

hong kong players Presents
THE 2000 PANTOMIME

**SANTA
IN
SPACE**

written by Paul Reakes
Hong Kong adaptation by Chris Baldwin
directed by Chris Baldwin



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Shouson Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre
7th-9th December, 13th-16th December at 7.30pm
9th, 10th, 16th December at 2.30pm



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COMMITTEE 2000-2001

Chairman	David Beaves
Hon. Secretary	Margaret Wright
Hon. Treasurer	Marion Cameron
Workshop Director	Andy Burt
Business Manager	Susie Young
Technical Director	Steven Lewis
Membership Secretary	Gregg Schroeder
Publicity Manager	Mariam Moore
House Manager	Chris Baldwin
Social Secretary	Kay McDonald

Both an old and new theatrical group, hong kong players began life on January 1, 1991, as a successor to the Garrison Players and The Hong Kong Stage Club. Both organizations had been active in Hong Kong since the end of World War II and had a combined credit of more than 400 productions, ranging from Shakespeare to major musicals and modern drama and comedy.

Since becoming hong kong players, the society has staged such productions as *Molly's Music Hall*, *Holiday Snap*, *Suspect – A Game of Murder*, *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*, *The Magical Voyages of Ulysses*, *Absent Friends* and *The Other Three Sisters*. As well as staging works by established playwrights, hong kong players is also eager to perform productions by new writers. *Angkor Wat?!* (1997), *Labour of Love* (1998) and *Expat Leaving* (1999) are recent examples.

The annual Christmas show for children is usually a traditional pantomime that involves about 100 enthusiastic volunteers both on stage and off. *Aladdin*, *Cinderella*, *Beauty & the Beast* and *Pinocchio* have graced the stage of the Shouson Theatre in recent years.

It isn't only actors, singers and dancers who get involved. Every show needs set, sound and lighting designers; set builders; and crew to run performances. Artistic ability or technical background is not necessary to become involved.

Apart from producing shows, hong kong players is a social organization that meets regularly. New members are always welcome and the Membership Secretary will be pleased to give you details. You can also fill in the membership application on the inside back cover of this programme and return it with your cheque to GPO Box 8218, Hong Kong.

We're on the web: www.hongkongplayers.com

hong kong players
wishes everyone a very happy Christmas
& a joyous New Year.



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deserves to be.

Please enjoy the s



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Christmas is the time of year when families celebrate together. I'm happy to say that tradition has been extended in the case of many families in Hong Kong to include a visit to our Christmas pantomime. We, at the hong kong players, are honoured that we form part of Christmas for many people. This year, we are delighted to bring you a production of *Santa in Space*, a slightly unorthodox but nonetheless traditional pantomime, which includes all of the old favourites. This production is directed by Chris Baldwin who has brought a wealth of experience to bear upon this show. Her knowledge and love of pantomime is unparalleled in Hong Kong. I must thank Chris for the hours and hours of hard work and dedication which she has committed to this show. She has been assisted by a talented cast, crew and producers – the combined experience of which will make this show the great success that it deserves to be.

Please enjoy the show.

David Beaves

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



Putting on *Santa in Space* has taken the same number of people as NASA used to get the first space shuttle into orbit. My heartfelt thanks go to the unsung heroes who toil to create the set, props and costumes; the "Men in Black" who work backstage; the administrators who deal with the business; front of house staff, and prompt. My gratitude goes also to the actors who have put up with me. Their enthusiasm and sheer hard work has resulted in a unique Hong Kong event – Pantomime 2000.

Christmas starts right here.

Never mind about all the unwritten cards and the shopping that needs to be done. No one worries in Pantoland. Sit back, let your hair down and enjoy!

From me and everyone in the *Santa in Space* company, a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful 2001.

Chris Baldwin

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

PROLOGUE

Act I

- Scene 1 The Village
- Scene 2 Vileen's Palace on the Planet Varbos
- Scene 3 The Village
- Scene 4 A Room in Santa's House

Act II

- Scene 1 Outer Space, Inside the Rocket
- Scene 2 Vileen's Palace
- Scene 3 The Wilderlands of Varbos
- Scene 4 Vileen's Palace

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this season by using

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Vileen
Tommy
Dame
Robe
Sant
Dick
Crys
Astr
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Lea
Pr

CAST LIST

(in order of appearance)

<i>Vileen the Vile</i>	Cath Willacy
<i>Tommy Tucker</i>	Laura Paterson
<i>Dame Doris Dumpling</i>	Tony Penny
<i>Roberta the Robot</i>	Christine Baldwin
<i>Santa</i>	Peter J. Baldwin
<i>Dick Daring</i>	Ben Daniel
<i>Crystal</i>	Mini Elliot
<i>Astra</i>	Annie Mueller
<i>Null</i>	Teletha Tapper
<i>Void</i>	Penny Day
<i>Leader of the Varborites</i>	Hayley Louise Cromack
<i>Prince Paragon</i>	Adam Lincoln

CHORUS

Ali Aitken	Oliver Ignatius
Jacky Andrews	Sarah Jack
Ruth Andrews	Adam Lincoln
Judi Bolton	Robyn Nicholl
Nicole Boyce	Katie Read
Jennifer Cheung	Jordie Rhodes
Lyric Clarke	Guy Russell
Brittyn Clennett	Scott Simpson
Alex Cribbin	Heidi Sommerau
Hugo Cribbin	Samantha Stoten
Hayley Louise Cromack	Timothy Stoten
Keith Gilges	Holly Straughen
Kathryn Henderson	Alana Zervos
Lucy Hui	Lauren Zervos

Dance soloist is Samantha Stoten

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Chris Baldwin
Producer	Marion Cameron
Assistant Producer	Gregg Schroeder
Musical Director	Gethyn Clothier
Choreography	Penny Day
Costume Design	Roberto Conte
Sound Design	Steven Lewis
Lighting Design	Karrie Nellist
Set Design	Margaret Wright
Stage Manager	Steven Lewis
Deputy Stage Manager	Urgyan Mueller
Assistant Stage Managers	Evan Dickinson, Amanda Hobson, Elena Hobson
Props Manager	Anthea McClelland
Makeup Design and Principals Makeup	Margaret Wright
Makeup	Judi Bolton, Doreen Cheng, Fiona Conboy, Jo Anne Dooner, Fiona McManus, Jo Nicholl
Set Construction	Martyn Minns
Set Painting	Margaret Wright, Roberto Conte, Jessica Craig, Anthea McClelland, Doreen Cheng, Abigal Kay, Maya Minic, Giovanni Siano, Kate Simpson, Helen Slack
Flys	David Beaves, Eamon Egan
Crew	Marion Cameron, Patricia Chiu, Evan Dickinson, JoAnne Dionne, Julie Horn, Catherine Lai, Alicia Mansfield, Rachel Martin, Kay McDonald, Madhu Motwani, Sean Murphy, Mike Rampton, Permila Rathour, Pedro Reichert, Jessica Straughen, Dot To, Clara Wong, Rosa Wong, Susie Young
Follow Spot	Jo Dehaney, Kay Ross
Prompt	Catherine Lai
Front of House Manager	Susie Young
Front of House	Gillian Backer, Joanne Hui, Susan Simpson, Pam Stoten
Publicity Photography	Alex Hoffman
Video	James Wan
Programme Design	P&J Publications Co., Ltd.
Programme Photography	Gregg Schroeder
Flyer and Programme Cover Design	Karina Wilson
Mr Penny's Dresser	Lisa Baldwin

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kids' Gallery Co. Ltd., Wellcome Supermarkets, Bradbury School,
Caramba Mexican Restaurant

*We would also like to thank those who helped but whose names arrived too late for
inclusion in the programme.*

Cath Willa

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Cath Willacy - *Vileen the Vile*

Cath has appeared as many pantomime characters over the years, but playing the villain is her first love – because there's so little acting for her to do! "Great fun, too," Cath says. "I can say and do all the things on stage that I just can't get away with in real life!"



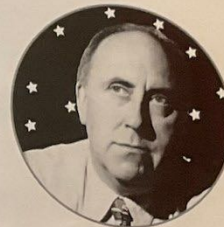
Laura Paterson - *Tommy Tucker*

Laura is 15 and came to Hong Kong four years ago from London. She has attended ballet classes since she was three. This is her first pantomime role. She previously appeared in the Hong Kong Singers production of *The King and I*, as well as various school productions, including *Macbeth* and *Grease*.



Tony Penny - *Dame Doris Dumpling*

Doris is back and with her comes Tony again, prancing around in Frocks by Conte and still singing appallingly, but his dancing has improved. Many of you will know him from his numerous performances on stage and in movies. Tony has directed productions for hong kong players and Theatre Hong Kong.



Christine Baldwin - *Roberta the Robot*

Christine has been acting in and around Hong Kong for quite a while, sometimes even on stage. This will be her third pantomime with hong kong players. The post rehearsal sessions in licensed premises help to keep her in shape. Well, round is a shape isn't it?



Peter J. Baldwin - *Santa*

This is Peter's seventh pantomime in Hong Kong; his third with hong kong players. Will he ever learn? He was last seen playing the manic Al in hong kong players' production of *Expat Leaving* by Rob McBride. Peter is co-founder of Theatre Hong Kong.



Ben Daniel - *Dick Daring*

Since his debut in the 1971 production of *Swan Lake*, three decades in the world of IT consulting finally brought him to Hong Kong in 1997 to work for Ernst & Young. After stepping into Epaminondas Aplombov's shoes in the hong kong players production of Chekhov's *The Other Three Sisters* this summer, Ben is daring to be Dick in an exciting double-first of panto and space travel.



CAST BIOGRAPHIES (continued)

Mini Elliot - *Crystal*

Mini plays Santa's young niece
They may've got it right in this piece
Once fairy, then ugly sister
Then a dancer with wig and blister!

When not in the Shouson
She teaches drama and flute
But in panto thinks monsters are cute!



Annie Mueller - *Astra*

Annie's been on stage and backstage for hong kong players, ACT and Hong Kong Singers since 1992. Mild-mannered teacher by day, she auditions for femme fatale and ingénue parts in the nighttime world of community theatre. Astra is the latest in a line of OTT ditzzy dingbat roles she's had. HmMMMM ...



Teletha Tapper - *Null*

This is Teletha's hong kong players debut. She has been in Hong Kong for a year and has been lucky enough to participate in two other local productions: *Chorus of Disapproval* as Fay Hubbard and as Crystal Allen in *The Women*. Prior to this, Teletha was based in Dubai where she was a familiar face around the theatre scene.



Penny Day - *Choreographer & Void*

Penny found the role of brainless blond bimbo from outer space extremely challenging and practised for hours to get the gum-chewing just right. This is the second pantomime she has choreographed for hong kong players (*Beauty & the Beast*) and is amazed that they asked her back again. She wants to applaud the chorus for their hard work, especially in the face of setbacks like broken feet and tendonitis.



Hayley Louise Cromack - *Leader of the Varborites*

Although this is Hayley's first show with hong kong players she has been on stage since she was 5 years old. As Leader of the Varborites she shows off the dancing skills she has perfected in various Hong Kong discos. Hayley sends you her greetings from Varbos.



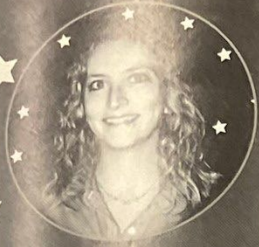
Adam Lincoln - *Prince Paragon*

By day, Adam is a business and technology journalist for CFO Asia Magazine, which is published by The Economist. This is Adam's first production with hong kong players; next time he hopes his character speaks only in English.



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CHORUS



ALI AITKEN



JACKY ANDREWS



RUTH ANDREWS



JUDI BOLTON



NICOLE BOYCE



JENNIFER CHEUNG



LYRIC CLARKE



BRITTYN CLENNETT



ALEX CRIBBIN



HUGO CRIBBIN



KEITH GILGES



KATHRYN HENDERSON



LUCY HUI



OLIVER IGNATIUS



SARAH JACK



ROBYN NICHOLL

CHORUS (continued)



KATIE READ



JORDIE RHODES



GUY RUSSELL



SCOTT SIMPSON



HEIDI SOMMERAU



SAMANTHA STOTEN



TIMOTHY STOTEN



HOLLY STRAUGHEN



ALANA ZERVOS



LAUREN ZERVOS

ORCHESTRA

Guitar Art Bartolome

Piano & Keyboards Gethyn Clothier

Bass Gerlie Eugenio

Drums Mark Menezes

Saxophone Oliver Smith

NO
TOC

PRODUCT

Marion Cameron
The previous time Marion pro
acclaimed role of Teletubby
were rather more artistically
Longman by day and for her
Formula One enthusiast.

Gregg Schroeder
Gregg began his dramatic
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eventually gave up the sta
This is Gregg's first attempt
without paying.

Gethyn Clothier
For most people, the wor
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way! It's a true busman's
music in an international
"Enjoy the show!"

Roberto Conte
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Steven Lewis
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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Marion Cameron - Producer

The previous time Marion produced panto, she landed the critically acclaimed role of Teletubby Laa-Laa. Unfortunately, the roles this year were rather more artistically challenging. When not bean counting for Longman by day and for hong kong players by night, Marion is a Formula One enthusiast.



Gregg Schroeder - Assistant Producer

Gregg began his dramatic career in bathrobe pageants and has never looked back. Wisely following the advice of friends and family, he eventually gave up the stage for the world of educational publishing. This is Gregg's first attempt in 20 years to sneak back into the theatre without paying.



Gethyn Clothier - Musical Director

For most people, the word "Christmas" conjures up images of presents, lights, food and parties. For Gethyn, it is work, rehearsals and the prospect of spending two weeks in a cold, dark (orchestra) pit ... but after nine pantomimes in Hong Kong he wouldn't have it any other way! It's a true busman's holiday from Gethyn's day job as head of music in an international school, but he loves it and encourages all to "Enjoy the show!"



Roberto Conte - Costume Design

Roberto returned to Hong Kong 10 years ago. He always enjoys working with hong kong players - his long-time association with the organization goes from making casts look like trees, ships, cakes, sea creatures or space aliens for the Christmas pantomimes, to directing (*King Lear*, 1998). In his other life, Roberto creates various types of specialist costumes, "artistically directs" for promotional or social events, and gives fashion tips.



Steven Lewis - Stage Manager

A freelance writer by day, Steven has lost weight, mostly in hair, since 1997's ill-advised step onto the boards wearing a gut-hugging toga to play an unlikely Greek god. Nevertheless, he now keeps his shouting and screaming backstage, from where he is this year bullying his sixth pantomime cast.



Margaret Wright - Set and Makeup Design

This is Margaret's third production with hong kong players, having been previously involved for many years with Landing Lights Players. With no formal training of any sort in the Arts, Margaret says she works on instinct rather than knowledge. Margaret painted the scenery for this same production 10 years ago and had immense fun redoing it, this time in a different style. Margaret is new to doing makeup, but finds it similar to painting canvasses - just on a smaller scale.



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 Hong Kong Arts Centre
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