



## Relaxed Performance

Thursday 26 January 2017, 12pm

Notes for Parents/Carers/Staff

## Staff

There will be an increased number of staff and volunteers working on the performance. Members of staff are clearly identifiable by their sparkly hats and Birmingham Hippodrome uniform. Please ask any of our staff if you need further assistance or information. We will be more than happy to help! If you are in a large group – you will be assigned a dedicated member of staff (or two) to meet you on your arrival and assist your party throughout your visit.



## Foyers, Soft Play, Quiet and Sensory Rooms

On the day of performance, you can arrive at the theatre from **10.30am onwards**. This will allow time to help your party settle in, relax and acclimatise to their surroundings.

Located just outside the auditorium on level 1, is our **chill-out sensory room** and located on level 3 a **soft play area**. This year, we have also set aside an extra **quiet room** - with no stimulation or sensory toys, in case any of the audience just simply need time out for a few minutes. This room can be located on level 2. These rooms will be open before and during the show and will be available for anyone

who may need some time away from the main theatre foyers and auditorium.

There will also be numerous activity and colouring sheets, as well as colouring crayons, available on the tables in the foyer. We want to create a fun and friendly atmosphere and for everybody to enjoy their experience as much as possible.

## The Performance

- Customers are free to walk around the auditorium if needed.
- The auditorium doors will remain open throughout the show allowing access to the toilets, chill-out sensory room or soft play area.
- There will be an **audio description** of the performance. You can collect these headsets from the cloak room or by asking a member of staff. *If you do require headsets and an audio description – please can you phone Liz Leck in advance on 0121 689 3064, to ensure that we save you a set of headsets and are able to meet your party to explain about the description.*
- There will be **captioned boards** on either side of the stage to help carers and teachers prepare the children, in advance, for any unexpected noises. The caption boards will also prompt the audience on how to participate in the action!
- There will be a **BSL signer**. *If you do require any headsets – please do call Liz Leck in advance on 0121 689 3064, to reserve your headsets. These can be collected from the cloakroom.*
- Even though we are reducing the sound and increasing the lighting, we would suggest, should you wish, that you bring any **ear defenders** and/or **special protective glasses**. We want to ensure that all your party are as comfortable as possible. (We do have a small number of ear defenders at the theatre if you need them on the day and do not have them with you, please ask a member of staff in a sparkly hat.)

- We will be offering a selection of **fidget toys and flashing lights** for audience members to use during the performance. These items will need to be returned at the end of the performance. (Sorry!)
- We want our audience to feel as comfortable as possible. We encourage you to bring fidget toys, or anything else that may help your party feel at ease.
- **Booster seats** are available from the cloak room. If you have any problems just ask a member of staff and they will be happy to arrange this for you.
- We will be giving out relaxed performance stickers before and after the show and during the interval. Look out for these or ask a member of staff if you cannot see these stickers being handed out.

## 3D sequence

**During this performance there is a 3D sequence that takes place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the pantomime.**

- Staff will give the 3D glasses out at the interval to the teachers, carers or parents.
- Please note: by removing the 3D glasses, the 3D sequence is immediately diminished. This could be an option if members of the audience experience any discomfort during the sequence. You may choose not to wear these glasses at all.
- The 3D section will last approximately **3-4 minutes**.

The 3D glasses will need to be returned at the end of the performance.

## Actors

- The cast will have received Autism/ Access training. They have been asked to continue with the show regardless of audience responses.

- The show has been adapted for the relaxed performance.
- Some audience members will be asked on stage during the performance, for the song book section with Matt Slack/Idle Jack. They will be carefully selected and their responsible people will be consulted in advance by staff before the show begins or during the interval. Teachers, parents and carers are more than welcome to assist them.
- No cast members will be in the aisle of the auditorium during the performance.

**Please note! The following notes contains information about the show. Some people may find these notes useful, in order to prepare themselves for the show. Only read these notes, if you want, or need, to know the story of our pantomime.**

**Before the show starts – Andrew Ryan/ Sarah the Cook, will come on to the stage and explain about all the special effects and even demonstrate the pyros) that the audience will experience throughout the performance and explain what to do, where to go and who to ask if any of your party are worried, scared or just need some time out.**

## **ACT ONE**

### **SCENE ONE – INVASION OF THE RATS**

*The show starts in darkness with bright white and green lighting and we meet King Rat who appears from beneath the stage.*

*The green and white lighting will always announce King Rat's entrance.*

*(The sound will be greatly reduced specifically for this performance however some of the effects may still cause some concern for certain members of the audience).*

*There are other actors on stage dressed as small rats who march around. We are then introduced to the Supreme Leader of the Rats (a giant robotic rat and you can see this in our film). The Supreme Leader has a very loud voice. This section can be scary however, it is only a short scene. Throughout this section the lighting is very bright and there are some flashing sequences.*

*Towards the end the lights brighten and the atmosphere changes.*

*There is a flash of white light and a pyro and Fairy Bow Bells enters. Once King Rat leaves the stage Bow Bells will sing a song.*

## **SCENE TWO – LONDON TOWN**

*Bright lights for the song and dance number with the chorus and children. Dick Whittington will fly into the centre of the stage with a jet pack. The jet pack will have sparks coming out of it.*

*We are then introduced to Dick Whittington.*

*The stage goes dark for a minute and the sound of a motor bike is played. There is a single light that shines out into the audience until the lights snap up again and we are introduced to Idle Jack.*

*We are then introduced to Sarah the Cook. We also meet Councillor Krankie and Jimmy – his assistant in the shop.*

*London is over-run with rats and Dick Whittington volunteers to help cure the rat problem and the Councillor and Jimmy offer him a place to sleep.*

*We also meet Alice and Babby the Tabby.*

*Dick Whittington sings **Wrapped Up**.*

## **SCENE THREE – A LONDON BACKSTREET**

*Green and white lighting, sparks and smoke, as King Rat enters.*

*Another puff of smoke and sparks as Fairy Bow Bells appears. They speak briefly before Fairy Bow Bell leaves and Idle Jack comes on stage.*

*Dialogue between Idle Jack and King Rat.*

## **SCENE FOUR – THE HAUNTED BEDROOM**

*Sarah the Cook appears centre stage. There is a sequence of her taking off clothes getting ready for bed. She exits.*

*Jimmy, Councillor Krankie and Dick come on stage to get ready for bed.*

*A comedy scene takes place in between two bedrooms with Dick, Jimmy and Councillor Krankie. We realise that the bedrooms are haunted and the scene develops into a slap stick comedy routine with the characters running between the two rooms.*

*At the end of the scene there is loud music, smoke and bright green lighting and several ghosts come out to dance.*

## **SCENE FIVE - A LONDON BACKSTREET**

*Bright white light.*

*Sarah the Cook and Alice come onstage and sing **I'm Ready For You***

*Half way through the set lifts to reveal a shop and there is a large dance chorus number. There are lots of bright colours.*

## **SCENE SIX – COUNCILLOR KRANKIE'S STORE**

*Inside the shop, Councillor Krankie welcomes the audience to the shop, a customers comes in. When they enter there is loud music but only for a few seconds. The customer and Councillor Krankie leaves.*

*As they exit, Idle Jack and Sarah the Cook enter and there is a tongue-twister comedy sketch between them. They exit after this routine.*

*Councillor Krankie enters with Jimmy. Councillor Krankie leaves as Jimmy sings **He's Always Picking On Me**.*

*As this finishes Dick Whittington, Alice, Councillor Krankie, Sarah the Cook enter with a cake for Alice's birthday.*

*Councillor Krankie gives Alice's birthday present to Dick Whittington to guard before everyone goes to bed. Everyone exits apart from Babby the Tabby and Dick Whittington. As soon as they fall asleep, the lighting suddenly changes to bright green and white, there is a sound of thunder and King Rat appears quickly from the cake. He steals Alice's present and hides it in Dick's knapsack. There is more loud thunder as King Rat exits and the stage turns to blue very quickly.*

*Morning arrives and Alice, Councillor Krankie, Jimmy, Idle Jack and Sarah the Cook enter. They realise that Alice's birthday present has been stolen and it looks like Dick has stolen it. The stage turns red and there is loud music. This happens twice.*

*Dick is made to leave with Babby the Tabby.*

*Everyone gradually exits the stage.*

*Idle Jack sings a short song before leaving too.*

## **SCENE SEVEN – HIGHGATE HILL**

*Babby the Tabby and Dick Whittington are on stage. It is a cold snowy scene.*

*Fairy Bow Bells appears with a flash of smoke and sparks and persuades Dick to return to London Town.*

## **SCENE EIGHT – A SNOWY NIGHT**

*Dick Whittington and Fairy Bow Bells sing **Dare To Dream**. There is a short chorus dance number throughout this.*



*Dick Whittington comes out into the audience in a flying sleigh, with Rudolf the Reindeer. The sleigh then turns 360 degrees in the air. The actors are safe - they will not fall off. This is just an illusion.*

**Interval – approx. 20 mins but this may be longer – there will be free teas and coffees for all helpers/carers etc in the foyers. Please feel free to help yourself throughout the show if you manage to get a quick break.**

## **ACT TWO**

### **SCENE ONE – ON BOARD THE BRUMMIE BALTI (a ship)**

*Councillor Krankie, Sarah and Jimmy are on stage to sing **In the Navy**.*

*Dick enters and joins in the singing and dancing with the sailors*

*At the ends of the song Councillor Krankie dismisses the crew.*

*Jimmy arrives – dressed as a school boy.*

*This next section is Jimmy pretending to be a ventriloquist's dummy on Councillor Krankie's knee.*

*They leave the stage and the atmosphere changes to announce the arrival of King Rat with evil music, looking for Dick.*

*Dick jumps out and surprises King Rat but it is a trap and more rats appear and overcome Dick.*

*Throughout this scene the lights are bright blue, green and there's flashes of white lighting for thunder.*

*The music sounds scary but finishes as soon as King Rat leaves.*

*The scene ends with Dick tied to the mast of the sinking Brummie Balti as the rats jump overboard.*

## **SCENE TWO – UNDER THE SEA**

*Fairy Bow Bells casts a spell so that all who have been shipwrecked can walk and breathe under water.*

*Dick, Councillor Krankie, Jimmy and Idle Jack sing **The First Day We Were Shipwrecked**. There is lots of slapstick comedy here and sometimes the characters will bump into each other but they won't really hurt each other. There is also a super soaker that sprays water into the audience. If you're in the front row prepare to get wet!*

## **SCENE THREE – SUBMARINE JOURNEY**

***Please prepare your party in advance...In this scene you will need your 3D glasses!***

*Sarah and Alice appear on stage and talk us through the underwater submarine journey that is played on the screen. The first time the audience sees the 3D creatures it can be very scary. If you think that any of your party need to – please just ask them to remove their glasses. The accompanying music is designed to be quite frightening too!*

*The 3D film will only last around 3- 4 minutes. Whilst the film is playing the stage goes dark.*

## **SCENE FOUR - UNDER THE SEA**

*Fairy Bow Bells and Dick enter and sing **Dreamers**.*

*There is bright blue, purple and white lighting during the song.*

*At the very end of the song the stage goes dark with bright red lighting. The music changes to threatening music, as a big shark appears and comes towards the audience. The Shark makes loud growling noises but does not come into the audience. Jimmy is caught in the Shark's mouth, but Jimmy is smiling!*

## SCENE FIVE - THE MOROCCAN SHORE

*(Eventually everyone reaches dry land!)*

*The lights turn bright green and blue as King Rat appears. King Rat captures Alice, intending to set a trap for Dick Whittington.*

*As they exit Sarah and Jack enter the stage, the lights turn bright white again and the atmosphere changes. There is another comedy sketch between them and lots of snippets of songs. Babby the Tabby joins them at the end.*

## SCENE SIX - SULTAN VINEGAR'S PALACE

*The stage is dark with blue lighting. The chorus are spinning glowing balls (poy) in the darkness. The lights suddenly snap up and we see the Sultan and his servants.*

*Dick, Councillor Krankie, Sarah, and Babby the Tabby are all brought before the Sultan to plead for their lives. To try and help, Jimmy – dressed as a mini Madonna – sings the song **Miniature Girl** to the Sultan. There is dancing and bright costumes.*

*King Rat suddenly appears with Alice as his hostage. The lights suddenly change to bright green, red and white.*

*He challenges Dick to fight with him and lots of the chorus dressed as rats run on stage. There is loud music during the fight.*

*Dick defeats King Rat and banishes King Rat to the sewers.*

*Sultan grants Dick's reward which is to marry Alice.*

*This scene ends with Alice and Dick singing Dreamers. The stage goes dark and there is a bright flashing Catherine Wheel at the back of the stage.*

## SCENE SEVEN - IDLE JACK'S SONG

*A song sheet is lowered in, on the stage for all the audience to join in. The song is **Flash Bang Whallop**. See Visual Story and film for words.*

*Specific members of the audience are invited on stage to help sing the song. If any of your party are interested in coming on stage – please approach one of our members of staff either before or during the interval. We only have 4 places available... and we may ask the carer/ teacher/ parent to accompany the audience member!*

## **SCENE EIGHT - THE FINALE**

*All the cast come on stage for the Walk Down scene for the Wedding Party.*

*All cast sing together - **Wrapped Up**.*

## **END OF SHOW**

### **Feedback**

We aim to make our relaxed performances as successful, and enjoyable, as possible for all of our audience members.

Any feedback is greatly appreciated and if you have any suggestions of how we can improve our relaxed performances, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**If you have any further question please contact Liz Leck, Creative Learning Manager**

**[lizleck@birminghamhippodrome.com](mailto:lizleck@birminghamhippodrome.com) 0121 689 3064**