



DICK Whittington

Directed by Barry Hopkins



Directors Note.

When 74 people want to be involved in a live production, what do you do? I have had a nervous breakdown, I haven't slept for weeks and despite not eating properly for weeks, I have managed to put on weight.

The last time we did Dick Whittington about 10 years ago, we had a chorus of 12 people and the entire cast was 25. How we have grown!! Actually I have had a great time putting this show together with my assistant director Andrea and Matt on the music.

We do not turn people away from us who want to be involved and its really hard work trying to keep 74 people busy but I think we have managed it.

My thanks to all the people who have helped put this together and to you the audience who support us year after year and if it wasn't for you, we would not be here.

So now its time for you to sit back and enjoy.

Barry Hopkins

Phoenix Committee

Dick Whittington Director 2008

The story of Dick Whittington

Long, long time ago there lived a poor boy called Dick Whittington. He had no mother and no father, and often nothing to eat. One day he heard of the great city of London, where, said everyone, even the streets were paved with gold. Dick decided to go to London to seek his fortune.

London was a big and busy city, full of people both rich and poor. But Dick could not find any streets that were paved with gold. Tired, cold and hungry he fell asleep on the steps of a great house. This house belonged to Mr. Fitzwarren, a rich merchant, who was also a good and generous man. He took Dick into his house, and gave him work as a scullery boy.

Dick continued to work as a scullery boy for Mr. Fitzwarren, who was very kind to him. So was everyone else except the Cook who made Dick's life so miserable that one day Dick decided to run away. He had reached almost the end of the city when he heard the Bow Bells ring out. 'Turn again Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London' chimed the bells. Dick was astonished - but he did as the bells said and went back to Mr. Fitzwarren.

When he returned he found that Mr. Fitzwarren's ship had returned, and that his cat had been sold for a great fortune to the King of Barbary whose palace had been overrun with mice. Dick had become a rich man.

He soon learnt the business from Mr. Fitzwarren, married his daughter Alice, and in time became the Lord Mayor of London three times, just as the bells had said.

Over the years there have been many versions of the tale of Dick Whittington, the characters broadly stay the same but the plot always varies, often based on the political correctness at time of writing. See if you can spot any similarities in our production....

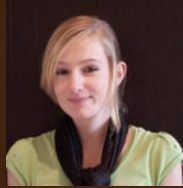
Cast. Dick Whittington 2008

Phoenix Theatre Group Production



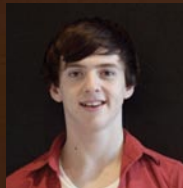
Dick Whittington
Rachel Vernon

Rachel is 16 and has been with Phoenix for 6 years. She played Jill in Mother Goose and Taylor in High School Musical. She has been dancing with MezzoForte since she was 5.



Alice
Rachael Wilkes

This is Rachael's first time as a lead role for Phoenix, she is 16 and attends Prince Henrys High School. She has been dancing since she was 2 and specialises in Jazz and Ballet.



Idle Jack
Rusty Warren

This is Rusty's last show with Phoenix... in his 4 years with us he's gone from chorus in Mother goose to Bugsy Malone and Troy in HSM last year. He's currently auditioning for stage schools around the UK for his BA (hons) degree in acting and best of luck to him!



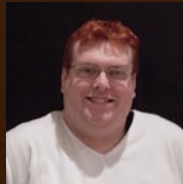
Tommy The Cat
Hannah Walker

This is Hannah's 3rd Pantomime with Phoenix. She is 12 and attends Bredon Hill Middle School and recently played a fairy in Sleeping Beauty. She is also part of MezzoForte and Jacqueline Schools of Dance.



Alderman Fitzwarren
Daniel Westbury

Dan has been a Phoenix member for 7 years. Some of his highlights include Fagin in 'Oliver', Captain Peacock in 'Are You Being Served' and Basil in 'Fawly Towers' last year, for which he was nominated for Best Actor in the Worcester Theatre Festival.



King Rat
Greg Pearson

This is Greg's fourth panto with Phoenix. Since joining 6 years ago he's been constantly involved, from directing to starring in most of our productions. This is his 21st year on the stage (he's only 27 by the way).



Sarah the Cook
Nick Rose

Nick returns to the stage after a two year absence - having worked behind the scenes last year on High School Musical and Sleeping Beauty. 2008 will be Nick's 18th year with Phoenix, but he has no plans to grow up just yet and is already plotting next years big adventure.



Fairy
Amy Grimmitt

Amy debuted with Phoenix last year plying Ms Darbus in High School Musical. She's really enjoying being part of the group and hopes to continue with them in their on-going success.



Captain Cod
Steve Cook

This is Steve's 7th panto. Some of his past roles include Buttons, The Emperor in Aladdin and more recently, Manuelle in Fawly Towers. This is his first time playing in a comedy duo and he's loving every minute of it!



Stake the Mate
Natalie Rose

Natalie is 14. She's been with Phoenix for 4 years and has gone from the Slave in Aladdin in 2006 to 'Mop the maid' last year. Along with Martha in HSM and Snakeyes in Bugsy - her leading roles are really starting to build up.



Sultan
Mike Robinson

Mike has been a member of Phoenix for 6 years, starring in many of the panto's and farces and played Coach Bolton in HSM. He made his directing debut with Fawly Towers last year and, due to its success, is directing 'First Things First' in June 2008.



Wasir
Denise Price

This is Denise's first time as a lead role in a panto. She has been with Phoenix for 5 years and roles include Mrs Benwin in Oliver and was a main part in the chorus in Sleeping Beauty. She hopes this is the first of many.

Cast (continued)

Chorus (alphabetical order)

Kelly-Anne Archer, Jake Barnett, Zoe Boulton, Natalie Bourne, Sophie Bourne, Tom Bourne, Trevor Brammah, Georgia Brown, Heidi Chamberlain, Lydia Collins, Mollie Dawe, Jess Dixon, Rosie Dixon, Emily Fincher, Alice Foxall, Luke Gittos, Alex Goldstrong, Tom Green, Harriet Greener, Scarlett Hanks, Alice Hancock, Rachel Hickie, Trina Hopkins, Jess Horsburgh, Ashleigh Houghton, Charlotte Jagoda, Madison Jelfs, Taylor Johnson, Gill Jones, Millie Kendall, Jordan Knurek, Shona McGoogan, Georgia Mears, Paige Milbery, Rhys Milbery, Leah Morgan, Amy Nightingale, Callum Norledge, Isobel O'Connor, Jenny Perkins, Georgina Sparrow, Nicola Spencer, Lorna Sutherland, Billie Thomas, Matt Turley, Carly-Mae Turpitt, Alice Usher, Amy Usher, Amy Walters, Tom Watson, Lucy Webb, Jessica Williamson, Gabbie Yates, Hayley Yates,



Company.



Director : Barry Hopkins
 Music Director : Matt Davis
 Assistant Director : Andrea Bourne
 Choreographer : Barry Hopkins
 Producer : Keith Norledge
 (not pictured)

Stage Manager.....Helen Bradshaw
 Sound.....Sam Dyer
 Lighting.....Matt Ward and the Evesham Arts Centre Technical Team
 Wardrobe.....Cath Shotton & Margaret Benton
 Programme Design.....Soup Design
 Cover Illustration.....Nathan Fletcher
 Advertising & Promotions.....Claire Perkins
 Photography..... Mike Robinson
 Ticket Sales..... Claire Perkins
 Performance Prompt..... Sharon Reynolds
 Make-Up..... Glynda Sanger
 Properties.....Pam Williams
 House Manager.....Tony Smith
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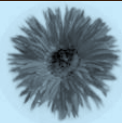
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11th- 13th April 2008:

Worcester Theatre Festival

Phoenix will be part of this years festival with both adult and junior entries. Please come along and support all artists making an effort to keep Theatre alive in the area.

June 2008:

First Things First

Ticket hotline : 07910 499 589

An unexpected revelation leads to a series of hilarious situations in our farce for 2008, which promises to be just as funny as last years extremely successful 'Fawity Towers'.

October 2008:

The Wizard Of Oz

Ticket hotline : 07910 499 589

Everyones favourite story comes to the Arts Centre courtesy of Phoenix Juniors. Come and sing along to the songs you know so well.

January 2009:

Snow White Panto

Ticket hotline : 07910 499 589

Preparations for next years Pantomime are already underway. After her success with Sleeping Beauty, Kate Rose returns to direct.

For more information, regular updates on past or future shows or to join our membership and mailing list, visit our website...

www.phoenixtheatregroup.co.uk

Phoenix Theatre Group is proud to be affiliated to NODA



Note from the Chairman.

Welcome all to this years pantomime Dick Whittington.

Now in our 18th year, it's becoming increasingly difficult to not repeat what I said last year, or the year before that etc, etc! However, this year sees our biggest ever cast, over 75 people - making this the largest cast of any pantomime in the West Midlands!

Each year I am always surprised at the energy and enthusiasm put into the show by everyone from director, cast and crew. Over 50 hours of rehearsal, a £10,000 budget and many countless hours of preparation have gone into the show. My thanks go out to everyone, including you for your ongoing support, allowing Phoenix Theatre Group to go from strength to strength.

I hope you enjoy this years show and look forward to seeing you at one of our other performance's later in the year. October will see us performing 'The Wizard of Oz' and our more senior members present our annual farce, 'First things First' in June. Please also come and support us at the Worcester Festival Drama Competition in early April, where once again we will be looking to win Gold for this years entry.

Have a great evening, sit back and get those chuckle muscles working!

Keith Norledge

Phoenix Chairman

Dick Whittington Producer 2008



Steve Roberts

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