

48 HOUR PANTOMIME 2020 [TITLE REDACTED]

John McIntosh Arts Centre, London Oratory School,

Seagrave Road, Fulham, SW6 1RX

Sunday 19 January 2020 at 4:00pm

Writers / Direction Chris Watson and Annabel Watson
Musical Direction Adrian Hau
Choreography Nichola Short, Charlie Welch and Pippa Welch

Geoids Musical Theatre is delighted to announce our upcoming pantomime in a weekend, the first show in our 90th anniversary 2020 season. Registration will open 00:01 on Friday 13 December 2019 (National Pantomime Day, natch!) by email to panto@geoidsmt.co.uk.

If you would like to be involved in the show in any other capacity than on stage please email panto@geoidsmt.co.uk.

About the Show

Since *Beauty and The Beast* in 2012, the 48 Hour Pantomime at Stockwell Playhouse has become a staple of the Geoids Musical Theatre calendar. We are glad to say that this will continue into 2020, despite the sad demise of the Stockwell Playhouse, with us heading out west to the more spacious theatre at the London Oratory School, Fulham.

A marathon and a sprint, this full-length show crams 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.

This is the eighth pantomime we have staged, and for nobody on the creative team is this their first time at the rodeo: Annabel Watson and Chris Watson have both been regulars on stage, with Chris proposing to Annie after the bows to Jack and the Beanstalk five years ago as well as co-directing *Snow White* and *Camelot*; Adrian Hau has previously appeared onstage and been Musical Director in *Camelot* and *Robin Hood* and the *Squire's Scroll* respectively; Nichola Short (née Welch) has choreographed every Geoids panto and had the assistance of her sisters Charlie and Pippa Welch for the last five years.

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 difficult; and, of course, to have fun.

Casting and Audition Process

The show has 15 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 otherwise have a fairly even split of male and female characters, some of which may be cast cross-gender.

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 dovetailed within learning the music and choreography 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 be taught that evening. Readings for character parts will be brief and will be conducted one to one with the audition panel in a separate room.

Fees

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

Geoids Membership Fee: £15 All performers must be a member of Geoids either on existing membership or through commencement of a new annual membership taking effect from date of payment.

With a new venue this year we are excited to take advantage of a larger performance space and backstage area and we will be able to cast up to 32 performers. To secure your space in the cast please email panto@geoidsmt.co.uk. You will then be sent details of the Geoids bank account to make payment. Once we have received this payment your space in the show will be confirmed.

In the event all places in the cast are filled in advance of the weekend we will hold a waiting list from which we will draw replacement performers in case of any subsequent cancellations. We will keep people informed as to their position on the list. Refunds will only be guaranteed for any cancellations where we are able to replace you with someone else 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!). And please also consider offering your time over the weekend. While we do already 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 help (e.g. set painting, making or finding props, sourcing or altering costume) please do get them to email us on panto@geoidsmt.co.uk.

Rehearsals

[Friday 17 January 2019, 19:00 – 22:00](#) at London Bubble Theatre Company, 5, Elephant Lane, Rotherhithe, SE16 4JD.

[Saturday 18 January 2019, 08:00 – 22:00](#) at London Bubble Theatre Company, 5 Elephant Lane, Rotherhithe, SE16 4JD.

Rehearsal Timetable TBC but we will work to stage a stagger run of the show late afternoon/early evening on Saturday. There will be allocated time for breaks.

[Sunday 19 January 2019, 10 – 19:00](#) at John McIntosh Arts Centre, London Oratory School, Seagrave Road, Fulham, SW6 1RX.

10:00 Get in, safety talk and walk around
10:30 Rehearsals while tech team set up
11:30 Spacing for musical numbers
12:30 Dress/Tech rehearsal
15:30 House clear for audience to arrive
16:00 Performance
18:00 Get Out

Aftershow Party

We aim to be out of the theatre by 19:00 to host an after-show party at local pub:

The Atlas, 16 Seagrave Road, Fulham, SW6 1RX.

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.

Having lost our connections with Kings College over the years but gaining charitable status and 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 find us in the following places:

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

[Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram](#) @GeoidsMusicalT

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