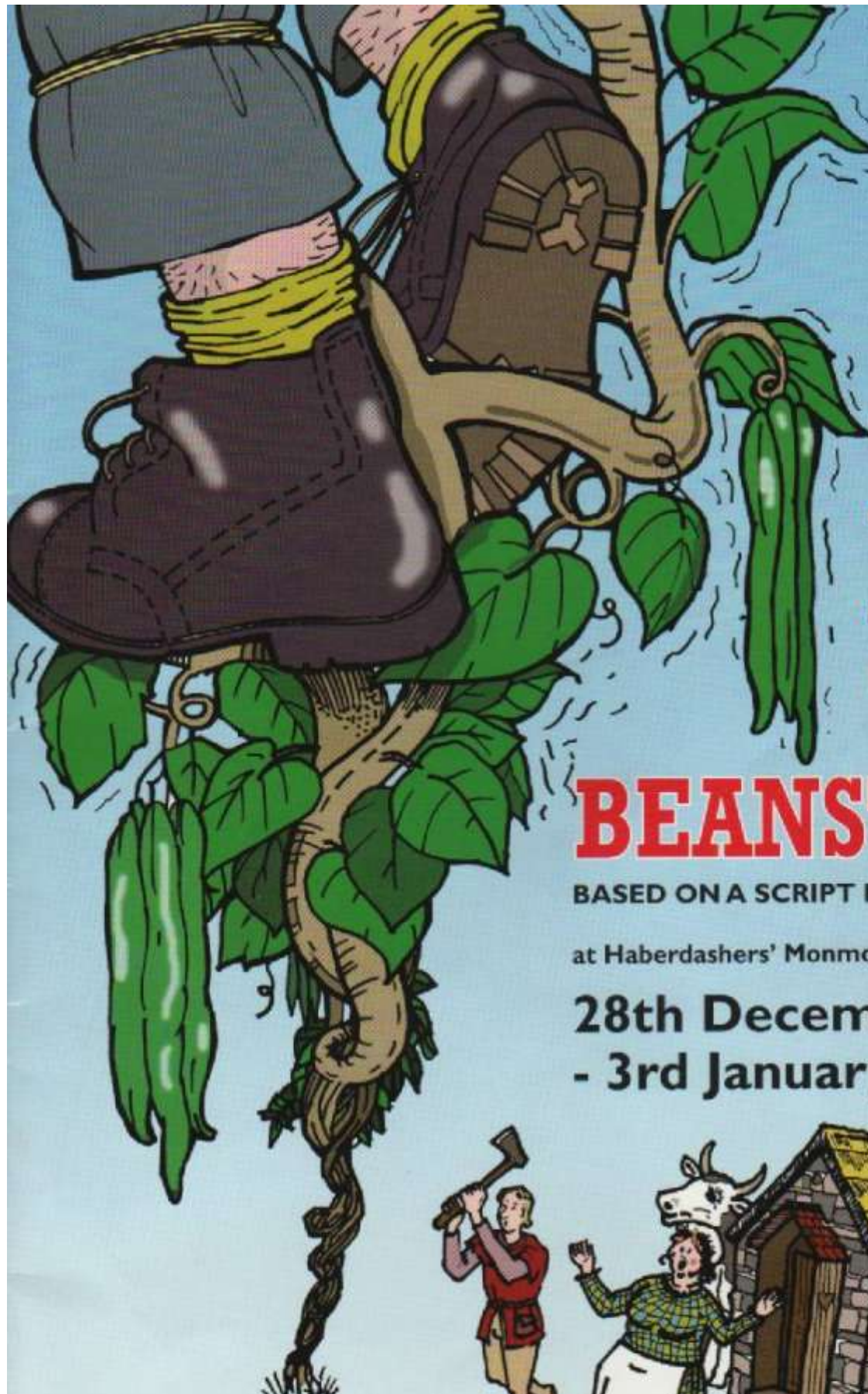




OFF CENTRE  
THEATRE  
presents



# JACK AND THE

# BEANSTALK

BASED ON A SCRIPT BY ALAN P. FRAYN

at Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls

**28th December 2004  
- 3rd January 2005**



Member of NODM 2004



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### **Barbara Spence**

Chairman of Off Centre Theatre and  
Pantomime Producer

Dear Friends

May I welcome you all to Off Centre Theatre's *Jack and the Beanstalk*. You can be sure you will be treated to a production containing all the traditional features of panto – spectacle, song and dance, good old fashioned slapstick and an extra large helping of comedy (we promise some of the jokes will even be new). As always, this is a real team effort with literally 100s of local people having some part in its success. Remember, those you see on stage make only the tip of the iceberg: many more are involved behind the scenes. Congratulations, and thank you to everyone involved.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> production in a highly successful run of pantomimes, which began in 1992 with *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. They have all been directed by Anne MacFarlane and, for the last 8 years, co-directed by Stephanie Harris with myself as producer. This production will be the last to be staged by Anne, Steph and myself as we are moving on to other projects. Thank you to everyone for their help over the years.

By the end of this production, the total audience numbers for panto, since *Goldilocks*, will be over 44,000. Some of you may have seen every one since then: some may be coming to an OCT production for the first time. If this is so no doubt, after seeing this show, you will want to see more. Why not join and be a part of our productions?

OCT had a very successful 2004, beginning with *SnowWhite and the Seven Dwarfs*. This was followed in February by *Two*, a script-held performance, which was also a social evening for members and friends. In June, OCT once again won a number of awards from the Gwent Drama League for its production of *See How They Run*. Three awards were won for Best Actress – Jenny Hickey, Best Supporting



Actor – Cliff Smith and the "Big Picture" award for the ambience and attention to detail of the whole production – well done to the whole cast and backstage team and, in particular, Cedric Gibbons and Gordon Casson who directed and produced the play.

In July, OCT staged a fundraising show for Monmouth Festival. This raised in excess of £2000 which represented the largest single donation to Festival. In September, OCT demonstrated that it's not just on stage that it excels, when it won the prize for best-dressed raft in the annual raft race. In October, to much acclaim, OCT staged *How the Other Half Loves*. We are now back again to panto...

At the end of the year, after over two years negotiations, OCT finally moved into its own home above Barclays Bank in Agincourt Square. So 2005 already promises to be full of exciting new opportunities – with several plays planned – and panto next year on the horizon. We are always wanting new members – if you are interested please contact our membership secretary., Rob Spence on 01600 715699

On behalf of OCT, I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2005.

*Barbara Spence*

It was with great sadness OCT suddenly lost a dear member, Roger Withers, in October 2004



## FROM OFF CENTRE

Anne began directing the panto in Monmouth in 1997. In 1997, she directed *Jack and The Beanstalk*, and nine years on we have the same recognisable story line with a few extra special twists. Anne was a founder member of OCT and during the years has "trodden the boards" herself in many productions and has been musical director for many shows. She has been influenced by music since the age of 3, when she was first taught by her mother. Anne works as a teaching assistant at a local infants school and also teaches the piano. In 2001 Anne received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award by Monmouth Rotary, in recognition of her charitable works and services to the community.

### A Message from Anne MacFarlane Director

Dear Panto Goers

Well, here we are at the end of an era! Can it really be possible that this is panto number 8 for the team of myself, Stephanie and Barbara - doesn't time fly? Of course I have been directing pantos for a lot longer, another 6 years in fact, and feel that it is now someone else's turn.

Panto has been such a big part of my life for so many years and I know, now, that I shall miss it so much. However, because it has "grown" over the years it becomes more difficult to organise and come up with different ideas. We hope we have achieved this for you again this year and we are really looking forward to hearing your laughter and appreciation. Monmouth / OCT will continue to have a panto or Christmas show and I wish those who take it on board the very best - I look forward to it!

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone, past and present, who have been so supportive with their time, efforts and ideas. In particular I want to thank Stephanie and Barbara, without whom I could not have done it!

The penultimate thanks go to you, the audience for your continued support. I know that many of you have been coming to panto for years and years. You have been great!! Thank you so much.

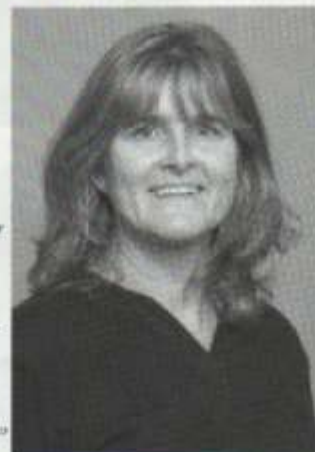
And finally, thanks to my husband Stuart who has been there to share my laughter and tears.

May I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.  
Anne

### Stephanie Harris - Co Director

Stephanie is the co-director for the eighth successive year but has promised herself that this year will be her last. As a bonus, she can be spotted on stage in several routines - see if you can spot her. "I have enjoyed being involved in Panto immensely" she says, "but now it's time for someone else".

She was recently seen on TV when the BBC featured her tree-house company in its *I Love Holes* programme. Last summer she co-ordinated the OCT show *It's Entertainment* to raise funds for Monmouth Festival. Over £2000 was raised which represented the largest single contribution towards the next festival in 2005. Stephanie also crewed the OCT raft in the charity race down the Wye in September. As *King of the Jungle* it won first prize for best dressed raft. She is particularly excited this year as all the family are involved on stage and behind the scenes. Originally from Worcester, Stephanie runs a successful local business, ATC, fitting quality wooden floors (in addition to designing and building tree-houses).



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# FROM OFF CENTRE'S SCRAPBOOK

*Can you guess which Panto these pictures come from?*

A



B



D



C

E



F



G



H



J



- A - 1994
- B - 2002
- C - 2001
- D - 1992
- E - 2003
- F - 2004
- G - 2000
- H - 1998
- J - 1993

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*Thank you to the following, for raffle prizes, help throughout the year  
and towards this year's pantomime:*

ATC (Monmouthshire) Ltd, Beaver Framing,  
Michael Blakemore, Vic Bignall and the Savoy Theatre Trust,  
Christine Browning, Church Wardens & PCC of St Mary's Church Monmouth,  
Dai Evans, Marni Erwin,  
Eurolight Lighting Ltd, Free Press, Dave Flyn, Les Hodgkins,  
Chris Jones, Glyn Jones, Margaret Morris, Monmouth Town Council,  
Monmouth Rotary, Monmouth Scouts, Monmouth School, Monmouthshire Beacon,  
Nelson Museum Monmouth, St John Ambulance,  
Andy Sherwill, Tinsley Supplies, Peter Walters  
and anyone else we have forgotten to mention.

## Background to Jack and the Beanstalk

We need to go back a long time to find the origins of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. All the way back to a story in the time of King Arthur – the story of *Jack the Giant Killer*. This is the tale of a Cornish farmer called Jack. He killed the Giant of Mount Cornwall by digging a big pit and covering it with branches and luring the Giant into it. Jack went on to kill all the giants in the land and became known as Jack the Giant Killer. In some versions of the tale he is said to have rid Wales of all its giants – well you don't see any around now do you?

So, *Jack and the Beanstalk* is based on *Jack the Giant Killer*. But in turn, *Jack the Giant Killer* is based on yet more stories – some of which are believed to have come to Britain with the Vikings.

Stories told by the Vikings and Norsemen were full of giants and magical things, such as Jack's magical coat, which made him invisible, and shoes which allowed him to run very fast. A magical sword was added, which is very useful in fairy tales. Some versions of the tale involved a giant who had no heart in his body. Because of this it was impossible to kill this giant because he kept his heart locked away in a box under a tree. When he was tempted by the innocent questions of the hero into

telling where he kept it, the hero immediately set out to find the secret hiding place, destroy the heart, and so kill the giant.

Over time, different tellers changed the tale, creating new details and forgetting others. King Arthur, the coat and shoes were lost, for example; while a cow, magic beans, a hen which lays golden eggs and, most importantly, a beanstalk were added.

Where did the beanstalk come from: there's no mention of it in *Jack the Giant Killer*?

It is believed the beanstalk started out as something different; many believe it derives from the magical ash tree of northern mythology. Perhaps it was used because, as with mistletoe, white heather and shamrock, it was a charmed plant and considered very lucky by people of the past. Whatever the secret of the beanstalk, it most certainly grew up along the way and has become one of the most famous pieces of magic in any story – and an essential ingredient in the fun and excitement of this pantomime.

*A scene from OCT's 1996 production*



## CAST

Dame Dotty Trott	Jim Newcomb
Fairy Sugardust	Tarryn Coomaraswamy
Rancid	Iain McIntyre
Jack	Samantha MacFarlane
Simon	Alex Gardiner
Dick	Stuart MacFarlane
Snatchet	David Price
Scarper	Geoffrey Manning
Princess Primrose	Lara Craig
Queen Hyacinth	Caroline Pearce
King Hubert	Chris Ryde
Humphrey	Peter Pearce
Petunia the Housekeeper	Ann Long
Daisy	Scarlett Harris & Barbara Spence
Giant	Rhian Mitchell
Voice of the Giant	Richard Bond
Villager1	Rachel Stevens
Villager2	Corey Jones
Villager3	Annie Harris
Villager4	Katie Dade
Chicken Lickin & Hen Len	Mike Brown and John Moylett, with the special appearance on 3rd January of Marni Erwin & Ellen Wilson
Castle Guards	Katie Dade & Octavia Zorab
Terminator	Corey Jones
Thunderbirds	William Briscoe & Joshua Williams
Clarice	Madonna

### Chorus of Villagers, Stars, Rock and Rollers & Hoe-Downers

Elinor Biggs, William Briscoe, Stephanie Bulmer, Mike Brown, Eleri Clements, Emily Colewell, Katie Dade, Hannah Davies, Rachel Davies, Kirsty Dumbell, Dani Elliot, Marni Erwin, Katie Garn, Andrea Griffiths, Laura Griffiths, Luci Harper, Katherine Harper, Annie Harris, Scarlett Harris, Stephanie Harris, Claire Hudd, Vicki James, Debbie Jones, Corey Jones, Kirsty Jones, Sophie Jones, Georgia Kear, Nadia Kear, Lucy MacDonald, Hannah Maddox, Glynis McIntyre, Ines Merola-Scott, John Moylett, Isabel Nagle, Ann Newsome, Florence Newsome, Jemma Newsome, Amanda Peacock, Lauren Peacock, Catherine Pearce, Chloe Powell, Helen Price, Sian Price, Nadine Rennie, Sasha Sebright, Amelia Smith, Barbara Spence, Amanda Stevens, Rachel Stevens, Sophie Stevens, Katie Watkins, Joshua Williams, Kate Willington, Ellen Wilson, Octavia Zorab.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Anne MacFarlane
Co-Director	Stephanie Harris
Producer	Barbara Spence
Script	Based on a Script by Alan P Frayn - adapted by Anne MacFarlane.
Musical Director	Anne MacFarlane
Assistant Musical Director	Richard Wadley
Band	Mac Cambray, Richard Wadley, Roy Davies & Alan Johnson
Musical Advisor	Marni Erwin
Choreography	Emma Jayne Parker
Stage Manager	Mark Finlayson
Deputy Stage Manager	Stephanie Harris
Best Boy	Ian Kyd
Backstage Crew	Terry Cane, Mark Stevens, Gary Jones, Tony Wells, Dave Probert, Tim Warmington-Gardner, David Harris, Jeff Garrad, Rob Spence, Roger Colewell, Dave Smith, Nicki Pearce, Peter Willington, Rob Rennie, David Wells, Tom Manning & Team
Costume Director	Jackie Kyd
Dame's Costumes	Shirley Smith and Adrian Varcoe
Costume Production Team	Jackie Kyd, Therèse Casemore, Eirian Biggs, Lesley Wells and Team
Costume Hire	Marigold of Cardiff
Ultra-Violet Props	Jane Crockford
Jim Newcomb's Dressers	Christine Browning and Shirley Smith
Make Up	Debbie Jones and Team
Construction Manager	Terry Cane
Construction Team	Terry Cane, Andrew Lightly, Dave Smith, Mark Finlayson and Team
Scenic Artwork	Fee de Bruler and Geoff Webb
Lighting	Mark Finlayson, Paul Macer-Wright, Lizzy Nagle, Stuart McIntyre, Keith Jones and Kirsty Jones
Sound	Stuart McIntyre, Ian Kyd and Andy Sherwill
Production Scenery	Scenic & Property Hire, Newport
Additional Scenery	Border Studio and Clifford & Brown.
Properties	Joanna Shukman, Marion Merola-Scott and Rob Spence.
Additional Stage Props	Welsh National Opera and Dai Evans
Box Office	Ian Kyd, Margaret Morris, David Price and Team. With thanks to the Nelson Museum, Monmouth
Tickets & Photocopying	Brian Phillips of Pastorprint
Publicity	Ian Kyd and Anne MacFarlane
Publicity Artwork	David Evans of <i>Platform One</i> and Fee de Bruler
Photography	Martin Avery
Programme	David Evans of <i>Platform One</i> and Barbara Spence
Front of House	Sandee Craig and Team
Back Stage Chaperones	Andrea Griffiths, and Team of Parents and Friends

## SYNOPSIS

### ACT I

Giant Buster-Gut-Bucket begins our story with the familiar cry of Fee Fi Fo Fum and sets the scene. As in all good pantomimes, he is soon followed by his sidekick the evil Rancid who lets us know just how horrid he is (don't forget to hoo!) and how horrid the Giant is as well. Fairy Sugarbust enters and stands up to Rancid swearing us that one day everyone will be free of the Giant.

We then find ourselves in the village of Monnowmoray on market day where we meet Jack and his brothers Simon and Dick. They are from a very poor family and haven't anything to sell to make money – big aaah! required here. After they leave, their poor widowed mother Dotty Trott appears and expects sympathy from you, the audience, before introducing us to Daisy her faithful cow. Rancid returns and meets Snatchet and Scarper – a pair of ne'er-do-wells. He employs them as debt collectors and sets them to work straight away after Dotty Trott's cash (they'll be lucky).

Soon afterwards we meet King Hubert and Queen Hyacinth who, with the assistance of Humphrey their aide, announce they are offering a reward of a royal possession to anyone who can rid the land of the Giant. They then introduce their beautiful daughter Princess Primrose... on seeing her, Jack is immediately smitten.

Before too long, Dotty and family are evicted from their cottage and after much heart searching decide that Daisy will have to be sold. Jack agrees to do the deed and meets a pie-man on his way to market. Jack is tricked into selling Daisy for a bag of beans. Things then go from bad to worse when the Princess is kidnapped by Rancid and taken to the Giant.

Jack returns home and has to confess to his poor mother that he has been tricked into selling Daisy for some beans. She is so upset she throws the beans out into the garden and falls asleep. No prize for guessing what happens next...

### Prologue

Scene 1 Market Day in the Village of Monnowmoray

Scene 2 Outside Dame Trott's Dairy

Scene 3 Inside Dame Trott's Barn

Scene 4 On the Way to Market

Scene 5 The Village Fayre

Scene 6 Dame Trott's Kitchen

Scene 7 Inside Dame Trott's Cottage

### ACT II

We now find ourselves at the top of the beanstalk and are joined by the entire Trott family and the King and Queen, who are searching for Princess Primrose. They are followed by Snatchet and Scarper who are keen to get their reward from Rancid for helping him kidnap the Princess.

Inside the Castle, we find the Princess in some distress as she is locked up by the Giant's housekeeper to be fattened up to feed the Giant. When all seems lost, she finds she has an ally in the Giant's household. The Princess is joined by another captive – Dotty, who finds her captivity very long and drawn out. Rancid and his assistants take pleasure in seeing Dotty suffer until Jack comes to the rescue. With the Giant and Rancid to compete with you can expect it won't be straight forward, until Fairy Sugarbust reminds Jack of something special he has at hand... and as you would expect after righting a few wrongs it all ends happy ever after.

Scene 1 The Top of the Beanstalk

Scene 2 Outside the Giant's Castle

Scene 3 Inside the Giant's Castle

Scene 4 Back Outside the Giant's Castle

Scene 5 All Together Now

Scene 5 Finale



## CAST

Elinor Biggs, Richard Bond, William Briscoe, Mike Brown,  
Stephanie Bulmer, Eleri Clements, Emily Colewell,  
Tarryn Coomaraswamy, Lara Craig, Katie Dade, Hannah Davies,  
Rachel Davies, Kirsty Dumbell, Dani Elliot, Marni Erwin,  
Alex Gardiner, Katie Garn, Andrea Griffiths, Laura Griffiths, Luci Harper,  
Katherine Harper, Annie Harris, Scarlett Harris, Stephanie Harris,  
Claire Hudd, Vicki James, Debbie Jones, Corey Jones, Kirsty Jones,  
Sophie Jones, Georgia Kear, Nadia Kear, Ann Long, Lucy MacDonald,  
Hannah Maddox, Iain McIntyre, Glynis McIntyre,  
Ines Merola-Scott, John Moylett, Isabel Nagle, Jim Newcomb,  
Ann Newsome, Florence Newsome, Jemma Newsome, Samantha MacFarlane,  
Stuart MacFarlane, Geoffrey Manning, Rhian Mitchell, Amanda Peacock,  
Lauren Peacock, Caroline Pearce, Catherine Pearce, Peter Pearce,  
Chloe Powell, David Price, Helen Price, Sian Price, Nadine Rennie,  
Chris Ryde, Sasha Sebright, Amelia Smith, Barbara Spence, Amanda Stevens,  
Rachel Stevens, Sophie Stevens, Katie Watkins, Joshua Williams,  
Kate Willington, Ellen Wilson, Octavia Zorab.

## Who's Who



### Jim Newcomb - Dame Dotty Trott

Dame Dotty Trott DDT, ITV, ECG and OAP would like everyone to know that she is not the biggest cow in this year's production, as that honour goes to Daisy (D.A.I.S. whyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!). Dame Dotty hopes that you'll enjoy this year's show and asks that you keep a special eye out for her sons, particularly silly Dick - always up to something inappropriate. Some of you may remember the last time that this Dame was played by Jim Newcomb, though you'll be forgiven for finding it difficult to believe it was eight years ago. He just seems to look lovelier, slimmer and younger with each performance. But then wouldn't you, if you had a personal dresser and nineteen make up consultants - one for each blemish. When not trying to cover up his defects - it's a lost cause really - Jim is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, at the University of Wales, Newport.



### Tarryn Coomaraswamy - Fairy Sugardust

Tarryn is a physiotherapist working at the Royal Gwent Hospital in Newport. She was born in Singapore and grew up in Melbourne, Australia. She came to the UK 6 years ago and lives in Cardiff close to "Jack" (Sam MacFarlane) who introduced her to the world of panto with OCT when she appeared as Juanita in *Robinson Crusoe* in 2002. She has sung in many different bands ranging from jazz to acapella and plays the saxophone. In Australia she wrote and directed plays and took part in many productions, including Shakespeare - so she can teach many of the cast a thing or two. *Robinson Crusoe* was her first appearance on stage in the UK and now she's back for more.



### Iain McIntyre - Rancid

Iain first appeared on stage at the age of 8 as Jesse James at primary school and has been on stage ever since. Originally from Stockton Heath near Warrington, Iain moved to Monmouth in 1982 to start up his own business wholesaling paper and polythene products to the retail trade. In 1988 he was one of the founder members of Monmouth Operatic Society and has sung many principal roles, including John Wellington Wells and the Pirate King in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.

He is currently rehearsing for their spring production *HMS Pinafore*. He has made a number of appearances in OCT pantos, including the genie in *Aladdin* and King Rat in *Dick Whittington*. Iain has been heavily involved in Monmouth Festival for 6 years and was chairman in 2004. A former TV personality - Iain made a guest appearance on *Songs of Praise* in Oswestry when he was 12.



### Sam MacFarlane - Jack

Sam is 26 and is a physiotherapist. She currently works at St Woollos Hospital in Newport. In the evenings she works in a sports clinic in Cardiff to pay off her debts from travelling for 7 months last year around South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Sam has been appearing in pantomimes since she was 5, her first role being the Golden Chicken in, surprisingly, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. She has appeared in several OCT pantos, including her last appearance in the title role in *Robinson Crusoe*. She says "pantos have played a big part in my family's life and I am privileged that I can be in the last one my Mum, Steph and Barbara are to organise. Congratulations to the team and thank you."

### Alex Gardiner - Simon

Alex popped into the world in 1965, and had a regular upbringing (he thinks!). Alex rode motorcycles for 20 years or so, and fell off them quite a lot. He had a go at racing them - and still fell off. He's still riding them, and yes he's still coming off them, but not as much. A native of Newnham on Severn, Alex is a carpenter/ builder by trade. He has now retired at the grand old age of 37, to do the harder job of being a house-husband. "I'm dating never-ending - where does it all come from?" he sighs. He has a very patient wife Cath, two boys - Joe 2½ and Dan aged 1. Alex and Cath are also taking delivery of a new baby at the beginning of February. "So if he looks tired during the show you know it's arrived early! He hopes you enjoy the show and says "Don't drop ice cream down your fronts, and remember to take all the wrappers off your seats before putting them in your mouth" (Alex is short of adult company).



### Stuart MacFarlane - Dick

Stuart, who was born in Chichester, has lived in Monmouth since 1976 and is one of the founders of Off Centre. He runs a business supplying cycle lights to Woolworths, Argus and many other High Street stores. His company also supplies all the torches used by the Royal Mail. Stuart has spent his life in the company of celebrities. Michael Elphick was his best friend at school and as a police constable he was once handcuffed to Mick Jagger. He has appeared in many charity shows organising Music Halls to raise funds. He has appeared in many OCT productions and has the record of appearing in every pantomime since the group was formed. He lists his hobbies as boating, amateur dramatics and Rotary.

### David Price – Snatchet

Off Centre has allowed David to exercise his acting imagination in many ways. During the last 10 years he has played everything from a randy vicar in *Habeas Corpus* to a silly Chinese policeman in *Aladdin*; a stuffy barrister in *Witness for the Prosecution* to the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham in *Robin Hood and the Barber in the Hood*. "At last" he says, "I have risen up the world (well, the pantomime) and have the part of a broker's man". He certainly finds it a lot easier than the part of Doc the Dwarf, which he had last year – it also makes it a lot easier to reach the pedals in his car. He says that Christmas always makes him worry that he may put on weight and not fit into his costume. He stresses that OCT tapes must be stored in a damp place because they seem to be shrinking making it appear that he needs a larger costume each year. When not on stage, David, a former Chairman of OCT, is a busy farmer.



### Lara Craig – Princess Primrose

Lara, although only 15, is becoming an experienced performer for OCT having first taken part in 1998 in the chorus of *Beauty and the Beast*. She has appeared in many varied roles undertaking acting, singing, dancing and cabaret parts. In 2002 she had a principal role of Princess Shellana in the junior production of *Humpty Dumpty* and then Spirit of the Greenwood in the main pantomime – *Robin Hood*. In 2003, Lara was impressive as the schoolgirl Barbara Caboun in OCT's award winning *Happiest Days of Your Life*. Last year in panto Lara played Dopey in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, much to the delight of the children in the audience. Lara is a pupil at Monmouth Comprehensive School where she also plays an active part in drama, music and dance productions, having appeared as Molly in *Annie* and in the musical *Genie*. Lara lists her other interests as dancing, singing, squash and tennis.



### Geoffrey Manning – Scarper

Originally from Ilford, Geoffrey and his family came to Monmouth in 1982. He has been a member of OCT since 1989 and was chairman from 1996 – 99. Since joining OCT Geoffrey has appeared in many productions, from Francis Durbridge murder mysteries, to Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, most recently as philandering Bob Phillips in Alan Ayckbourn's *How the Other Half Loves*. He has been the 'fool' in many OCT pantomimes including the character of Simon in the 1996 production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, when his daughter Emma was Jack. He has directed a number of plays, notably Priestley's *When We Are Married*, Alan Bennett's *Green Fingers* and Pinter's *The Lover*. Next year, Geoffrey will have been treading the boards for forty years – he recalls how at 17 he contacted the great Joan Littlewood at Stratford East for guidance on how to become an actor. "Go out and do it anywhere," she said. He has lived up to this maxim ever since, having done everything out there anywhere. Occasionally, this has included acting. When not on stage he owns and runs his own business - *Safety First UK* – providing occupational health and safety consultancy and training.



### Caroline Pearce – Queen Hyacinth

Caroline has lived in Monmouth all her life and has been a member of Off Centre since 1994. As Councillor for Wyesham on Monmouth Town Council, Caroline is involved in many town activities and is a member of Walbeon Twinning Association. She has appeared in many Off Centre productions, most recently in OCT's Festival Fundraiser *It's Entertainment*. She will be best remembered for her portrayal of a desert island beauty in this show. Since she first stepped onstage in the last *Jack and the Beanstalk* in 1996, Caroline has played a range of roles for OCT including Mrs Sowter in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* and Catherine in the *Admirable Crichton*. In pantomime she has shown her versatility in roles from the lovely warm and kind Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella* to Cursula the Evil of the Deep in *Robian Cruise*. To follow up her role last year role as Grumpy in *Snow White* Caroline stands up to her full height as Queen Hyacinth.



### Chris Ryde – King Hubert

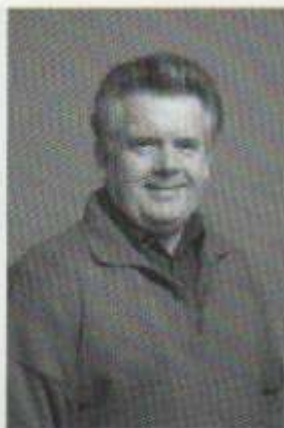
Chris has long maintained that he has royal connections as he purports to have blue blood. We suspect that his ball point pen has leaked. He does point out however that if 62,473,805 UK residents unexpectedly die, he will be Queen. Chris hails from Derby, famous as the place from where Bonnie Prince Charlie retreated with his invasion force – he must have bumped into Brian Clough. This is Chris's fifth OCT pantomime, but he is applying for parole in time for next year. He was last seen on stage in the *It's Entertainment* in summer 2004 playing a scruffy old codger with a wife problem. Strange how history repeats itself. Chris has a degree in Drama so he should know what he is doing.



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### **Peter Pearce - Humphrey**

Peter was born in Newbury in Berkshire, moving to Monmouth when he was 3 and living here ever since. He is a builder by trade with his own business.

At first reluctant to go on stage he made his first tentative appearance in the memorable "Full Monty" routine in *Sleeping Beauty* in 1999. In Peter's own words "my parts have been getting bigger ever since." A natural comedian, Peter delighted

audiences as Herman the Henchman last year and also as a naughty little boy and a singing vicar in OCT's fund raising *It's Entertainment* in summer 2004. In his spare time, when not watching football, Peter is a referee for Gloucestershire F.A.



### **Ann Long - Petunia the Housekeeper**

Ann is 19 and is in her first year at UWIC studying psychology. She wants to travel to Canada and Australia before eventually studying criminal psychology, as she says she is interested in "what goes on in their minds". She could start with the cast. Ann was born in Monmouth into a farming family. From an early age she has had the job of looking after the calves, so with an interest in cows she can see to Daisy if there are

problems. Ann has appeared in many OCT pantos: last year, in *Snow White* she was Bashful the Dwarf "so", she says "it's great to be on my own two feet this year". She plays the piano in her spare time - "just for me", she says, "I don't do public recitals".



### **Rhian Mitchell - The Giant**

Rhian has moved up in the world of pantomime, as her part has grown from Happy the Dwarf in last year's *Snow White* to the Giant this year. Committed as ever to her role, Rhian has spent the last 6 months in intensive stilt training and is now considering a career in the circus. She has stepped over the border from Monmouth, having just taken part in a Newport Playgoers production of *The Exorcism* at the

Dolman Theatre.

She has been a member of OCT since summer 2000 when she made her debut with the group in its fundraising Summer Tour. In June 2004 she appeared as Ida the maid in *See How They Ran* and was commended for her performance, in the Gwent Drama League annual competition. She is deputy front-of-house manager at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff so is used to mixing with divas. Rhian says "it's great to be back in panto again but I don't think I could have handled a role which is way bigger!!!"

### **Scarlett Harris & Barbara Spence - Daisy the Cow**

Last year, Scarlett played the part of Prince Regal in "Snow White". This year she has been promoted to playing the character role of the front end of Daisy. She is very involved in OCT - on stage, behind the scenes and, with Richard Wadley (assistant musical director),



organising the successful entry in the 2004 charity raft race, where OCT won the

prize for best dressed raft *Kings of the Jungle*. Versatile Scarlett also danced in "It's Entertainment" - OCT's show which raised funds for Monmouth Festival in 2004. Most recently, Scarlett was Monmouth's own Christmas Fairy - when as Fairy Starlett she turned on the lights with a wave of her magic wand.

Barbara, OCT's chairman, has always wanted to be a cow - as Daisy's rear-end she is now realising her ambition.



### **Richard Bond - Voice of the Giant**

Richard was born in Monmouth and moved to London when he was 10. He was a Fireman with the London Fire Service for 20 years and can claim to have put out a chip-pan fire in Jimmy Young's flat in Chiswick. On leaving the fire service, he studied for a degree in Geography at Reading University. He is been town councillor for Drybridge Ward and was Mayor of Monmouth on two occasions.

Richard has been involved in panto for many years. He has spent time in the lighting box but is not too shy, having appeared on stage as a harem eunuch in *Aladdin* in 1993 and the Town Cryer in *Cinderella* the following year. He has also been a "voice over" in several productions. When not exercising his "speaking" voice Richard is an excellent singer. As a member of Risca Male Choir he had the honour of singing with Bryn Terfil before the first rugby match at the Millennium Stadium. Richard works in market research and collects antique prints in his spare time. He describes himself as a "great cook".

### **Richard Wadley – Assistant Musical Director**

Richard is 19 years old and is studying Countryside Management at Gwent Tertiary College. Part of his training involves milking cows – so he will be on standby if Dairy needs assistance during a performance. He has been playing the piano since he was 6 and has been involved in OCT productions since 1999 when he played in the band for *Sleeping Beauty*. Richard has, on occasions, appeared on stage – as the Dragon in *Aladdin* and, more recently, as Darth Vader in *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood* (you had to see it to understand how that was possible). Richard prefers not to talk about his performance at that time. This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Assistant Musical Director and he says Anne has promised to let him play some of the black notes this time. In his spare time Richard enjoys operating JCBs.

### **Mark Finlayson - Stage Manager**

This is Mark's second year as stage manager. He has been a backstage technician with OCT for a number of years mostly in the sound and lighting departments. He is 23 and is a trained carpenter who started his career working with antiques but has moved onto laying timber floors and graduated to installing quality kitchens. He is hoping to attend an electrical course in Southampton in the early part of 2005. A talented musician, Mark plays piano, flute and saxophone. He has played in a number of orchestras including the Gwent Youth Symphonium. Mark spent some time working at The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham where he met among others Dulcie Grey and Tim Brooke-Taylor. He is therefore well qualified for dealing with OCT's divas!

### **Emma Jayne Parker - Choreographer**

OCT is fortunate to have the very talented Emma Jayne Parker to choreograph all the dance numbers for the third year. Emma Jayne started dancing at the tender age of 2½, her first stage performance followed soon after. From the age of 10 she was performing in professional pantomimes with famous names such as Jon Pertwee, Victor Spinetti and Melvyn Hayes. In her late teens, Emma Jayne studied at a musical theatre college where she also completed her dance teaching exams. As soon as she left college she worked as a Cabaret Dancer in Europe and the Far East. Emma Jayne teaches dance and choreographs theatre companies across the south west. She enjoys being choreographer for OCT and says "I am delighted to teach such a talented and enthusiastic cast".

### **Jackie Kyd - Costume Director**

Jackie has been involved with Off Centre for 13 years, both on and off the stage. Nowadays, she prefers the more comfortable life of assisting with OCT productions rather than performing. However, Jackie has recently had the opportunity to branch-out into TV and appears in the 1<sup>st</sup> January edition of *Casualty*. She really enjoyed the experience, filming in Bristol and mingling with TV stars – back to earth now she has to deal with OCT's own luvvies, co-ordinating the 100's of costumes you will see in this production. In addition to looking after her family she has worked on the finance side of legal, banking and travel organisations. She also owned a boutique in Monmouth for several years. When not sewing for Off Centre, Jackie enjoys playing badminton, keeping fit, visiting her daughter in Dubai and her new grandson in Kings Lynn. Somewhat nomadic, Jackie has spent several years living near Geneva and later near London, before moving to South Wales in 1978, and then to Monmouth in 1984.

### **Sandee Craig – Front of House**

Sandee has been a member of OCT for 7 years and during that time she has appeared on stage in 3 pantomime chorus lines. It is not widely known that Sandee was a TV personality in her youth - she appeared on HTV(West) as a teenager, dancing to *Brown Sugar* by the Rolling Stones. Lately, however, she has chosen behind the scenes work - organising the front of house team. Sandee is very experienced having done this many times for both pantomimes and plays and she has perfected the skill of knowing exactly how many ice creams to order for a run of 9 performances. Sandee was born in Cardiff and worked in banking for 15 years. She now works in childcare, having had a 10-year involvement with the Mitchell Troy Play Group, and is now a Learning Support Assistant at a local school. She has 3 children, including Lara, alias Princess Primrose. In her spare time, Sandee enjoys travel, music, films, reading and keep fit.

### **Terry Cane – Construction Manager**

Terry, alias TC, is a Chartered Civil Engineer so his design and technical skills are well suited to his role as construction manager. Over the years he has been called upon to make a range of weird and wonderful things including R2D2 and a stretching machine. Originally from Beer (yes that's a real name) in Devon he has lived in the North since the late 70's. He has worked for Hyder and Welsh Water amongst others and has been responsible for the design of water treatment works and bridges. He first became involved backstage with OCT in 2000 for *Aladdin* and has been with us ever since. Most recently, he was stage manager for *How the Other Half Lives* in October 2004. He also works behind the scenes for Monmouth Operatic and The Mayor's Charity Shows. In his spare time he likes to keep fit, socialise and do DIY. He has no intention whatsoever of appearing on stage.

### **Margaret Morris – Box Office**

Margaret is once again leading the box office team. Born in Eastry, nr Sandwich in Kent, Margaret moved to Monmouth 49 years ago, after marrying her husband Keith. Originally pen pals, they got together when Margaret went to college in Cheltenham to train as a nursery nurse. She says that "children have been my life" having worked for the Church of England Children's Society and, most recently, Monmouth School. She has two daughters, one of them being Caroline Pearce who is Queen Hyacinth in this show. She is a founder member of the Wyesham Social Club, whose first major celebration was the Investiture of Prince Charles (so that's going back a bit). She has also been on the Carnival Committee for 27 years. In her spare time, Margaret loves to make and decorate cakes and, when she has time to sit down, she enjoys reading.