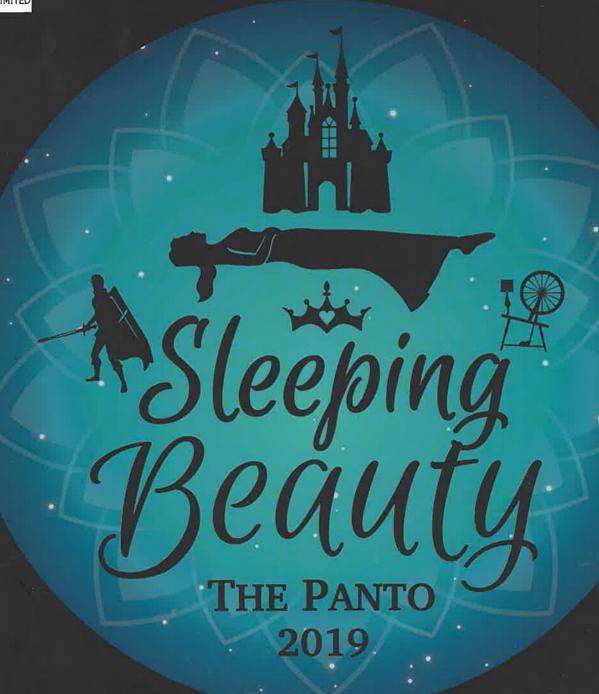


HONG KONG PLAYERS PRESENTS



SHOUSON THEATRE
Hong Kong Arts Centre

5-15 DECEMBER, 2019

Chairman's Note

Dear Panto-goer,

Costume and set changes are a very important part of life in the theatre. Change comes to us all, and this year has seen a significant change for me and my wife and committee member, Brandy Stern, as we welcomed our baby daughter to the world. It is with a heavy heart then, that I've decided that this change needs us to make some changes elsewhere as well. Unfortunately, this will be my last amazing panto as the chairman of Hong Kong Players.

Sleeping Beauty has been a labour of love for many people in front of and behind the scenes, welcoming new writers, new processes and a lot of new members of the cast and production team which has blended with a few familiar faces along the way. There are, as always, so many people we'd like to say thank you to, too many to count. Special thanks go to Eric for his tireless pursuit of his concept and directorial vision for this year's panto. Thanks to Stephen for his support in directing as well as taking on a significant role in the show. Kathy Mak has brought us her exceptional choreography again, showcasing her unique talents with arrangements from Euan Kilpatrick supporting the voices of our wonderful actors without whom, the shows are not possible.

Backstage is always a fun place to be in Hong Kong theatre and this is largely due to the professionalism that the volunteers bring to the shows. Ian Pratley deserves such credit for the work he does backstage, solving problems and giving so much of his time and energy to shows. He has been a friend and mentor for a long time and Hong Kong community theatre is glad to have him, as well as the dedicated passions of Karly Cox, Vanessa Lee and all of the nameless members of the community who dress in black backstage and receive little credit.



The team that Eric and the producer Michael have assembled for this production have all been exceptional in their patience, time and dedication to the cause to bring you yet another fun, frolicking and fantastic pantomime for this season. We at HK Players are very grateful for all they have done. We ask you now to sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of their labour - we know you won't be Sleeping Beauties as you watch this energetic show.

So as they say in panto, "it's behind you!" It's been a pleasure to serve as chairman over the past six years, and I'll remember the people, productions and positivity fondly. As our daughter gets older, I may come back and help out. But rest assured that Hong Kong Players is in very good hands and will continue to thrive and go from strength to strength.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - may the tradition of panto get you into the festive mood!

ADAM WALKER
Outgoing Chair
Hong Kong Players

May you live in interesting times.

I would be lying if I said here that the production of this year's panto didn't come with some unique challenges. I would be lying as well if I said to you that there weren't quite a few moments when we had to have the difficult discussion as to whether to continue on with the show or to take a hiatus for a year, let things calm down, and then try again next Christmas season. Even at the moment that I am writing this message, the sense of doubt that we will be allowed to go up lingers. But, if you are reading this, then that means that we've succeeded in some part, at least. It also means that despite all the turmoil and pain that Hong Kong has felt over the past year, at the very least one of our steadfast traditions has survived.

Panto is a tradition that I did not grow up with. I only became aware of the concept of pantomime after arriving in Hong Kong. I don't have the childhood memories of these shows and all the customs and traditions that come with it. Since then, however, having been involved in Hong Kong community theatre these past several years, I have come to understand what makes panto so special to people. The idea that, at the end of the year, everyone can get together to smile and laugh, to dance and sing, is one that should be universal to all. The concept of panto is one that should translate to everyone, no matter where they come from or what their background is.

Having come at this year's panto with a different perspective, we've tried to make the show a bit different, but just as funny and just as impressive. And yes, sometimes the politics of the year may filter in, just a little bit. Underneath it all, however, I truly believe that we have put together a genuinely heartfelt, entertaining, and inspiring panto for you. If there's one message that panto provides, it is that there is more that unites us than divides us, and no matter how bad things may get out there, in here at least we can take solace in laughing at a man in a dress.

Even under the best circumstances, the act of putting on the panto is a Herculean effort. For this show to have come together successfully, many people had to devote impossible amounts of their time and work in order to provide the best experience possible. The work done by every single member of this cast, as well as by my codirectors Kathy, Euan, and Stephen, has been truly awe-inspiring. The work done behind the scenes by every single member of the production team has been equally as impressive. They moved mountains to get this show onstage this year, and no amount of gratitude can adequately repay them. But gratitude is all I have, so it is all I can give.

Special thanks to my wife Jenny, who kept me sane throughout this process, and probably saved the show more times than I am even aware of.

Have a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and most importantly, Enjoy the show!



ERIC NG

Director, Sleeping Beauty – The Panto December 2019

SLEEPING BEAUTY THE PANTO

Written by Eric Ng, Adam Walker, Stephen Bolton
Directed by Eric Ng and Stephen Bolton
Musical Director: Euan Kilpatrick
Choreographer: Kathy Mak
Produced by Michael Bradley, Michelle Edwards, Jenny Lun

Princess Beauty Frump - Rachel McCorkell
Dame Mary Propper - Joshua Blue
Prince Albert - Miguel Urmeneta
Marla the Dark Fairy - Rachel Love
King Frump - Stephen Bolton
Squire Dick - Jessica Walsh
Splenda the Good Fairy - Jennifer Barclay
Billy the Henchman - Janet Walker
Mickey the Henchman - Samantha Brooks

Annabelle Leung - Ensemble
Athalee Wong - Ensemble
Charlotte Blyth - Ensemble
Charlotte Lee - Ensemble
Ema Poposka - Ensemble
Ivy Sham - Ensemble
Logan So - Ensemble
Max Charteris - Ensemble
Maya Yeatman-Biggs - Ensemble
Sara Davies - Ensemble
Sienna Martin - Ensemble
Sophia Woodbury - Ensemble
Tara O'Brien - Ensemble



RACHEL MCCORKELL as Princess Beauty Frump

Rachel is thrilled to be returning to the stage this year as Princess Beauty Frump, after having her first taste of panto in last year's Snow White. She is excited to be back on stage with a wonderful and talented cast! Originally from Northern Ireland, Rachel lived in Edinburgh before moving to Hong Kong in 2017. She has been involved in productions in both Aberdeen and Edinburgh for the past decade. Recent roles include Legally Blonde (Leilani), Grease (Sandy), Thoroughly Modern Millie (Miss Dorothy) and Disco Inferno (Jane). When not on stage, Rachel works as a primary school teacher.



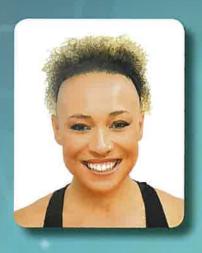
JOSHUA BLUE as Dame Mary Propper

Josh Blue is excited to be returning to the stage in this year's panto. The last one saw him as Buttons in Cinderella—10 years ago. Don't worry,he's aged in all the right places and is delighted to be stepping in to the role during the final weeks (all the best Bobby!). Most recently Josh played Vice Principal Panch in The 25thAnnual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Many thanks to his partner, Taka, for putting up with the craziness, and to the cast and crew for welcoming him in late into the game. Lovely Cox, this one's for you!



MIGUEL URMENETA as Prince Albert

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Miguel continues to chase a growing interest and new-found love for performance, art and creativity. Working as a freelance performer, he has performed in plays and school shows, taught kids drama classes (for companies such as Faust and AFTEC) and has even helped run murder mystery events for Harbour Secrets. As his career continues to grow, he is excited to join the panto family, as well as work with Hong Kong Players for the first time.



RACHEL LOVE as Marla the Dark Fairy

Rachel trained in the UK gaining a HND in Musical
Theatre and a BA Hons Degree in Creative & Performing
Arts. Theatre credits include Jack & The Beanstalk (Jack)
Cinderella (Prince Charming) Good Morning Hong Kong
(Wow 1 & Understudy for Melissa), Snow White (Evil Queen).
Rachel has worked as a commercial dancer & vocalist for over
13 years, dancing for major labels and groups globally. Rachel
is also owner of Loves Dance Studio and Fitness Centre, as
well as director of NoName Events, supplying original and
unique entertainment, concepts, management, talent and
choreography to a variety of clientele.



STEPHEN BOLTON as King Frump

Stephen Bolton has been involved in 14 Hong Kong Players panto (including this one). He's delighted to have yet another chance to share in the holiday madness, and hopes he gets some laughs while playing this yooge character.



JESSICA WALSH as Squire Dick

Jessica has lived and performed in Hong Kong since graduating with a BA in Drama from Dublin's Conservatory of Music and Drama in 2012. This will be her fifth panto with the Players and she just can't get enough! After a brief stint as a Beavering henchman last year in Snow White, she's back in the Buttons role and can't wait to take to the stage to get you all in the Christmas spirit! Jessica is honoured to share the stage with such wickedly talented friends, old and new, and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she does!

Cast - Principals

JENNIFER BARCLAY as Splenda the Good Fairy

Jennifer is a local Drama teacher who is acting again after a long hiatus. She is very pleased to join the panto this year for the first time. Being from Canada, the concept of panto is fairly new but her personality seems ideally suited for making a spectacle of herself. She would like to thank her other cast members for their equally ludicrous characterisations and the dedicated crew for making magic out of mouldy turds. She hopes you enjoy the absurdity.



JANET WALKER as Billy the Henchman

Janet plays many roles in real life, as the Dolphin Lady; a Drama Leader; and Kellett School Music TA and Knitting Teacher, where she warns children of the dangers of sharp needles, lest they fall asleep for a long time. Having been backstage at the last two pantos, she decided to elbow her way, in true Yorkshire style, into the spotlight. This is her first foray on-stage since some time in the 20th century, and she is thrilled to be treading the boards again, with her real-life daughter, despite not getting a glittery costume.



SAMANTHA BROOKS as Mickey the Henchman

Sam is 18 and graduated from South Island School in May 2019. She has been in multiple productions, such as A Christmas Carol (2013), Guys and Dolls (2015), King Lear (2017), Servant of Two Masters (2018) and Brainstorm (2019). This is her first show with Hong Kong Players, however she has been coming to watch the panto since she was five. Sam is currently taking a gap year in order to take part in more drama. She is super excited to be in the panto this year and really hopes you enjoy the show!





ANNABELLE LEUNG Ensemble, Dance Captain



ATHALEE WONG Ensemble



CHARLOTTE BLYTH Ensemble



CHARLOTTE LEE
Ensemble



EMA POPOSKA Ensemble



TVY SHAM Ensemble



LOGAN SO Ensemble



MAX CHARTERIS Ensemble



MAYA-YEATMAN BIGGS Ensemble



SARA DAVIES Ensemble



SIENNA MARTIN Ensemble

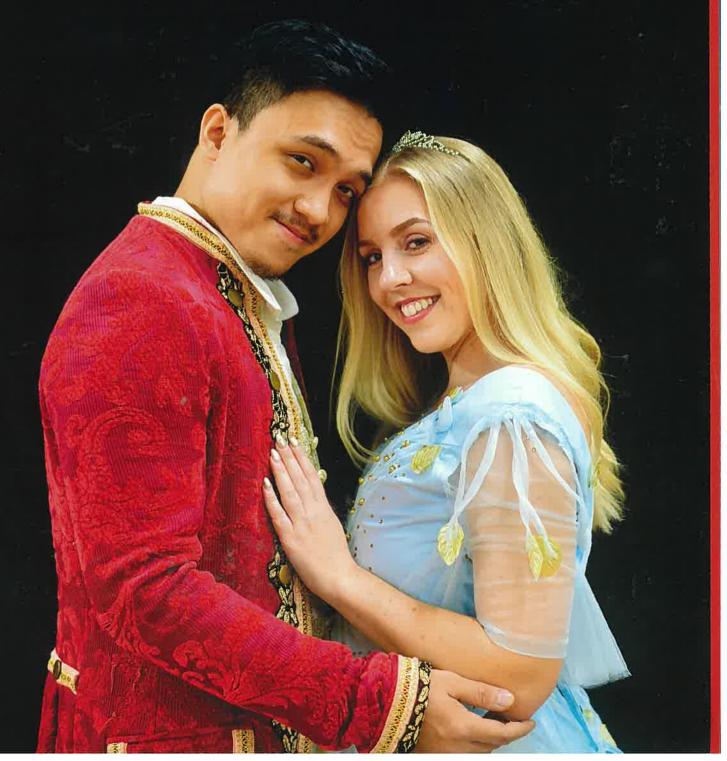


SOPHIA
WODBURY
Ensemble



TARA O'BRIEN Ensemble, Dance Captain

Hong Kong Players wishes you a very Merry Christmas 2019





e《雪人》_{與《大熊》}

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TANIA MARTIN 妲妮雅·馬田



FORREST MORR 墨林 storyteller 說書人

JUSTIN LI 李家澍 tenor 男高音

ALAN TSANG 曾宇軒 baritone 男中音

COLIN TOUCHIN 社程 guest conductor 客席指揮

vocal soloists 童聲獨唱

2:00PM

FELICITY LOW 劉睿職 & JENSEN POON 潘梓博

WINDY ZHAN 詹天文 & ANDERSON YEUNG 楊善衡

21.12.2019

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ERIC NG (Director)

Eric has been involved in Hong Kong theatre since 2006, performing onstage as well as directing and producing. Directing credits include: The Pillowman (2007), The Lieutenant of Inishmore (2008), The Laramie Project (2009), The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later (2009), Yellow Face (2012), Nine Circles (2014), Page to Stage (2019).





STEPHEN BOLTON (Assistant Director)

Stephen Bolton has been involved in 14 Hong Kong Players panto (including this one). He's delighted to have yet another chance to share in the holiday madness, and hopes he gets some laughs while playing this yooge character.

EUAN KILPATRICK (Musical Director)

Euan is delighted to be making his panto debut this year as musical director. Taking a side step from his day job as head of music at an international school, Euan has thouroughly enjoyed taking this talented cast through their paces to ensure this year's panto hits all the high notes.





KATHY MAK (Choreographer)

Sleeping Beauty is Kathy's fifth panto. While she's usually spreading panto joy on-stage, she's excited to be bringing the moves for her fourth time as the choreographer. Kathy's theatre credits include Secret Theatre, Putnam County Spelling Bee (Marcy Park), Footloose (Ariel), A Chorus Line (Judy Wong), and Hairspray. She is currently a performer, acting and singing in various events. She has been a part of various dance troupes in Hong Kong and New Zealand, competing and performing in jazz funk, hip hop, cheerleading and more. She hopes the audience is ready to be bouncing and clapping in their seats!

Production Team



MICHAEL BRADLEY (Producer)



TAN PRATLEY (Set Design / Lighting Design)

JOHN UN (Sound Design)

ELLIOT WATSON (Stage Manager)



MICHELLE EDWARDS
(Assistant Producer)

VANESSA LEE (Deputy Stage Manager)

KARLY COX (Assistant Stage Manager)

MAE UM (Assistant Stage Manager)

CHARLOTTE SMITH (Costume Design)

ALBERT CHEUNG (Photographer)

HAMISH CAMPBELL (Fight Choreographer)

TRIS EU (Props SFX)





Makeup Team:

LEENA LEMPINEN
MEDINA SPEERS
VANESSA NOBLE

Crew:

ADRIAN, TAMMY, ALICIA, TREESA, TIFFANY, UNDSEY, KATHY, GARY, CHRISTINE, PETER, FLORENCE, KATRINA, KATIE, MAY, DAMIEN, SAMUEL, CHRIS, DARCIA, DAWNELLE, ADAM

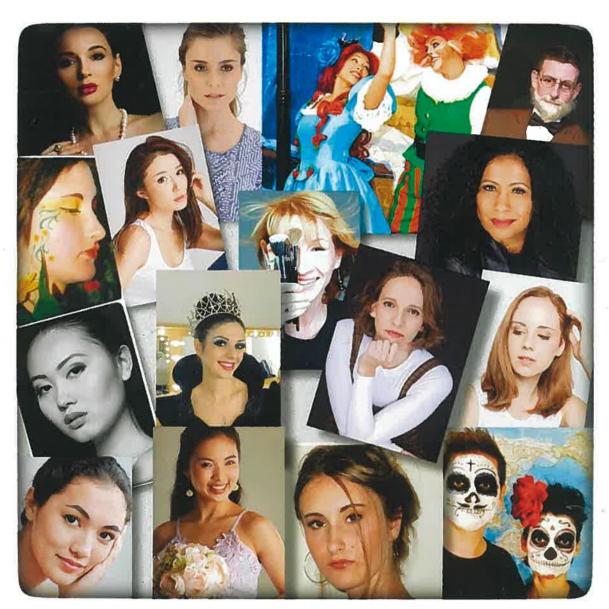


Special Thanks

ADAM WALKER
TERI FITSELL
PAMELA TAI
DORCAS CHAN
NATASHA JAIN
GIULIANA COLAROSSI
AMY PERCIVAL
LORNA MCCLURE
BRANDY STERN

KELLETT SCHOOL (POK FU LAM)
VICTORIA SHANGHAI SCHOOL
SUNDAY YOUNG POST

...and possibly some others under both headings who joined too late for inclusion, in which case sorry and thank you!



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