valuable infrastructure projects, including introducing drainage to improve the living conditions of some of London's poorest neighbourhoods. His strong sense of duty to his city extended to his decision to prevent animal skins being washed in the Thames, as many young boys had lost their lives from hypothermia when completing such a task.

Whilst he married late in his life to a very important woman called Alice Fitzwaryn, who was an heiress with her sister to her father's fortune; sadly they did not produce an heir and so Whittington's wealth is best seen in his investment of his chosen home, London.

Across the course of his lifetime and later when he

Dick Whittington and his cat are portrayed as one of five sculptures by Laurence Tindall situated in the ambulatory at the front of London's Guildhall Art Gallery, which was opened in 1999.

Tindall comments: 'My figure, in Portland stone, is carved in a style illustrative of children's literature. It shows Dick and his cat at the point of turning again on hearing Bow Bells and — look behind him: there is a rat! My idea with this and the other figures was to lighten the atmosphere at the entrance of this impressive building and provide something for visiting children.'





died, he left in his will a considerable legacy dedicated to his adopted hometown. Some of the biggest recipients of his investment included the ward for unmarried mothers at St Thomas' Hospital, as well as producing a drainage system in Billingsgate and public toilets to improve the health and living conditions of many.

His endowments included rebuilding his parish church as well as the Guildhall.

Richard Whittington passed away in 1423 but his legacy lived on both in London and on the stage. Whilst many now have forgotten the man behind the myth, his legend continues to play out in theatres around the country.

And the Cat..?

There is no evidence that Dick Whittington ever had a cat. Maybe the association with the animal arose from the type of boat he used for trading, known as a 'cat'; or another possibility is that the word evolved over time from the French achat, meaning a purchase. Oliver Goldsmith, the famous eighteenth-century British author, is said to have tried to 'kill off' the cat, so as to make the tale more moral and inspiring: but he didn't succeed.

And what was the cat's name? So the tale goes, he (rather than 'she') was called Tommy – that is to say, the tradition in pantomime is that Whittington's cat is always a 'he' and his name is Tommy.

The Whittington Stone

The Whittington Stone stands on the site of a former wayside cross at the foot of Highgate Hill, close to the modern Whittington Stone pub. It's not easy to photograph satisfactorily, being closely enclosed by iron railings, but even these have not protected it from some damage, and of course the ravages of time. The cat, incidentally, was not added to the stone until 1964 – the stone was erected in 1821, replacing an older one. Behind it, from the late 19th century until the 1970s when it was demolished, there was an earlier pub by the name of the Whittington Stone.

Shropshire disagrees...

The county of Shropshire disputes the claims that Dick was a rich man's son from Gloucestershire, and that Fitzwarren was the wealthy merchant in London. The Shropshire village of Whittington has a Welsh border castle, said to have been owned by Sir Ivo Fitzwarren in the 14th century; Alice, whom Dick married, was Sir Ivo's daughter. It is possible that Dick was born in Whittington, and was a peasant lad who went to London to seek his fortune. Whatever the truth, the Mercers' Company made a £5,000 grant to the Whittington Castle Preservation Trust to aid in a comparatively recent renovation project. More substantially, the castle trust was awarded nearly a million pounds in May 2005 from a lottery grant and, as a result of that, restoration work began in November 2005. The work included a new tearoom and other improved visitor facilities, and the refurbished site was officially opened in June 2007 by the Duke of Gloucester.



The Myth

There are many variations of the story, but it goes something like this, based on a play produced in 1606 with later additions and evolution over hundreds of years.

The popular myth is that Dick, who hailed from Gloucestershire, was orphaned at a young age, and as there was no one to look after him and he was very poor, he decided to go to London to seek his fortune. Rumour had it that the streets there were paved with gold. He duly went to the big, bustling city, found no gold, and so instead set about trying to find work. He wandered from shop to shop, door to door, but no one wanted to give him a job. Tired, hungry and dispirited, when night fell the boy fell asleep on the steps outside a large house. The cook found him and tried to chase him away, but the master of the house, a kind and generous man, intervened, felt sorry for him and took him in.

The house owner was a rich merchant called Fitzwarren, and Dick was found a job as a scullery boy. He earned his bed and board and had a little room of his own under the eaves; but the place was overrun by rats and mice, which scurried around, even over his bed, and stopped him sleeping properly. Being a resourceful young fellow, Dick earned a penny shining shoes for gentlemen; then he went along to the market near the Tower of London, where he used his penny to buy a cat. Life became easier as the cat kept the vermin away, and he could sleep in peace.

One day, Fitzwarren called the servants together to tell them that he had a ship leaving soon for foreign parts with goods to trade, and invited them to send along any of their possessions they wished to sell to make a bit of money. Dick had only his cat to give, and although he loved her dearly and would have to put up with the rats again, he gave her to the captain to sell or trade. Some versions of the story say he parted with his cat at the suggestion of the daughter of the house, Alice, of whom he was fond and whom he wished to please.

Life went on for a while for the scullery boy – but without his cat, and with Fitzwarren's cook doing everything she could to make his life miserable, Dick eventually decided London was not for him and he would return home to Gloucestershire. Pausing on Highgate Hill on his way out of London, however, he heard the bells of Bow Church ringing, and they seemed to be saying, 'Turn again, Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London.'

Astonished, he nevertheless took it as a good omen and returned to the Fitzwarren house. The house was buzzing with the fact that the trading ship had returned – with great news. At one of the ports of call, Barbary, the king had been desperate because his palace was overrun by rats and mice and he didn't know how to deal with them. The captain returned to the ship and collected Dick's cat, which soon killed or drove away the rodents. The king was amazed, never having seen such a marvellous creature before, and offered a large sum in gold and jewels if he could buy the animal.

A variation of the tale has the cat returned to Dick, along with his reward from the grateful king: but in any case, Dick had become a wealthy young man. He asked for Alice's hand in marriage, which she accepted, and he set up his own trading business. Eventually he became Mayor of London – three times (or thrice), just as the bells had predicted.

Scenes

The Cast

ACT ONE

- Scene 1: King Rat's Sewer
- Scene 2: Old London Town
- Scene 3: A Country Lane
- Scene 4: Alderman Fitzwarren's Sweet Shop
- Scene 5: The Morning after the Night before...
- Scene 6: High on the Heath
- Scene 7: The Docks

ACT TWO

- Scene 1: Aboard 'Shippy McShipface'
- Scene 2: The Shores of Morocco
- Scene 3: King Rat's Dungeon
- Scene 4: A Back Passage
- Scene 5: The Sultan's Palace
- Scene 6: Songsheet
- Scene 7: Finale

DICK WHITTINGTON

Ethan Beer

THE CAT

Jamie King

ALICE

Hannah Chung

FAIRY BOW BELLS

Bev Stuart-Cole

SARAH THE COOK

Phil Edwards

IDLE JACK

Dan Ellis

ALDERMAN FITZWARREN

Bill Platt

KING RAT

Conor Collins

YOUNG ENSEMBLE

Jessica Whitley-Jones
Keira Brierley
Malin Connolly
Amber Robinson
Shanese Chung Fong Tung
Orla Mawby
Zac Cudby
Tom Harries
Paige Doherty
Isabelle Cudby
Charlotte Millington
George Humphrey



The Production Team

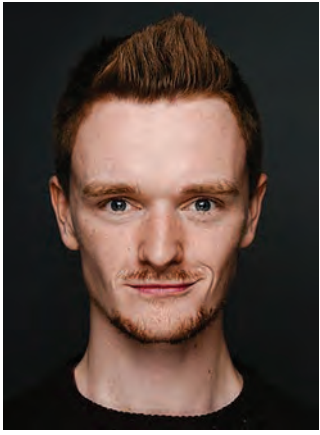
Director Daniel Ellis
Musical Director Peter England
Choreography Patsy Newhouse
Production Associate Val Watkinson
Set Design Barry Purves
Stage Manager Phil Gleave
Head of Stage Paul Simpson
Lead A.S.M. Sue Berry
Asst. Stage Managers Tracy Mitchell
..... Helen Sallabank
..... Christine Perry
..... Gillian Eyley
..... David Jones
..... Jenny Dixon
Stage Crew Mark McEwan
..... Lindsey Barker
..... Stuart Kilburn
Lighting Design James Merrington
Lighting Operation Geoff Scullard
..... Stephan van Zyl
Sound Design Christine Mills
..... Peter England
Sound Team Adam Softly
..... Freya Barker
..... Tom Marsden
Properties David Ades
Fabric Props Carol Birtwistle
Chocolate Props Nick Sample
Costume Production Mike Shaw
Assisted by Stella Blackburn
..... Julie Shaw
..... Betty Farmer
..... Lynne Saleh
..... Dallas Bradshaw
..... Helen Phillips
..... Sarah Steer
..... Noel Watson
..... Jen McAvoy

Workshop Steve Cox
..... Mandy Cooke
Production Carpenters Steve Cox
..... Trevor McKie
Scenic Artist Mandy Cooke
Assisted by Barry Purves
..... Faith Edwards
..... Jane Milner
..... Charlotte Leigh
..... Rob Robinson
..... Carole Birtwistle
Technical Adviser Paul Simpson
Set Construction Phil Gleave
..... Paul Simpson
..... Trevor McKie
..... John Ross
..... Stephen McKie
..... Ash McKie
..... Lynsey McKie
..... John Murphy
..... Cliff Mills
..... Mark McEwan
..... Andy McHugh
..... Bob Green
..... Dave Bailey
..... Barry Borgen
Rehearsal & Production Photography
..... Martin Ogden

Without our incredibly dedicated, enthusiastic team of Volunteers and Staff, whose sheer hard work often goes unnoticed, Altrincham Garrick Playhouse would simply be unable to continue providing such a range of top quality productions for you to enjoy.

With their continuous commitment to excellence, we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Thank-you all!

The Production Team



Tom Whalley
Writer

A London-based professional actor, writer and composer originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, his musical theatre credits as a performer include *Hotel for Criminals*, *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens*, *Carnival Dreams*, *A Little Night Music*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *She Loves Me*, *The Wind Road Boys*, *Acorn Antiques*, *Hair*, *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* and *Disney's Alice in Wonderland*.

Tom Whalley's passion for pantomime was born upon writing and starring in his first pantomime as an 'Ugly Sister' at school, whereafter he had the pleasure of writing pantomimes for the village he grew up in for almost a decade.

After launching Tom Whalley Pantomimes in 2017, Tom's scripts have been performed by hundreds of amateur and professional theatrical companies and have thus been enjoyed by countless thousands of families across the world, accruing glowing accolades and awards in the process.

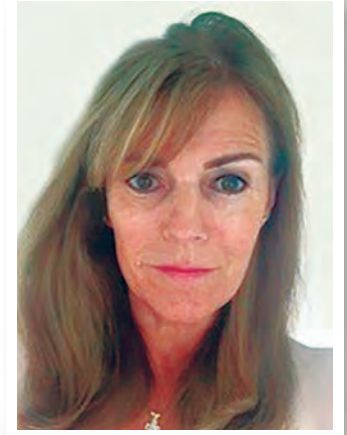
Tom Whalley Pantomimes now supplies an ever-expanding collection of award-winning pantomime scripts, marrying traditional tales with modern humour and pace with lovable characters and hilarious twists. Classic stories reimaged for a modern day audience.



Daniel Ellis
Director / Idle Jack

Daniel studied drama at Liverpool John Moores University and has continued to act and direct since graduating in 2011. As a performer, Daniel has appeared at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse in *Two Into One*, *The History Boys*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, as Smee in last years pantomime, *Peter Pan*, and most recently in the Lauriston Studio Theatre he performed the monologue *More Anger* in *Queers*. Daniel has also appeared with a number of other companies, including being part of a huge communal event in The Chester Mystery Plays, and he gave an unforgettable performance as *Alan Strang* in *Equus* with Tip Top Productions in Chester.

Daniel is the Co-Artistic Director of *Green Carnation Company*, a theatre company specialising in LGBTQ+ productions which he co-founded in 2018. Through *Green Carnation*, Daniel has co-directed *Vincent River* which was performed at Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester in October; a tour of *My Night With Reg*; *The Pride*; *Fluid*, and a number of short films created during lockdown and released online. Elsewhere he has also directed productions of *The 39 Steps*, *Whipping It Up*, *The Weekend* and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*.



Patsy Newhouse
Choreographer

No rest for this dancing queen... A couple of days after the curtain came down on *The Sound of Music*, it was back in the rehearsal room for Patsy but this time, being part of the Creative Team for the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse's annual family favourite - Pantomime!

Patsy has been involved with the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse for many years appearing on stage in various productions with her debut performance being in *Sinbad the Sailor* in 1991, and although her genre lies mainly with Ballroom and Latin American dancing, her heart lies within Theatre.

Various credits over the years include *The Sound of Music* (as mentioned above), *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Aida*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *Guys and Dolls* to name but a few.

This will be the second time that Patsy has choreographed the annual panto, with an earlier production of *Cinderella* being her debut. She was more than pleased to be invited back once again to put this fabulous and talented cast through their paces to create this wonderful family feel good show for all to enjoy!



The Company



Conor Collins (He/They)
KING RAT

Conor trained in acting at the National Youth Theatre and as an Operatic Tenor at the Royal Northern College of Music. He has performed in roles including Sextus in *Julius Caesar* (RNCM), Morales in *Carmen* (Longborough Opera), Grantaire in *Les Misérables* (Longborough Opera), Guy in *Whipping it Up* (Tip Top Productions) and was awarded the Prize for Best Supporting Actor for his role of Hutton in *What's wrong with Angry?* (Manchester International Festival).

Recently Conor appeared as Perce in Altrincham Garrick's production of *Queers*.

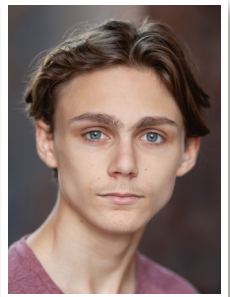
Since graduating from RNCM Conor has pursued a career in visual art and has appeared in TIME Magazine, and been shortlisted for New Light Art Prize, the Celeste Art Prize, and the Emerald Art Prize. Collectors of Conor's work include *Stephen Fry*, *Ian McKellen* and *Giorgio Armani*.



Beverley Stuart-Cole (She/Her)
FAIRY BOW BELLS

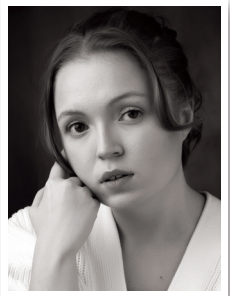
Beverley has been a member of the Garrick for 35 years, and has enjoyed a wide variety of roles. Previous shows include *Noises Off*, *Twelfth Night*, *Closer*, *Veronica's Room*, *Snake in the Grass*, *Comic Potential*, *Corriel*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Annie*, *Run For Your Wife*, *The Graduate*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *When The Rain Stops Falling*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, and most recently in this season's production of *The Habit of Art*.

She has appeared in many of our Studio productions, her favourites being *Hitchcock Blonde* and *Bette and Joan*. She is thrilled to be playing the Fairy once more in panto, and is very happy to be reunited with her wand and glitter.



Ethan Beer (He/Him)
DICK WHITTINGTON

Ethan has just finished his final year at The Fallibroome Academy. He has performed numerous shows with the National Youth Music Theatre including *The Pied Piper*, *A Little Princess*, *Honk*, *Henrietta* (Workshop) and most recently *Ragtime*. Ethan has recently started his training with the Manchester School of Acting. This is his first show with the Altrincham Garrick, and he will also be performing in *Shakespeare in Love* in February 2023.



Hannah Dorothy (She/Her)
ALICE FITZWARREN

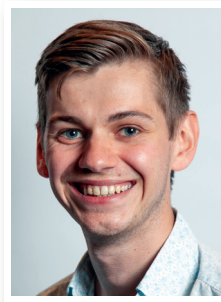
This is Hannah's second Panto at the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse after making her debut as Wendy Darling in last year's *Peter Pan*.

Hannah trained at Bolton School of Dance and Drama before attending Bangor University where her passion for theatre grew.

Hannah made her professional debut last summer when she toured with Gary Starr Creative and their production of *Alice in Wonderland*, where she played the title role. Hannah has also been cast in *Romeo and Juliet the Musical*, which will be touring in Spring.

Hannah's other theatre credits include *Rapunzel* in *Into The Woods* (Junction 4 Productions) *Goldilocks* in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (Gary Starr Creative) and *Kaa the snake* in *The Jungle Book* (Gary Starr Creative).

Hannah is really looking forward to Panto season and hopes you enjoy the show.



Daniel Ellis (He/They)
IDLE JACK / DIRECTOR

See opposite page!



Phil Edwards (He/Him)
SARAH THE COOK

Over more years than he cares to remember, Phil has appeared in plays, musicals and pantomime in Wrexham, Chester and North Wales. His favourite parts include Emcee in *Cabaret* and Lord Fancourt Babberley in *Charley's Aunt*, which he played in an open air production for the National Trust. Two favourite musicals Phil has appeared in are *La Cage aux Folles* and *Hello Dolly!*. Phil has even made an appearance on the American stage in Wayland, Massachusetts in *When We Are Married*.

He has previously directed Willy Russell's *Our Day Out* (twice), *Bette and Joan* and *Ladies in Lavender* for Tip Top Productions in Chester, and recently made his debut as a director here at the Garrick with a production of *Queers*.

For several years Phil was a presenter at BBC Radio Clwyd and Marcher Gold. He has been a massive fan of Wrexham AFC since long before it was fashionable.

In recent years Phil has been delighted to be associated with Green Carnation Theatre company as Associate Producer

Pantomime remains Phil's favourite form of theatre and he is delighted to be back at the Garrick Playhouse once again as *Sarah the Cook* in his favourite panto and playing alongside Dan, his favourite panto "son".



Bill Platt (He/Him)
ALDERMAN FITZWARREN

Bill has been a member of Altrincham Garrick since 1989 and Dick Whittington is his 65th production for the company. Recent credits have been *Lady Starkey* in *Peter Pan*, *Colin* in *Calendar Girls the Musical*, *Fitz (WH Auden)* in *The Habit of Art* and *Jack* in the recent *Queers* monologues in the Lauriston Studio.

He is also the President of Northenden Players and presents a programme on Wythenshawe FM radio every Saturday from 2pm, promoting all theatre in Greater Manchester.



Jamie King (They/Them)
THE CAT

Jamie has previously appeared at the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse in *Queers*. Other acting credits include *Suddenly Last Summer* and *High School Musical* (Pontio Bangor). Writing credits include *The Peace Talks* (short film), *The Resignation Speech* (Questors' Theatre) and as co-writer, *12 Scenes of Christmas* (Liberty Rep).

Jamie will next be appearing at the Playhouse in *Shakespeare in Love* in 2023.



?????? ??????? (????/????)
THE AUTHORITY OF MOROCCO

Who is this mysterious, but mighty Authority of Morocco? Rumour has it they haven't been seen in person for a while, due to self-isolation. While not spotted in public, however, they have been able to ensure their subjects are kept in check remotely, made brief but hugely well received television appearances across the globe, and have even managed to find the time to write their own book!

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Shakespeare in Love

THE PLAY

Adapted for the stage by Lee Hall
Based upon the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard

Mon 6 – Sat 11 February 2023

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Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE

A charming, playful and ferociously honest study of Dementia



The Father

by Florian Zeller
Translated by Christopher Hampton

Mon 27 February – Sat 4 March 2023

Evenings 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE



ROALD DAHL'S

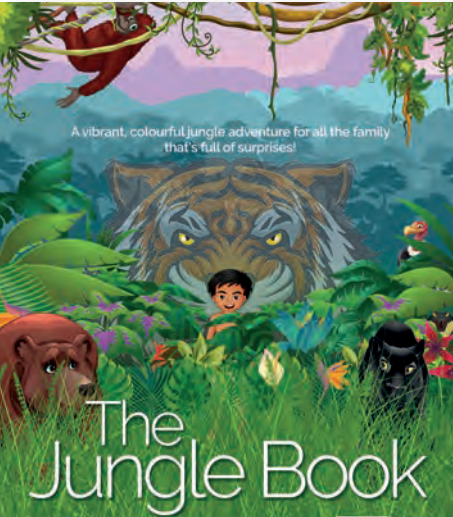
Matilda JR.

BOOK: DENNIS KELLY
MUSIC & LYRICS: TIM MINCHIN

Monday 13 – Saturday 18 March 2023

Evenings at 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE



A vibrant, colourful jungle adventure for all the family that's full of surprises!

The Jungle Book

by Rudyard Kipling
Adapted by Stuart Paterson

Friday 31 March – Sunday 16 April 2023

Performance times vary – contact Box Office for details.
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE

"Do any human beings ever realise life while they live it? – every, every minute?"



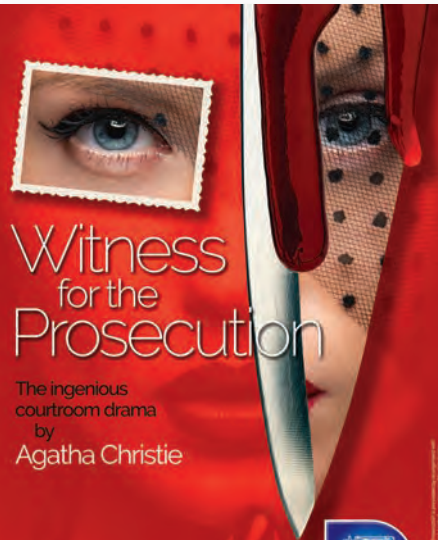
Thornton Wilder's

Our Town

Mon 8 – Sat 13 May 2023

Evenings 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE



Witness for the Prosecution

The ingenious courtroom drama by Agatha Christie

Mon 22 – Sat 27 May 2023

Evenings 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE

Be careful what you wish for



Into the Woods

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine

Mon 19 – Sat 24 June 2023

Evenings at 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE

The most fantasmagorical stage musical in the history of everything!

IAN FLEMING'S

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
Music by special arrangement with Sony / ATV Publishing
Adapted for the stage by Jeremy Sams
Based on the Screenplay by Roy Neitz
Licensed Script by Roy Neitz

Mon 23 – Sun 29 October 2023

Matinee: Saturday 20 Oct at 1pm
Evenings 7:30pm
Box Office: 0161-928 1677
Book online: www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Altrincham Garrick PLAYHOUSE

Keep up to date at altrinchamgarrick.co.uk   

Dick Whittington Collectibles

In 2016, a huge collection of Dick Whittington books, puzzles, pantomime programmes and a huge range of other rare items were donated by an eccentric American collector to the Guildhall Museum in London

The treasury includes books, games and puzzles, glass magic lantern slides, pantomime programmes and posters, and a unique copy of a tiny hand-coloured early 19th-century book. All are related to the legend of the poor boy leaving the city in despair until he heard the sound of Bow Bells, and was urged by his cat to turn back and make his fortune – and thrice become mayor of London.



They were the gift of Ellery Yale Wood, a New Yorker from a wealthy Pennsylvania Quaker background, who moved to England in the 1950s when her marriage broke up, got a job in a London bookshop and developed a serious collecting habit. It progressed after she moved to Wisbech in Cambridgeshire with her partner, Eric Golding, a book dealer, and bought a large Georgian house with an adjoining barn.

"She was an extraordinarily difficult woman, and I say that now with a certain admiration," said Brian Lake, of the antiquarian book dealers Jarndyce.

"On one visit she told me she had bought a first edition of Harry Potter, for some four or five thousand pounds, because she thought she should have one. 'I

think I put it over there,' she said vaguely, and so she had – we eventually found it under 3ft of papers, plastic bags and cat tins.

"On one occasion we were clearing an upstairs room, and we found a large sofa and a desk that we hadn't even realised were there."

Lake recalled her as highly intelligent and very determined. The chaos increased after Golding died 10 years ago, Lake said, until her own death in 2013. *"I don't think she necessarily wanted to do anything with all the stuff she had, and she didn't care whether it was a £2 china cat from a junk shop or a magnificent £20,000 bronze – she wanted something, she bought it, that was enough,"* he said.

She was very clear that all the Dick Whittington material, which Lake had to sort out from the boxes and crates and bags of stuff, was to go to the Guildhall library, which was founded in 1425 with money left by Dick Whittington. Peter Ross, the principal librarian, was astonished.

"I had never met or even heard of her, until we got a letter from her solicitor after her death," Ross said of Yale Wood. *"But she obviously knew of the Dick Whittington connection. As we unpacked the seven boxes we were completely astonished at the material. Some we knew of but didn't have in our collection, while others are quite hard to catalogue because they are evidently completely unique, like the 18th and 19th century chapbooks, including one tiny 6cm x 6cm hand coloured miniature book. Ms Yale Wood paid nearly £2,000 for it. Some of this material will certainly be included in an exhibition to celebrate our 600th anniversary in 2025."*

Yale Wood also bequeathed a vast collection of children's books to her old college in the US, Bryn Mawr. The contents of 634 boxes now fill a block of shelves in the library. Apart from the thousands of objects she bequeathed, a local auction after Yale Wood's death included scores of pottery models and paintings of cats, toy soldiers, Victorian cameras, military buttons, first world war home guard uniforms, a crate of books about Manchester United, 58 Rupert Bear annuals and an original 1960s Mary Quant head scarf.



WHITTINGTON SHORTS...

WHERE WAS DICK WHITTINGTON BURIED?

Whittington was buried in 1423, next to his wife Alice, in the church of St Michael Paternoster Royal in the City of London, a church he helped to expand greatly with generous endowments. He is commemorated by a plaque (below), and also he and his cat are depicted on one of the stained-glass windows in the church. He lived close by in the same street (today College Hill), as is recorded by a further plaque.



His body was later dug up by one of the rectors, Thomas Mountain, who believed that great riches had been buried with him. There was none, but Mountain took the body's lead shroud. It was dug up again in the reign of Mary I, when it was re-covered in lead. The location of the grave has since been lost. An attempt was made in 1949 to find it again, without success; however, curiously, a mummified cat was discovered!

THE WHITTINGTON HOSPITAL'S VISITOR

The Whittington Hospital on Highgate Hill includes a black cat on its sign. For a couple of years from 2009, a real-life black cat called **Bosik**, who lived nearby, made it his business to visit the hospital almost every day and became a favourite with staff; he would get nibbles from the Chief Executive's Office, nap outside Accident & Emergency, and stretch out in the hospital's gardens. In mid-2011, though, his owners moved further away, to a house with its own garden, so his visits came to an end.

THE FIRST DAY COVER

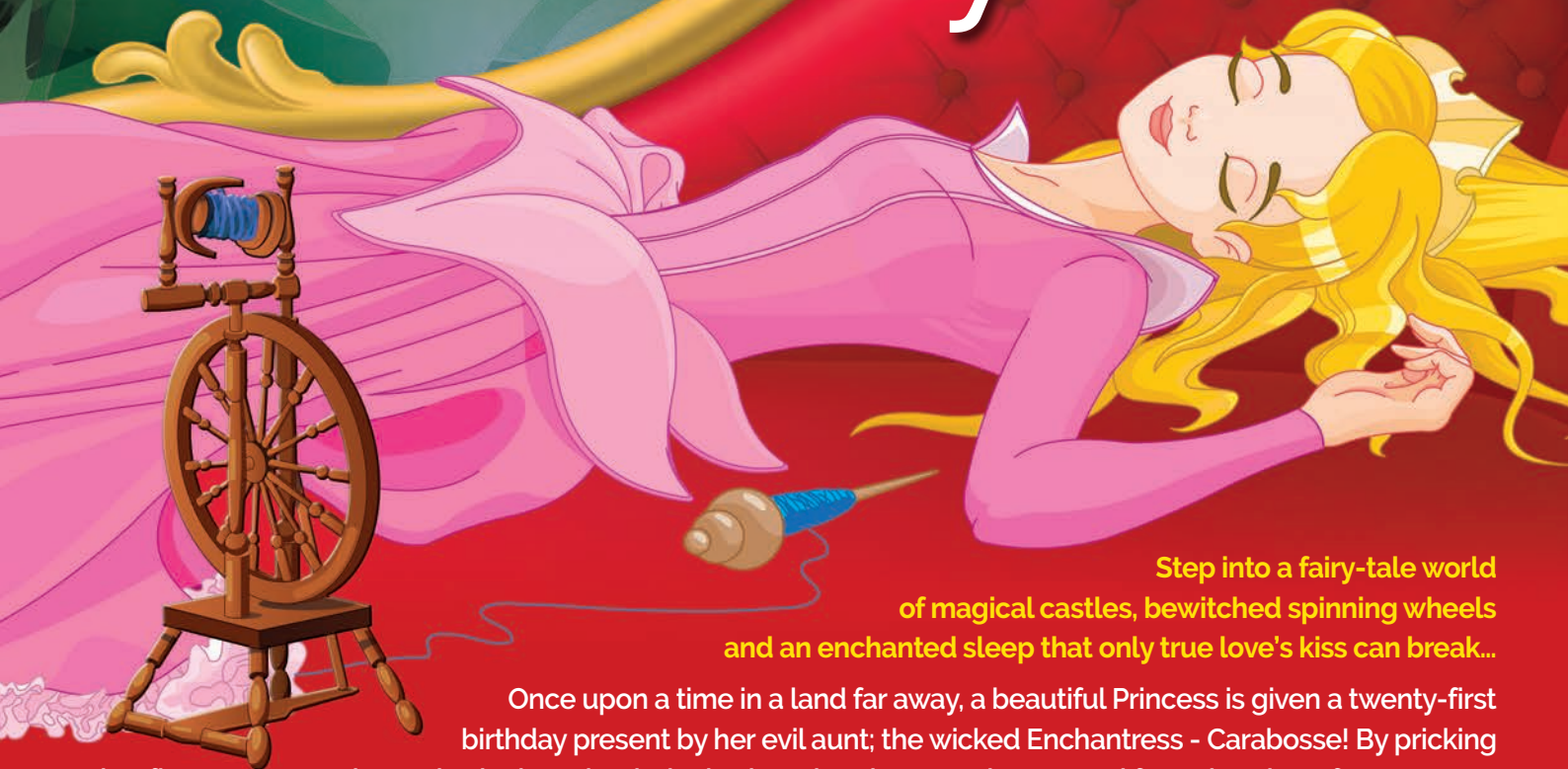
Dick Whittington was featured on a First Day Cover issued on 17 October 1989 to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of The Lord Mayor's Show. You can still purchase the version with the special trumpet and banner handstamp for £35.00



Fri 8 December 2023 – Tues 2 January 2024

Sleeping Beauty

The dreamiest,
most spellbinding
panto of them all!



Step into a fairy-tale world
of magical castles, bewitched spinning wheels
and an enchanted sleep that only true love's kiss can break...

Once upon a time in a land far away, a beautiful Princess is given a twenty-first birthday present by her evil aunt; the wicked Enchantress - Carabosse! By pricking her finger on an enchanted spinning wheel, she is placed under a cruel curse and forced to sleep for 100 years.

Can a handsome Prince break the spell? Who will outwit the evil Enchantress and foil her wicked plans? Well... there's only one way to find out – Join us at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse for another hugely entertaining pantomime adventure, packed with magic, songs, comedy, dance, special effects and much, much more...

This will be the dreamiest Garrick Panto of them all!

Don't get caught snoozing, book your tickets now for THE PANTOMIME OF YOUR DREAMS!!