



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

The Sleeping Beauty

A Pantomime by
Ben Crocker

Directed by
Sabrina Bell

Friday 31 January 2025. 7:30pm

Saturday 1 February 2025. 2:30pm. 7:30pm

Friday 7 February 2025. 7:30pm

Saturday 8 February 2025. 2:30pm. 7:30pm

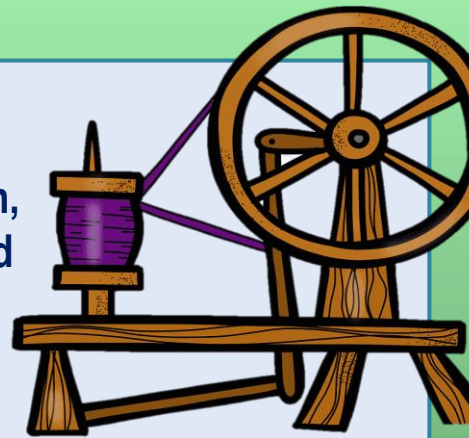
at the Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road, Bexleyheath

PROGRAMME

£1

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Welcome to our 34th pantomime! We would like to welcome back Sabrina as our Director, who directed *Puss In Boots* for us two years ago: on that occasion, her enthusiasm and theatrical experience invigorated the cast and kept them working hard, and this year's production is no exception, with some very funny scenes and routines to keep our audience engaged.



This is our fourth production of *Sleeping Beauty* – it was our first ever pantomime, back in 1991 when the group was still a bit of an experiment. Since then, we revisited the story in 2004 and 2015. Several of our members have been involved somehow since the second production, but Daryl is the only current member of our group that appeared in that first one – as Wonderwoman! Although you won't see Daryl this time, we hope that you won't hear her either – she is our Prompt. Also worthy of note, Mark put on a Dame's dress for the first time in our second version and is reprising the role this time. We also welcome some new players: we welcome James R and Emily to our team as our King and Kitty (both of whom have worked with Sabrina before), while Wayne appears in his first panto, and Sienna and Leah have been 'promoted' to the main chorus. Sadly, Peter, our long-standing pianist, cannot join us this time, but we are pleased that Ciara is swapping the stage for a keyboard and saxophone to accompany some of the songs.



We hope that you will enjoy our show and look forward to welcoming you again later this year. Also, look out for something special next January: our 2026 panto will be the group's 100th production – we plan to present *Snow White*, based on one of our earliest scripts, mixing classic jokes with our much more advanced staging and talent – not to be missed!



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

THE WRITER AND THE PLAY

Like many of our favourite fairytales and pantomimes, **'The Sleeping Beauty In The Wood'** has been retold many times, including by Italian poet Giambattista Basile (as *'Sole, Luna e Talia'*, or *'Sun, Moon and Talia'*), French civil servant Charles Perrault (under its original title *'La Belle au Bois Dormant'*) and the German Brothers Grimm (as *'Dornröschen'*, or *'Little Briar Rose'*). The story is believed to have originated from the mid 12th century as part of the French narrative *'Perceforest'*.



Throughout the last century, many adaptations for stage and screen have been created, including (of course!) a Disney movie in 1959, based on the Perrault and Grimm versions (strangely, the *Sleeping Beauty Castle* centrepiece at Disneyland opened four years before the film was released). Pantomime versions have been performed for over 200 years, the first being at Drury Lane in 1806.

This is our group's fourth pantomime written by **Ben Crocker**, all of which have been performed by us in the last six years. 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.



ACT ONE

- Scene 1 – The Royal Palace
- Scene 2 – The Palace Gardens
- Scene 3 – The Palace Kitchen
- Scene 4 – The Topmost Turret
- Scene 5 – The Royal Palace

INTERVAL

Refreshments will be available in the Small Hall.

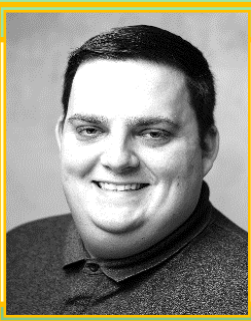


ACT TWO

- Scene 6 – Carabosse's Lair
- Scene 7 – Between Here And There
- Scene 8 – Dreamland
- Scene 9 – Between Here And There Again
- Scene 10 – A Village Near The Castle
- Scene 11 – The Forest Of Thorns
- Scene 12 – The Royal Palace
- Scene 13 – A Royal Songsong!
- Scene 14 – The Royal Wedding

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.

THE CAST

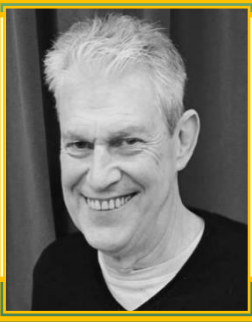


HARRY OWEN as *Billy the Royal Butler*

Harry has appeared in ten of our previous productions, last appearing as a cockney holidaymaker in *Fish Out Of Water*. Two years ago, he played the Dame, and has also appeared as a pirate, a giant and in a couple of comedy duos – this time, he plays the friendly comic servant for the first time.

JAMES RILEY as *King Norbert*

We would like to welcome James to his first pantomime with the St Martin's Players, though he is no stranger to performing, having previously worked with Director Sabrina on a production of *The Little Mermaid*. We hope to welcome James to our cast for future productions.



MARK JAMIESON as *Queen Dorothy*

Mark has appeared on our stage (and others) regularly for over thirty years, most recently appearing as a retired Brigadier in *Fish Out Of Water*. In Pantoland, he has played the Dame on four previous occasions – he seems to like the magnificent costumes and make-up.

EMILY WILKINS as *Kitty*

Emily is appearing with the St Martin's Players for the first time in this year's pantomime. She describes herself as "a gentle woman with the mind of an adult but the heart of a child", and Kitty is her first role of 'unique' – we look forward to a purr-fect performance, even if the play ends up as a cat-astrophe!



DEBRA GAVIN as *Fairy Peaceful*

Debra, along with husband Barry, haven't made many panto appearances lately as they regularly team up to direct – we have them to thank for two of the last three pantomimes, always drawing a huge crowd. Debra last appeared briefly on stage in *The Rats*, and one of the sisters in *Puss In Boots '23*.

JULIE EXELL as *Fairy Graceful*

Julie works hard to ensure everyone looks spectacular on stage while learning her role. Last year, she played one of the Chinese policemen along with Marion (our props collator); this time, they are teaming up with Monica (our other wardrobe expert) to make our trio of supporting fairies.



THE CAST



MARION BIRAM as *Fairy Beautiful*

Marion has appeared regularly on our stage since 2008 in roles of all sizes, and also manages our properties for many productions. Last year, she played the other Chinese policeman; other recent roles include the bossy old lady in *Afternoon At The Seaside* and the suffering wife in *Cash On Delivery*.

MONICA CANE as *Fairy Thoughtful*

Another long-standing member, Monica usually focuses on helping Julie to organise costumes but still likes to appear in smaller roles or in the background of our productions. Most recently, she appeared as the nurse who surprisingly tried to commit a murder in *The Patient*, and a nun in *Who Shot The Sheriff?*



RAE CAHAN as *Carabosse*

Having played So-Shy in last year's production of *Aladdin*, Rae is returning to the role of the panto baddie. She is always heavily involved in each production, whether performing or assisting to ensure everything runs smoothly; she will be directing our first ever radio play later this year.

BARRY GAVIN as *Spindleshanks*

Barry is our set construction expert and a regular pantomime director; he has appeared most recently in two of our three Agatha Christie one-act plays and as one of the miller's sons in *Puss In Boots '23*. He previously appeared as a feline sidekick in *Puss In Boots '98* – now he dons a furry costume once again.



VICTORIA JAMIESON as *Princess Aurora*

Most recently appearing as the good fairy in *Puss In Boots '23* and a very quiet seamstress in *Ten Times Table*, Victoria has regularly appeared in our plays and pantomimes for over 20 years – once again playing the child while her father puts on a dress and plays the part of her mother.

JAMES BEEHAM as *Prince Orlando*

James has appeared in a wide range of leading roles over several years, from Buttons to Puss In Boots to Victor Frankenstein – this time, he plays the Principal Boy for the first time. Last year, he appeared as Wishee-Washee and a Marxist history teacher, delivering a scarily loud monologue with gusto.



THE CAST

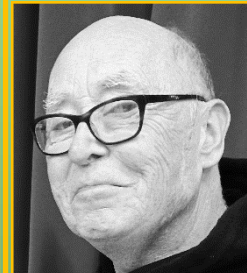
CHORUS ENSEMBLE



CHRISTINE
BELSHAM



LINDSEY
CLAYTON



WAYNE
OSBOURNE



BEX
PRYOR



SIENNA
WADE



LEAH
WARREN

JUNIOR CHORUS and DANCERS



ROSIE BERRY ARIA RICKETTS KATIE WILSON-WARD
LOLA EVANS EMILIE RICKETTS EVIE ZANETTI
ELODIE HARDIMAN FLORENCE WADE GRACIE ZANETTI

THE CREW

Prompt	DARYL O'SULLIVAN
Musical Accompaniment	CIARA COGLEY
Choreography	SABRINA BEELE
Stage Manager	STEVE MORLEY
Stage Crew	MARK BEEHAM GINO EXELE
Properties	MARION BIRAM
Wardrobe & Costumes	SABRINA BEELE MONICA CANE JILL CARVER JULIE EXELE
Make-Up	RAE CAENAN
Set Construction	DAVID BATCHELOR JAMES BEEHAM MARK BEEHAM BARRY GAVIN CHRIS SUGGITT
Lighting & Sound	DAVID BATCHELOR CHRIS SUGGITT
Follow-Spot	JONATHAN BATCHELOR
Box Office	SUE ADAMS
Front Of House	SUE ADAMS DAVE & WENDY BARNETT HAZEL & PAUL BERGMAN STEPHEN BRODY VAL COATES RICHARD PERCIVAL MARTIN STONE
Refreshments	2 nd BARNEHURST GUIDES
Poster	DAVE BARNETT
Programme	STEVE MORLEY

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the interval; the draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.

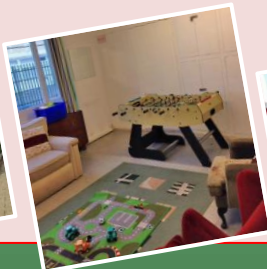


Neutral Ground is a Child Contact Centre based in Abbey Wood. Opening in 1993, they are dedicated to helping families rebuild and maintain relationships in a welcoming and secure setting. Their aim is to provide a supportive space for children and parents who live apart to spend quality time together, prioritising the wellbeing of children and supporting families through difficult transitions.



Registered Charity No. 1088970

www.neutralground.info

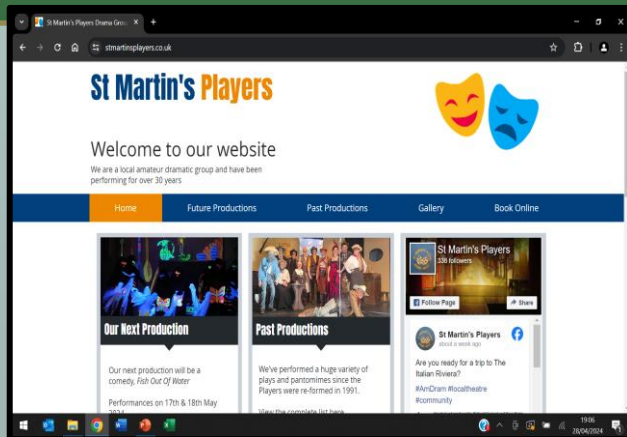


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Don't forget to like us and leave a five-star review!



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

'THE DIAMOND NECKLACE'



*A Radio Play (performed on stage) by Juliet Bagnall
Directed and Produced by Rae Calnan and Monica Cane*

16-17 May 2025

**also at The Greenwich Carers Centre,
Charlton, on 21 May 2025**

Readings and auditions will take on Friday 21 February
and Wednesday 26 February at 8pm in the Small Hall

COME AND JOIN US!

We always welcome new members (over 18s, with opportunities for young people to join our pantomime chorus): whether you want to tread the boards or help backstage, we'd love to hear from you. Just come along to one of our rehearsals (Friday evenings in the Church Hall) or contact us online – we look forward to hearing from you!

Why not start out with just a small role to see if you enjoy it? You could also try working on props or costumes, being prompt or even directing or producing. You could work alongside our experienced members, learning a new skill before trying something else for the next production.



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?
- 2023** Puss In Boots, Move Over Mrs Markham,
The Rule Of Three (Afternoon At The Seaside, The Rats, The Patient)
- 2024** Aladdin, Fish Out Of Water, Ten Times Table

