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Rapunzel

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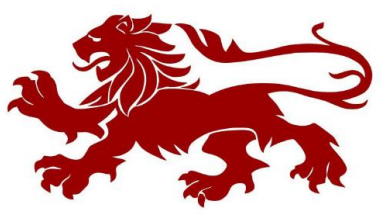
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— D E N T A L —

Welcome to our pantomime!

Welcome to our pantomime! It doesn't seem five minutes since we were last here, cheering heroes, booing villains, and singing and dancing along to some of our favourite songs!

This year, we turn our hand at Rapunzel, a tale of love, power, heroism and long hair. I hope you enjoy our interpretation of the traditional story, though we may have twisted it a bit and added in a few, shall we say, unusual characters!

It goes without saying we have such a wonderful cast, they have given everything and are an amazing group. I'm really proud of all of them and the time and effort they have given to entertain you. We are truly blessed to have such a wealth of talent for our village pantomime.

But of course they are just one aspect of what goes into putting on a panto. We have such a fantastic team behind the scenes – from the truly magnificent back stage crew, who have worked so hard to put together this fantastic set you see before you, to the wonderful make-up team, costumes, the hard-working runners, to all the front of house teams who will keep you refreshed and hydrated through the evening! (We have an array of drinks, sweets and snacks at excellent value!). Thank you to everyone, we really can't do it without you.

A huge, huge, huge thank you to Carrick, who has stepped in to direct this year's panto with endless enthusiasm, expertise and inspiration. You have put together a fantastic pantomime – thank you!

Also, our eternal gratitude to everyone at the Windmill Centre – from the committee to all the people who use this amazing community centre – who have been very accommodating and flexible with us.

And to our sponsors – The Red Lion, Polka Dots and Deddington Dental and Hook Norton Vets for your continued support. Thank you all. A special thanks to Julia at Polka Dots, for two reasons – firstly for being kind enough to help people in buying their tickets for tonight's show – and secondly... well, you'll find out in a short while! Thank you, Julia.

Please make sure you buy your raffle tickets, which will be raising money for Ukraine and Katherine House, two worthy causes. There will be many wonderful prizes so don't miss out!

And finally – Thank you so much to every single one of our audience for coming to support us. It may be a cliché, but clichés are often true – we really can't do it without you. Without your support every year, we have no panto. So thank you, and...enjoy the show!

Steve Moss, Chair

Rapunzel - A Deddington Players Pantomime Written by Steve Moss

The notorious, power-crazed sorceress, Gothel, will stop at nothing to take over the world. In order to do so, she must create a potion which involves taking a tear from her "step-daughter", Rapunzel, every day of her life until her eighteenth birthday. Rapunzel is kept locked up in a tower in the nastiest part of Daeda's Wood and the only way to get access to her is by climbing up her magically long hair, which she is able to throw from her window.

Meanwhile, supported by their motley crew of guards, servants and advisors, the King and Queen are concerned that their son, Prince Charlie, is too much of a layabout to ever take over the throne, and so they throw him out and tell him not to come back until he has found a bride. After a tip-off by Rapunzel's friend, Bird, the Prince teams up with his friends - the children of two glamorous local hairdressers - to rescue Rapunzel from her tower.

Even once she has been rescued, however, there seems to be no escape from Gothel, her hapless sidekicks and her precious bats. Will the Prince and his merry band finally defeat her? Will Rapunzel uncover the true identity of her real mother? Will this panto ever end? Sit back and watch it all unfold before your very eyes...



From the Director

I'd like to welcome you to our panto and thank you for coming to support this fantastic annual community event.

Preparations began for this panto right at the end of the last one, when Steve scurried off to a darkened room and emerged months later, blinking at the sunlight, with the hilarious script you're about to be treated to. As a cast and crew, we all came together in September to start rehearsing and preparing for this year's panto. It's a special time when we all return to the Windmill, break open the script, laugh raucously (at the jokes), take a few sharp intakes of breath (again, at the jokes), cheer (or frown) at the songs, looked wide-eyed at the dance moves, wince at the stage directions... and dive in.

Our 44-strong cast this year is drawn from across the Deddington local community and beyond. 28 of them are children, almost all of whom have been a part of our panto before. Performing in front of a large group of people is not for everyone, and it's not easy no matter how old or seasoned an actor you are; every one of the young actors, singers and dancers in our company has been fantastic to work with. The 16 adults in the cast, meanwhile, have approached the panto with their usual high level of dedication, humour and support, which makes a huge difference to everyone's enjoyment of the whole process. I'm so grateful to them all for making my job a very pleasurable one.

It's certainly not all about the luvvies though. We are blessed with a specialist backstage team (again, 44 of them!) which has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get everything ready - from our talented set painters and prop makers to our super-slick stage managers and stage crew, to sound and lighting supremos, sublime costume designers and make-up artists... not to mention the wonderful front-of-house team which has welcomed you this evening. We also have a crack team of runners who wrangle the cast into place just in the nick of time; Kelly (our musical director) who passionately brings the songs to life; and Sarah, whose dazzling choreography has made the children spring into life and made the adults' knee joints spring out of place. Without these people, we would not have a panto.

Finally, I must pay tribute to the tireless workhorse who is Mr Panto himself - our Chair, producer and writer par excellence, Steve Moss. His commitment to Deddington Players and to our panto is remarkable. Away from his glamorous on-stage persona, he has put in a huge amount of very unglamorous work this year and we are so very lucky to have him.

In the absence of our actual proper director, Elli, I would like to thank Deddington Players for entrusting me with directing the panto this year. It has been an honour. Enjoy!
Carrick Cameron, Director



The Cast

Rapunzel
Prince Charlie
Julia Blidging
Ophelia Bottom
Gothel
King Edward
Queen Desiree
Bird
Fairy
Tom
Sally
Holly (and live bagpipes!)
Poppy
Lady Lawdown
Lord Helpus
Bishop
Monster (Lefty Head)
Monster (Righty Head)
Willy
Wally
Jester
Head Guard
Gavin the Guard
Gabby the Guard
Gladys the Guard
Matt the Bat
Pat the Bat
Kat the Bat
Nat the Bat
Eric the Bat
Extra Bat
Sarah the Servant
Sandra the Servant
Sybil the Servant
Sammy the Servant
Miss D Bus (villager)
Mrs Home (villager)
Miss Diagnosis (villager)
Miss Taken (villager)
Man with Beard
Male Customer
John Travolta
Tap
Girl With No Lines
Tornado

Eva Upson
Daisy Barnett
Steve Moss
Adam Perry
Bev Hamblet-Bowes
Chris Manley
Jen Toll
Mollie Hamblet-Bowes
Suzie Upson
Charlie Gruber
Orla Brown
Nellie Cameron
Margot Cameron
Ali Higginson
Neil Levene
Paul Gruber
Lily Johnson
Amelia Tong
Freya Mahfoudh
Ava Greenhalgh
Jensen Smith
Sam Brown
Harry Tong
Neve Johnson
Rosie South
Ellie Mahfoudh
Emilia Yates
Wren Pannell
Rosie Toll
Rupert South
Vince South
Nikita O'Brien
Emmy Gardner-Cutress
Isobel Whitehouse
Ben Whitehouse
Eva Gill
Millie Halton
Millie Clark
Bella Clark
Phil Marsh
Vaughan Jones
Vaughan Jones
Rosie Toll
Sophie Halton
Nicky Halton, Rachel
Johnson and Tracy Tong

The Crew

Director	Carrick Cameron
Producer	Steve Moss
Assistant Producer	Karen Gardner-Perry
Musical Director	Kelly Scott
Choreography	Sarah Mahfoudh
Stage Managers	Sophie Cameron Geoff Hall Amy Harbottle Kat Onions
Stage Crew	Tom Fenemore Tristan Hogben
Costumes	Kathy Moss Sheila Jessett
Prompt	Annette Murphy
Lighting & Sound	Ben Fenemore Kelly Scott Dan Maharry Dan Cooper
Runners	Tracy Tong, Anne O'Brien, Deedee Gill, Sarah Timms, Sue Clark
Make-Up	Rachel Johnson, Sian Westbury, Wendy Samways, Nicky Halton, Alana Avison, Katy Pannell, Belle Pannell, Sarah Timms, Annie-Rose Jones
Set Design	Steve Waterman
Set Build & Painting	Steve Waterman, Tom Harbottle, Elli Ince, Sid Mallet, Kat Onions
Front of House, Bar & Refreshments	Karen Gardner-Perry, Kate Oldroyd, Helen Hall, Nick Timms, John Upson, Matthew Johnson, Ana Lima, Tim Ringrose, Louise Ringrose, Emma Humphrey, Benji Humphrey
Administration	Sam Brown Carrick Cameron Suzie Upson

Special thanks this year to Dan Cooper and his team for the loan of his sound equipment and expertise.

Deddington Players: A History

The formation of the Deddington Players revived an earlier drama society in the village. In 1993, our first pantomime was Aladdin and since then we have produced most of the traditional pantomimes and quite a few others – remember the Millennium Bugs, and Dracula? The first twelve scripts were written by Molly Neild and Jean Flux, and we have returned to creating our own scripts.

Over the years we have also produced a number of short plays, offered supper and entertainment evenings and supported visits from professional drama productions. Through our productions we have supported several local charities, including Katherine House, the Thursday Club, Space2Learn and the Holly Tree Club. We aim to bring together all age groups and many different skills. If you would like to get involved, either on-stage or backstage, please send an email to deddingtonplayers@btinternet.com

Previous Deddington Players Pantomimes

1993 Aladdin
1994 Babes in the Wood
1995 Cinderella
1996 Sleeping Beauty
1997 Snow Queen
1998 Pinocchio
1999 Jack & The Beanstalk
2000 Wizard What'sit & The Millennium Bugs
2001 Red Riding Hood
2002 Snow White
2003 Pied Piper
2004 Dick Whittington
2005 Robinson Crusoe
2006 Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood
2007 Dracula – the panto
2008 Treasure Island
2009 Captain Hook's Revenge
2010 Beauty and the Beast
2011 Puss in Boots
2012 There's No Place Like Rome
2013 Sinbad the Sailor
2014 Snow White & the Seven Dwarves

2015 Scrooge
2016 Jack & the Beanstalk
2017 Aladdin
2018 Cinderella
2019 Dick Whittington
2020 Robin Hood of Daeda's Wood
2022 Peter Pan
2023 The Wizard of Oz
2024 Beauty and the Beast



In rehearsal...



In rehearsal...



In rehearsal...





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