

## 48-HOUR PANTO 2018

Dick Whittington

### About the Show

Since *Beauty and The Beast* in 2012, the 48 Hour pantomime at Stockwell Playhouse (formerly LOST) has become a staple of the Geoids Musical Theatre calendar. This is the seventh panto we have staged, the fifth time that Rob Benton has put pen to paper for us, and a reunion of the creative team behind *Camelot* in 2017.

A marathon and a sprint, this full length show is a chance to cram rehearsal and performance into just one weekend. There is a lot to learn and little time to do it in, but with determination and clever rehearsal scheduling it is an entirely achievable challenge. We aim, for the most part, to use well-known musical theatre and pop music just to make things a bit more manageable.

The primary purpose of this show is to reunite and integrate Geoids members from different casts of previous shows; to provide something for members who may have work or other commitments that find extended rehearsal periods of a full length musical; and, of course, to have fun.

### Casting and Auditions

We are looking for a maximum of 31 performers. The stage just won't fit any more on it! Everyone who has paid upfront and has received email confirmation of participation will be guaranteed a part in the show.

The show has 10 named character parts, to the usual pantomime types. We will be looking to be traditional with our casting of the dame (i.e. a male actor) but are open to genderblind casting for our principal boy and for the 'bad guys'.

For those who wish to be considered for solo singing parts and/or named characters there will be an audition process (taking up until about 9pm on Friday night) which will be integrated into learning music and dance for one of the numbers from the show.

The only preparation we ask of you is that you come with a (short) joke to tell as part of an ice-breaker in front of the whole company, and that you are prepared to sing in front of other cast members a line of the song that you will have been taught that evening. Readings for character parts will be brief but will be conducted one to one with the audition panel in a separate room.

### Performance

**When:** Sunday 20 January at 16:00

**Where:** Stockwell Playhouse, 208 Wandsworth Rd, London, SW8 2JU

### Rehearsals

**Friday 18 January 2019, 18:30 – 22:00**

At Wheatsheaf Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane (off South Lambeth Road), Vauxhall SW8 2UP

18:30: Arrive

18:35: Introductions and icebreaker jokes (please keep them brief!)

19:15: Vocal warm up and audition for those wanting to be considered for any solo /small group singing

19:45: Physical warm up and first dance routine while those wanting to be considered for a character part are seen separately to read a short section of dialogue.

We aim to cast the show by 21:00 or thereabouts.

## Saturday 19 January 2019, 08:00 – 22:00

At Wheatsheaf Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane (off South Lambeth Road), Vauxhall SW8 2UP

Rehearsal Timetable TBC but there will be allocated time for breaks.

18:00: Stagger run of the show

## Sunday 20 January 2019, 09:45 – 15:30

at Stockwell Playhouse, 208 Wandsworth Rd, London, SW8 2JU

09:45: Get in

10:00: Safety talk and walk around

10:30: Rehearsals in studio

12:00: Spacing

13:00: Dress/Tech rehearsal

## Fees

**Membership:** For insurance purposes, all performers are required to be active members of Geoids Musical Theatre at a cost of **£15** per year. This enables you to audition for any and all of the six shows we are staging in 2019 as well as to take part in workshops and social events that we arrange across the year.

**Participation Fee: £40** – covers some of the fixed costs associated with producing a show (e.g. audition, rehearsal, and performance venue hire; lighting and sound)

48 Hour Panto is extremely popular and in recent years has become over-subscribed. We will be running an online registration form for the show and will give priority to existing members. Once you have completed the form you will be sent details for payment of the participation fee and, where not currently an existing member, membership fee. Your space in the show will be reserved for one week for you to make payment. If you have not made payment in this time your place in the cast will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

We will hold a waiting list until the day of the show in case of any last minute cancellations. Refunds will only be given on cancellations in the event that we are able to replace you with someone from the waiting list.

If you are unsuccessful in securing a place in the cast please do come and see the show (it's a panto – you still get to join in, oh yes you do!). But also please consider offering your time over the weekend. While we do have production assistants on hand for set, props, and costumes, there is no such thing as too many pairs of hands. Similarly if you have friends, relatives, or a partner who would be able to help out with set painting, sourcing props or costumes/making alterations to what we have please do get them to email us at [panto@geoidsmt.co.uk](mailto:panto@geoidsmt.co.uk).

## 48-hour Panto top tips

**Food** – ideally prep up and bring stuff with you. The local area does not have as many food outlets as Liverpool Street (where we have previously rehearsed). There is a massive Sainsbury's about 5 minutes' walk away but there may only be limited opportunities to go off site. On Sunday, the Tesco Express underneath the theatre will likely run out of sandwiches / only have egg and cress. Don't leave it to chance.

**Rehearsal Clothing** – layers are always good. You will get hot dancing but want to keep warm when looking at music or scene work.

**Sleep** – as far as possible try to get some decent sleep in the run up to the weekend. Read the script on the Friday night after leaving the rehearsal, but don't stay up too late. Speaking from

experience, rehearsing all day on Saturday after only a couple of hours sleep is not fun (although being moved to tears watching a practice run of Holding Out For A Hero, is an interesting experience). Similarly, you will likely end Saturday's rehearsal feeling like you remember nothing. Going over it endlessly that night is less helpful than getting a warm drink and some shut-eye.

**Performance Hair/Make Up** – for most people there will be limited time for preparing this on Sunday. If you don't like the pressure of getting ready quickly consider doing this before you leave home.

**Performance clothing** – we will source various options to be able to costume the show but may ask cast to bring some basics. You will be emailed in advance of show weekend if this is the case.

**Forgetting your lines** – let's face it, most audience members will want to see something go slightly awry. Don't worry if you forget your lines, allow someone onstage to help you or accept a prompt (this is the only show you can make a thing of breaking the fourth wall and asking for your line). Similarly, serve the show and don't get stressed if your line is missed, glossed over, or badly set up.

## Who are Geoids Musical Theatre?

Geoids Musical Theatre are a central London-based amateur theatre company founded in 1930 by Gilbert and Sullivan-loving students of the Geology and Geography departments at King's College London. With charitable organisation status and in affiliation with NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association), we strive to produce quality productions with the highest performance and production values. We recognise the importance of all people who come together on stage and back stage, to create entertaining and engaging theatre and we seek to establish a supportive environment where members can enjoy, learn, and develop their skills through this process.

You can also find us in the following places:

Website: [www.geoidsmt.co.uk](http://www.geoidsmt.co.uk)

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @GeoidsMusicalT

## Creative Team

Director – Daniel Paul

Musical Director – Ed Steward

Choreography Team - Nicola Welch, Charlie Welch, and Pippa Welch