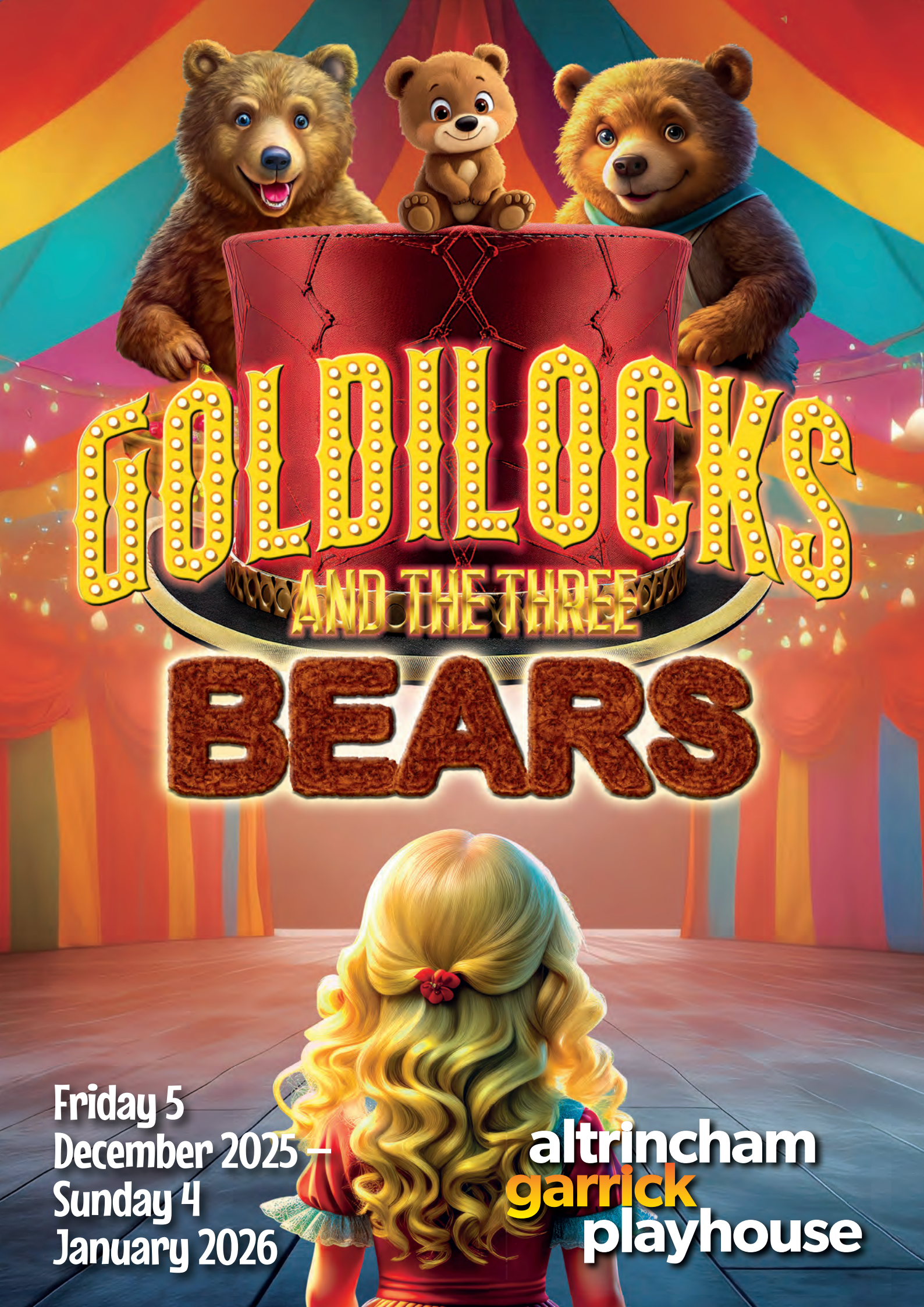




GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

Friday 5
December 2025 –
Sunday 4
January 2026

altrincham
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playhouse

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...but what does that mean?

All of the income we receive goes directly back into the work on our stages, and into our projects with the community.

Altrincham Garrick Playhouse receives no public funding from any official organisation, regional or local council.

Therefore all of our income is generated by ticket sales for our own productions, hiring of the theatre for concerts and one-night stands, and donations.

Just like all non-profit making charities, we fund-raise all year round to keep our work in the community going. Our projects include:



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You can support us in a number of ways – by making a Donation, becoming a Friend, Member or Volunteer, 'sharing a show', sponsoring us or leaving a legacy. As a Registered Charity, any donations we receive can be supplemented by gift-aiding. Simply scan the QR Code to find out more... **Thank you!**



Many of our stars aren't actually on the stage!

Our brilliant volunteers are vital members of the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse team. They share our love of theatre and generously give their time to support our performances in many ways.

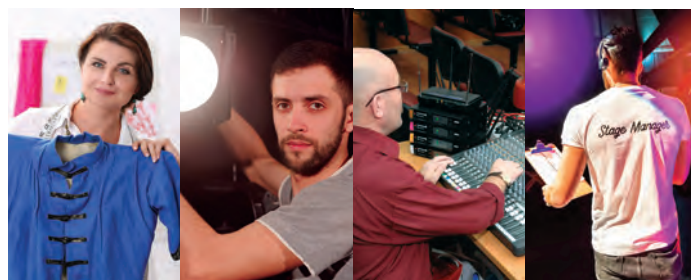
We couldn't do what we do without our amazing team of passionate and dedicated volunteers, and we're always on the look out for more fantastic people to join us!

Our hugely-valued front-of-house volunteers support us with the opening of the theatre, welcoming patrons, selling programmes and refreshments, checking ticket bookings and showing audiences to their seats, making people feel comfortable and excited for the performance ahead!



Volunteering at the Garrick not only helps our theatre to thrive, but is a great way to meet new people, develop new skills, gain experience and become part of our theatre community. We welcome people from all backgrounds and levels of experience and expertise.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Garrick, and we welcome your involvement at any level. Whether it's designing or helping to build one of the many sets we create each year, working backstage on productions, using your expertise on props, lighting, sound, make-up or costumes, whatever your niche, we'd love for you to join our family!



Interested? To find out more, simply scan the QR Code (right) or e-mail admin@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk



Hello & Welcome!

...to Dame Gertie's Circus, and the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse for our 2025/2026 Pantomime - **GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS!**

Many of you may know, our ethos at Altrincham Garrick is to offer 'something for everyone'; making this Theatre a space where anyone and everyone is welcome to lose themselves in the magic of live theatre and be swept away on a journey... and this Pantomime is certainly for everyone!

Following the outstanding successes of *Peter Pan* in 2021, *Dick Whittington* in 2022, *Sleeping Beauty* in 2023 and last years joyous, Trott-tastic *Jack and the Beanstalk*, we are delighted to be working once again with Tom Whalley, one of the brightest young writers of pantos in the UK today, who has crafted a script that is brilliantly funny, relevant, extremely entertaining and also new and unique, whilst still retaining all of the 'traditional' elements for which pantos have become renowned over the years. Oh yes it does!

It is an absolute joy to share this magical production with you. Directing this show – and returning once again to my Dame wigs, and general outrageousness – has been one of the most delightful adventures of my year. Panto is a uniquely special tradition: joyful, chaotic, heartfelt, and powered entirely by the shared imagination between audience and performers. I'm thrilled you're here to complete that circle.

This production has been brought to life by an extraordinary team. Our outstanding cast has thrown themselves into every rehearsal with boundless energy and generosity. Our talented creative and technical teams have woven together costumes, sets, lights, sound, music, and all manner of surprises with remarkable skill and invention. And our hardworking backstage crew, stage management, and front-of-house team have worked tirelessly to make your experience smooth, welcoming, and full of wonder. I couldn't be prouder of each and every person involved. Panto truly captures the heart of the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse and all the people who make this place so very special.

Pantomime is, at its core, about community – laughter shared, stories re-told, and the simple joy of joining together. Panto offers

genuine opportunities for friend and family connection and community cohesion, which are increasingly hard to find in an ever-more fractured world. It is pure escapism, and we hope that **GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS** will provide just that.

Later in this programme you'll find details of all of the shows that we are producing in our Spring / Summer 2026 Season, and we urge you to book tickets early to avoid any disappointment. We especially wouldn't want you to miss out on either our Easter half-term staging of *The Railway Children*, or next October half-term's hugely exciting production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. You can even book now for our sensational staging of *Disney's Frozen*, coming in June 2027! And if you turn to the back cover, you'll find out which pantomime we'll be staging at this time next year! Tickets for this are already on sale, so if you don't want to miss out, book now!

But it's not just our own productions that are keeping us busy, with National Theatre Live screenings, and the hugely popular Garrick Show Choir who are currently in the process of planning another sensational show. Together with the season of Manchester-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'! Keep up to date with all that's happening by visiting our website regularly, or by following us on social media platforms (details below!).

We've had such fun crafting this show, and now the greatest excitement of all is finally sharing it with you. So settle in, warm up those "oh yes it is!" voices, and get ready for a sparkling, silly, heartfelt adventure.

ROLL UP! ROLL UP! The Circus is in Town!

Thank you for joining us, and enjoy the show!

Joe **Joseph Meighan**
Artistic Director, Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.



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The Original Story

Goldilocks as we know her didn't even appear in the earliest written versions of the fairy tale.

In most modern versions of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," Goldilocks is depicted as a blonde-haired girl who trespasses in the home of three bears. She eats from three bowls of porridge and lays on three beds – with the last one being "just right" in each case (a concept now known as the Goldilocks Principle) – before being discovered by the bear family and escaping without incident.

These elements may seem like staples of the story, but none of them were actually present in the first written versions of the fairy tale.

Hungry as a Bear

In 1831, Eleanor Mure created a hand-made book titled *"The Story of The Three Bears"* as a birthday present for her 4-year-old nephew. She described it as a "celebrated nursery tale," indicating its popularity in the oral tradition. But instead of a curious young girl, the intruder is an angry old woman; instead of eating porridge, she drinks milk. The ending is considerably darker than the modern version, with the bears trying – and failing – to burn and drown the woman before deciding to "chuck her aloft on St. Paul's churchyard steeple."

Six years later, Robert Southey published a similar tale in *The Doctor, Vol. IV*. In Southey's story, three male bears – a small bear, a medium bear, and a large bear – live together in a house in the woods. Southey describes them as good-natured, trusting, harmless, clean, and hospitable. Each bear has his own bowl of porridge, his own chair, and his own bed. One day, while their hot porridge is cooling, they wander through the woods. An old woman – described throughout the story as insolent, mean, swearing, ugly, dirty, and a vagabond who belongs in a reformatory – discovers the bears' home. She looks through the window and keyhole, opens the latch, and, after ensuring that no one is home, enters. The old woman tries the porridge of the big bear, which is too hot for her; then she tries the porridge of the middle bear, which is too cold; finally, she eats the porridge of the smallest bear. Next, she sits down in the chair of the big bear, which is too hard for her, and then in the chair of the middle bear, which is too soft. When she sits in the chair of the small bear, it breaks as a result. Continuing her exploration of the house, she



finds the bears' beds. After trying the big bear's bed and the middle bear's bed and finding them unsuitable, she goes to sleep in the smallest bear's bed. When the bears return home, the story reaches its climax. One after another, they discover that someone has eaten their porridge, has sat in their chairs, and has lain in their beds. The smallest bear finds the old woman in his bed and exclaims, "Someone has lain down in my little bed—and there she is still!" Startled, the old woman jumps out of the window, runs away, and is never seen again.

Southey's telling of the ursine tale proved so popular that not long afterwards George Nicol retold it in rhyming verse along with illustrations. Unaware of Mure's earlier picture book (as it hadn't been publicly published), Nicol describes Southey as the story's "Great, original Concoctor." Mure's earlier authorship wasn't widely known until the mid-20th century.

The fairy tale's main character was then given an age reduction and a name in 1850. In *A Treasury of Pleasure Books for Young Children*, Joseph Cundall explains that he decided to make her a young girl "because there are so many other stories of old women." However, she wasn't yet known as Goldilocks, with Cundall naming her "Silver-hair." By the end of this decade, the trio of bears had also become a father, mother, and child.

The girl's hair started changing from silver to gold during the 1860s. In an 1864 literacy lesson book, for instance, she is called "Golden Hair." The first known use of the name Goldilocks in connection with the tale comes from a letter published in 1875: "I was the little, small wee bear, and baby was to be the



goldilocks." However, the lack of capitalisation suggests this may simply be a description of the character – goldilocks has been used to describe blonde hair since the 1540s – rather than a name. By at least 1904 she had officially been dubbed *Goldilocks*, but the name really caught on thanks to the popularity of Flora Annie Steel's *English Fairy Tales* (1918).

Poking the Bear

Although the book that Eleanor Mure hand-made is currently the oldest known definitive version of "*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*," there are a few older stories that seem likely to have had an influence on the fairy tale.

Folklorist Joseph Jacobs believed the story may have been pre-dated by "*Scrapefoot*," which is the same narrative, except that the trio of bears live in a castle and the intruder is a male fox named Scrapefoot. In his 1894 collection of fairy tales, Jacobs noted that "*Scrapefoot*" had come from "Mrs. H., who heard it from her mother over forty years ago."

Traces of the tale also appear in a few other older fairy tales. In 1812, the Brothers Grimm published "*Snow White*," which sees the titular princess go into the home of the seven dwarfs, eat a little from each of their plates, and then fall asleep after testing each of their beds. When the dwarfs return home, they question who has been in their house – much like the three bears – but instead of being kicked out like Goldilocks, Snow White is invited to stay.

A passing resemblance to "*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*" can also be found in the Norwegian folktale "*The Knights in Bear-shapes*" and the Romanian story "*The Bewitched Brothers*." The latter features two eagles rather than three bears, but both include a scene of a young woman stealing food after entering a house belonging to talking animals.



Verbal and Non Verbal Reasoning

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Opposite page, top: An illustration from *The Three Bears*, published in 1873. (Getty Images)

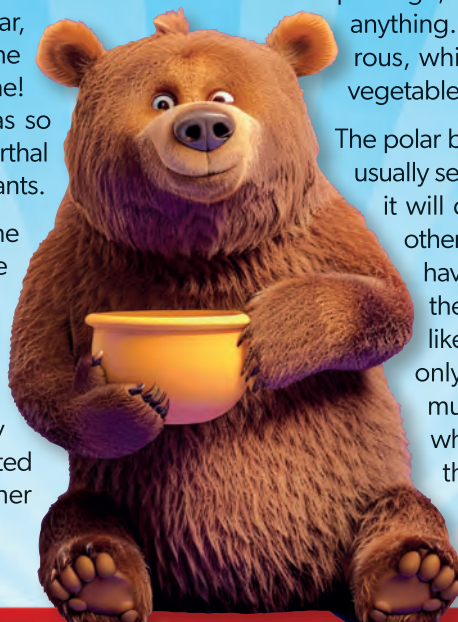
Opposite page, below: A portrait of Robert Southey, an English poet and part of the romantic school. He served as Poet Laureate from 1813 until his death in 1843. While his legacy is centred around poems like 'After Blenheim,' he is also credited as the original author of "*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*."

The Eight Bears

Bears have been living in the world for millions of years, although many early types are now extinct. One of these, the giant short-faced bear, used to be over 14 feet tall, making it the largest predatory land mammal of all time! Another, the European cave bear, was so fearsome it was worshipped by Neanderthal cavemen, although, in fact it only ate plants.

There are eight species of bear alive in the world today. Until recently there were thought to be only seven, but recent research has shown that giant pandas, thought to be a type of raccoon, are actually an early type of bear. On the other hand, koala bears, although they look bear-like, are in fact marsupials, related more closely to kangaroos than to other bears.

Can you name all 8 species? Answer on page 17.



Not Porridge Again!?

It's unlikely that many wild bears get the chance to try porridge, but most bears will eat almost anything. Like humans, they are omnivorous, which means they'll eat meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, berries and insects.

The polar bear will normally only eat meat – usually seals – although, if it is offered fruit, it will devour it. Giant pandas, on the other hand, eat only bamboo and even have a special extra 'thumb' to help them hold it. The sloth bear is more like an anteater than a bear, as it eats only termites. Its specially adapted muzzle can form a tube through which the bear sucks up insects from their nests, making a sound that can be heard over 300 feet away!

For the Love of Bears

From ancient folktales to modern cinema, bears have padded, lumbered and occasionally danced their way through the imaginations of children for centuries. They are among the most recognisable and beloved animal characters in storytelling: warm yet powerful, funny yet dignified, wise yet mischievous. Their versatility makes them ideal figures for children's narratives, where they can be protectors, buffoons, companions, villains, or – quite often – gentle giants with an unexpected amount of heart.

There is a long and rich tradition that has made bears such enduring stars of children's books, films, and television. This is a history filled with marmalade sandwiches, bamboo dens, enchanted forests, Alaskan wildernesses, and vaudeville jokes; a story spanning continents and generations.

Why Bears? A natural fit for children's stories

Bears hold an unusual place in human culture. These real-world creatures are large and potentially dangerous, yet they also walk upright, have expressive faces, and display behaviours – such as hugging, foraging, or caring for cubs – that humans find deeply relatable. Across Europe, Asia and North America, traditional tales often cast bears as wise elder figures or as comic foils. This duality – strength combined with softness – provides storytellers with extraordinary creative range.

By the 19th and 20th centuries, as children's literature expanded and visual media flourished, bears evolved into friendly protagonists. Their approachable roundness, physical comedy potential, and parental characteristics made them ideal for young audiences. From the fairy-tale roots of the Three Bears to the colourful personalities of modern television icons, their appeal has proved evergreen.

Early Literary Bears and the Influence of Fairy Tales

The Three Bears from the tale that inspired today's pantomime established a template for three distinct bear personalities: Papa, Mama, and Baby Bear. These archetypes – stern, nurturing, and innocent – would go on to influence countless later bear characters.

The success of the Three Bears helped cement the idea of bears as relatable family units rather than purely wild animals. This early humanisation laid the groundwork for a whole ursine lineage in children's culture.

Winnie-the-Pooh: The Gentle Philosopher of the Hundred Acre Wood



Winnie-the-Pooh, commonly known as Pooh Bear or simply Pooh (and also referred to as Edward Bear), is perhaps one of the most famous of all Bears in Literature.

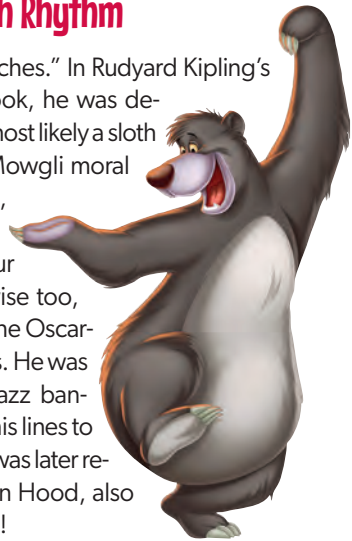
The creation of A A Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh was named after a teddy bear owned by Milne's own son, Christopher. Christopher Robin Milne had named his toy bear after Winnie, a black bear the boy was very fond of at the London Zoological Gardens. The tame bear had been left at the zoo by a Canadian soldier during the First World War, who had to go on to the Front. "Winnie" was named for Lieutenant Harry Colebourn's home town of Winnipeg, Manitoba. "Pooh" was a swan Christopher had met while on holiday.

The first book was Winnie the Pooh, published in 1926. It was followed by The House at Pooh Corner, and the worldwide best selling stories were launched.

Pooh is perhaps the definitive children's bear: friendly, thoughtful, fond of "a little smackerel of something", and gentle in both his humour and worldview. His stories are not about grand adventures but about small, meaningful moments—visiting friends, solving simple problems in creative ways, and enjoying the comforts of companionship. In many ways, Pooh represents the idealised childhood: safe, warm, and filled with wonder. The enduring success of the books and Disney adaptations shows how deeply he resonates with readers across age groups.

Baloo the Bear: A Teacher with Rhythm

"Let me tell you something, little britches." In Rudyard Kipling's 1894 story collection The Jungle Book, he was described as "the sleepy brown bear", most likely a sloth bear, who sternly taught man-cub Mowgli moral lessons and was named after "bhalu", the Hindi word for bear. By the 1967 Disney film, Baloo was grey in colour and had lightened up personality-wise too, becoming fun-loving and famed for the Oscar-nominated song The Bare Necessities. He was played by wise-cracking, scatting jazz bandleader Phil Harris, who improvised his lines to appear more laidback. The character was later recycled as Little John in Disney's Robin Hood, also played by Harris. You better believe it!



Rupert the Bear: The Adventurous Gentleman

While Pooh and Baloo embody warmth and humour, Rupert the Bear, created by Mary Tourtel in 1920 for the Daily Express, represents curiosity, courage and polite respectability. Dressed in his trademark red jumper and yellow checked trousers, Rupert journeys through enchanted landscapes filled with friendly monsters, ancient traditions, and whimsical inventions.

Rupert's appeal lies in the blend of British village life and fantastical adventure. From books to annuals and animated series, he has remained a steadfast presence in British childhoods for over a century. His manners, loyalty, and gentle bravery reinforce an optimistic belief that the world is full of marvels waiting to be explored.



Yogi Bear and Boo Boo: Forest-Dwelling Comedians



America has contributed some of the most comedic bears to children's entertainment, none more famous than Yogi Bear and his faithful little sidekick Boo Boo. Yogi Bear made his debut on an edition of *The Huckleberry Hound Show* in 1958 but became a breakout star in his own right, as the self-proclaimed genius of Jellystone Park, constantly concocting schemes to acquire pic-a-nic baskets while staying one step ahead of Ranger Smith.

Yogi's charm lies in his irrepressible confidence and his joyfully flawed logic. Boo Boo, ever the cautious voice of reason, balances Yogi's bravado with

endearing loyalty. Together, they represent one of animation's greatest comic duos.

Paddington Bear: The Politest Visitor from Peru

If Yogi is mischievous and exuberant, Paddington Bear is soft-spoken, tidy, and impeccably polite. Created by Michael Bond in 1958, Paddington arrived at Paddington Station as an immigrant from "darkest Peru" with a suitcase, a marmalade sandwich under his hat, and a label asking that someone look after him.

Paddington's stories combine gentle humour with social observation. His polite earnestness leads him into charming misunderstandings, whether navigating British bureaucracy or exploring everyday household tasks. The Brown family's acceptance of Paddington reflects themes of kindness, hospitality, and multiculturalism. The recent films (and now a stage musical) have continued this legacy, introducing Paddington's warmth and sincerity to new generations.



Fozzie Bear: The Stand-Up Comedian with a Warm Heart

Not all bears in children's media rely on instinct or adventure. Some rely on punchlines. Fozzie Bear, a core member of *The Muppets*, is

instantly recognisable by his pork-pie hat, polka-dot scarf, and unshakeable optimism in the face of endless groans from his audience. Debuting in 1976, Fozzie brought vaudeville charm to a new generation.

Though his jokes often fall flat, his enthusiasm never does. Fozzie embodies the comedic underdog, always trying, always hopeful, and always ready with a "Wocka wocka!"

Despite his insecurity, he is

loyal, sweet-natured, and a beloved friend to Kermit and the rest of the Muppet family. As a bear, he represents warmth and vulnerability wrapped in humour.



Iorek Byrnison: The Armoured Bear of the North

At the opposite end of the comedic spectrum is Iorek Byrnison, the fearsome but honourable panserbjørn (armoured bear) from Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*. First appearing in *Northern Lights* (1995), Iorek is a warrior, a king, and a complex figure driven by codes of loyalty and justice.

Though not created specifically for children's literature, Iorek has become a favourite among young readers due to his immense strength, unwavering sense of dignity, and powerful bond with Lyra. His presence challenges the traditional soft, cuddly bear archetype, reminding audiences that bears in stories can also be majestic, dangerous, and deeply noble. His portrayals in film and television have further solidified his place in the pantheon of great fictional bears.



Bear in the Big Blue House: A Modern Friend and Teacher

For late-20th-century children, one of the most beloved television bears was the friendly, inquisitive host of *Bear in the Big Blue House*. Produced by the Jim Henson Company and airing from 1997, Bear guided young viewers through songs, simple educational lessons, and gentle emotional exploration.

Famous for his comforting voice, soft brown fur, and habit of sniffing the camera ("You smell wonderful!"), Bear served as both caregiver and teacher. His show emphasised social and emotional learning, helping children understand feelings, cooperation, problem-solving, and the value of friendship. The programme's thoughtful warmth helped revive long-form educational storytelling for youngsters.



Po: The Bear as Action Hero...

One of the few bears that knows martial arts, Po from *Kung Fu Panda* is an exemplary bear who not only exceeds expectations set against him, he befriends everybody thanks to his culinary skills and charm. Plus he defeats an evil kung fu warrior named Tai Lung, making him a hero.



So many others...

From Sooty to SuperTed, Gentle Ben to Bungle, there are so many more bears who still remain trusted friends and captivating characters to children of all ages. So as the curtain rises on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, audiences will be joining a long, proud tradition of bear-filled storytelling – one that continues to grow, evolve, and warm hearts, one paw-print at a time.

Two fantastic Family Musicals! Tickets on sale **NOW!**

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Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's
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JOSEPH and the Amazing TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT



Step into a world of vibrant colour, unforgettable music, and thrilling story-telling with **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**!

This beloved musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice is a dazzling all-singing and all-dancing journey of dreams, resilience, and joy!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is the enduring reimagining of the Bible story about Joseph, his family and the famous "coat of many colours".

Filled with catchy songs in a plentitude of styles, including the well-known hits "*Any Dream Will Do*" and "*Close Every Door*", and perfect for all ages, this family-friendly production combines humour, heart, and show-stopping songs in a way that's truly timeless.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering it for the first time, **Joseph** is a theatrical treat not to be missed!

Evenings at 7.30pm, except Sundays 25 Oct & 1 Nov.

No performances, Mon 26 & Tues 27 Oct.

Matinée at 1:30pm and Evening at 6:30pm, Sunday 25 October.

Matinées at 2:30pm, Saturdays 24 & 31 October.

Matinée at 4:00pm, Sunday 1 November

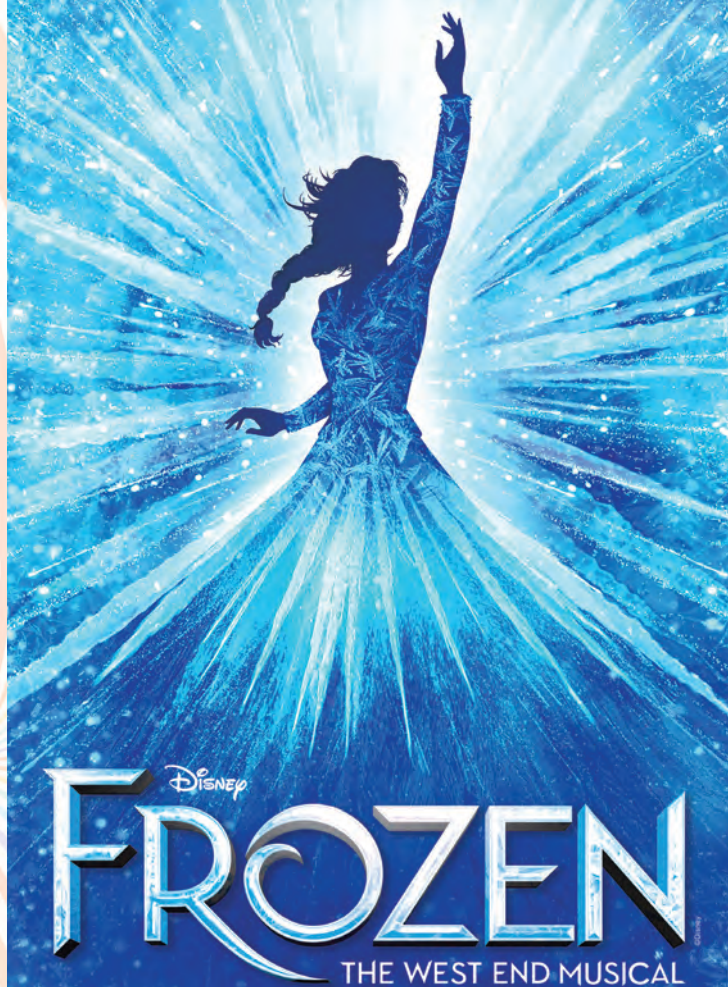
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Recommended Age: 6+

STRICTLY NO CHILDREN AGED 4 AND UNDER

Thurs 17 – Sat 26 June 2027



Disney FROZEN THE WEST END MUSICAL

Music and Lyrics by **Kristen Andersen-Lopez** and **Robert Lopez**

Book by **Jennifer Lee**

Originally Directed on Broadway by **Michael Grandage**

Based on the Disney film written by **Jennifer Lee** and directed by **Chris Buck** and **Jennifer Lee**

Originally Produced on Broadway by **Disney Theatrical Productions**

Experience the musical phenomenon that has taken the world by storm! Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film, **Disney's Frozen** includes all of the film's beloved songs along with new music written exclusively for the stage.

In the beautiful mountainous kingdom of Arendelle, Princesses Anna and Elsa grow up sheltered inside their castle, isolated from the world and increasingly distant from each other. When Elsa is crowned queen, the magical powers she's desperately tried to conceal from her sister take control, and she flees into the mountains. As a ferocious winter descends on Arendelle, Anna sets off on an epic journey to find Elsa and bring her home – with the help of hardworking ice harvester Kristoff, his loyal reindeer Sven, and a happy-go-lucky snowman named Olaf.

Full of magic, humour, and a stunning musical score, **Frozen** is a powerful tale of sisterhood, acceptance, and finding the real meaning of true love.

Scan for Tickets



Evenings at 7.30pm, except Sunday 20 June.

No performances, Mon 21 & Tues 22 June.

Matinées at 2:30pm, Saturdays 19 & 26 June.

Matinée at 4:00pm, Sunday 20 June.

Recommended Age: 6+

STRICTLY NO CHILDREN AGED 4 AND UNDER

The Creatives



JOSEPH MEIGHAN

Director / Set Design

Joseph is the Artistic Director at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse and trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. He has worked as a Theatre Director, Producer and Actor in both Manchester and London, and his love for theatre began at the age of four when he joined The Helen Donohue School of Speech and Drama.

Directing credits include **The Jury** (Upstairs at the Gatehouse/ Off-West End, London), **Parade**, **A Chorus Line**, **The Addams Family**, **GHOST**, **Chicago** (Waterside Arts), **The Wizard of Oz**, **Betrayal** (Z-Arts), **Our Town**, **Anne Boleyn**, **Into The Woods**, **Guys & Dolls**, **Scrooge! The Musical**, **The Phantom of the Opera**, **Les Misérables** and many more.

Directing credits at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse: **People**, **Priscilla: Queen of the Desert**, **Annie**, **Romeo & Juliet**, **The Phantom of the Opera**, **The Crucible**, **The Secret Garden**, **Disney's The Little Mermaid**, **The Last Five Years**, **CHATROOM**, **Curtain Up**, **Peter Pan**, **One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest**, **Jumpers for Goalposts**, **Calendar Girls: The Musical**, **The Sound of Music**, **Shakespeare In Love**, **The Laramie Project**, **Our Town**, **Into The Woods**, **The Shawshank Redemption**, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**, **Let The Right One In**, **Treasure Island**, **Merrily We Roll Along**, **The Wizard of Oz**, **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time**, **Of Mice And Men**, **Beautiful: The Carole King Musical**, **A Chorus Line** and **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**.

Joseph was the Founder and Artistic Director of MYT Productions in Manchester for ten years. He also regularly works as an acting coach and for the past few years he has trained actors at different stages of their careers.



HELEN HORRIDGE

Assistant Director

Helen trained at LAMDA and has worked in TV and theatre for many years including roles in **Where The Heart Is**, **Harold Shipman: Doctor Death**, **Always and Everyone**, **Little Bird** and **Dalziel and Pascoe**. Theatre roles include **The Baker's Wife** in **Into The Woods**, **Lynda** in **Blood Brothers**, **Helene** in **Sweet Charity**, **Mistress Quickly** in **The Merry Wives of Windsor**, and

Miranda in **The Tempest**.

Helen is the founder and principal of **The Helen Donohue School of Speech and Drama** which she established 27 years ago here in Manchester.

Helen has been directing both children and adults for the past 27 years. She has also trained many professionals in public speaking and presentation work including nurses, doctors and head teachers.

Helen grew up performing on the Garrick stage and, after a very long break, returned to the stage in the **The Laramie Project** in the Garrick Studio, followed by directing **Last Summer at Bluefish Cove** and, last season, **Di and Viv and Rose**. She also appeared in the Garrick's memorable productions of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** and **Treasure Island**, and recently pushed a trolley around the stage several times, amongst many other things, as **Mrs Green** in our acclaimed staging of **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**.

Helen has thoroughly enjoyed being assistant director on the panto with such a talented, fun cast and creative team. Working alongside Joe Meighan is always a pleasure and privilege.

She hopes you enjoy the show and wishes you all a very Merry Christmas!



TOM WHALLEY

Author

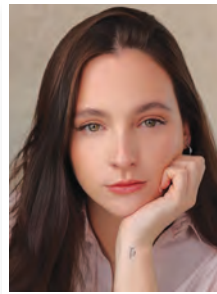
A London-based professional actor, writer and composer originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, his musical theatre credits as a performer include **Hotel for Criminals**, **Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens**, **Carnival Dreams**, **A Little Night Music**, **Jesus Christ Superstar**, **She Loves Me**, **The 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 reimagined for a modern day audience.



LAUREN BROWN

Choreographer / Set Design

Lauren is a recent graduate of Shockout Arts, having trained on their Musical Theatre Degree course. She began dancing at the age of 4 and found her passion for Musical Theatre and Acting during high school.

Her previous appearances at Altrincham Garrick include **Jim Hawkins** in **Treasure Island**, **Merrily We Roll Along**, **The Jitterbug** in **The Wizard of Oz** and **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**. Earlier this year she played **Siobhan** in the Garrick Ensemble's **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time**, **Coleen Rooney** in **Vardy v Rooney: The Wagatha Christie Trial**, **Betty** in **Beautiful**, **Bebe Benzenheimer** in **A Chorus Line** and, most recently, **Veruca Salt** in **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**.

Other Theatre Credits include **Lily St. Regis** in **Annie**, **A Christmas Carol** and **Fame**, and most recently she appeared in **Opening Up! A Musical Showcase**. Lauren has also danced around the country at many prestigious venues including Her Majesty's Theatre, London, Liverpool Empire and The Lowry, Salford, and last year performed at **Move It**.

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 everyone enjoy.

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

Thank You!

Scenes

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 Once Upon A Time
- Scene 2 Under Dame Gertie's Big Top
Song: Dance the Night Away
 Goldilocks & the Ensemble
Song: Together Wherever We Go
 Goldilocks and Silly Billy
- Scene 3 The Outskirts of Cannyville
- Scene 4 Showtime!
Song: Join The Circus!
 Dame Gertie and the Ensemble
Song: 12 Days of Christmas
 Dame Gertie, Silly Billy, Mystic Sharon, Goldilocks and Magical Keith
- Scene 5 Backstage at the Big Top
- Scene 6 Dame Gertie's Caravan
Song: The Magic that Surrounds You
 Mystic Sharon and the Ensemble
- Scene 7 The Morning After
 The Night Before
- Scene 8 The Cottage of the Three Bears
Song: Dancing Through Life
 Goldilocks, The Three Bears, Dame Gertie, Silly Billy and the Ensemble

ACT TWO

- Scene 1 Heinkel's Circus of Horrors
Song: Circus
 Ringmaster Heinkel and the Ensemble
- Scene 2 The Greatest Show
Song: Brand New Day
 Goldilocks, The Three Bears & Ensemble
- Scene 3 Dame Gertie's Circus
Song: Together Wherever We Go (Reprise)
 Goldilocks, Dame Gertie, Mystic Sharon, Mummy and Daddy Bear, Silly Billy, Baron Wasteland
- Scene 4 Heading to Heinkel's Hideaway
- Scene 5 In the Deep, Dark West Wood
- Scene 6 Heinkel's Hideaway
Song: Tomorrow Baby Bear
Song: Golden Full Company
- Scene 7 Song Sheet
- Scene 8 Finale

The Cast

MYSTIC SHARON

An eccentric fortune teller & soothsayer. **Bev Stuart-Cole**

RINGMASTER HEINKEL

The wicked owner of the rival circus. **Alexander Day**

SNOT

Heinkel's well-meaning, slightly idiotic sidekick. **Jamie King**

GOLDILOCKS

The feisty porridge lover with a heart of gold. **Elise Evans**

SILLY BILLY

The silly son of Dame Gertie. An aspiring clown. **Daniel Ellis**

DAME GERTIE DOLLOP

The Dame. Circus Mistress. **Joseph Meighan**

DAME GERTIE DOLLOP

(AT SELECTED PERFORMANCES)

The Dame. Circus Mistress. **Matt Spilsbury**

BARON WASTELAND

Goldilocks' Father. A bombastic landowner. **Mark Watkins**

INVISIBLE BRIAN

Now you see him. No you don't. **Icey Threw**

MAGICAL KEITH A Magician **Jamie King**

DADDY BEAR **Pete Brassington**

MUMMY BEAR **Meg Brassington**

BABY BEAR **Keira Brierley**

Eloise Hickson

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE

Lexi Higginson **Emilia Paul**

Alice Sorg **Emily Barry**

Alya Badawi **Esmerelda Maleci**

Amber Robinson **Indiana Hampson**

Chloe Suthers **Keira Brierley**

Ellie Jim **Olivia Sorg**

Eloise Hickson **Sofia Hussain**

The Production Team

<i>Director</i>	Joseph Meighan	<i>Workshop</i>	Steve Cox
<i>Assistant Director</i>	Helen Horridge		Mandy Cooke
<i>Musical Director</i>	Peter England		Trevor McKie
<i>Choreography</i>	Lauren Brown	<i>Production Carpenters</i>	Steve Cox
<i>Set Design</i>	Joseph Meighan		Trevor McKie
	Lauren Brown	<i>Scenic Artist</i>	Mandy Cooke
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Mark McEwan	<i>Assisted by</i>	Trevor McKie
<i>Heads of Stage</i>	Paul Simpson		Ruth Hetherington
	Mark McEwan		Barry Purves
<i>Asst. Stage Managers</i>	Tracy Mitchell		Rob Robinson
	& Team		Holly Cooper
<i>Lighting Design</i>	James Merrington	<i>Set Construction</i>	Paul Simpson
<i>Sound Design</i>	Peter England		Steve Cox
	Josh McMillan		Alan Jones
<i>Properties</i>	Claire Eddleston-Rose		Mark McEwan
	Christine Chrystal		Andy McHugh
	Claire Corneill		Cliff Mills
<i>Costumes</i>	Mike Shaw		Bob Green
<i>Assisted by</i>	Stella Blackburn		
	Julie Shaw	<i>Rehearsal & Production Photography</i>	
	Lynne Saleh		Martin Ogden
	Noel Watson	<i>Publicity & Programme Design</i>	Nick Sample
	Jen McAvoy		

All information was believed to be correct at the time of going to press. Some names or designations in the Team may have since changed.





Beverley Stuart-Cole

MYSTIC SHARON

Beverley has been a member of the Garrick for 38 years, and has enjoyed a wide variety of roles in that time. Favourites include *Dotty Otley* in *Noises Off*, *Elsie Tanner* and *Bet Lynch* in *Corrie!*, *Alice* in *Closer*, *The Girl* in *Veronica's Room*, *Mrs Birling* in *An Inspector*

Calls, *Lily St Regis* in *Annie*, *Mrs Robinson* in *The Graduate*, *Viola* in *Twelfth Night*, *Helena* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Viv* in *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *The Stage Manager* in *Our Town*, *Anne* in *The Father*, *Mrs Fairfax* in *Jane Eyre* and the *Fairy* in several of our fabulous pantomimes. Studio credits include *Deborah* in *A Kind of Alaska*, *The Blonde* in *Hitchcock Blonde*, *Sylvia* in *The Thrill of Love*, *Truvy* in *Steel Magnolias* and *Bette Davis* in *Bette and Joan*.

She is absolutely delighted to be appearing once more in panto as it's the highlight of her theatrical year.. The glitter is back! Yay!!



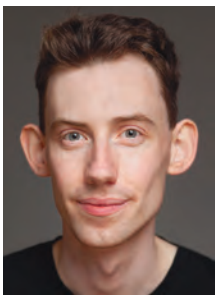
Alexander Day

RINGMASTER HEINKEL

Since returning to the stage in 2023, Alexander has performed in a number of productions at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse. His credits include playing *Wally Webb* in *Our Town*, *Goran* in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Torkel / Ensemble* in *Let The Right One In*. As a child, Alexander was a member of GAPA and

he enjoyed playing roles such as *Gollum* in *The Lauriston Studio Monologues*, *Nathan Detroit* in *Guys & Dolls* and *The Sergeant of Police* in *The Pirates of Penzance*.

He is thrilled to be returning to the traditional Garrick pantomime after performing in the *Children's Ensemble* in 2010's *Dick Whittington and his Wonderful Cat* and in 2024's *Jack and the Beanstalk* as *Jack Trott*. This year *Jack Trott* and *Pat The Cow* turn to the dark side as *Ringmaster Heinkel* and *Snot!*



Jamie King

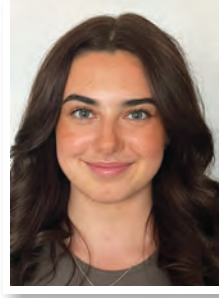
SNOT / MAGICAL KEITH

Jamie's previous pantomime adventures at the Garrick Playhouse have included playing a *Cow*, a *King* and a *Giant* in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the wicked *Lurgy* in *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Dick Whittington's Cat*, and they are now delighted to be spending Christmas with such lovely friends in the *Goldilocks* tent

- once again doing anything for a laugh!

Jamie has also appeared in our productions of *Queers*, *Dick Whittington*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Our Town*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Let the Right One In*, *Jane Eyre*, *Waiting for Godot*, *A Taste of Honey*, and *Voices of Manchester*, and trained as a scriptwriter at the University of Bangor, where they appeared in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Crucible*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (excerpt), *The Tempest* (excerpt), *A Doll's House*, *This is a Play* and *Blackadder the Third*. Other theatre includes: *Suddenly Last Summer*, *High School Musical* (Pontio Arts), *Hindle Wakes*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Wilmslow Green Room Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Antimatter Productions), *Amalgamations Vol. 6: Bloom* (Niamos), *Q1: Queer Improv* (Hoopla Impro Theatre), and workshops of *Clothes Swap* (Green Carnation Company) and *Sunny Girl* (HER Productions/New Adelphi Theatre).

As a writer and director, Jamie has co-directed *Talking Heads* (Bangor University), wrote and co-directed *The Peace Talks* (short film), co-wrote *12 Scenes of Christmas* (Liberty Rep), and wrote *The Resignation Speech* (Questors Theatre and Etcetera Theatre).



Elise Evans

GOLDILOCKS

This is Elise's fourth show at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse. Having made her debut here as *Young Eponine* in *Les Miserables* in 2012, Elise returned as a *Make-Up Artist* and part of the *Ensemble* in *Merrily We Roll Along* in 2024. Most recently, in September Elise played *Tanya Tucker* in our memorable

staging of *A Chorus Line*.

Elise also completed her studies at ArtsEd this year, and recently played the iconic role of *Maria* in *West Side Story*. This is Elise's first pantomime with the Garrick Playhouse and she is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast!



Daniel Ellis

SILLY BILLY

Daniel studied drama at Liverpool John Moores University and has continued to act and direct since graduating in 2011. He has previously performed with Altrincham Garrick in *Queers*, *The History Boys*, *Peter Pan*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Shakespeare in Love*, as *Idle Jack* in our 2022 panto *Dick Whittington*

and as *Chester the Jester* in 2023's *Sleeping Beauty* – both of which he also directed! Last year, Daniel played *Silly Simon* in the Garrick's *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and clearly he's found his panto niche by playing another Silly boy this year!

Daniel has also appeared with the Garrick as *Hugo Horton* in the sell-out stagings of *The Vicar of Dibley* and *A Vicar of Dibley Christmas – The Second Coming*, and most recently for the Garrick he directed *Vardy v Rooney: The Wagatha Christie Trial*. He's looking forward to directing next June's staging of the classic BBC TV comedy *The Good Life*.

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*, a tour of *My Night With Reg*, *The Pride* and a number of short films created during lockdown and released online.

Elsewhere he has also directed *The 39 Steps*, *Whipping It Up*, *The Weekend* and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*.



Joseph Meighan

DAME GERTIE DOLLOP

Joseph trained as an actor and his credits whilst training include Craig in *Fanatical - A New Musical*, *Reverend Parris* in *The Crucible* (Arcola Theatre, London) and *Tim Bunty* in *Singer*. After graduating, he appeared as *Ian* in *Might Never Happen* (UK Tour) before concentrating on his career as a Theatre

Director, and subsequently as Artistic Director of Altrincham Garrick Playhouse, where he has appeared as *George Deever* in *All My Sons* and, most recently, as *Zach Wilson* in *A Chorus Line*. He has also previously appeared in several pantomimes here – performances that were both planned and unplanned! Turn to page 9 for more about Joe...



Icey Threw

INVISIBLE BRIAN

Icey made his stage debut as the title character in *Harvey*, but is best known for his long-running stint as *Mr Cellophane* in *Chicago*. More recently he played *D4Q1* (C3PO's smarter brother) in the Disney+ re-boot of *Star Wars*, which followed a completely unforeseen award-winning role as *Maris Crane* in the classic US sitcom *Frasier*.



Matt Spilsbury

DAME GERTIE DOLLOP (AT SELECTED PERFORMANCES)

Matt has been performing for just over a decade, playing roles such as *Little John* in *Babes in the Wood*, *The Giant* in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Gary Coleman* in *Avenue Q* as well as a number of ensemble parts along the way. He has been performing at Altrincham

Garrick Playhouse for a number of years, but is mainly known for his performances as *The Genie* in *Aladdin*, *Chief Bromden* in the Garrick Ensemble's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Baloo* in *The Jungle Book*, *Rico Rodriguez* in *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Boris* in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Panto Dame *Queen Doreen* in *Sleeping Beauty*, *Jimmy* in *Let The Right One In*, *Ru* in *Merrily We Roll Along* and last year he gave an unforgettable performance as *The Cowardly Lion* in *The Wizard of Oz*. Most recently, Matt played *Charlie Thomas*, one of *The Drifters* (amongst other roles) in our hugely popular staging of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*.

Having had no training in theatre Matt has had to learn everything from his experiences in rehearsals and on stage, with the help of great directors and fantastic casts.



Mark Watkins

BARON WASTELAND

A lifelong passion for music led to Mark's musical theatre debut in *The Pirates of Penzance* in the late 90s. Over the next few years he enjoyed being in a number of shows with societies in the North West and made his Altrincham Garrick Playhouse debut in 2004 playing *Little John* in *Babes in the Wood*. His

next time on the main stage was as *Lord Savage* in *Jekyll and Hyde* in 2006. After a 13 year hiatus he returned to the stage as *Caiaphas* in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and, having caught the bug again, he appeared in the 2021/2022 Garrick productions of *Curtain Up!* and *Calendar Girls – The Musical*. More recently he has appeared in *The Sound of Music*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, and most recently Mark played *Mr Salt* in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



Pete Brassington

DADDY BEAR

Pete graduated from Trinity St David's with a BA in Acting, and after moving to Manchester he made his debut at the Garrick in 2016 playing the over-the-top *Prince Regent* in *The Madness of King George III*. Further notable main stage performances include *The History Boys*, *Nightmare*, *Dick Whittington*, *The*

Sound of Music, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and, earlier this year, he gave an outstanding performance as *Lennie* in *Of Mice and Men*. For the Garrick, Pete has also directed the sell-out shows *The Vicar of Dibley* and *A Vicar of Dibley Christmas: The Second Coming* and the recent hit comedy *Bleak Expectations*.

Pete has also performed in some brilliant plays in the Studio including *Orphans*, *The Truth About Blokes* and *Edith in the Dark*, as well as directing *Constellations* and *Pronoun*. Pete recently won a variety of awards including *Best Drama*, *Best Director* and *Best Lighting and Sound* for his production of *Constellations* at Macclesfield Amateur Dramatic Society.

Pete is so thrilled to be performing in his second ever pantomime, having played *Idle Jack* in *Dick Whittington* at the Altrincham Garrick in 2016-17. He hopes you all enjoy the show!



Meg Brassington

MUMMY BEAR

Meg has been a member of the Garrick since childhood and has worked on and off stage many times in both the main house and the studio.

Since graduating university with a BA Acting degree in 2014, her acting credits with the Garrick include *Dick Whittington*, *The Madness of George III*, *Nightmare*, *Stags and Hens*, *Playhouse Creatures*, *My Mother Said I Never Should*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Geraldine Granger* in *The Vicar of Dibley* and *A Vicar of Dibley Christmas: The Second Coming*. Meg's directing credits include *All The Little Lights* and *Little Gem*.

Outside of the Garrick, Meg had an ensemble role in *The Skriker* at the Royal Exchange as part of the Manchester International Festival, and she has also appeared in *These Shining Lives* at the Wilmslow Green Room.

Meg has loved working on *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and hopes you have a fantastic time watching the show!



THE CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE



Keira Brierley BABY BEAR Eloise Hickson

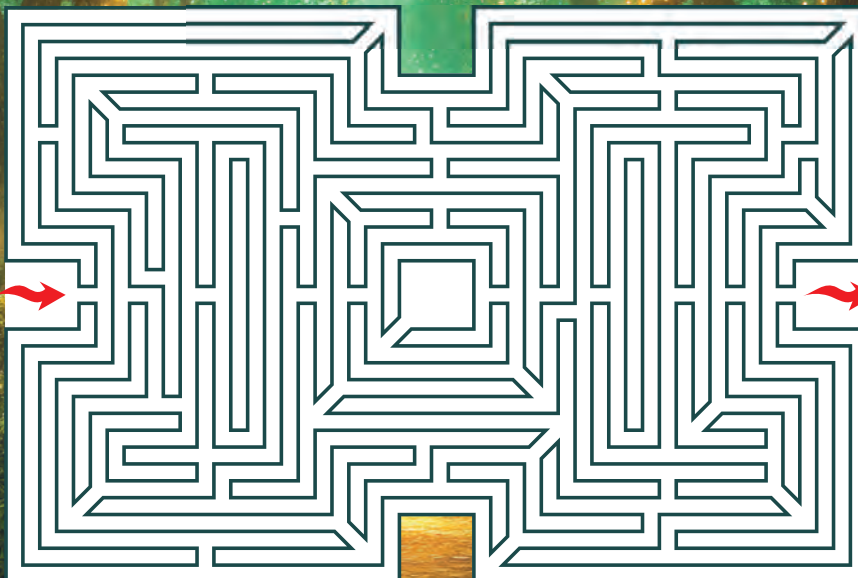
Brain Teasers

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



MAZE

After eating a slightly dodgy bowl of porridge, Goldilocks has become a bit disorientated in the woods. Can you help her find her way through the maze?



EMOJI PANTOS

Can you identify the pantomimes from the collections of emojis?
Answers on page 18.

- 

- 

- 

- 






There are 22 differences between the 2 pictures. Can you get them all? Turn over 2 pages to find the solution... but no peeking!



WORD SEARCH

The names of characters and things from the panto are hidden in the box. They might be spelt backwards, upside down, or running diagonally, up-wards or downwards... See if you can find them all from the list. Good luck!

5.

BABY

6.

BEDS

BOWLS

CIRCUS

7.

DADDYBEAR

DAMEGERTIE

DOLLOP

8.

GOLDILOCKS

HEINKEL

9.

HONEYPOT

MAGICAL

10.

MYSTIC

MUMMY

L	A	C	I	G	A	M	H	S	T	K	L	R	E
U	H	O	N	E	Y	P	O	T	N	E	I	G	F
E	R	E	T	S	A	M	G	N	I	R	B	O	M
I	A	W	T	G	F	I	U	O	L	S	R	L	Q
T	N	I	O	W	A	S	T	E	L	A	N	D	U
R	C	L	P	B	T	R	L	O	Y	V	A	I	A
E	D	E	U	O	A	P	E	P	B	O	W	L	S
G	E	O	N	B	R	I	K	P	O	L	L	O	D
E	F	S	S	O	Q	R	N	E	D	R	A	C	S
M	I	A	L	D	R	U	I	R	I	B	M	K	U
A	U	R	G	B	T	A	E	D	N	T	I	S	C
D	H	M	L	A	R	F	H	Y	G	E	H	N	R
B	S	U	M	B	O	O	P	S	D	E	B	O	I
D	A	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R	M	A	K	R	C

PORRIDGE

SNOT

WASTELAND

SHARON

RINGMASTER

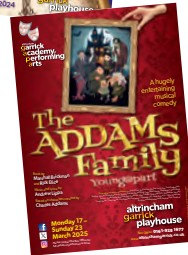
altrincham garrick academy of performing arts



it's
great
amazing
positive
active

The Garrick Academy of Performing Arts (GAPA) is a theatre company looking to welcome any young person, aged from 5 to 18, who is interested in any aspect of the theatre, or performing arts (on or off stage), and who wants to take part in a **FUN** activity!

Every Saturday we run a range of sessions for students, including workshops, exercises and rehearsals. We introduce our pupils to a range of stage skills that will enable them to take part in, and contribute to, our main productions.



Additionally, in half-term weeks and during the school holidays, we hold one intensive week-long courses.

Each student will learn, develop, gain confidence, and select the disciplines they wish to focus on. There are also other opportunities for students to perform at the Garrick Playhouse – especially in our own annual productions – and work behind the scenes.

If students want to pursue a career in the Performing Arts our trained, qualified staff can provide them with a solid foundation that they can build on in their theatrical future; if students want to have fun and meet their friends, then GAPA is also the perfect place to come, too!

Sounds interesting? Would you like to become involved? Join us now by either booking your place with our Box Office, or e-mail us at academy@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

**Drama or Performing Arts,
GAPA is where the fun really starts!**



Pictured: GAPA members in rehearsals for Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



Wednesday 18 – Sunday 22 March

The wonderfully
entertaining musical fantasy



altrincham
garrick
academy of
performing
arts

Disney
**BEAUTY
AND THE
BEAST**

JR

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman
& Tim Rice
Book by Linda Woolverton

All About Bears

What to do if you meet a Bear...

Not that it's likely to happen on the streets of Altrincham, but just in case you do..! Although strong and potentially dangerous, bears are naturally shy of people and will avoid us if they can. The best thing to do if you think bears are around is travel in groups, making lots of noise and staying out in the open. That way if a bear sees or hears you, it will have a chance to move away. Bears only tend to attack if they are cornered or taken by surprise.

If, like Goldilocks, you DO happen to meet a bear, you should:

- Stay calm and don't run away. Running only seems to make a bear want to chase you and bears can run much faster than humans.
- Avoid eye contact as it might think you are challenging it.
- Back away slowly, talking in a soothing voice.
- If the bear starts to growl with its ears laid back, it may be about to attack. The only answer is to drop down to the ground and 'act dead'. If the bear thinks you are no longer a threat, it will leave you alone.
- Stay down even if you think the bear has gone. Give it time to move away before you get up.
- And finally, don't do what Goldilocks did and either enter a bear's home (usually a cave, tree or hole in the ground) or eat their food!

The Eight Kinds of Bear

Answer to the question posed on page 5 – did you get them all?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ● Giant Pandas | ● Spectacled Pandas |
| ● Asiatic Black Bears | ● Brown Bears |
| ● Sloth Bears | ● Polar Bears |
| ● American Black Bears | ● Sun Bears |



The best Bear Jokes... (Groan!)

What do you call a chilly bear?

A brrrr.

What kind of car does a bear drive?

A Furrari.

What would bears be without bees?

Ears.

What do bears use to keep their fur soft?

Bear Conditioner

How do bears stay so fit?

Bearobics!

How do bears stop a movie?

They hit the 'paws' button

How did the tired bear get home?

He called an Ubear

What do you get when you cross a bear with a nocturnal bird?

A grrrowl!

What do you get when you cross a teddy bear with a wild hog?

A Teddy Boar

What do you call a bear who never wants to grow up?

Peter Panda

What's a wet bear called?

A Drizzly Bear

What do you call a polar bear who's a dentist?

A Molar Bear

Where do bears go when they want to fly away?

The Bearport!

What is a Teddy Bear's favourite movie franchise?

The Fast and the Furry-ous!

What did the Teddy Bear create in the Art Class?

A Self Paw-trait!

What does a Sun Bear pack in his suitcase?

The Bear Necessities

What is a Bear's favourite pudding

BlueBeary Pie

Why did the bear join the Garrick Show Choir?

He heard they were looking for Bear-itones



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For just a small Annual fee,
you could save a small
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altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

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Friends**

£35 ANNUAL FEE,

giving you **UNLIMITED** discounted-priced
tickets per production... So, for example, as a
'Gold' Friend, if you were to purchase 4 tickets for
every Garrick Main Stage and Garrick Studio show
each year, and the NT Live & Musicals Live Screenings
announced (to date), you would be able to

**SAVE
OVER £300!**

**SILVER
Friends**

£25 ANNUAL FEE,

giving you **TWO** discounted-priced
tickets per production... So, for example, as a
'SILVER' Friend, if you were to purchase 4 tickets for
every Garrick Main Stage and Garrick Studio show
each year, and the NT Live & Musicals Live Screenings
announced (to date), you would be able to

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OVER £150!**

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for 16 to 25
Year Olds

**£0 ANNUAL FEE –
IT'S FREE! –**

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ticket per production... So, for example, as a
'25U' Friend, if you were to purchase 4 tickets for
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each year, and the NT Live & Musicals Live Screenings
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**SAVE
OVER £75!**

GOLD and SILVER discounts apply to all Altrincham Garrick Playhouse Main Stage and Studio productions, Altrincham Garrick Cinema and National Theatre Live screenings, and some visiting shows! Garrick Friends save £4 per ticket on Garrick Main Stage Plays, Musicals and Family Shows, £4 per ticket on the Pantomime, £2 per ticket on Garrick Studio productions, £3 per ticket on NT Live Screenings, £4 per ticket on Musical Theatre Show Screenings, and £1 per ticket on Cinema Screenings. There are no other ticket discounts available.

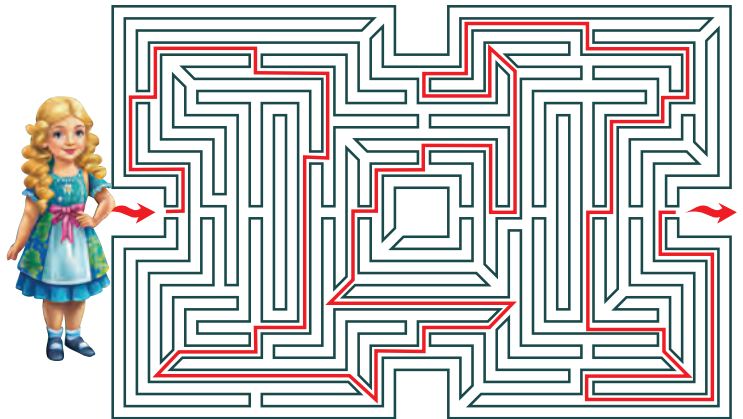
Simply enrol online at www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk or speak to our Box Office, either in person or by calling **0161-928 1677** to become a member of our Friends of the Garrick audience loyalty scheme.

Brain Teasers Answers

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



MAZE



EMOJI PANTOS

- 1: Mother Goose 2: Beauty and the Beast
3: Puss In Boots 4: Babes In The Wood
5: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves 6: Sleeping Beauty
7: Jack and the Beanstalk 8: Aladdin 9: Cinderella 10: Peter Pan

WORD SEARCH



Spring/Summer 2026 at the Garrick Tickets on sale **NOW!**

"A thrilling blend of entertainment, politics and justice today!"
The Sunday Times

QUIZ

by James Graham

A: COUGH B: HACK
C: BARK D: RASP

Based on the book
"Bad Show: The Quiz, the Cough,
the Millionaire Major"
by Bob Wolfenden and James Plackett.

Directed by
Joseph Meighan

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Monday 2 –
Saturday 7
February 2026

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Making a movie can be murder...

The Mirror Crack'd

Adapted for the stage by
Rachel Wagstaff
from the classic mystery by
Agatha Christie

Directed by
Mike Shaw

Monday 23
February –
Sunday 1 March 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Disney

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

at the
garrick
academy
performing
arts

The wonderfully
entertaining
musical fantasy

Music by
Alan Menken
Lyrics by
Howard Ashman
and Tim Rice
Book by
Linda Woolverton

Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth
Originally Produced by
Disney Theatrical Productions

Wednesday 18 –
Sunday 22 March 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

A heart-warming story of THE family, adventure & trains!

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

Adapted by Mike Kenny
from the classic children's story by
Edith Nesbit

Directed by
Su Mowat

Weds 8 – Sun 12 &
Weds 15 – Sun 19
April 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

Vengeance is walking Salem...

The Crucible

by Arthur Miller
Directed by Joseph Meighan

Monday 11 –
Sunday 17
May 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

A wonderfully entertaining adaptation of the TV classic

The Good Life

Adapted for the stage by
Jeremy Sams
Based upon the classic BBC TV Comedy
series, and characters created by
John Esmonde and Bob Larbey
Directed by Dan Ellis

Monday 1 –
Sunday 7
June 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

A smashing, positively dashing, simply lovely musical

My Fair Lady

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play
and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "Pygmalion"

Book and lyrics by
Alan Jay Lerner
Music by
Frederick Loewe

Original production directed and staged by Moss Hart

Director:
Joseph Meighan
Musical Director:
Mark Goggins
Choreography:
Louise Perrett

Monday 22 –
Sunday 28
June 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

A season of
Manchester
Drama

Tuesday 20 – Tuesday 27 January

kinder transport
by Diane Samuels

Tuesday 24 – Sunday 29 March

pomona
by Alastair McDowall

Tuesday 28 April –
Sunday 3 May

hobson's choice
by Harold Brighouse

Tuesday 9 – Sunday 14 June

punk rock
by Simon Stephens

Jan – June 2026

**altrincham
garrick
studio**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

When the world stopped, their stories moved us all

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Directed by
Joseph Meighan

Thursday 10 –
Saturday 19
September 2026

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

The Merry Panto Adventure that really hits the bullseye!

Robin Hood

Written by
Tom Whalley

Directed by
Joseph Meighan

Friday 4
December 2026 –
Sunday 3
January 2027

altrincham
garrick
playhouse

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk



Performance times vary –
contact Box Office
for full details