



Media release

July 2022

Panto is coming to The Met this Christmas - oh yes it is! 8 – 24 December 2022

This year there will be a local, professional pantomime being performed in the heart of Bury during the Christmas season.

Dick Whittington will be heading to The Met from Thursday 8 to Saturday 24 December 2022, with a mission to entertain all the family with its blend of glitz, glamour, silliness, slapstick and sing-along songs.

The production is being staged by local professional theatre company The Big Tiny, whose founders Will Cousins and Ben Richards have a reputation for creating top class family entertainment. In the 2022 UK Panto Awards they were nominated for Best Panto (under 500 seats), and Ben Richards was nominated in the Best Director and Best Script categories.

Described as: "...a top-class piece of musical theatre peppered with all the elements of a traditional panto", Dick Whittington is the purrrfect pantomime adventure that follows the eponymous hero to London Town where he seeks fame, fortune and happiness with his trusty cat. Alas, Queen Rat is there ready to thwart our happy-go-lucky hero's ambitions. But will she succeed?

Every panto needs a fabulous Dame and Sarah the Cook will be played by Robert Styles has played Dame for Big Tiny twice appearing in Robin Hood and Sleeping Beauty. Robin has numerous theatre, tv, radio and film credits to his name and recently appeared in Priscilla Queen of the Desert in the London's West End.

With spectacular sets, sensational costumes, a gorgeous pantomime dame, hit songs and a side-splitting script. Dick Whittington is a perennial favourite that is sure to be a big hit with The Met audiences.

As well as matinees and evening shows there will be two special performances happening during the pantomime's run.

At 6.30pm on Thursday 15 there will be a pyjama performance giving audiences the chance to kick back and relax in their PJs and onesies and on Monday 19 December at 2:30pm there will be a relaxed performance aimed at pre-school children and anyone who would appreciate a more flexible, relaxed atmosphere in which to enjoy the show.

During the relaxed performance house lights will be turned up and doors left open so unsettled little-ones can be taken in and out freely. Theatre doors will open 30 minutes before the show to allow time to get familiar with the stage and seating, and a touch tour will be available before the show begins.

David Agnew, Artistic Director, The Met: "We are thrilled to be working with Big Tiny on this show which we know will delight audiences this December. Dick Whittington's story of ambition, travel and taking risks is one with relevance for families today - to which Big Tiny will bring brilliant traditional pantomime fun and a local and modern twist. It will be perfect to bring audiences into the Christmas spirit."

Ends

Press information, please contact Shelagh Bourke: she@we-r-lethal.com, 07971 819016

Tickets:

Adults from £16 / children under 16 from £13 (including booking fees).

Schools can book here: <https://themet.org.uk/event/dick-whittington-schools/>

Copy, downloadable images and more info can be found here: <https://themet.org.uk/event/dick-whittington/>