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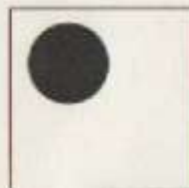
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OFF
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THEATRE
presents

DICK WHITTINGTON

and his 



1st - 5th January, 1997

at

Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls

PAWS

7 Oldway Centre
Monmouth
Gwent

01600 715367



Hi, I'm Tommy, Dick's Cat and I'd like you to know that 'Paws Pet Shop' in the Oldway Centre supplies my favourite **lams cat food**. This really is good for me and makes me really big and strong and fast to chase all these rats around London Town. When I'm chasing them they certainly know I've had my lams today.

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OFF
CENTRE
THEATRE

A Member of NODA



Letter from the Chairman.

The lads and lasses are back in town
To help you lose that everyday frown
It doesn't seem twelve months ago
That we were here with last year's show !

Deep sea wonders brightly glowing
On the main, the gales a'blowing
The effects this year are rather stunning
We hope they make you come a'running !

Off-Centre Theatre is now into its second decade, and is continuing its successful run of high-quality family pantomimes with Dick Whittington, probably the most traditional of them all . The show you will now see is the result of months of back breaking hard work (along with a lot of fun) by the team headed by Anne MacFarlane. I believe it is true to say that OCT's pantomime productions more than rival any you may see in the professional theatre. You may notice that we do not 'buy in' professional celebrities to boost bookings: not a Neighbours star to be seen! Everyone who works on the stage or behind it in any way, is equally important . It is a huge team effort, and I congratulate them all for their dedication, and no lack of talent. Please don't forget, we are always in need of people, of ideas and expertise in many areas connected with amateur theatre. If you are interested, just speak to one of the front of house staff in the interval.

Thanks for coming - I hope we serve you well !

Geoffrey Manning
Chairman



DICK WHITTINGTON – FACT OR FICTION?

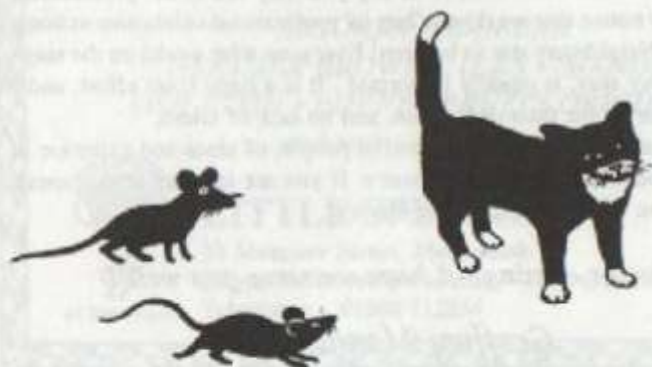
The well known story of Dick Whittington—which has been told since at least 1605, tells of a young boy from Gloucestershire who travels to London to make his fortune. Traditionally, Dick worked as a kitchen boy in the house of a rich London merchant, who allowed each of his employees to send an item of merchandise to Barbary on the north coast of Africa. Dick had no possessions so he sent his cat on his master's next ship.

Meanwhile, Dick was forced to flee the merchant's house due to below stairs bullying and set off homewards - only to be recalled by the mighty Bow Bells -

'Turn again Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.'

On his return, Dick learnt that his cat had been bought for a small fortune by the king of Barbary who was plagued by (guess what?) - yes, rats and mice!

Now rich, Dick married Alice, the merchant's daughter and they prospered with Dick serving as Lord Mayor of London. Generations of pantomime audiences have seen this story played out in professional and amateur productions - which has changed extraordinarily little in the 400 years of the telling.



And what of the real Dick Whittington? It is believed that he was the youngest (and therefore the poorest) son of Sir William Whittington of Gloucestershire. Some say he came from Pauntley, while others claim him for Sollers Hope in Herefordshire - are there any descendants out there who would like to tell us what they know?



Early 17th century engraving of Dick Whittington

However, what is absolutely certain is that Dick did become a highly successful and wealthy London merchant. He served London as her Lord Mayor 3 times - in 1397, 1406 and 1419. Sadly for our panto story, the 'cat' was in truth the type of ship that Whittington used to trade his goods across the seas. But thankfully, in pantomime, Dick Whittington and his four legged friend have become inseparable!







SYNOPSIS



PROLOGUE

Fairy of the Bow Bells and King Rat set the scene. King Rat tells of his Evil plan to rule London with his army of rats, but Fairy of the Bow Bells has other ideas and plans to find her Champion for Good . . .

ACT 1

We learn that London is being over-run with rats and we meet the Captain and Mate of Alderman Fitzwarren's ship the Golden Adventure. We meet many other colourful characters of the town, including Sarah the Cook, Alice Fitzwarren and Dick Whittington - who rescues Tommy the Cat and gains a life-long friend. Dick and Tommy are hired by Alderman Fitzwarren and Fairy of the Bow Bells chooses Dick as her Champion . . .

Meanwhile, King Rat's plan to be rid of Dick succeeds and our hero leaves London in disgrace. Fairy of the Bow Bells steps in, tells us of Dick's Destiny as Lord Mayor of London, and Dick dreams . . .

Scene I	A street near the Mansion House
Scene II	Outside Fitzwarren's Stores
Scene III	A street near the Mansion House
Scene IV	Fitzwarren's Stores
Scene V	Milestone at Highgate Hill
Scene VI	Dick Whittington's dream



ACT 2

Dick returns to London and finds the Golden Adventure preparing to sail for Morocco. Sarah, Dick and Alice deduce the Evil paw of King Rat in Dick's downfall. Unbeknown to them, the ship is already swarming with rats preparing to defeat the gallant crew . . .

The Evil magic of King Rat causes a terrible storm at sea, but Fairy of the Bow Bells casts a spell to triumph over the power of the rats. After a dramatic shipwreck, the characters find themselves in the exotic Court of the Sultan of Morocco - which has a terrible plague of rats . . .

Dick Whittington and King Rat meet for a final battle and the rest is (panto) history . . .

Scene I	Port of London
Scene II	All at Sea
Scene III	The Golden Adventure
Scene IV	Under the sea
Scene V	Morocco
Scene VI	The Sultan's Palace
Scene VII	Street near the Mansion House
Scene VIII	Lord Mayor's Wedding



PRODUCTION TEAM



Producer & Director
Assistant Director
Script
Musical Director
Production Committee

Anne MacFarlane
Cedric Gibbons
Adapted by Anne MacFarlane & Marnie Erwin
Anne MacFarlane
Sandra Bargh, Sarah Gaunt, Cedric Gibbons,
Jackie Kyd, Stuart MacFarlane, Glynis McIntyre,
Caroline Pearce, Jill Rogers, Jill Smith,
Barbara Spence & Anne Thomas
Chris Rogers, Lyndon Webb & Members of
Monmouth Town Band

Band

Stage Manager
Choreography

Chris Chamberlain
Lizzie Evans, Gill Evans & Sharon Guy,
Gillian Vanderveiden

Costume Design
Costume Production

Caroline Pearce & Anne MacFarlane
Caroline Pearce, Jane Crockford, Molly Walsh
Shirley Smith, Sandra Bargh & OCT members
and parents

Costume Hire
Sound Technician
Lighting
Crew Manager
Crew Design
Backstage Crew

Marigolds of Brynmawr
Jay Dyer & Team
Paul Macer-Wright, Alistair Lightly & Team
Paul Tharia
Paul Tharia, David Powles & Toby Harris
William David, Richard Evans, Toby Harris,
Jamie Isaacs, Alan & Andrew Lightly, Stuart
McIntyre, Phil Richards & Jon Wright,

MICK TELMISON

Scenery Construction

Chris Chamberlain, Richard Evans, Toby Harris,
Jamie Isaacs, Ian Kyd, Andrew & Alistair Lightly,
Paul Tharia & Dave Powles.
by Albemarle of London

Production Scenery
Extra construction
Props
Art work
Box Office
Front of House
Photography
Printer
Programme

Jane Crockford & Doug Webb
Hannah Newcomb, ~~Ann & Marion Bouch~~
Felicity de Bruler & Glynis McIntyre
Monmouth Cycle Centre & Brian William
Sarah Gaunt & Team
Martin Avery
Kingfisher Printing, Monmouth
Glynis McIntyre



THE ENTIRE COMPANY

David Allen, Kayleigh Allen, Linda Allen,
Christopher Bargh, Sandra Bargh, Rachel Baker, Alice Bond,
Mike Brown,

Nicola Carter, Eleri Clements, Emma Cope,
Sally Davies, Felicity De Bruler, Ben Ditchburn,
Suzanne Donald, Lucy Dyer,

Ben Evans, Gill Evans, Lizzie Evans, Natasha Evans
Natasha Evans, Zoe Evans,
Debbie Fleming, Claire Forster,

Vicki Gaunt, Cedric Gibbons, Gemma Gray, Sharon Guy,
David Harris, Scarlet Harris, Steph Harris, Elizabeth Hirst,
Georgina Hampton-Wale, Portia Hampton-Wale,
Christine Hudson, Nerys Hughes,

Jackie Kyd, Ian Kyd,
Helen Howells,

Samantha Lightly, Alexandra Lodge,
Stuart MacFarlane, Iain McIntyre, Sarah Molyneux,
John Moylett,

Jim Newcomb, Lauren Newcomb, Gemma Newsome,
Richard Pates, Davina Peace, Caroline Pearce, Royston Price,

Jill Rogers, Emrys Ruck, Geraldine Ruck,
Barbara Spence, Peter Spence, Rob Spence

Ruth Taylor, Paul Tharia, Anne Thomas, Kate Thomas,
Gill Vandervelden,

Bethan Walker, Katie Westoby, Helen Wilson, Lucy Woolgrove,
Alex Wright and Marilyn Wright.



The Cast



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Raffle

First Prize – *Portable Colour T.V.*

Giant Hamper, Case of Wine – The Cast; Pauline Cass / O.C.T.

Adrian Gaunt – *Clock*
Bakery Fayre – *Voucher*
Boots Chemist – *Gift Voucher*
Dixons – *Blank Video Tapes*
Eurolight – *Set of Lights*
French Horn – *Meal for two*
Graham Electrical – *Clock*
Holland & Barrett – *Oil Lamp*
Irma Fingal Rock – *Wine*
Jacaranda – *Potted Plant*
Le Gourmet – *Voucher*
Milburns Restaurants, Bath –
Champagne tea for two
Monmouth Cycle Centre –
Cycle Computer
National Trust – *Address Book*

Peacocks – *Towels*
Penny Lane – *Lunch for two*
Road User – *Gift Pack*
Ruby Tuesday – *Earrings*
W. H. Smith –
Jungle Book Video Collection
Steeple – *Wine*
Stokes Chemist – *Fragrance*
Tinsley Supplies – *Gift Pack*
Woolworths – *Chocolates*
Wyesham Spar – *Chocolates*
Macilyn Wright / Sandra Bargh –

Toiletries



A CAT QUIZ

for all the Family

1. According to tradition, how many lives does a cat have?
2. Which witch had a friend called MOG?
3. In Roman legend, which goddess could change herself into a cat?
4. Who wrote the tale 'The Cat Who Walked by Himself'?
5. What kind of cat did sailors fear?
6. Which group of campaigners was the 1913 'Cat & Mouse Act' designed to restrain?
7. Who went to sea with honey & money?
8. Who was T. S. Eliot's 'Master of Depravity'?
9. What is Ozymandias better known as?
10. Do children get in a tangle playing this?
11. Who wrote the play 'A Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'?
12. What was the name of Dr Johnson's cat?
13. Who smiled at Alice from a tree?
14. Which song from 'Cats' did Elaine Page make famous?
15. Who played Cat Woman in the Batman film?
16. What was the name of novelist Susan Hill's ginger cat?
17. Witches cats are often referred to as f.....s?

1. Nine; 2. MEG; 3. Diana; 4. Rudyard Kipling; 5. The cat o' nine tails; 6. The Suffragettes; 7. The Owl & the Pussy Cat; 8. Macavity; 9. The Sphinx; 10. Cats Cradle; 11. Tennessee Williams; 12. Lodge; 13. The Cheshire Cat; 14. Memories; 15. Michelle Pfeiffer; 16. Hastings & Leonard; 17. Familiars.

ANSWERS





**OFF
CENTRE THEATRE** **THANK-YOU**

this year to :

Margaret Bond, Ann Cann, Father Smith, Eve Harvey,
Wendy Lewis, Mrs. Nan Roberts and Yvonne Wilson
*for their donations of fabric and costumes
to OCT Costume and Wardrobe*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- | | |
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| • Tri-Wall Europe | • Mike Geddes |
| • Ken - Lyn | • Nigel Morris |
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