

# Beauty & the Beast

## Beast



FEBRUARY 2008

Picture by  
Nendy Deardon

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Borough Theatre  
Abergavenny

2007

# JACK AND THE BEANSTALK



75th Anniversary Show



Affiliated to the  
National Operatic and  
Dramatic Association

Written by Stephen Clark

MONDAY 19TH -  
SATURDAY 24TH  
FEBRUARY 2007

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ABERGAVENNY PANTOMIME COMPANY

**- Past Productions -**

1947	Aladdin	1962	Robinson Crusoe	1992	Sinbad The Sailor
1948	Mother Goose	1963	Humpty Dumpty	1993	The Sleeping Beauty
1949	Babes In The Wood	1964	Cinderella	1994	The Grand Old Duke of York
1950	Dick Whittington & His Cat	1965	Aladdin	1995	Dick Whittington
1951	Hop O' My Thumb	1966	Robin Hood	1996	Jack & The Beanstalk
1952	Cinderella	1967	Mother Hubbard	1997	Cinderella
1953	Aladdin	1968	Sinbad The Sailor	1998	Aladdin
1954	Jack & The Beanstalk	1969	Jack & The Beanstalk	1999	Pied Piper
1955	The Sleeping Beauty	1970	Cinderella	2000	Snow White
1956	Red Riding Hood	1971	Aladdin	2001	Red Riding Hood
1957	Humpty Dumpty On The Moon	1972	Robinson Crusoe	2002	Robinson Crusoe
1958	Mother Goose	1973	Puss In Boots	2003	Peter Pan
1959	Cinderella	1974	Winter Review	2004	Aladdin
1960	Dick Whittington	1975	Mother Goose	2005	Cinderella
1961	Aladdin	1976	Babes In The Wood	2006	Dick Whittington

Full list of Past Productions are available on our website - [www.abergavennypantomime.co.uk](http://www.abergavennypantomime.co.uk)



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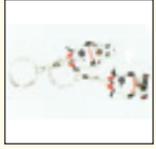
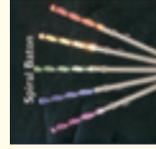
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The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899, is a deal with virtually any enquiry relating to the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK. It has a membership of some 2500 amateur/community theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK, staging musicals, operas, plays, concerts and pantomimes in a wide variety of performing venues, ranging from the country's leading professional theatres to village halls. Members have access to a wide range of benefits.

NODA is divided into eleven national Regions, each headed by an amateur Councillor who sits on the Council (the ruling body of the Association), supported by a network of Regional Representatives and other volunteers. These volunteers are the vital link to the grass roots of the Association, the amateur theatre companies themselves. The Association is administered from its Headquarters in Peterborough, with

- To give a shared voice to the amateur theatre sector.
- To help amateur societies and individuals achieve the highest standards of best practice and performance.
- To provide leadership and advice to enable the amateur theatre sector to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century

[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)



**ENJOYED THE SHOW?**

Then don't forget to take home your piece of Pantomime Magic Available in the foyer of this theatre now!



**- Life Members -**

- Malcolm Brinkworth | Nina Brinkworth
- Tony Brinkworth | Bernard Zavishlock
- Nick Leek | Arthur Fryer
- Shirley Wallace | Kath Symons
- Ken Williams | Peter Holder | Jean Fryer

Unfortunately, Mrs Jean Norman, one of our Company's Life Members, passed away back last year. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

In recent years the Abergavenny Pantomime Company has been able to support the following local charities:

- Gwent Young People's Theatre Company
- LATCH | Mardy Juniors AFC
- Crossroads | Gateway | Women's Refuge
- Y Fenni Gymnastics Club | Koolkatz
- Abergavenny Judo Club
- Noah's Ark Appeal | The Joshua Foundation
- Pen-y-Cwm School (Ebbw Vale)
- Seven Corners Café | CAB

**75th Anniversary Edition**

**The History of Abergavenny Pantomime Company**

Abergavenny Pantomime Company is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year with one of its most traditional Pantomimes Jack & The Beanstalk which opens at the Borough Theatre during Half Term week in February.

In 1931 amateurs connected with the Holy Trinity Church in Abergavenny in South Wales decided to perform a Pantomime 'Cinderella'. Previously the Company was known as the Holy Trinity Operetta Company and it had provided the town with various shows annually at the beginning of every year such as staging concerts, musicals and operas. With the proceeds going towards various charities. From these successful productions, sufficient interest was generated for the Holy Trinity Pantomime Company to be formed. The performance of the pantomime 'Cinderella' was performed at the beginning of 1932 to a large audience at the Borough Theatre in Abergavenny. The proceeds being in aid of the Sunday school funds. Mr Frank Lewis and his wife Gwen Lewis were two of the founder members of the Company, and they produced a countless amount of shows. Rehearsals took place in the Holy Trinity Church Hall. After a gap during the Second World War in 1947 the Company resumed and performed Aladdin.

In 1950 the adventurers of 'Dick Whittington and his cat' were re-enacted. However the Producer was in a real dilemma, when on the morning of the show he was informed that Dilys Price, who was to have taken the part of Dick Whittington, had been taken ill and had been ordered to bed by the doctor. As there was no understudy it seemed that the only thing to do if the show was to go on was to get someone to read the part. Then the Producer had an inspiration and contacted Maureen McCormack to get her to come to the rescue as she had lots of stage experience taking lead roles with the Operatic Society. It was not until 2pm that she saw the script and read her part, but in the short time available she learned the dialogue so thoroughly that she played the part to perfection and did not need any prompting. Know one would have guessed that she had only come into the show at the eleventh hour and the fact that she fitted into the stage movements without any rehearsal was a great achievement.

In 1960 the Company changed its name to 'Abergavenny Pantomime Company' and changed its constitution in favour of donating money to a well known charity instead of donating money to the Sunday School Fund. Over the years we had had many well know characters from the local area taking part in productions and also many members who have become well known in the entertainment profession. Including Bryn Yemam, who several of our Life Members appeared on stage with in the long distant past. Bryn Yemam is actually Britain's best selling unknown singer. Without any help from the media in his early days he sold 500,000 albums in five years. Now, far from being unknown, Bryn is confidently stepping into international stardom. He of course is now a tremendous success in America in his field.

In 1964 the Company were not able to amuse the kids with their annual production because strenuous efforts to find a Producer and a Pianist were unsuccessful. As a result the Company went out of action. Later in the year, however, a special meeting was held and afterwards the joint producers of about twenty five previous pantomimes, Mr and Mrs Frank Lewis announced that they were prepared to have another go. "Our decision was influenced by the tremendous enthusiasm shown by members" they said at the time.

*"The most popular pantomimes that we have performed have been Cinderella and Aladdin"*

The early years were often constrained by a lack of finances and interruptions such as an energy crisis relating to heating and lighting restrictions and also bad weather which resulted in postponing shows. As what happened in 1982 when the Company celebrated its Golden Anniversary and they performed 'Mother Hubbard' which the Company had never performed before. Although after heavy snow and severe blizzards, the town of Abergavenny was cut off and everything came to a complete standstill. As a result the show was postponed for a couple of weeks. In our early days we were often criticised by the local press that we needed more emphasis on acting and a little less on singing. With a total cast of over a hundred, some of the musical numbers the chorus were asked to perform on the small stage such as dancing sequences resulted in children bumping into each other.

Unfortunately during the late 70's and early 80's audiences started to dwindle. Part of the blame was attributed to the public's indifference to amateur productions, but the major blame had to be attached to television. Because people were then reluctant to leave their warm homes in the winter evenings to attend a local amateur production, when they could sit and watch entertainment on the TV without any effort. Although the appetite for live theatre grew once again in the late 80's.

A unique and outstanding production was performed with permission from Samuel French Ltd and Great Ormond Street Hospital, 'Peter Pan' was staged in 2003.

Although punists would argue that this is not strictly a pantomime, but a children's story, based on J.M Barrie's play. The show saw a first for A.P.C with the principals and some of the chorus "flying" above the stage. Producer Stephen Clark, Musical Director Jaci Brickley-Clark and Choreographer Shirley Wallace deserved credit for ones of its best ever pantomimes.

Other dedicated workers over the years have included the late Bob Symons, respected Producer of over fifteen years. Also Malcolm Brinkworth who produced for a number of years and his Brother Tony Brinkworth who performed in over forty shows. Finally Bernard Zavishlock who is still currently our lighting director after a countless number of shows. All these and other stalwarts have been rightly recognised for life membership.

The most popular pantomimes that we have performed have been Cinderella and Aladdin followed by Jack and the Beanstalk and Dick Whittington. Although there are a couple of Pantomimes which have fallen from popularity. Titles such as 'Goody Two Shoes', Humpty Dumpty and Hop O' My Thumb which have not been performed now for a number of years and these fairy tales have almost completely vanished today. In our first ever pantomime there were only two performances and everyone was a sell-out. On Saturdays, at the final performance we were even allowed to have so many people standing in the back of the auditorium that we used to have to turn people away. Seventy five years later attendances are now so good that we have now added two matinees and have extended our number of performances to eight.

Today the cost of staging a Pantomime is estimated at anything between £11,000 to £15,000. The majority of our income is from box-office sales and from our main sponsors. Over recent years we have been lucky to receive sponsorship from some well known businesses such as Redrow Homes, Courage Beer and Wilkinson Stores. We have also been grateful from having sponsorship from local businesses in the Abergavenny area which help to keep ticket prices as low as possible. We have also ventured into other areas such as staging summer shows and musical evenings and also enjoyed taking part in community events.

One of the Companies main aims is that by getting children involved on stage, it will give them an interest in acting and stagecraft. Also they see that through our pantomime and various concerts that we perform, people maybe in a worse position than themselves, can give some pleasure through talents. There is no doubt of the success of this when we see so many members of the chorus from previous show competing for and getting principal roles. Not only do we try to provide low cost entertainment and value for money but we also try to assist local charities. Various charities over the years have benefited from donations which we have donated from our productions. Hundreds of pounds have been donated to charities such as the Noah's Ark Appeal, The Joshua Foundation, LATCH and many other local charities in the community.

In 1998 we affiliated to NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. Eight years later we received an honour for the 'Best Programme' award from the NODA Wales and West region for Dick Whittington. In 2006 saw the opening of the Abergavenny Pantomime Company's Website, which features details of the Company, past and present productions, a history page, photo galleries and DVD clips from past shows. To mark our 75th Anniversary the Company have decided to perform one the of most popular pantomimes Jack & The Beanstalk which is to going to be staged in February in the Borough Theatre in 2007. We are also organising an Anniversary Ball to recognise this special year. We look forward to the future with confidence, whatever it may hold.



**Charities**

In recent years the Abergavenny Pantomime Company has supported many charities.

**KOOLKATZ**

**TO COME  
FRIDAY**

**Dick Whittington and his Koolkatz**

**ABERGAVENNY** Pantomime Company has announced that it has bought the rights to a new drum kit for youth jazz ensemble Koolkatz as a 'symbol' of its commitment to local initiatives. Koolkatz which provides music tuition for youngsters in the Abergavenny area 'shared' the company which is set to perform Dick Whittington and his Koolkatz on the stage at the Theatre on Monday, February 20 with their latest production - a reworking of the classic tale of the boy who cried wolf this month (February 20-23). "Every year our money left over from the pantomime is distributed between local initiatives," said the company's publicity officer, Carolyn Walker. "We decided to make a donation towards the cost of a new drum kit because Koolkatz are doing some great work with young people within the town and we recognized that they had this need."



It's behind you! Koolkatz drummer David Kelly receives a £100 cheque from Carolyn Walker of Abergavenny Pantomime Company on behalf of the Koolkatz.

**Pantomime Company presentation**



**MEMBERS** of Abergavenny Pantomime Company met recently at The King's Head Hotel function room to make a welcome Christmas gift to two local good causes. Cheques for £100 were presented to Robert Dickenson, the headteacher of Pwerywan School in Ebbw Vale, and to pantomime company member Elizabeth Walker, on behalf of the Joshua Foundation. The cheques represented the latest in the series of charitable donations made the successful company from the proceeds of its annual production. Members of the company will be back in action on the stage of the Borough Theatre from Monday, February 20 with their latest production - a reworking of the classic tale of the boy who cried wolf this month (February 20-23). Tickets are available from the theatre box office on 01873 850000

**JOKE TIME**

**What's beautiful, grey and wears slippers?  
Cinderellephant**

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*A caring ear when in need.*

*A bridge to cross, a charitable trust.*

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**Eleven years ago, to this week (19th - 24th February 1996) was the last time the Company performed Jack & the Beanstalk.**

*Here are some memories:*

- The script was written by Paul Alexander arranged by Jasper Publishing.
- The Production Team decided to include three Dames in the show.
- The blue front of house curtain fell down on the entire cast and chorus during a technical rehearsal whilst they were singing the finale song, three nights before our opening performance.
- The electric curtain rail could not be repaired in time, but the show still went on.
- The Giant was not seen but only heard. Its voice was played by our Company Treasurer, Peter Holder (who is now playing the evil part of Baron Trousserdawn)



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## - What is Pantomime? -

In the British theatre, pantomime is a Christmas or New Year entertainment. Like Punch and Judy, Harlequinade and the French tradition of mime, its origins can be traced back to the 16th and 17th century Italian improvised comic drama called the commedia dell'arte.

Growing out of the harlequin spectacle of the 18th century and the burlesque of the 19th, pantomime retained such elements as an actress playing the part of principal boy and an actor playing the dame.

Many of the plots were based on folk tales collected and retold by the French writer Charles Perrault. His book 'Mother Goose's Fairy Tales' published in 1697 included classic stories like Puss in Boots, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Red Riding Hood. As pantomimes used these stories more and more the role of Harlequin diminished until he disappeared. New elements were added to the mix of slapstick and double entendre. Popular songs, topical humour and satire found their way into the script as did audience participation and guest appearances by popular entertainers of the day.

## - Traditional Version -

Jack is a poor boy who lives in the forest with his mother. One day she tells him they are so poor that he must take the cow to market to get some food. On the way Jack meets a man who gives Jack five magic beans in exchange for the cow. His angry mother throws the beans into the garden. Overnight the beans grow into a huge beanstalk and Jack climbs up. At the top he finds a castle where a giant and his wife live. The giant likes to eat children so Jack hides in the oven. Jack goes up the beanstalk three times. When the giant is sleeping, Jack steals a bag of gold, a magic hen, and a golden harp. The third time, the giant wakes up and chases Jack down the beanstalk. Jack and his mother cut down the beanstalk and the giant falls to his death.

## - The Real Jack and the Beanstalk -

Jack and the Beanstalk is an English fairy tale, closely associated with the tale of Jack the Giant Killer. It is known under a number of versions. Benjamin Tabart recorded the oldest known one in 1807, but Joseph Jacobs popularized it in English Fairy Tales (1890). Jacobs's version is most commonly reprinted today and is believed to more closely adhere to the oral versions than Tabart's, because it lacks the moralizing of that version. The story was made into a play by Charles Ludlam.

Many say this story is nothing more than a story of a thief and a murderer. There is no moral to this story, and is simply about a boy who thieves a man (albeit a monstrously large man) of his valuables and later murders him. Many modern interpretations make a point of

Some of the comedy routines have become traditional. We've no idea who first performed them but they are eagerly awaited by audiences who know them just as well as do the performers. Most professional scripts leave it up to the director and actors to decide which routines to include.

Nowadays, people will try to tell you that panto is for children. Then they'll attempt to emasculate the script, commenting that the baddies are too frightening, witches are unchristian and the jokes are too naughty. Rumour has it that one group even produced, 'Snow White and the Seven Persons of Diminished Stature!' Well, pantomime has never been politically correct. Instead, it brings us face to face with our greed, prejudice, cowardice and dishonesty, and forces us to laugh at ourselves.

In the end though, virtue is rewarded, true love conquers evil and everyone lives happily ever after. It's terrific!



**What kind of pet did Aladdin have? - A flying car-pet!**



## - The A-Z of Abergavenny Pantomime Company -

### A - AUDIENCE

A Big thanks to you, the audience for your support and we hope you will continue to support us in future years. Don't forget to "boo" the evil Baron and the Giant and take part in all the audience participation such as "he's behind you!" and "oh yes it is!" or "oh no it isn't!"

### B - BOROUGH THEATRE

Nearly all of our productions have been staged here at the Borough Theatre, which is part of the town hall building and dates back to 1870.

### C - CHARITIES / CINDERELLA

Whenever practicable we support local charities utilising a proportion of the profits accruing from our productions. Recent charities that we have supported have been The Joshua Foundation, Pen-y-Cwm school, Gateway, Koolkatz. The most popular pantomime of all has been Cinderella which we have performed over eight different times.

### D - DAME

A pantomime Dame is a traditional character in any British pantomime. It is a continuation of male actors portraying female characters in drag. One example is Widow Twankey in Aladdin and Widow Twankey also appears in our Pantomime Jack & the Beanstalk.

### E - EFFORT AND EXPERTISE

It takes nearly twelve months of planning to put on a show. It would be impossible to do it without the dedication of all the people who give up their time, effort and expertise to bring it all together. We are now starting to plan for our 2008 show.

### F - FLYING

In 2003 we performed Peter Pan and hired flying equipment & harnesses. The show saw a first for A.P.C with the principals and some of the chorus "flying" above the stage.

### G - GORILLA

Pantomime animals appear in many of the traditional pantomimes. Jack has a cow in Jack and the Beanstalk and Dick Whittington has his famous cat. The most famous animal of all is the gorilla which can appear in any pantomime and at the most unexpected time.

### H - HOLY TRINITY

Previously the Company was known as the 'Holy Trinity Operetta Company' the majority of the performers was amateurs connected with the Holy Trinity Church in Baker Street in Abergavenny. Sufficient interest was then generated for the 'Holy Trinity Pantomime Company' to be formed, which is known now as Abergavenny Pantomime Company.

### I - ICE

Dry Ice has been used in stage productions for a number of years. It is used most often in the dance of the snowflake fairies in the Nutcracker Suite, and it is frequently used in Brigadoon and Oklahoma for their dream scenes. It is frozen carbon dioxide, which is extremely cold. A machine is then used to blast lots of this dry ice around making it into fluffy white clouds which can be seen in our cloudland scene. That sounds cool as ice!!!

### J - JUVENILES

Pantomime could not survive without its chorus and dancers, and indeed its troupes of juveniles. In this production we have over thirty juniors in the chorus.

### K - KEN

It gets very confusing at times as we have three distinguished members in the Company called Ken and they all answer to the same name when it is called out in rehearsals.

### L - LEN LANE

Len Lane joined the Company back in 1997 and was asked to play the part of the Baroness in Cinderella at very short notice. Ten years later, Len is now on the Production Team producing this years' show Jack & the Beanstalk.

### M - MUSIC

Music plays such integral part of every pantomime that we perform. Our band playing in this performance is from 'The Music Studio' in Abergavenny led by our Musical Director Jaci Brickley-Clark.

### N - NODA

A.P.C is a member of NODA. The National Operatic and Dramatic Association is the only organisation of its kind that is devoted exclusively to the amateur stage.

### O - OLDEST

We believe to be the oldest pantomime company in Wales and we are very proud of our history, performing our first pantomime in February 1932.

### P - PRODUCERS

We have had a number of excellent producers over the years, such as the Brinkworth Brothers, Bob Symons and quite recently Snowy Clark & Len Lane. Although the majority of past performers began their stage career under Mr & Mrs Frank Lewis who produced well over twenty five shows.

## - Chairmans Address -

Another year another show, but this year's show is a milestone, or to some a millstone. Seventy five years have passed since the curtain first went up on Abergavenny Pantomime Company (and Peter Holder has been in nearly all of them). Peter tells me that the Prime Minister at that time (1932) was Ramsey Macdonald, the hit tune was "Brother can you spare me a dime" and the Oscar winner was Walter Beery for his role in the 'Champ'.

I wonder how many people have performed with the company during that time and where are they now? The first cast members must be approaching or past their centenary year by now.

I also wonder how many people have passed through the doors, especially in the early years before the advent of television (the first public transmission was in fact 1932, our inaugural year) and how many charities have benefited by our donations. By the way, the earliest admission

charge we can find is 1/3d, good value as always.

Coming to the present, we are fortunate to have this year's show penned once again by Stephen (Snowy) Clark and produced by Len Lane. The musical numbers have been chosen by our musical director Jaci Brickley-Clark, who coincidentally, has put in two songs that hail from the era of our first shows, 'Loving That Man of Mine' and a number from 'Me and My Girl', 'The Family Solicitor'.

I hope you enjoy this our 75th anniversary show and hope you continue to support us for the next 75 years.

Have a safe journey home

*Ken Jones*

## - Jack and the Beanstalk -

*A curious Jack becomes upwardly mobile and climbs the beanstalk seeking fame and fortune. However, a nasty surprise awaits him in "Cloudland"! Join us as this traditional pantomime unfolds and have some fee, fie, foe, fun...!*

## - Synopsis of Scenes -

### ACT I

Scene 1	.....The Village Square	1	.....Rocking all over the world
Scene 2	.....A Lonely Road	2	.....Simple Simon Says
Scene 3	.....Widow Twankey's Cottage	3	.....The family solicitor
Scene 4	.....The Magic Beanstalk	4	.....Can't help loving that man
Scene 5	.....Heaven	5	.....Heaven
Scene 6	.....Don't stop me now	6	.....Don't stop me now
Scene 7	.....Never had a dream come true	7	.....Never had a dream come true

### INTERVAL

### ACT II

Scene 1	.....The Village Square	1	.....The court of King Caractacus
Scene 2	.....Up in Cloudland	2	.....Have you ever
Scene 3	.....The Giant's Dining Room	3	.....Play that funky music
Scene 4	.....The Giant's Castle Corridor	4	.....Fairy Dance
Scene 5	.....Back at the Village Square	5	.....Blame it on the Boogie
Scene 6	.....Ready Steady Cook	6	.....When You're smiling
Scene 7	.....The Wedding at the Palace	7	.....We go together



## - The Band -

Musical Director .....Jaci Brickley-Clark  
 Piano Accompanist .....Jaci Brickley-Clark  
 Percussion .....Dave Purkiss  
 Guitars .....Jason Ball  
 Keyboard/Saxophone .....Sarah Fowler  
 Rehearsal Pianist .....Elen Newcombe

## - Officers -

President .....Gilbert Fury  
 Chairman .....Ken Jones  
 Vice Chairman .....Carolyn Wallace  
 Secretary .....Geraint Webb  
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 Treasurer .....Peter Holder  
 Press Secretary .....Carolyn Wallace  
 Social Secretary .....Andrea Marfell  
 Website Co-ordinators .....Andrea Marfell, Geraint Webb  
 Ticket Secretary .....Jane Griffiths  
 Committee Members .....Mair Webb, Ken Watkins  
 Liz Owen, Linda Butcher, Diane Jones,  
 Kath Viveash, Chelsea Viveash, Issac Pritchard

### JOKE TIME

**Who looked after Finderella?  
 Her fairy codmother!**

## - Production Team -

Producer .....Len Lane  
 Scriptwriter .....Stephen Clark  
 Choreographer .....Jaci Brickley-Clark  
 Wardrobe Mistress .....Linda Butcher  
 Publicity .....Carolyn Wallace

## - Behind the Scenes -

Stage Manager .....Ioan Wynne  
 Assistant Stage Manager .....Rob Poynter  
 Technical Manager .....Ioan Wynne  
 Lighting Design .....Ioan Wynne,  
 Bernard Zavishlock & Andrew Jones  
 Lighting Operators .....Bernard Zavishlock,  
 Andrew Jones  
 Follow Spot Operators .....Mike Rumsey, Sarah James  
 Sound Technician .....Soundbase UK  
 Backstage Crew .....Phil Butcher, Steve Candle,  
 Carl Harrison, Edward Pugh, Richard Watkins  
 Caller .....Christian Vater, Ken Williams  
 Prompter .....Jane Griffiths  
 Props .....Linda Garratt & Ann Cauldwell  
 Back Stage Shop .....Mair Webb  
 Stage Technician .....Andrew Jones  
 Chorus Mistress .....Theresa Richards

## - Our Thanks To -

- ! Our President, Mr. Gilbert Fury |
- ! Our Sponsors and Advertisers especially The Kings Head and Venue 59 |
- ! Our Life Members for researching the Company's history | The Local Press |
- ! Television Reporter Caroline Evans and the rest of the BBC Wales Team for filming us on 'BBC Wales Today' |
- ! The Borough Theatre Management and Front of House | Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press | Red Cross |
- ! Frogmore St. Baptist Church for Rehearsal Facilities | Nigel Clark for Poster Design |
- ! Gwyn Williams for support in designing and making of additional props |
- ! Merchandise, Raffle & Programme Sellers | Window Dressers | Parents of the Chorus |
- ! Rehearsal Pianist - Elen Newcombe | Photographs - Geraint Webb & Graham Webb |
- ! Our audience, whose continued support this week has made it worthwhile |
- ! ACE Costume Hire | Sylvatica Web Design |

## Our Pantomime Secretary Geraint Webb takes time out to talk to Tony and Malcolm Brinkworth

Tony & Malcolm Brinkworth are brothers who were involved in the Company for a number of years. Between them they have carried out practically every role both on and off stage. From starting off helping backstage to becoming Producers. Also having the honor as carrying out the role as Chairman and to representing the Company as President.

Here are some of the Brinkworth Brothers memories of how past shows were performed and some funny things that happened over the last 75 years.

**G.W:** *Malcolm what was your first ever part on stage and can you remember your first ever line?*

**M.B:** My first part I ever played for A.P.C was Commodore Perkins. I can also remember my first ever line it was "I am an extempore Vocalist". This gave a number of people in the audience a laugh as I was not known for my singing voice!

**G.W:** *Tony over the years you have taken part in many comedy double acts. Which comedy double act that you have taken part in stands out?*

**T.B:** Delwyn Hall formed an excellent comedy double act with myself on a number of occasions. Such as Horrible Herbert and Frightful Fred which were the robbers in Babes in the Wood. Also Ali Whey and Bak Ali, the two pirates in Sinbad the Sailor. Later Delwyn became a very good actor in his own right. He was always there to help.



TONY & DELWYN IN BABES IN THE WOOD

**G.W:** *Malcolm how old were you when you joined A.P.C and who was involved in the Company then?*

**M.B:** When I joined the Company I started off helping backstage at the age of thirteen back in 1960. Many people involved in the Company then were local Business people such as Neville Lewis who had a Painting and Decorating shop in Frogmore Street. Vin Sullivan whose shop was to become well known all over Wales. Also Viv Sadler and Mr W.H Shackleton. Later on I was elected on to the Committee, a number of years later I found myself as Chairman and finally I had the honor to be Producer.

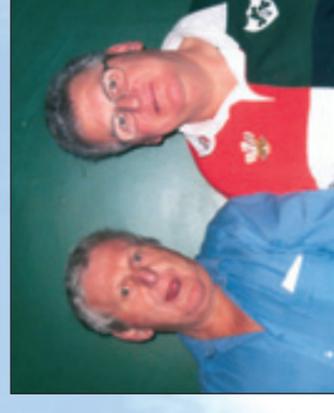
**G.W:** *Malcolm and Tony over the years you must have witnessed a number of mishaps on stage, what are the funniest mishaps that stick out over the years?*

**T.B:** During one show I can remember the Prompter/Caller desperately calling David Evans who was a local Butcher in Abergavenny, to the stage as he was due on. We were performing two shows that particular day and the evening performance was only an hour after the matinee in the afternoon. The Prompter/Caller could not find David anywhere. The back stage crew and cast were running up and down stairs, looking in the dressing rooms, toilets etc with out any luck. HE WAS eventually found downstairs fast asleep stretched out on a couch in the MAYORS PARLOR!!!

Another time a well known actor called Jack Jenkins, who stood about 6 ft 6 inches tall was singing "On the Road to Mandalay". As he was doing this the scenery flats started falling down all around him, just like the "Domino effect". He did not bat an eyelid but carried on singing till the end of the song!!

**M.B:** I can remember in one particular show I was swinging an approximately 2lb fresh fish by its tail Fishmongers. I lost my grip and the fish shot out through the air into the audience and landed in the lap of lady who was my Mother-In-Law at the time! Luckily she had a good sense of humour and a good laugh was had by the audience.

On one occasion during our performance of Mother Goose in 1972, a girl called Alison Grant played Ermyntude the Golden Goose. During our last performance the Goose went missing. It eventually turned up on stage



TONY & MALCOLM BRINKWORTH (DECEMBER 2006)

although it missed its cue. The goose then started to behave very differently to how it had it had been the rest of the shows. It chased cast and chorus around the stage, pecking at them! After a period of mayhem, the Goose left the stage to roars of laughter from the audience. It emerged that our Producer Bob Symons had decided to have some fun and got into the Goose costume, especially as there were many children sat in the matinee show. Although as he went down to the Corn Exchange dressing room, where the Goose was based, he decided to relate to the rest of the chorus all about what had happened. Alison was not impressed as she was unable to get back into the Goose costume for her next cue.

**G.W:** *Tony what was the Borough Theatre like thirty years ago and can you describe all the work that went on then behind the scenes?*

**T.B:** The stage was very much smaller than it is today. The floor consisted of narrow wooden floorboards that were quite rough. When you did some falling about on stage, you invariably had a splinter, which then went septic! The front of house curtains was red. An electrician had to climb a metal ladder that was loose, onto a platform above Viv Sadler who was the Sound Engineer. The lighting effects were done by a set of electrical equipment that must have been there from very early years of the theatre. You slid the control to effect the lighting and it got that you could hear them sizzling whilst you were performing on the stage. The cast then had to climb metal steps to reach the stage.

All of the backcloths used to be rolled and tied up, ready for lowering on two ropes, ready for scene change. Rolling the previous scene cloths, lowering and untying the new cloths was a very dusty job. Today all the back cloths are lowered and raised by machinery which makes the job much faster and easier.

In May 1995 both Tony and Malcolm decided to retire early from the Company. Later on that summer they were both awarded as Life Members, which was most rightly deserved.

## - Memories -

A look back at some of the many performances by Abergavenny Pantomime Company



### FAIRY SUNSHINE Molly Brickley-Clark

Hi, I'm Molly, I'm 9 years old and go to Cross Ash Primary School. I was first in panto when I was 3 years old, playing an apprentice fairy - I'm fully qualified now!!! Outside panto, I love playing the cornet and piano and singing, acting and dancing as a member of junior AAOOS and studying with Geratidine Harris. I love being on stage, and hope you enjoy the panto as much as I'm enjoying appearing in it!

### JACK Aimee Mogford

Hey! I'm Aimee or should I say Jack? I attend King Henry V111 6th form studying music, English lit, psychology and of course drama! I'm also a member of AAOOS where I recently played Anita in the production of West Side Story. Hope you all enjoy the show. I know I will, climbing the beanstalk. He! He!

### GIANT BLUNDERBORE Ken Watkins

Fe, Fie, Foe, Fum, I smell the blood of an audience! I'm not really frightening you know.

It's good to be back in panto this year and playing a giant of a part! Hope you all enjoy the show as much as I do. Remember to laugh, shout and clap as we have some Fe Fie Foe Fun!

### FRONT COW (SRAWBERRY) Emma Williams

Hi there guys and gals!! This is my 2nd year in panto and I'm loving it! Last year I really enjoyed being principal girl and this year I'm playing the cow!! Yay!! Well how many people can say they've done that eh? So all that's left for me to say is enjoy the show, cheer loads for me...oh and...Moo oohh!

### BACK OF COW (STRAWBERRY) Len Lane

I'm Len and this is my 3rd production as producer of Abergavenny Pantomime. I feel I am very privileged to be able to work with some very gifted people, who work hard but also have fun. I myself this year have been fortunate enough to cast myself as the back end of the cow. I suppose the only way I can go from here is up. Hope you all enjoy the show.

### BARON TROUSSERDOWN Peter Holder

Another pantomime another Baron. This year they've made me even merrier by giving me a Scottish Flavour (apologies to anyone from the wrong side of Hadians Wall). A special show this, in our 75th year, and contrary to the rumour started by the simple one I have not been in all 75. It just feels like it! Have fun and enjoy the show.

### COUNCIL MAN Tommy Mogford

Hi I'm Tom! I've been in panto since I was 7! I go to KHS school and will soon be starting my GCSEs. I'm in AAOOS as well and also Vision in Glass a new drama group. In the future I hope to travel and learn about culture etc. I hope you enjoy the show and come back next year!

### THE OLD LADY Fiona Plant

Hello everyone. Well we're back again and this time it's for Jack and the Beanstalk. At least I get to play my age this year. I'm having so much fun again. I hope you all have a suuper time! See you all next year!

### CROWS

Hi we're Kyle and Kieran Butcher, the two naughty crows from cloud land. We love to pinch food and dance to funky music. This is our 3rd year with Abergavenny Pantomime. Hope you enjoy the show!

### SUE Ro Norris

Helloo! I'm Ro, it's the first year in panto that I actually get to play a girl. Wooooee! It is a really good show and we all love it. Hope you like it too. Cheer loads and watch out for the Giant! XX

### ASKHIM Rob Peacock

Hello, I'm Rob. I'm 15 years old and I go to KHS school. I'm studying drama for GCSE which I'm enjoying. Jack and the Beanstalk the 2nd performance! I've been in the Borough Theatre. My first one was West Side Story which was done by AAOOS. This is my first time doing panto so I want you all to clap for me! See you from the stage. Bye, Rob.

### SIMPLE SIMON Stephen Clark

Hi there, it's nice to have a comedy role again after my brief encounter as the nasty rat last year- I really missed being pushed over constantly by my "mum" the dame and had to go back to my natural simple self!! Hope you all enjoy the show and shout really loud for me.

### THE BAILIFF Geraint Webb

Its pantomime season once again, after being involved with the Company for a number of years, I believe this is the best show we've ever produced. It's packed full of fun and entertainment.  
Playing the Bailiff isn't an easy task  
As the Twankys owe lots of rent  
Every time I call around  
They say their money's spent.  
They even keep a cow,  
My patience now is running out  
I'll get them some how!!!

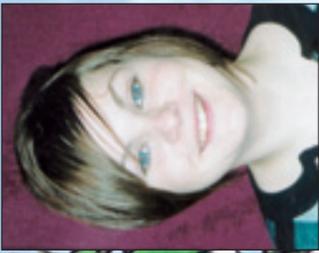
### BARONESS TROUSSERDOWN Andrea Marfell

I could bore you with my wonderful career in show biz but I haven't got one! Plenty of time though, I'm still young and beautiful! Still, I'm the one dancing and singing out of tune, so that I will be noticed earlier...on purpose of course!

### WIDOW TWANKEY Ken Jones

Here we go again, time to have my chest and legs waxed and a full Braz...you must be joking! The older I get the more difficult it is learning lines, some say that it makes no difference because I don't know them anyway. Well, they should know they must have been in most of the shows during our 75 year history.

**JOKE TIME**  
**What's a ghosts favourite Christmas entertainment?**  
**A Pantomime!**



**JACK**  
Aimee Mogford



**GIANT BLUNDERBORE**  
Ken Watkins



**FAIRY SUNSHINE**  
Molly Brickley-Clark



**THE OLD LADY**  
Fiona Plant



**WIDOW TWANKEY**  
Ken Jones



**COUNCIL MAN**  
Tommy Mogford



**SUE**  
Rohanne Norris



**FAIRIES**

Alys Pugh, Lauren Jones, Eleanor Newsam



**FAIRIES**

Alys Pugh, Lauren Jones, Eleanor Newsam



**CHORUS**

Emily Matthews, Laura Chicken, Louise Matthews



**CHORUS**

Emily Jones, Kelly Whistance, Honey McKenna



**CHORUS**

Emily Jones, Kelly Whistance, Honey McKenna



**CHORUS**

Rachael Owen, Chelsea Viveash, Ilinos Lewis

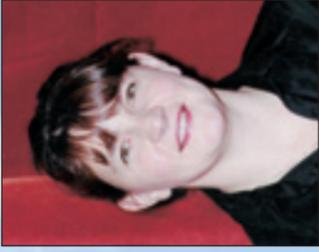


**CHORUS**

Abigail Jones, Emma Davies



**BARON TROUSSERDOWN**  
Peter Holder



**BARONESS TROUSSERDOWN**  
Andrea Marfell



**FAIRIES**

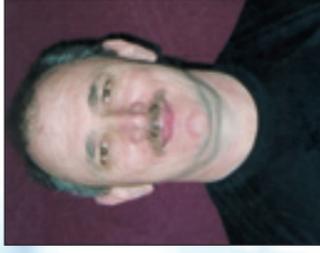
Freya Plant, Angharad Williams



**FRONT COW**  
Emma Williams



**ASKHIM**  
Rob Peacock



**BACK COW/PRODUCER**  
Len Lane



**CROW**  
Megan Butcher



**BACK COW/PRODUCER**  
Len Lane



**CROWS**

Nenah Deardon, Jade Tucker, Cheri Deardon



**CROWS**

Jordan Sharp, Joe Hayward, Isaac Prichard



**CROWS**

Jordan Sharp, Joe Hayward, Isaac Prichard



**SENIOR CHORUS**

Jon Newsam, Emma Gould, Vicky Tyler



**CROWS**

Joseph Pugh, Huw Marfell, Miles Harding



**THE BAILIFF/SECRETARY**  
Geraint Webb



**CHORUS**  
Rachel Powell



**CHORUS**  
Lucille Harding



**SIMPLE SIMONSCRIPTWRITER**  
Stephen Clark



**REHEARSAL PIANIST**  
Elen Newcombe



**STAGE/TECHNICAL MANAGER**  
Ioan Wynne



**PROMPT/MAKE-UP**  
Jane Griffiths



**CHORUS/PERFORMING ARTS PROMPT**  
Jaci Brickley-Clark



**PUBLICITY**  
Carolyn Wallace