



# SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



presents the family pantomime

# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

*Directed By Les Gomersall  
Choreographed by Mandy Evans  
Musical Direction by Dave Thomson*

Sponsored by  
 NatWest

20th December 2002 -  
5th January 2003  
2.30pm - 7.30pm

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NatWest Southport Business Team are delighted to be supporting this year's pantomime "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood" ... (oh no we aren't - oh yes we are!!)

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**Denise Aitchison** (*Snow White, naturally*) **01704 541729**

**Charles Graves** (*Little John, you'll understand why*) **01704 541237**

**Chris Parkinson** (*Prince Charming, not*) **01704 541474**

**Nick Harris** (*Buttons, looks good in tights*) **01704 524369**

A large, faint, stylized Christmas tree graphic in the background, composed of overlapping geometric shapes.

**Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**

# Director's Notes



Welcome to this year's SDC pantomime "Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood". I was delighted to be asked to direct panto this year, even though this means I cannot be in the show. Christmas wouldn't be the same without my involvement in the panto one way or another and this year I am particularly thrilled as my two daughters, Heather and Hannah, are on stage.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the cast and crew for all their hard work, in particular Mandy and Dave for their support.

My thanks also go to you, our audience - without you pantomime means nothing. Enjoy yourselves, relax and join in the fun it is pantomime

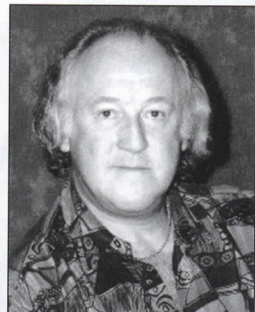
Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

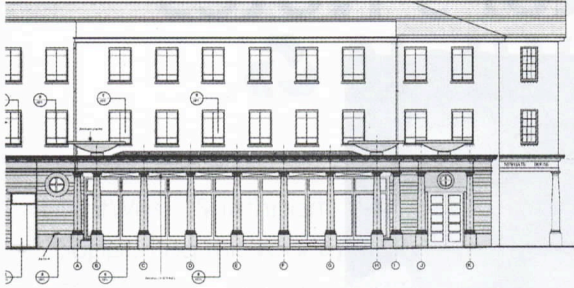
**Les Gomersall**  
**Director**



on the left  
Mandy Evans  
Choreography

on the right  
Dave Thomson  
Musical Direction





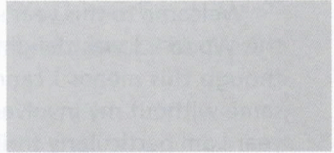
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# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD



# PANTOMIME

Pantomime, traditionally, is a Christmas entertainment intended particularly for children. It is an art form that the rest of the world thinks is peculiarly British, claiming, in a puzzled fashion, not to understand it at all.

In fact, it is derived in part from the Italian *commedia dell'arte*, from which several of the stock characters of pantomime have evolved. Harlequinades, as these performances were known in England, were played as after-pieces to a long evening's entertainment of farces and tragedies.

The first recognisable pantomime was probably "Robinson Crusoe" at Drury Lane, which contained a transformation scene and introduced the infant Joseph Grimaldi. "Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp" followed at Covent Garden, with "Babes in the Wood" performed as an opera at the Haymarket.

By 1800, pantomime was emerging as a distinct form in its own right, with the harlequinade now forming the greater part of the evening's entertainment, the Dame performed by a man and the whole presented most frequently at Christmas and Easter.

In 1804, "Cinderella" was performed at Drury Lane and in 1806 "Mother Goose" at Covent Garden and "Sleeping Beauty" at Drury Lane. During the next twenty years, "Puss in Boots", "Dick Whittington and his Cat" and "Sinbad the Sailor" all made their appearance, as did the first female principal boy at Covent Garden in 1815. In 1861, H.J. Byron's "Aladdin" introduced for the first time the famous Widow Twankey at the Strand Theatre. This production confirmed the casting of the male pantomime dame and the female principal boy which remains in common usage today.

Pantomime continues to prosper throughout the country in many amateur and professional productions, but we do like to think that ours is the best! It is frequently the first live theatre seen by small children, who retain a nostalgic affection for it and, in their turn, bring their own offspring many years later, but enough of the history just sit back and enjoy the show.

# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD



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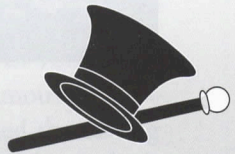
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# ROBIN HOOD

## AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD





The action takes place in Nottingham

## ACT 1

### *Prologue*

- Scene 1*            *Nottingham Town.*  
*Scene 2*            *Outside the Town.*  
*Scene 3*            *Nottingham Town.*  
*Scene 4*            *A Village Lane.*  
*Scene 5*            *The School Room.*  
*Scene 6*            *On the way to the Forest.*  
*Scene 7*            *Robin's Hideaway deep in Sherwood Forest.*  
*Scene 8*            *Deep in Sherwood Forest.*  
*Scene 9*            *The Magic Woodland Glade.*

There will be an interval of 20 minutes.

## ACT 2

- Scene 1*            *Nottingham Goose Fayre.*  
*Scene 2*            *A Forest Path.*  
*Scene 3*            *A Bedroom in Nottingham Castle.*  
*Scene 4*            *Inside Nottingham Castle.*  
*Scene 5*            *Songsheet.*  
*Scene 6*            *The Wedding.*  
*Finale*

Pyrotechnics, smoke, ultraviolet light and strobe lighting may be used in this production. The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the auditorium after curtain up, until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

**Patrons are welcome in our licensed bar downstairs before and after tonight's performance.  
Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?**

An induction loop is installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons.  
Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

***Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off***

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open.  
In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

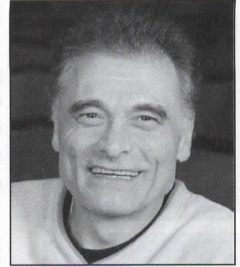
THEATRE LICENSEE, BRIAN FORSHAW.



# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD CAST

## **Les Gomersall** (*Director*)

2002 has been a busy year for Les after playing Widow Twankey in the SDC production of "Aladdin" he went straight into "Oliver" playing Fagin and then immediately into directing "Copacabana". Involved in pantomime at the SDC for the past 15 years this is his first time as director. Favourite roles include the King in "The King and I" and Bill Snibson in "Me and My Girl", and Captain Von Trappe in "The Sound of Music".



## **Paul Edge** (*Robin Hood*)

Paul is appearing in his second pantomime at The Little Theatre. He most recently appeared here in last season's SDC production of "Shadowlands". He is also a member of the Birkdale Orpheus Society, playing such roles as Adam in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and Fatty Arbuckle in "Mack & Mabel".

He is looking forward to playing the part of Robin Hood in this production.



## **Melissa Clarke** (*Maid Marion*)

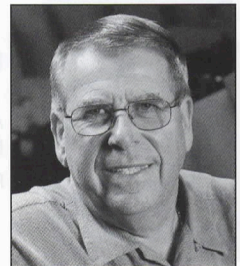
Melissa has appeared professionally as Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz" at the Liverpool Playhouse as well as in an advert for NatWest Bank and more recently as an extra in "Hollyoaks". This is Melissa's sixth panto for the SDC and she is very pleased to have been promoted from Lady in Waiting in last year's "Aladdin", to leading lady as Maid Marion in this production.



## **Arnold Gorse** (*Tilly Tucker*)

Arnold returns to the Little stage after a lengthy tour around the country in panto last Christmas (again playing Nurse in "Babes in the Wood").

Besides many other parts in plays and musicals with the SDC, Arnold still finds time to be the club's treasurer and was one of the founders of the panto tradition here at the Little Theatre. Co-writing the first three pantomimes - "Aladdin", "Dick Whittington", "Prince Charming", etc., etc., over the years. (Then, thankfully they filled his tights with concrete!) (Ed). After staging the panto for many years it was into frocks to play dame on many occasions.



# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD

## CAST



**David Thomas** (*Tommy Tucker*)

David is pleased to be playing the role of Tommy Tucker in this his third pantomime with the SDC. He does feel especially privileged to be spending Christmas in bed with Arnold. David will also be spending the festive season in a concussed state after being repeatedly bashed around the head by his caring mother! David is also a regular with SONG and he will be appearing in their performance of "The Wiz" next Easter.



**Simon Armstrong** (*Sheriff*)

Although no stranger to Southport Theatre, this is Simon's first experience of pantomime and he is looking forward to the challenge of playing this year's "Baddie". He was most recently seen by audiences in the last SDC production "Business Affairs", playing a Swedish businessman. The Swedish theme is resurrected in his panto role - spot the well-known ABBA track! Simon says: "it will be strange, to go on stage hoping to be jeered, booed and hissed".



**Matthew Woodhams** (*Robber / Posh*)

Matthew is pleased to be taking to the stage for panto again, after a break last year. Matthew was most recently seen in this season's opener, "Bedroom Farce" sporting silly costumes and spouting foolish lines - How different panto is! He is especially pleased to be plotting with the Sheriff (played by his best friend and future brother-in-law) to kidnap the babes, because one of them, Ethan, is his nephew in real life.



**Alex Howarth** (*Robber / Becks*)

Alex has appeared as an extra in a film with Robert Carlyle and in a teacher training video with Kay Purcil (Emmerdale & Celebrity Fit Club). He has also appeared in "The Witches" and "Calamity Jane". This is Alex's first production with the SDC and he would like to thank the production team for all their help especially to Mandy for keeping him and his two left feet out of so many dances!

Welcome to the SDC Alex.



**Norman Hope** (*Friar Tuck*)

Since appearing in last year's panto, "Aladdin" Norman has appeared in "An Absolute Turkey" for SDC and in "Henry IV part 1" for the Formby Arts Festival. He is once again enjoying appearing in panto, along with these talented young performers in the chorus thanks to Mandy (Not bad for a senior citizen) (Ed).

# ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD CAST

## **Guy Unsworth** (*Little John*)

This is Guy's tenth panto for the SDC, this part of Little John being a contrast to last year's Noodles The Dragon. This year Guy played Perks in "The Railway Children" (March) and Baloo in "The Jungle Book" (September) for the Youth Theatre and looks forward to playing Mr Biggs in "Our Day Out", this coming March. Guy has enjoyed multi-role playing during rehearsals - unfortunately he is saving the part of a ballerina for better occasions. He would like to thank Mandy for putting her job on the line as Guy "attempts" to dance!



## **Nick Breen** (*Alan-A-Dale*)

Nick has been taking drama lessons for twelve years and recently joined the SDC Youth Theatre, he appeared as Older Mowgli in "The Jungle Book". Nick has been cast as Digga in the Youth Theatre's next show in March "Our Day Out".

He has loved working in the pantomime and is eager to continue taking part in it next year.



## **Laura Gorse** (*Lady in waiting*)

Laura is looking forward to her 11th panto with the SDC. She is a member of the SDC Youth Theatre and has taken part in "The Railway Children", as Phyllis; "The Jungle Book", as Kaa and Amira, and is looking forward to playing Carol in "Our Day Out" in March, 2003.



## **Rikki Spofforth** (*Donkey*)

This is Rikki's eighth pantomime with the SDC and he is pleased to be playing a principal role this year. He is also pleased to be working with Les again after "Gym and Tonic". However his accent got him into trouble at a football match against Birmingham, bearing in mind he supports Everton!



## **Edward Beardsell** (*Donkey*)

Edward has been doing theatre for five years and greatly enjoys it, especially the pantomimes as he has done many of them and thinks they are great fun. Edward is also a keen member of the SDC Youth Theatre and played Bert in "The Railway Children". He is also taking part in next year's Youth Theatre play, "Our Day Out".





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# Top Ten

## most landed on squares in Monopoly®

As we are all likely to play at least one game of Monopoly this holiday.

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1, Trafalgar Square   | 6. Vine Street          |
| 2, Go                 | 7, King's Cross Station |
| 3, Fenchurch Street   | 8, Bow Street           |
| 4, Free Parking       | 9, Water Works          |
| 5, Marlborough Street | 10, Marylebone Station  |

## QUIZ

A bit of a pot luck quiz for you, to test your general knowledge

- 1 How much of the earth's ice is found in Antarctica?
- 2 There is a fungus that can use jet fuel as a source of food. True or False?
- 3 What percentage of the body's energy is consumed by the brain?
- 4 A British scientist once successfully used Coca Cola as a replacement for oil in a car. True or False?
- 5 Which Irish juggler tried to steal the British Crown Jewels?

For answers see bottom of page 18  
for the link see the next programme



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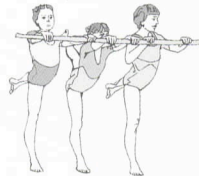
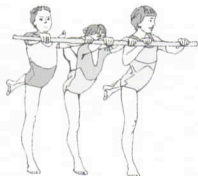
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