

The Worthy Players



present

The
Princess and the Pea

A pantomime

by Duncan Shepherd



6th, 7th, 13th & 14th December 2024
www.theworthyplayers.co.uk

Message from our Chairperson, Martin Pettigrew



A very festive greeting to our 2024 Pantomime, 'The Princess and The Pea', by Duncan Shepherd, or better known as our very own David Alderson. This happens to be David's first venture into scripting a pantomime and I have had the great privilege of working with him as Assistant Director and Co-producer to bring this cleverly written, much-loved Hans Christian Andersen tale to life, working with all our actors and production team.

Build-up to Pantomime is always an exciting time and starts very early in the year, from choosing a production, designing backdrops and costumes and then it really gets started during auditions and casting in August, followed by three months of rehearsals and teamwork to make it as colourful and lively an experience as possible for you, our audience, to enjoy.

During this Summer, and thanks to your continued generous support, we were able to replace our ageing costume shed and carry out an old costume cull, many of which went for recycling. We were also able to hold an open quiz night which was attended by audience members too and will be repeated in 2025.

The Worthy Players, as a voluntary and inclusive group, continues to welcome new members as witnessed on stage today, so if you feel you can personally make a contribution to all that we do please contact us via our website, www.theworthyplayers.co.uk.

And, finally, thank you for supporting us once again.
Have a very Merry Christmas and see you again in 2025.

Martin E Pettigrew



Scan here for latest news and production information at The Worthy Players website. You can register interest too.

Look out for our next production!
16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th May 2025
Use the website to keep in touch

Director - Dave Alderson



What a privilege it is to be allowed to direct a Worthy Players pantomime, following a long line of club panto productions stretching back over 50 years! I can only offer heartfelt thanks to the Players for allowing me the opportunity.

But it can't be done without the enthusiastic support and hard work of the full cast and production team, with special thanks going to our Assistant Director and Co-Producer, Martin Pettigrew.

Our thanks go out to all the cast, stage crew, set-builders & painters, Front-of-House helpers and particularly to:

- * Richard Aldous - our technical wizard - for setting up and operating the Sound and Lighting experience, as well as maintaining the website and producing our publicity poster.
- * Julie Pettigrew for getting the cast into line for dance moves and Janine Blackmore for her Musical Direction.
- * David Woolford for Set Design and directing the construction.
- * Sheila Alderson and Alison Woolford for their hours of work in producing magnificent costumes.
- * Mary Blaxland for efficiently organising the stage during the performance with trusty helper, Tim Ellwood, and everyone else who hasn't nodded off in the Dressing Room!
- * Sarah Kesterson and Gina Bird, who, as Front-of-House Managers, make sure that you the audience are looked after and kept safe during the evening.
- * Nick Kearns as Bar Manager, making sure we are suitably refreshed.
- * All those kind people who have supported our raffle draw by donating prizes, including chocolate mints and toffees from BENDICKS.
- * And we'll not forget to thank YOU, our audience, for filling those seats and rewarding the team's efforts. Yes, we do it all because it's fun, but it's the audiences who make it all worthwhile. After the last performance, we stop rehearsing, dismantle the set, put the costumes back in the Wardrobe, take a rest and then, after Christmas, start the next one, so watch out for that!

Dave Alderson

The Princess and The Pea

Act 1

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| <i>Prologue</i> | <i>The Storyteller</i> |
| <i>Scene 1</i> | <i>The Throne Room of the Castle</i> |
| <i>Scene 2</i> | <i>Interview Waiting Room</i> |
| <i>Scene 3</i> | <i>The Throne Room of the Castle</i> |
| <i>Scene 4</i> | <i>A Woodland Path Nearby</i> |
| <i>Scene 5</i> | <i>The Throne Room of the Castle (Next Day)</i> |
| <i>Scene 6</i> | <i>The Castle Kitchen</i> |

Interval - 20 minutes
Bar Refreshments & Raffle Draw

Act 2

| | |
|----------------|---|
| <i>Scene 1</i> | <i>Anteroom of the Guest Bedchamber</i> |
| <i>Scene 2</i> | <i>By the Enchanted Oak (Early Next Day)</i> |
| <i>Scene 3</i> | <i>Anteroom of the Guest Bedchamber (Later)</i> |
| <i>Scene 4</i> | <i>Audience Participation (Yes, you!)</i> |
| <i>Scene 5</i> | <i>The Throne Room of the Castle - Finale</i> |



Grow your own Peas for healthy eating!

Peas grow best in well-composted soil in a sunny position. Sow from March to May at about 2" (50mm) depth and at 4" (100mm) apart. Water them well and they should appear 10 - 14 days later. As they grow, support them with twiggy sticks or netting. Depending on time of sowing, enjoy them on your plate between late June and September!

The Princess and The Pea

The Characters

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Storyteller | Clare Nicholas |
| Jerry Jester | David Collis |
| Tommy Trestle | Ali Griffiths |
| King Brightside | Peter Wooldridge |
| Queen Nervosa | Alison Woolford |
| Prince Pamperme | Lydia Stead |
| Nanny Plumptious | Mike Heseldin |
| Jack Lumber | David Woolford |
| Virtue (his daughter) | Olya Chamberlain |
| Nophelia Numbum | Barbara Kearns |
| Biddy (Chorus) | Lynne Grimes |
| Princess Interview Candidates: | |
| Basher (Chorus) | Peter McLoughlin |
| Innocence (Chorus) | Julie Pettigrew |
| Whysteria (Chorus) | Lynne Grimes |
| The Pea Squad: | |
| Mushy (Chorus) | Treive Nicholas |
| Mange-Tout (Chorus) | David Early |
| Policeman (Chorus) | Nick Kearns |
| Chorus Member 1 | Liz Finbow |
| Chorus Member | Mary Blaxland |

Special thanks to members and friends who have made valuable contributions to the show: Sarah Kesterson, Adrienne Ellery and Toby Russell-Wells.

The Worthy Players would like to thank others who helped to bring the show to your attention; for example, **The Hampshire Local Theatre Guide & the Hampshire Chronicle**. Our appreciation, too, goes to our friends in **Winchester Theatre Arts** who adjust their own rehearsal times to suit our performance dates.

Thanks also to **ADH Printing** for continued and ever-responsive support in printing our programmes (sometimes at very short notice!)

The Cast

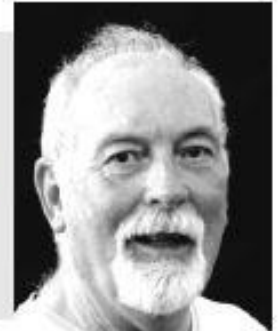


The Storyteller - Clare Nicholas

After directing Neighbourhood Watch in the Spring, Clare is back on stage as the Storyteller, and is looking forward to taking you on a thrilling journey through Panto.

Jerry Jester - David Collis

David's been in theatre for 25 years. This is his first show with the Players, cast as a joker; his reputation precedes him! He loves panto, especially audience banter, so enjoy - he will!



Tommy Trestle - Ali Griffiths

Having thoroughly enjoyed my first Worthy Players panto last year, I am thrilled to be back again. We've had such fun times rehearsing and I hope you enjoy the show

King Brightside -

Peter Wooldridge

When I see how hard chorus are working, it makes me glad to be King. Only a dopey son and nervous wife to deal with!



Queen Nervosa - Alison Woolford

This is my 40th year with the Players and I am enjoying 'Queening it' over the rest of the cast. And I get two lovely costumes!

Prince Pamperme - Lydia Stead

Treading the Worthy Players' boards for the second time. Excited for my first ever Panto... oh yes I am!





Nanny Plumptious - *Mike Heseldin*

We are delighted to report that Mike, who was fatally shot in our last production, has now recovered sufficiently to play one of our love interests here - Pamperme's Nanny

Jack Lumber - *David Woolford*

I am enjoying not being in a dress this year, although you wouldn't guess from my song! Taking my role very seriously; I've grown a beard for this production!



Virtue - *Olya Chamberlain*

Having just joined The Worthy Players, Olya is excited to be part of her first panto with the team and is looking forward to all the laughs. Oh yes, she is!

Nophelia Numbum -

Barbara Kearns

Barbara always loves being in panto and is very grateful for the chance to bring Nophelia to the stage. She claims she's not really that annoying in real life!



Mushy - *Treive Nicholas*

Any princesses in the audience? The Pea Squad will find you. There is lots of legume-themed tomfoolery, so pea prepared. In the words of Hamlet, "to pea or not to pea, that is the question".

Mange-Tout - *David Early*

"Je m'appelle David. Donnez une chance aux pois." Back into panto to bring a smile, with an atrocious accent. Pardon my French!





Biddy & Whysteria - Lynne Grimes

I do hope, dear reader, that you enjoy this year's panto as much as I have rehearsing it. Yes, despite popular belief, it is rehearsed! It's been a fun romp, using an original script, and I've been amazed by the artistry of the production team and cast.

Basher - Peter Mcloughlin

Sadly, I'm not the "Panto Animal" this year but a much misled "Nuggly Sister" who gets to say the best line: "Well this is a right pantomime" - and it is too....



Innocence - Julie Pettigrew

Happy to be once more on stage in Pantomime singing and dancing with the chorus. I've always wished to be young again and, for a brief moment, my dream has come true!

Chorus Member 1 - Liz Finbow

'Chorus Member Number 1' - singing, dancing and involving the audience - my favourite role. I hope you enjoy the panto as much as I have!



Policeman - Nick Kearns

Nick's been a member of the Players for over 30 years and he's beginning to show it, but delighted to be appearing in panto again for one more time.

Chorus and SM - Mary Blaxland

This is my 3rd panto with The Worthy Players and I love being part of it. It's fun being backstage and sneaking out every now and then to sing in the chorus!

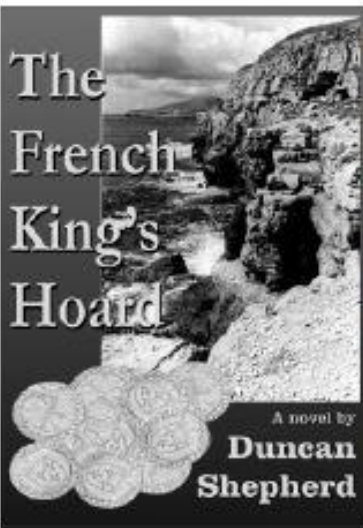


Pulling it all together



Advertisement

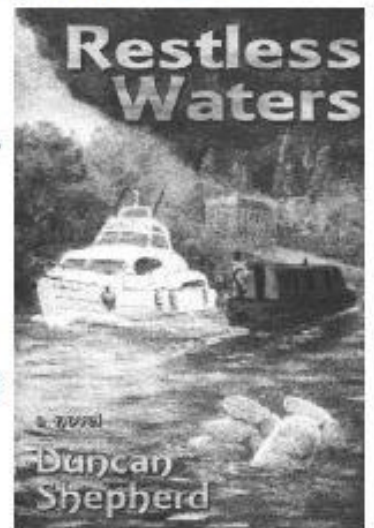
Duncan Shepherd, the author of *'The Princess and The Pea'*, has written a number of short plays in the past, but never a pantomime before. In the days of his retirement, he has however written two novels which have been recently revised and updated. Both are decidedly unlike fairy tales!



In *The French King's Hoard*, Rosa Kirby, a research student, discovers a manuscript which suggests that the French court had sent a vast treasure to the south coast of England to support the campaign of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Obviously, it's never been discovered and Rosa thinks she might know where it could be. In the tranquil Dorset countryside, she heads into very dangerous territory, in more ways than one.

In late summer, ten different boats set out to spend time on the River Thames; some for fun, but others are less innocent.

Initially unknown to each other, their crews gradually find their lives intertwined through murder, romance, art-thefts, floods and drug smuggling. *Restless Waters* tells their stories with drama and humour through the real setting of this majestic river.



Both novels are available in paperback at FeedaRead.com or on Amazon Kindle as e-books. Further background details and Duncan's sometimes eccentric musings - even short stories - can be found on his blog at flocksman.blogspot.com via the QR code at left.

Behind the scenes



Director
 Assistant Director / Co-Producer
 Musical Director
 Choreography
 Set Design & Artwork
 Stage Manager & Assistant
 Wardrobe

Dave Alderson
 Martin Pettigrew
 Janine Blackmore
 Julie Pettigrew
 David Woolford
 Mary Blaxland & Tim Ellwood
 Alison Woolford & Sheila Alderson,

Set Construction days

David Woolford, David Early, Gina Bird
 Martin Pettigrew, Peter Wooldridge,
 Treive Nicholas, Clare Nicholas,
 Dave Alderson, Mary Blaxland,
 Lynne Grimes, Richard Aldous,
 Nick Kearns, Lydia Stead, Bridget
 Gareth Bowen, Julie Pettigrew,
 David Collis, Peter McLoughlin,
 Liz Finbow, Barbara Kearns,
 Bridget Adebisi & Andy Blaxland.
 Richard Aldous



Richard Aldous



Mary Blaxland

Poster Design
 Sound & Lighting Setup and
 Operation

Richard Aldous
 Mary Blaxland
 Nick Kearns
 Dave Alderson
 Sarah Kesterson & Gina Bird



Publicity
 Bar Manager
 Programme
 Front-of-House Managers

And Sarah & Gina's Front-of-House Helpers: Nick Kearns, Andrew Bird, Sheila and Dave Alderson, Naomi Wooldridge, Will Kesterson, Andy Blaxland, Ellie Finbow, Shirley Lovell, Clare Nicholas, Martin and Julie Pettigrew, Sara-Jane Curnow and any other heroes whose names were not known at time of printing.



Sheila Alderson



Gina Bird



Sarah Kesterson



Tim Ellwood



Janine Blackmore

How much is

ENOUGH?

Everybody has their own unique 'number' in answer to this question. I have no right to talk to you about financial products until I have helped you identify this.

I see my role as helping people identify, achieve and then maintain the lifestyle they have always desired, whatever that may be!
Remember....

LIFE IS NOT A REHEARSAL

If you are interested in finding out what YOUR number is and hearing the truth about money, then please feel free to contact me for a no obligation chat or meeting.

MARCUS CHAPMAN

Independent Financial Adviser

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