



LITTLE THEATRE

AN SDC
PRESENTATION

Southport's Most Spectacular Pantomime



Mother Goose

Written and Directed by Stephen and James Hughes-Alty; Choreography by Mandy Evans; Staged by Arnold Gorse; Musical Director, Paul Williams.

**22nd Dec 2004-
9th Jan 2005**


LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT
HOME OF
THE SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

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www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk

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and a Happy New Year**



Directors' Notes



Welcome to the Little Theatre and to our latest family pantomime *Mother Goose*. As we were writing this year's show we realised what an important task we had in front of us. A visit to a pantomime may be a child's first experience of live theatre. If that experience is magical enough it can leave a lasting impression. In a world where children are surrounded by computer games and videos, DVD's and the all pervasive influences of television, it is important that traditions such as pantomimes are upheld. So fiercely do we believe this that you will find this viewpoint reflected in the story you are about to see. To make sure this experience is the best it can be is no small responsibility.

There is a special kind of magic that occurs whilst sitting in a darkened auditorium, not on a couch in front of a flickering screen, watching the spectacle that is pantomime. This year, we are indebted to a number of people who have helped us to lift ours from page to stage. Firstly we must thank Mandy Evans and Paul Williams for their talent and enthusiasm. The creative choreography and magnificent music breathe life into the text and add sparkle to the story. Arnold Gorse has once again built a wonderful world for our characters to inhabit whilst his wife, Judith, has made sure that our journey was a smooth one. There are so many people who work tirelessly behind the scenes and front of house to make sure the show is a success that to thank them all by name would take an age and result in a set of director's notes longer than the actual script so THANK YOU to you all, you know who you are. Thank you also to a committed and hard working cast who miraculously manage to make our jokes sound funny.

Finally, thank you to you, our audience for choosing our pantomime and for ensuring the tradition continues. As long as pantomime lasts, children will shout "Oh yes it is!" as loudly as ever, and, when the actor in the white sheet waves his arms behind our hero and goes "Whooo!", children of all ages will still cry out "Its-behind-you!"

Stephen and James Hughes-Alty
Directors



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Pantomime

A Brief History by the Authors

The origins of Pantomime date back to the middle ages. Our modern versions combine the traditions of the Italian Commedia dell' Arte and the British Music Hall to produce an intrinsic art form that constantly adapts to survive. Pantomime has been attempted abroad, usually with a small amount of success. Not surprisingly it has proved popular in countries such as Canada, Australia and South Africa. In America, this very British art form has fared less favourably, although in 1868 a production of *Humpty Dumpty* ran for over 1,200 performances in New York, making it the most successful Pantomime in American history.

Pantomime, as we know it today is a show predominantly aimed at children, based on a fairy tale or folk legend. The most popular subject is *Cinderella*, followed closely by *Aladdin* and *Dick Whittington*. The fable or fairy tale has to be well told, incorporating the all important elements of good battling against evil, and emerging triumphant. In this respect, the concept varies little from the medieval morality plays, performed on village greens. To this day, tradition demands that the Pantomime villain should enter, from the 'dark side', stage left, whilst his adversary, the good fairy, enters from stage right. This echoes the tradition in medieval times when the entrances to heaven and hell were placed on these sides of the acting space.

Pantomime has combined many elements of theatre throughout its existence, and by adapting it has survived. The novelty element has always been to the forefront, as has its ability to encompass modern trends and topicality, within its structured framework. People talk about traditional pantomime, but to remain popular this form of theatre has had to keep its eye firmly on modern trends, and by weaving these into its format, has remained one of the most popular forms of entertainment in this country.

Traditional pantomime does exist. It still breaks box office records all over the country. If it remained 'traditional' in the sense that it never changed, it would long have passed into theatrical lore but we are happy to say that it remains an intrinsic Jewel in our theatrical crown.

Mother Goose, itself was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1902. The role was created for Dan Leno, one of the most popular comedians of the day. He had already achieved fame through playing Dame roles in Pantomime, into which he injected the stage business and comic songs that had made him the idol of the Music Halls. We hope you enjoy our traditional version with its contemporary twists!





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Mother Goose



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WORSE THAN BEING TALKED ABOUT AND THAT
IS NOT BEING TALKED ABOUT"** Oscar Wilde

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Mother Goose



Mother Goose

Written and Directed by Stephen and James Hughes-Alty; Choreography by Mandy Evans; Staged by Arnold Gorse; Musical Director, Paul Williams.

Cast

THE IMMORTALS

Fairy Fuddles (*a newly trained fairy*)..... MANDY EVANS
Priscilla (*a magic goose*)..... RIKKI SPOFFORTH

THE VILLAGERS

Mother Goose (*a kindly old soul*) ARNOLD GORSE
Simple Simon Goose (*her forgetful son*) GUY UNSWORTH
Jack Goose (*her other, more heroic son*) JO HOWARTH
Jill Muffet (*beloved of Jack*) WENDY CHALKE
Cordelia Coldheart (*her evil aunt*) FRIEDA KELLY
Wee Willy (*a batty bailiff*) MATTHEW WOODHAMS
Winky (*another batty bailiff*) ALEX HOWARTH

Lucy Lockett (*she's lost her pocket*) REBBECA SIMISTER
Little Boy Blue (*a boy in...erm...blue*) MIKE BREEN
Little Bo Peep (*she's lost her sheep*) ROSEANNE HASSALL
Polly Kettle (*loves tea*) SABRINA REGAZZONI
Sukey Kettle (*hates tea*) LIANA REGAZZONI
Georgie Porgie (*girl kisser*) JONATHAN COOTE
Little Jack Horner (*pudding eater*) THOMAS SHALLCROFT

Mary Mary (*quite contrary*) HEATHER HOLDEN
Lily (*one of her pretty maids*) CLARE HAWORTH
Iris (*another pretty maid*) JULIET ANDERSON
Rose (*yet another pretty maid*) NATALIE FLETCHER

The Old Woman (*who lives in a shoe*) MYRA WILLIAMS

Her Children

Rikki Spofforth, Ethan Armstrong, Jennifer Holden, Zoe Findlay, Sarah Alty,
Matthew Green, Katy Alty, Olivia Darkes-Sutcliffe.

Musicians

Keyboards..... PAUL WILLIAMS
Percussion TONY HARRISON
Bass Guitar JOHN WATKINSON



Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1

Prologue:	Somewhere over the rainbow
Scene 1:	The village of Rhymington
Scene 2:	On the outskirts of the village
Scene 3:	Outside Mother Goose's Goose Farm
Scene 4:	A village street
Scene 5:	Mother Goose's Goose Farm
Scene 6:	Deep in the woods
Scene 7:	Outside the cottage and the Fairy Grotto

Act 2

Scene 1:	The Village Square
Scene 2:	The dungeons in Coldheart Manor
Scene 3:	The Haunted Forest
Scene 4:	Coldheart Manor
Scene 5:	The Songsheet
Scene 6:	The Wedding

There will be a 20 minute interval between the two acts

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.

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



Mother Goose

Staging by Arnold Gorse

Stage Manager Judith Gorse
Assistant Stage Manager (Book) Laura Gorse,
Ashley Turner
Wardrobe James Hughes-Alty, Dorothy Alty,
Colin Alty, Margaret Horne,
Irene Trim, Sherel Coley,
Pauline Edmundson, Anne Hughes
Dressers Pam Bamber, Trudi Hirsch
Props Barbara Beardsell, Sue McCormick,
Maria Melchor, David Beyer-Kay
Lighting Tony Berry,
Syd Coley, Matthew Abram
Special Effects / Pyrotechnics Andrew Connard
Sound Jonathan Gosling,
Brian Hodge
Set Constructed by SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist Bob Jessamine
Photography by Neil Hickson
Illustrations David Charters
Choreographer Mandy Evans
Musical Director Paul Williams

Stage Crew

Chris Appleton	Chris Appleton Snr.	Roderick Beardsell
Peter Beswick	Roy Carr	Bill Davies
Peter Davies	Mark Haworth	Colin Haynes
Lindsay Haywood	Phil Hutchinson	Jim Longworth
Alan Newport	Michele Yates	Mike Yates

And many SDC members

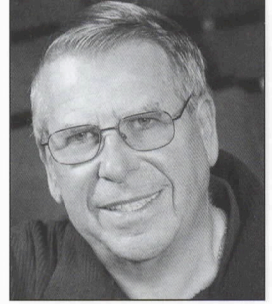


Mother Goose

Cast

Arnold Gorse *Mother Goose*

Arnold has been playing dame for several years and is the only man in Southport to have more dresses than his wife. He also designed the set and created a water feature to rival Niagara Falls. Charlie Dimmock, eat your heart out!



Frieda Kelly *Cordelia Coldheart*

Frieda started her career on Opportunity Knocks as a trombone-playing diva. She no longer plays the trombone but she's still a diva. She first appeared in panto when she was 12 – Mother Goose, at the Garrick! – Spooky.



Mandy Evans *Fairy Fuddles*

Mandy is re-creating the role of Fuddles after stealing the show last Christmas. She has since returned it, so all charges have been dropped. She has also choreographed the show and dedicates her performance to Jimmy Cranky.



Mother Goose

Cast



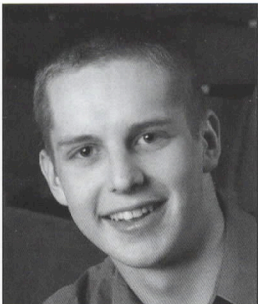
Wendy Chalke *Jill Muffet*

Wendy is actually 6' 2" tall and blonde so she is finding the short, dark-haired character of Jill a particular challenge. She appeared in the SDC's last pantomime of Cinderella but never got to wear the glass slipper. This year things are going to be different...



Jo Howarth *Jack Goose*

Jo has never played a boy before. She decided to walk funny, drink lots of beer, tell unfunny jokes and wolf-whistle at pretty ladies. The result is very convincing.



Guy Unsworth *Simple Simon*

After playing such challenging and diverse roles as Dandini, Captain Tempest and Judas, Guy is looking forward to playing the bumbling and forgetful Simon, which he does far too easily. His favourite colour is purple and he's allergic to horseradish.



Mother Goose

Cast

Matthew Woodhams *Wee Willy*

Matthew has played one half of a comedy duo on quite a few occasions and sometimes he's even been funny. His favourite colour is horseradish and he's allergic to purple.



Alex Howarth *Winky*

Alex has been in a number of SDC productions where he has portrayed mad scientists, mad disciples and mad mayors. In this production he plays a batty bailiff from Banks. His psychiatrist informs us he is not mad at all.



Rikki Spofforth *Priscilla*

Rikki was really excited when he found out he was to play Priscilla the magic goose in this year's show. However, it brought tears to his eyes when he found out he was expected to lay golden eggs.



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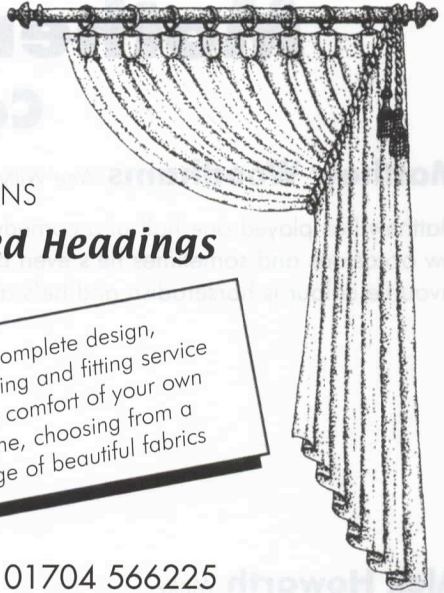
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Mother Goose





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Mother Goose





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A fabulously funny, powerful comedy



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7.45pm

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