

Dick Whittington **and his Cat**

Little Gaddesden Drama Club

Panto Pack

Sunday 8th September

Little Gaddesden Village Hall

Characters (order of appearance)

Fairy Bow Bells – The “Fairy Godmother” of the Panto. Cute as a button and sweet as pie, she helps our hero along his journey with the help of a bit of magic – and rhyming!

King/Queen Rat – The “Baddie” this character is all bad. They like to be in charge and is trying to take over London with their rat army. This rat army is their pride and joy.

Dick Whittington – The “Hero” Dick has his head screwed on but can be very naïve at times. Wants to see the good in people, his best friend is:

Tiddles – The Cat – Dick’s best friend who is by his side during the whole panto. Tiddles is slightly anxious that she (or he!) is a talking cat, but we see her face her fears as the panto goes on.

Sarah the Cook – The “Dame” of the panto; the Widow Sarah owns Sticky Buns Bakery in London and is always looking for her next husband. Flirty, funny, and quick on her feet.

Idle Jack – The “Buttons” character. Jack is Sarah’s son and helps her run the bakery and would be politely described as a “sandwich short of a lunchbox”. He hasn’t been having the best of luck dating wise and is desperate to find the love of his life.

Captain Jolly Roger – Captain Jolly Roger (CJR) has been coerced by Queen Rat to help her with her evil plans! He is very bitter about the fact that the current Lord Mayor didn’t give him a bigger ship, and Queen Rat has promised to deliver if he will do her bidding. CJR is not the most competent Captain and can be quite sensitive.

First Mate Jill – The loyal companion to CJR, Jill is mainly there because the rules state she must do as her Captain tells her. She is really the person who keeps everything together, although she would never take credit.

Alice Fitzwarren – The “Heroine” of our story, Alice is switched on and ready for action. She can tell when something doesn’t feel right and doesn’t let the “boys” push her around. Of course, she falls in love with our hero almost immediately. (He falls for her just as fast)

Lord Mayor Fitzwarren – The Father of Alice and the current Mayor of London. He has been captured by CJR and Jill so Queen Rat can go ahead with her plan uninterrupted. A stoic man but will stand up and put up a fight if things are not right.

Rats – Queen Rat’s minions. They absolutely love their jobs and will do everything they can to keep Queen Rat happy.

Citizens – The Citizens of London, very annoyed that there is a big rat problem in the city and they’re not sure what to do about it. They are definitely getting grumpy about it though!

Chorus

King/Queen Rat

King/Queen Rat: (Evil Laugh) That silly Fairy Bow Bells thinks that she can outsmart me? It took some...persuasion to get Fitzwarren to...disappear; and now he cannot get in my way (evil laugh). Fairy Cow Bells thinks Fitzwarren left on his own accord, but it was me behind it all along. With the Mayor out of the picture my rat army has been taking over London piece by piece with no interruptions! (evil laugh. Catches herself, thinks) wait a minute. Why am I telling you this? You're obviously not on my side with all this booing and hissing. No matter, I don't need you to get what I want. Now that I know Fairy Smelly Bell's plan, I can stop this boy in his tracks and then London shall be mine, oh yes it will!

Etc etc.

Enough. I shall deal with you lot later. (evil laugh/boos and hisses)

(whilst walking off stage) Now, I wonder where this little Dick is...

Captain Jolly Roger

CJR: Jill! Jill where are you? Oh...it's you lot. Look, you haven't happened to see Jill, have you?

(Replies)

CJR: No, of course not. Although it seems you wouldn't help me even if you did see her. You seem to be more friendly with that Dick fellow and his comrades...well my life coach told me to start getting comfortable with being the villain in some people's stories, so I guess this would be a good place to start. (sticks out tongue, hopefully audience replies, CJR is repulsed) Oh well, there's no need for that. Look I am far too important and far too busy to worry about you lot, Oh yes I am!

Etc.

(like a frustrated child) Stop it!...Jill! Where on earth have you got to? (as walking off stage) these people are being really mean to me!

Sarah the Cook

Sarah: Oh, hello there, everyone!

(Audience replies)

Sarah: How many times have you done this now? Come on! Hello there, everyone!

(audience replies)

Sarah: That's better, now I've got to get these buns into the oven for tomorrow. We have a hungry crowd first thing in the morning. (she puts the buns into the oven) Now, where is this Panto happening again? Little Gaddesden! I thought so, I have a friend who lives near Little Gaddesden, yeah, Brenda! She owns a farm over there and everything. I went to go and see her the other week for a cup of tea, and she said to me, Sarah, you've got to give me a minute I've just got to go and check on the flock of cows. I said 'Brenda, Herd!' and she said, 'Herd of what?' so I said, 'Herd of Cows!' and she said 'Of course I've heard of cows, Sarah I'm a bloody farmer!

Whilst I visit Brenda, I got get my hair done in the local town, what's it called? Berko! Yeah, every other Flippin shop is a hairdresser's! Because of the choice I like to mix it up a bit, and the last time I was there I went into the salon, and I said, 'you've got to help me, I hate the colour of my hair!' they said really? so I said, 'yeah, I'm DYE-ING to change it!'. See I can't go to my local salon anymore because I heard that my stylist was quitting. Yeah, I asked her "why don't you want to cut hair any longer?" and she said, "because I can only cut it shorter!"

Jack, Dick, Tiddles

Dick: Thanks for showing us to our room, Jack

Jack: No worries little Dick! (pause) that could get old quite quickly.

Tiddles: Trust me, it does.

Dick: Can I trust you with a secret?

Jack: I LOVE secrets! Did I tell you the one about Mum's HUGE boil on her bum?

Dick: Errr...no? Maybe I shouldn't tell you this one then...

Jack: Oh no! You can trust me, like when mum trusted me with her secret about how she had a 20-minute conversation with Mayor Fitzwarren about her Self-Raising chocolate log, and he didn't put in a bread order for 2 weeks!

Dick: Jack, I think the whole point about secrets is that you don't tell *anyone*.

Jack: (Pauses) oohhhh! So, I shouldn't tell you about mum's MASSIVE (begins to point to crotch area)

Tiddles & Dick: NO! (mumble, thinks like "thank goodness" and "this is a family show...")

Jack: Right yeah okay then... I still really wanna know what it is though.

Dick: No.

Jack: Pleeeeeaaaasse!

Dick: No! I can't trust you to keep it to yourself.

Jack: Oh, fiddlesticks.

They turn to carry on walking

Tiddles: Dick's going to be Mayor!

Dick: Tiddles! Now you suddenly have the courage to speak.

Tiddles: I get along with Jack, he has never made me feel bad about being a talking cat.

Jack: Wait. You're a talking cat!?! (genuinely shocked) Why didn't you tell me!?!?

Tiddles: I thought it was (gestures to herself) well, obvious?

Jack: I don't like to assume these things Tiddles, not in this day and age! (double takes) Wait, you're going to be MAYOR!?! That's so exciting. Will you get to wear fancy clothes? Gloves? A Hat? (gasps) a CAPE!?!?

Dick: Well, it's not official yet. I have to get the people on my side, and also sort out this rat problem.

Jack: Oh yeah, we're having a real issue with those rats. They keep scaring the bejeezers out of mum; she keeps dropping all the buns and then we don't have enough for the morning rush.

Jill and CJR

Captain Jolly Roger (CJR): Aha! Yes, I think we're going the right way, Jill. It absolutely reeks of sewage in here (looks at audience).

(Jill comes onstage)

Jill: Oh yes Captain, it's proper pongy down here! (also looks at audience) are these all the smelly Rats?

CJR: No Jill, Rats are far more attractive than...well, whatever is going on out there (they look and pull faces) thinking about it, maybe we've ventured *too* far into the sewer...

(Jill is struggling to read a map)

Jill: I don't really know which way we need to go now, Captain...

CJR: For goodness' sake, Jill. You'd better figure it out or I shall have you scrub the deck with your tongue again, or my name isn't Captain Jolly Roger!

Jill: Captain, I think I need your help here.

CJR: Oh, for heaven's sake Jill. You're pretty rubbish for a First Mate, Y'know? I've had to do *everything* in this expedition so far.

(CJR goes to read the map)

Jill: Oh, don't be that way Captain, I'm helping as best as I can!

CJR: (annoyed) Yes Jill...what on earth would we do without you...

Jill: I make the tea, Captain! And hold the prisoners, and I scrub the deck, I'm excellent at tying knots, and I hoist the sails, and...I give you your manicures.

CJR: Jill! (whispers) no one is supposed to know about that.

Jill: Awww Captain, don't be so shy. I think it's very hygienic, and a lot of people are embracing it nowadays.

CJR: Really? (looks at nails) Well...They do look rather dashing, don't they?

Dick and Tiddles

Tiddles: Dick, you're going too fast, my paws are tired, and I am soooo hungry! Please can we stop for a little bit?

Dick: No-can-do Tiddles. I promised Aunt Sarah that we would get to London before the sun went down, and it already looks like we're going to be late. I do my best to keep my promises; your rumbling tummy isn't going to change that.

Tiddles: Eugh. Fine. Why are we going to London again?

Dick: To seek our fame and fortune. I've heard the streets are paved with gold, and anybody, even a boy from humble beginnings, can become something great.

Tiddles: (spots the audience) errrrm, Dick? Do you know these people? (whispers) why are they staring at us?

Dick: Oh, hello everyone! (audience replies) I'm sorry I didn't see you there. Don't worry Tiddles, these people are our friends. Say hello, there's a good kitty.

Tiddles: H...h...(whispers) hello everyone

Dick: Oh, come on Tiddles, you can do better than that. Tiddles can be a bit shy boys and girls, after all it isn't everyday you see a talking cat! She gets a bit self-conscious about that, don't you Tiddles? (Tiddles Nods). Look, I'll go first and say hello and then you can try after me, okay? (Tiddles Nods) Okay – Hello Everyone!

(audience replies)

Dick: See! They're a friendly bunch. Nice and easy.

Tiddles: H...H....(looks at Dick)

Dick: (whispers) take a deep breath in!

Tiddles does so and holds their breath

Dick: (whispers) Hello everyone!

Tiddles: (filled with anxiety, goes into panic mode and screams) HELLO MISSES BUN!

Dick: What?...

Tiddles: (Still shouting) WHERE'S THE CHICKEN RUN?

Dick: Tiddles, calm down....

Tiddles: (Sings) we've only just begun! (quickly breathes in and out)

Dick: Okay Tiddles, It's alright, I'm here.

Tiddles: How did I do?

Dick: (scratching her behind the ear) you did great, you silly thing. C'mon now, let's get going. We'll see you in London everyone! Bye! (waves and exits with Tiddles)

Jack

Jack: Hello everyone!

(Replies)

I seem to have got myself lost. I am trying to retrace my steps, but I'm not very good at my left and right, you see, so I've managed to get myself all muddled. I was much better with Port and Starboard as a kid – I always dreamt of being a pirate on the open seas. I mean, I still love London, that's where I grew up, and I have so many memories. Mum used to take me to the park when I was a boy with all the unsold bread from the day before, and we would feed the pigeons. They were so happy, and they come right up to you, no fear or nothin'! That could be a good pirate name y'know! Captain Jack Pigeon! Although...doesn't sound quite right somehow...

Fitzwarren & Tiddles:

Fitzwarren: There, there, young Tiddles, it's going to be alright.

Tiddles: Oh, I hope so Lord Mayor, sir. I haven't been apart from Dick since the day he took me home. I feel ever so lonely without him.

Fitzwarren: That must be really hard for you, Tiddles.

Tiddles: I don't know what to do without my Dick!

Fitzwarren: Oh, Tiddles, please don't be upset. It's lovely when we have someone in our lives like that, but we can still be just as brave and strong without them

Tiddles: Really? But I need Dick to help me talk to strangers

Fitzwarren: You're talking to me just fine right now.

Tiddles: Wait a minute...you haven't said anything about me being a talking cat.

Fitzwarren: I was captured by a talking rat and her talking rat army – do you think this is weird for me?

Tiddles: You don't care that I can talk?

Fitzwarren: Of course, not young Tiddles. I think it's excellent that you have so much to say! And if people do care that you can talk, then that is their problem. No one can be better at being you than you can.

Tiddles: Thank you, Lord Mayor Sir

Fitzwarren: That seems to have perked you up a bit! Now, let's try and figure out a way of getting out of here. Maybe we can try and distract the guard

Alice, Jack, Dick

Dick: Alice! Alice wait, please!

Alice: I'm sorry I don't really know what came over me

Dick: You forgot your bread

Alice: Oh, silly me...my mind is just all over the place at the moment

Jack: What's going on, Alice? Do you think your father hasn't really gone to Morocco?

Alice: Something doesn't feel right about it, Jack. Not just the letter, but the fact he left without saying a word! He wouldn't just leave me like that.

Jack: Let me see that letter again (Alice hands it to him, he inspects it.) hhhmmmm yes, as I expected.

Dick: What?

Jack: This letter makes absolutely no sense whatsoever!

(Dick goes over to Jack to inspect the letter. He makes a large gesture of turning the letter around to be the "right way" up.)

Jack: Ahhh...Yes, well.

Dick: (reading) To my dear daughter...I have decided to go away to Morocco for a while. Do not ask me why I am going, do not follow me, and do not try to find me. I shall not return any letters, so do not bother sending them. Oh yes, and I guess I should say "I love you" or something. Your Father, Mayor Fitzwarren.

Jack: And you're sure that your dad wouldn't write something like this?

Alice: "I love you, or something"? My father is peculiar at times, but that is taking it a step too far

Dick: Do you think that someone else has written this letter?

Alice: I do. But why would someone do that?

Jack: Not to mention it absolutely stinks

(they think)

Tiddles: Do you think, maybe...

Dick: Go on Tiddles!

Tiddles: Well, it's just an idea, but do you think this could be linked to the rat problem?

Jack: why would Mayor Fitzwarren have anything to do with the rats?

Dick: Alice, when your father went missing, what was the rat population like?

Alice: Now that you mention it, it's got worse since he left...(smells the letter) do you think the rats somehow...took my father?

Jack: This happened at my school once!

Dick: Really, Jack?

Jack: Yeah, there was a kidnapping!

Alice: That's awful! What happened?

Jack: Oh easy, they just woke him up (bad joke)

Tiddles: Rats love filth, so maybe this came from them

Alice: The sewers, that's how they must be getting everywhere

Dick: and I bet their leader is in the biggest part

Alice: The Thames Tideway Tunnel!

Jack: (gasps) yes! The super sewer!

Dick: I have a plan! Jack, we're going to head down into the sewer to see if we can find Mayor Fitzwarren, and find out what is going on down there

Alice: I'm coming too.

Jack: Alice you're a girl...you are way too weak to come into a dangerous place like the sewers (she stamps on his foot, he screams)

Dick: (sarcastically) I'm surprised you're still single, Jack. Okay, Alice you can come with us. We'll be back home before the sun goes down.

Citizens

Citizen 1: These rats are getting on my nerves!

Citizen 2: Where's the Mayor? Why isn't he doing nothin' about it?

Citizen 3: He's gone off to some 'ot country! He don't care about us no more.

(Enter Dick and Tiddles)

Dick: Hello everyone!

(audience replies)

Citizen 2: 'ere...who are you?

Dick: Oh, hello there – my name is Dick Whittington, I am looking for The Sticky Bun's Bakery. Is this the right way?

Citizen 1: You don't look like you from around here, son

Dick: What gave it away? Was it me asking you for directions?

Citizen 3: Oh, you think you're funny, do you?

Dick: I have my moments, but that's not why I am here. I have come to London to seek my fame and fortune.

(the Citizens laugh)

Citizen 2: Fame and fortune! You are joking right?

Tiddles: He is absolutely not!

(Citizens gasp)

Citizen 3: My heavens, a talking cat!

(Tiddles gets shy)

Citizen 2: That's amazing! Where did you learn to talk?

Citizen 3: Do it again, say something else.

Dick: Tiddles gets a bit shy...

Citizen 1: Shhhhhh! Let him talk.

Dick: I really must insist, this is a bit much...

Citizen 2: Be quiet! He's about to speak!