



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS

present

ALADDIN

A PANTOMIME BY ALAN P FRAYN

DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY
BARRY AND DEBRA GAVIN

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024
SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2024
FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2024
SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2024

AT THE HUXTABLE HALL, ST MARTIN'S CHURCH,
ERITH ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH

PROGRAMME

£1

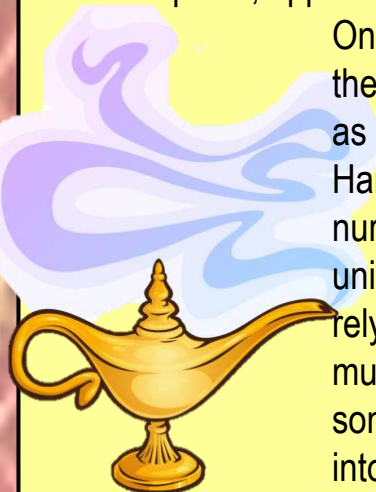
WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

Welcome to our 33rd pantomime! We present *Aladdin* for the fourth time, with our previous productions in 1994, 2006 and 2016. Much has changed over the last thirty years, except the bad guy – Dave plays the evil sorcerer yet again (at least, as our Treasurer, he has seen that we can save money if he uses the same costume again). Only two other current members of our group appeared back then: Julie and Debra played ladies-in-waiting in 1994, but this time Julie plays a police officer and Debra directs alongside husband Barry (a previous Wishee-Washee and Sgt. Ping). Richard takes on the Emperor for the second time, although two-time Genie Steve is taking a break after directing our last trio of short plays.

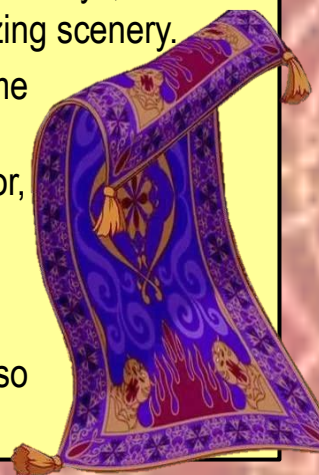


But there are plenty of members performing this panto for the first time (some of whom weren't born the first time we did it): Sydney plays the principal boy for the first time, James takes on Wishee-Washee and others have been promoted from the chorus to main roles. Sadly, Ciara, our original princess, had to pull out but we are pleased to welcome Elise to take her place, appearing on our stage for the first time.

Once again, our great team of set builders have worked hard to make the play come to life. While we don't have such intense set changes as our last play (turning a beach with three wooden huts to a Hampstead apartment in eight minutes, then another quick change to a nursing home, as in our last production), this panto includes many unique sets. As we need oriental and Arabic themed scenery, we can't rely on our usual street / woodland / kitchen / ballroom backdrops: much work has been done to dismantle our previous sets and create something special, with extra thanks to David who, as always, worked into the small hours on many nights to paint our amazing scenery.



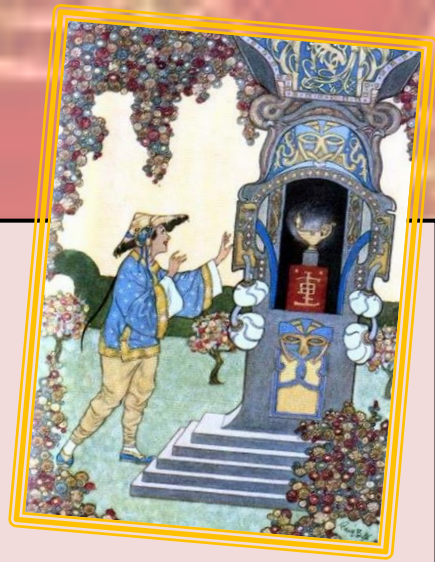
There are, of course, many other team members who make our panto come alive, including those responsible for costumes, props and makeup. We would also like to offer our immense gratitude to Peter, our Musical Director, in his twentieth pantomime with us, and Emma, our Choreographer, who has helped us to make our younger performers shine on stage. We have vacuumed the magic carpet, polished the jewels and cranked up the smoke machine and we're ready to welcome you on our magical journey, so we hope you enjoy the show and look forward to seeing 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

'*Aladdin*' is probably the best-known Middle Eastern folk tale, yet is not known to have an authentic Arabic text source. It was first published in French the early 18th century by Antoine Galland as '*Histoire d'Aladdin ou la Lampe merveilleuse*' ('*The Story of Aladdin or The Wonderful Lamp*'), one of the 'orphan tales' (like '*Ali Baba*' in his book '*Les Mille et Une Nuits*' ('*One Thousand And One Nights*').



The story was first performed as a pantomime at the Theatre Royal in 1788, and many theatre and film adaptations have since been developed for more than 200 years. While many stories evolve over time, especially for pantomime, *Aladdin* has changed very little, although the title character won't be slaying the evil sorcerer this time (well, we might want Dave to play the part for a fifth time in the future!)



Alan P Frayn started his career as a professional musician; he later studied for a degree while continuing to work at a cabaret club. After graduating, he worked for six years as the Entertainment Director at Alton Towers, directing all of their productions. Since then, he has focused on pantomimes; while focusing on a small core range of stories, he regularly revises his scripts to keep them up to date with topical references and adjusting to current trends and tastes. His works have been performed thousands of times around the world.



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

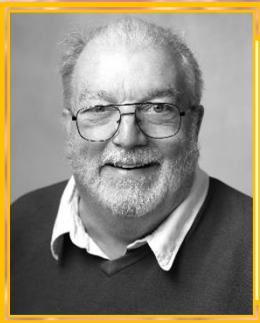
Prologue – Oriental Starters
Scene 1 – Old Peking
Scene 2 – Street Of 1000 Chopsticks
Scene 3 – The Palace Gardens
Scene 4 – Back On The Block
Scene 5 – Twankey's Takeaway
Scene 6 – A Ravine In The Mountains
Scene 7 – The Cave À La Din

ACT TWO

Scene 1 – Widow Twankey's Laundry
Scene 2 – Return To The Ravine
Scene 3 – Proposal At The Palace
Scene 4 – Magical Flight To Egypt
Scene 5 – Abanazar's Egyptian Lair
Scene 6 – Party In Peking
Scene 7 – Sing Along With Wong 'n Pong
Scene 8 – Cheerio From China!



THE CAST



DAVE BARNETT AS ABANAZAR

Ever get the feeling of déjà-vu? Dave has not only appeared in more of our plays than anyone else in the group, he has played Abanazar in all three of our previous *Aladdin* productions, so hopefully he knows the part very well, even if we are treated to a different variation of his songs each night!

CHRISTINE BELSHAM

AS THE SPIRIT OF THE RING

Christine has played many smaller roles: sometimes in a quieter background part, but also as feisty, bossy strong women. Her last 'magical' role was one of the three fairies in *Rapunzel*.

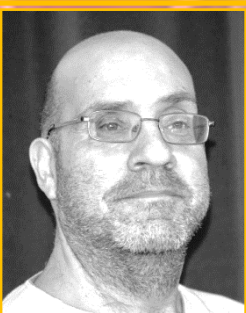


SYDNEY BAKER AS ALADDIN

Sydney is one of our youngest members, first appearing in *Cinderella '22* in many minor roles, before progressing to one of our wild-west newsreaders in *Who Shot The Sheriff?* Princess Esmerelda in *Puss In Boots '23* and two roles in our recent Agatha Christie triple bill.

JAMES BELSHAM AS WISHEE WASHEE

James is one of our rising stars, with title roles in *Frankenstein* and *Puss In Boots*, and demonstrating a wide repertoire, from old prospectors to pirates. More recently, he has developed new skills, directing his first production last year and getting more involved with set building.



PAUL BERGMAN AS WIDOW TWANKEY

Paul has made dressing up in women's clothes a bit of a hobby, having played the dame on several previous occasions, including *Bluebeard* and *Jack And The Beanstalk 2020*. When he is dressed in men's clothes, bring your sunglasses – he also enjoys a rather bright shirt.

JULIE EXELL AS YU-DUN-WONG

Julie works hard to ensure everyone looks spectacular on stage while learning her role. Having played one of the two sisters in last year's panto, this time she is a member of the Peking Police Force: rather than swooning over a miller's son, this time you need to avoid being hit by her truncheon.



THE CAST

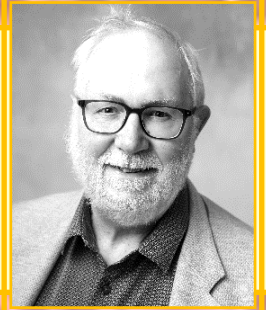


MARION BIRAM AS HU-DUN-PONG

Marion has taken on a diverse range of roles, from animals to suffering wives, from panto choruses to old battleaxes. Whether or not she appears on stage, Marion is our props expert, making and sourcing so many different items for the stage, most importantly looking after our famous lobster.

RICHARD PERCIVAL AS THE EMPEROR

Richard has appeared in our previous two *Aladdin* productions, playing Widow Twankey in 2006 and the Emperor in 2016. Having appeared in every production over the last two years, he is taking a break from treading the boards as he directs this year's spring play.



ELISE LEE AS PRINCESS MANDARIN

We welcome Elise to her first production, having joined the cast more recently when we needed a new Princess. We hope that Elise enjoys performing with us and hope that she can join us again in future.

RAE CALNAN AS SO-SHY

Rae has had leading roles in five of our six post-lockdown productions, while directing the sixth. In our previous incarnation of *Aladdin*, Rae played a panda – no warm fluffy costume this time! She is one of our busiest members – she is the Chair of our group, and takes the lead in our social media presence.



HAZEL BERGMAN AS THE GENIE OF THE LAMP

Hazel last appeared on our stage as a marriage guidance counsellor in *Cash On Delivery*, and her last panto appearance was as the parrot in *Treasure Island 2019* – she won't need to sit on anyone's shoulder this time.

...AND BRIEF CAMEO APPEARANCES
FROM MEMBERS OF OUR STAGE CREW

THE CAST

PEKING VILLAGERS



WENDY BARNETT



MONICA CANE



LINDSEY CLAYTON



HARRY OWEN



BEX PRYOR

JUNIOR VILLAGERS

ROSIE BERRY
LOLA EVANS
AMELIE KADI
ELIZA MITCHELL
ARIA RICKETTS
EMILIE RICKETTS
FLORENCE WADE
SIENNA WADE
LEAH WARREN
KATIE WILSON-WARD



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 CREW

MUSICAL DIRECTOR	PETER WILSON
CHOREOGRAPHY	EMMA CHANDON
PROMPT	DARYL O'SULLIVAN
STAGE MANAGER	STEVE MORLEY
STAGE CREW	MARK BELSHAM, GINO EXELL
PROPERTIES	MARION BIRAM
WARDROBE & COSTUMES	MONICA CANE, JILL CARVER, JULIE EXELL
MAKE-UP	RÆ CALNAN
SET CONSTRUCTION BACKDROP ARTIST	'THE USUAL SUSPECTS' DAVID BATCHELOR
LIGHTING & SOUND	DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT
FOLLOW-SPOT	JONATHAN BATCHELOR
BOX OFFICE FRONT OF HOUSE	SUE ADAMS SUE ADAMS, WENDY BARNETT, VAL COATES, MARTIN STONE
REFRESHMENTS	2 ND BARNEHURST GUIDES
POSTER PROGRAMME	DAVE BARNETT STEVE MORLEY

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE



Bexley Winter Shelter

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.



Started in 2016, **Bexley Winter Shelter** includes a group of local churches and volunteers collaborating over the winter months to provide overnight accommodation, hot meals, help and support to those who find themselves sleeping rough.



www.bexleywintershelter.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1184243



...AND CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS?



On Friday 16 February, one of our members will be raising money for the **Motor Neurone Disease Association**. Lindsey, who is appearing in this production as a member of the chorus, will be dressed as Olaf, the snowman from *Frozen* and taking part in a dance-a-thon, appearing throughout the day at The George Staples, Blackfen.



Please feel free to go along to The George Staples and support her on the day if you are able to, otherwise if you would like to sponsor her, please visit her GoFundMe page, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/olafs-sponsored-danceathon>. Thank you very much for your support.



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

A Comedy by Derek Benfield Directed by Richard Percival

'FISH OUT OF WATER' 17 – 18 May 2024

'Set in the romantic atmosphere of a sun-drenched hotel on the Italian Riviera, the peace of the holiday makers is shattered by the arrival of a determinedly outspoken widow, Agatha Hepworth and her timid spinster sister, Fiona Francis. Agatha crushes all protests as she rounds up the hotel guests in communal games and other healthy pursuits. Her unflagging spirit of togetherness invades the private lives of all the characters with riotous results.'



**Readings and auditions to take place on
Friday 16 February and Wednesday 21 February**

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!



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)



