

DRAMARAMA

PROUDLY PRESENTS

50p

Dick Whittington and his Cat



FEBRUARY 18TH, 19TH AND 20TH @ 7:30PM

MATINEE PERFORMANCE SATURDAY 20TH @ 2:00PM

RECREATION HALL HIGH HALSTOW

Dick Whittington and his Cat 2010

Welcome,

Another year, another panto! We invite you to marvel at the antics of Dick Whittington and his cat. Everyone has worked hard to get the whole production up and running. We welcome two new members to the group. Rosie Budge on stage and Robbie Pike back stage. Thank you to Noleen for her brilliant choreography, George and Jane Crozer for the wonderful scenery and as ever to Ian for his musical input. Sit back and enjoy!

Pauline Martin (Producer/Director)

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DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 Dick and Darcy arrive in Town, and their world is turned upside down.
- Scene 2 King Arfur and Tail are nasty rats who dream of becoming aristocrats.
- Scene 3 In Alderman's shop we meet Sarah Sprout who longs to hear the audience shout!
- Scene 4 Sarah Sprout has cooked the dinner - she thinks her food will be a winner.
- Scene 5 The cat has been sent to the local school. He'll make that teacher look a fool.
- Scene 6 Captain makes ready for Alderman's ship, to carry the crew on a Moroccan trip.
- Scene 7 Dick and Darcy are accused of stealing. It is said a candlestick is what they are concealing.

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

- Scene 1 Turn again Whittington to old London Town where you will wear red Mayoral gown.
- Scene 2 All of the cast finally set sail - lets hope that fairness and justice prevail.
- Scene 3 Oh dear, Sarah Sprout is on stand by with dough, some flour and a custard pie!
- Scene 4 In a Moroccan forest some firends they find, and can you see a wild animal behind?
- Scene 5 The Sultan's Palace is the place to eat, at a banquet table some friends meet.
- Scene 6 Dick and Darcy are cleared of the deed, and Arfur and Tail are caught for their greed. Dramarama's panto character cast are all safely home at last!





Pictures by Phil McBride

Who was the Man behind the Myth?

Richard Whittington lived from about 1350-1423. He achieved many things in his life. Now he is known for having a pet cat and 'turning again'. How did Whittington become so famous?

Life history

Richard or 'Dick' Whittington was born during the 1350s. He was the younger son of Sir William Whittington, Lord of the Manor of Pauntley in Gloucestershire. Sir William died in 1358. The oldest son inherited the estate, so Richard travelled to London to find work.

Whittington served an apprenticeship, and eventually became a 'mercier', dealing in valuable cloth from abroad, such as silks, velvets and cloth of gold. The main market for selling these cloths was the Royal Court. Whittington supplied large quantities to King Richard II (who owed Whittington £1000 when he was deposed in 1399) and to King Henry IV. Whittington became rich. After 1397 he often lent large sums of money to the Crown. In return he was allowed to export wool without paying customs duty on it.

He became a City alderman, or magistrate, in 1393. In 1397 the Mayor, Adam Bammie, died in office and the King chose Whittington to become the new mayor. He was re-elected the following year, and again for 1406-7 and 1419-20. This made him Mayor of London four times. Whittington died in March 1423. His wife Alice, daughter of Sir Ivo Fitzwaryn (or Fitzwarren) of Dorset, had died before him. They had no children.

The Dick Whittington myth

The gifts left in Whittington's will originally made him famous. However, Londoners did not know how he first made his money. Stories began about how a poor boy became rich with the help of his cat. There is no evidence that Whittington kept a cat, and as the son of a Lord he was never very poor. Despite being untrue the stories flourished. A play produced in 1606 tells most of the story. There are many different versions, but essentially the tale was:

Dick Whittington was a poor boy from Gloucestershire who walked to London to seek his fortune. He found work in the house of a rich merchant Fitzwarren, and fell in love with Fitzwarren's daughter, Alice. Dick had a cat to keep down the mice in the attic where he slept. Fitzwarren invited his servants to put money into a sailing voyage. Dick had no money, but gave his cat to the captain to sell.

Dick decided there was no future for him in London, and left to go home to Gloucestershire. He stopped on top of Highgate Hill on the way out of London. There he heard the bells of London ringing - they seemed to say: 'Turn again, Whittington, three times Lord Mayor of London'.

Dick thought this was a good omen and returned to Fitzwarren's house. He learnt that the ship had returned with great news. The sailing party arrived in a foreign land where the king's court was overrun by rats. Dick's cat killed or drove out all the rats. In thanks the king paid a huge sum of gold to buy the cat. Dick was now a very wealthy man. He married Alice Fitzwarren, and eventually became Lord Mayor of London.

THE CAST

Dick Whittington	Noleen Skudder
Alistair the Cat.	Jamie Lawson
Darcy	Richard McBride
Alderman Fitzwarren.	Carl Mitchell
Alice Fitzwarren	Sinead Lawson
Polly Perkins	Amelia Skudder
Sarah Sprout	George Crozer
Stewie Sprout.	Mark Skudder
Sally Sprout	Pauline Martin
Fairy Bowbells.	Angela Bostock
Arfur, King of the Rats	Mike Bostock
Tail	Dave Harris
Manky	Nathan Hall
Skanky	Jamie Taylor
PC Dixon of Dock Green.	Anita Russell
.	Rosie Budge
Gendarme.	Karen Redmond-Smith
Captain Birdseye	Mick Woolmington
King of Morocco	Glen Lawson
Queen of Morocco	Joanne Mitchell
Wazir	June Collins
Shakira the Cat.	Jessica Yelton
Tom the Sailor	Wenda Taylor

Moroccan Rats:

Jessica Yelton, Emily White, Ellie Quigley,
Liberty Mitchell, Hannah Taylor, Aimee Bostock

Moroccan Waitresses:

Lin Lambourne, Lynn Yelton, Di Welch

Villagers & Sailors:

Lin Lambourne, Lynn Yelton, Di Welch, Wenda Taylor, Emily White,
Jessica Yelton, Ellie Quigley, Hannah Taylor, Liberty Mitchell,
Aimee Bostock, Rosie, Nathan Hall, Jamie Taylor.

Shop Dancers:

Joanne, Wenda, Rosie, Di, Lyn, Lin, June, Jessica, Emily,
Liberty, Hannah, Aimee, Ellie, Amelia, Sinead

Dockside Dancers:

Joanne, Wenda, Rosie, Jessica, Ellie, Emily,
Liberty, Hannah, Aimee, Noleen, Jamie L, Richard,
Jamie T, Nathan, Dave, Mike, Carl

Fairy Dancers:

Angela, Wenda, Rosie, Hannah, Ellie,
Jessica, Emily, Aimee, Liberty

BACKSTAGE

Piano: Ian Stone
Prompt: Lesley Munday
Sound: Jane Crozer,
Lights: Raymond Collins
Backstage Crew: Gary Thomas,
..... Jenny Thomas,
..... Phil McBride
..... Christopher Bostock
..... Robbie Pike
Curtains:..... Debbie Pike.
Costumes: Pauline Martin
Stage / Scenery:
George Crozer, Jane Crozer, Gary Thomas,
Jenny Thomas, Mike Bostock, Raymond Collins
Photography. Phil McBride