



**ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS**



*present*

# *Puss in Boots*



**A pantomime by BEN CROCKER**

Directed and produced by

**SABRINA BELL and SUE ADAMS**

**Friday 27 January 2023**

**Saturday 28 January 2023**

**Friday 3 February 2023**

**Saturday 4 February 2023**

at the HUXTABLE HALL,  
ST MARTIN'S CHURCH,  
ERITH ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH

**PROGRAMME**

**50p**

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Ben Crocker Pantomimes.

# WELCOME TO THE SHOW!



Welcome to our 32<sup>nd</sup> pantomime! Putting on a pantomime is never easy as there are so many to choose from: while the 'Disney' stories are always popular, we do occasionally like to do something a bit different. *Puss In Boots* was last performed by our group in 1998 and was the only panto from our first decade that we hadn't yet revisited – with a CGI movie due to be released, now seemed like the best time to feature our version of this story.

The next challenge was finding a director: a quality production requires a lot of dedication, but pantos require even more effort, with more elaborate costumes and scenery, music and choreography and a junior chorus to organise. While our own members were unable to make the commitment this time, we were thrilled to find Sabrina, who has directed productions for other groups: her unwavering enthusiasm has been an inspiration, especially since she has been involved with another panto elsewhere at the same time!

We are pleased that Sabrina has been well supported in working with a new group: her co-director is Sue, a veteran from our early days, who co-wrote and directed our previous production of *Puss* in 1998. We also have an experienced cast, with eight of our current cast also appearing in *Puss* 25 years ago (although the actor in the title role this time wasn't even a year old last time!) While all of our adult cast have appeared in our previous pantomimes, new ground continues to be broken: Harry is playing the Dame for the first time and Sydney is appearing in her first major panto role; we also welcome four new members to our junior chorus, who have all been kept very busy this year. We are also very pleased to welcome back Peter, our Musical Director, to his first post-lockdown production. As usual, our set builders, costumiers and technical team have done us proud in making everything look and sound great.



This year sees two productions with members directing for the first time: our next production will be our first directed by James and Ciara, so if you are tempted to try something new, why not come along and read for a part in a future production, or suggest an idea for a play you'd like to direct, please get in touch – why not try something new in 2023? If you would prefer to sing along or simply shout back at our actors (only in panto, please!), we hope you enjoy your opportunities as you watch *Puss In Boots* and we hope to see you again soon..



**If you would like to take advantage of our hearing induction loop system, please adjust your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.**

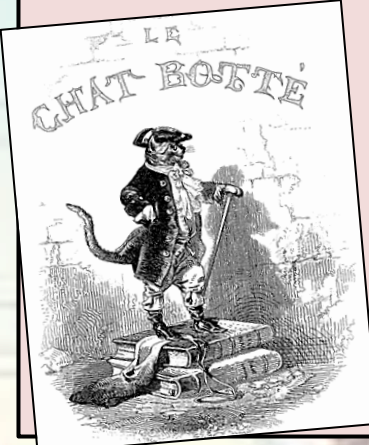
# THE PLAY



'Puss In Boots' originated in 16<sup>th</sup> century Italy as 'Il gato con gli stivali' ('The Cat With Boots'), as told by Giovanni Francesco Straparola. Like our previous pantomime 'Cinderella', this story was also retold by Giambattista Basile (as 'Cagliuso'), and was published in 1697 by Charles Perrault, a retired French civil servant, as part of his works 'Histoires ou contes du temps passé'.

Perrault's publication, also known as 'Contes de ma mère l'Oye' ('Stories Of Mother Goose') included some of our other favourite stories on which our pantomimes are based, such as *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella* – even *Bluebeard*. The story has provided inspiration for music, dance and cinema, from the third act of Tchaikovsky's ballet 'The Sleeping Beauty' to the *Shrek* franchise, where the character is voiced by Antonio Banderas.

The story has two morals: one stresses the importance of possessing *industrie* and *savoir faire* while the other extols the virtues of dress, countenance and youth to win the heart of a princess.



This is our group's third pantomime written by **Ben Crocker**, having previously performed his version of 'Treasure Island' in 2019 and 'Cinderella' last year. Ben has grown up enjoying pantomimes – his father John was also an actor and pantomime writer. He has over thirty years of theatre experience, directing many productions and has served as Artistic Director at a theatre in Exeter. In addition to his amateur stage scripts, Ben also adapted one of his 'Cinderella' scripts for Comic Relief's star-studded lockdown pantomime in 2020.



Our production comprises two acts.  
There will be a short interval after Act 1,  
when refreshments will be available in the Small Hall.

## ACT ONE

Prologue – Meet The Faries  
Scene 1 – The Village of Much-Rabbing  
Scene 2 – The Ogre's Chamber  
Scene 3 – The Royal Woods  
Scene 4 – A Village Street  
Scene 5 – The Lake in the Woods

## ACT TWO

Scene 1 – The Palace Ballroom  
Scene 2 – Outside the Palace  
Scene 3 – The Princess's Bedchamber  
Scene 4 – The Dark Woods  
Scene 5 – The Ogre's Castle  
Scene 6 – A Royal Singalong  
Scene 7 – The Royal Wedding



# THE CAST



**VICTORIA JAMIESON\***  
as FAIRY PRISCILLA



**RAE CALNAN\***  
as FAIRY PERNICIA



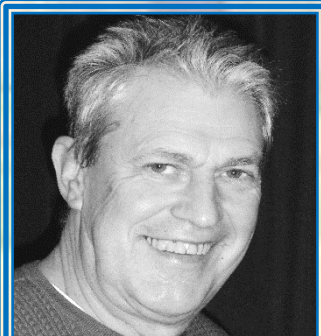
**STEVE MORLEY\***  
as BOBBY the ROYAL PAGE



**DEBRA GAVIN\***  
as BABS



**JULIE EXELL\***  
as BETTY



**MARK JAMIESON\***  
as JASPER MILLER



**BARRY GAVIN\***  
as JETHRO MILLER



**CIARA COGLEY**  
as JACK MILLER

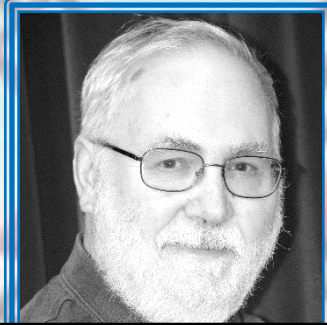
# THE CAST



**SYDNEY BAKER**  
as **PRINCESS ESMERELDA**



**HARRY OWEN**  
as **QUEEN WENDY THE WON'T**



**RICHARD PERCIVAL**  
as **KING WALLY THE ONCE**



**DAVE BARNETT\***  
as **OGRE GRIMGRAB**



**JAMES BELSHAM**  
as **PUSS**



**WENDY BARNETT**  
as **MILLIE the ROYAL MAID**

*with*  
**ISLA McNAMARA** as **MIME PUSS**  
**FLORENCE WADE** as **FAIRY PHOEBE**  
**SIENNA WADE** as the **SARGEANT**

*\* Eight members of our current cast also appeared in our original production of Puss In Boots in 1998.*

# THE CAST

## VILLAGERS, COURTIERS



**WENDY BARNETT**



**CHRISTINE BELSHAM**



**MARION BIRAM**



**STEPHEN BRODY**



**MONICA CANE\***



## JUNIOR VILLAGERS, KILLER RABBITS, GUARDS

**ABIGAIL CARTER**

**LOLA EVANS**

**AMELIE KADI**

**JESSICA MAKER**

**ISLA McNAMARA**

**ELIZA MITCHELL**

**FLORENCE WADE**

**SIENNA WADE**

**LEAH WARREN**

**KATIE WILSON-WARD**

**EVIE ZANETTI**

**GRACIE ZANETTI**

# THE CREW

**Musical Director** PETER WILSON

**Prompt** DARYL O'SULLIVAN

**Stage Manager** MARK BELSHAM

**Stage Crew** STEVE MORLEY, PAUL RENDLE

**Properties** MARION BIRAM

**Wardrobe & Costumes** WENDY BARNETT, MONICA CANE, JULIE EXELL

**Make-Up** RAE CALNAN

**Set Construction** 'THE USUAL SUSPECTS'

**Backdrop Artist** DAVID BATCHELOR

**Lighting & Sound** DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT

**Follow-Spot** JONATHAN BATCHELOR

**Box Office** DAVE BARNETT

**Front Of House** VAL COATES, GINO EXELL, MARTIN STONE et al

**Refreshments** 2<sup>nd</sup> BARNEHURST GUIDES

**Poster** DAVE BARNETT

**Programme** STEVE MORLEY

**THE 'USUAL' SMALL PRINT...** Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance.

Tickets will be on sale at the rear of the hall before the performance and during the interval.

The draw will take place during Act 2, and the winning numbers will be displayed at the end of the performance.



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

**2<sup>nd</sup> Barnehurst Guides** meet at the Church Hall every Friday, providing an active programme of activities for girls aged 10-14 years. They have been around as long as the Church itself and have a good working relationship with the Drama Group who share the hall on Fridays, making way whenever performances take place. We are also grateful that, throughout our group's existence, they have taken the lead in organising interval refreshments for our guests, also opening a tuck shop for panto performances. We are pleased that the proceeds from this year's raffle will help them to raise the funds they need for their upcoming visit to Disneyland Paris.

Girlguiding has offered activities to millions of girls throughout the country for over 100 years; along with the Guides, there are numerous Rainbow Units (for ages 4-7) and Brownie Packs (for ages 7-10) and Rangers (for ages 14-18) offered at St Martin's.

If you know someone who would like to join, please speak to one of the Guiders if you see them at a performance, or call 07791 116628 for further information.



Don't forget that we also offer Scouting at St Martin's, available to both boys and girls in the hall next door. The 4<sup>th</sup> Barnehurst Scout Group currently offers Beavers (on Mondays, for ages 6-8), Cubs (on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for ages 8-10½) and Scouts (on Mondays, for ages 10½-14); all Sections offer an active programme with regular trips, adventurous activities and camps, with opportunities to work together. If you know someone who is interested in joining, please speak to any of the Scouters if you see them during a performance, or contact 07950 650401 for further information. We are also keen to hear from any adults who would like to be involved, either as a Leader or in a supporting role – we'd love to make use of any skills that can help to run or programme or support our administrative and maintenance tasks.



# OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

*A Farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman  
Directed and Produced by James Belsham and Ciara Cogley*

## ‘MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM’

**19 – 20 May 2023**

**Readings and auditions to take place on  
17, 22 and 24 February 2023**

## COME AND JOIN US!

The St Martin's Players were reformed in 1991, and normally present two plays and a pantomime each year. In recent years, we have also branched into musical plays and murder mystery evenings. **We always welcome new members (over 18s, with**

**opportunities for young people to join our pantomime chorus): whether you want to tread the boards, help behind the scenes, or contribute to the creation of scenery, costumes and props (or try a bit of everything!), we'd love to hear from you. Just come along to one of our rehearsals (Friday evenings in the Church Hall), speak to one of our members, or contact us online – we look forward to hearing from you!**

**VISIT US ONLINE:**

**[www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk)**



Like us on  
**Facebook**

# OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



- 1991 **Sleeping Beauty, See How They Run!**
- 1992 **Snow White And The Seven Dwarves, Virtue Triumphant**
- 1993 **Cinderella, Continental Quilt, Surprise Package**
- 1994 **Aladdin, Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami, Post Horn Gallop**
- 1995 **Babes In The Wood, Keeping Down With The Joneses, Play On!**
- 1996 **Dick Whittington, When We Are Married, The Roses Of Eyam**
- 1997 **Jack And The Beanstalk, Pardon Me! Prime Minister, Murder In Company**
- 1998 **Puss In Boots, Pull The Other One, Blithe Spirit**
- 1999 **Mother Goose, Bedroom Farce, Pride And Joy, Last Tango In Barnehurst**
- 2000 **Peter Pan, See How They Run!, My Friend Miss Flint**
- 2001 **Treasure Island, Shock Tactics, Outside Edge**
- 2002 **Cinderella, The Murder Room, Running Riot**
- 2003 **King Arthur, Party Piece, No Time For Fig Leaves**
- 2004 **The Sleeping Beauty, Kindly Keep It Covered, The End Of The Pier Show**
- 2005 **Bluebeard, A Murder Is Announced**
- 2006 **Aladdin, How The Other Half Loves, Noah's Animals**
- 2007 **The Three Musketeers, Murder Weekend, Out Of Focus**

# OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



- 2008 Little Red Riding Hood, Murder In Play,  
Toad Of Toad Hall
- 2009 Jack And The Beanstalk, The Day God Died,  
Barbecues 'R' Murder, Lady Lollipop, Jekyll And Hyde
- 2010 Dick Whittington, And Then There Were None,  
Over My Dead Body
- 2011 Snow White, Alice In Wonderland,  
Murder At The New Vicarage
- 2012 Cinderella, Panic Stations
- 2013 Robin Hood, Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals, The Ghost Train
- 2014 Mother Goose, Henry The Tudor Dude, Murder Backstage
- 2015 Sleeping Beauty, The Wizard Of Oz, See How They Run!
- 2016 Aladdin, Key For Two, Hound Of The Baskervilles
- 2017 Beauty And The Beast, I'll Get My Man, It's Never Too Late
- 2018 Rapunzel, Free And Easy, Love Begins At Fifty
- 2019 Treasure Island, Agatha Crusty And The Murder Mystery Dinner,  
Frankenstein
- 2020 Jack And The Beanstalk
- 2022 Cinderella, Cash On Delivery, Who Shot The Sheriff?

