



October 2022

## **Dick Whittington**

### ***THE MET LAUNCHES ITS FIRST EVER HOMEGROWN PANTOMIME***

**8 – 24 December**

**Press night 8 December 7.30pm.**

This December, The Met is staging its first ever pantomime, produced in house with panto professionals The Big Tiny Production Company.

With spectacular sets, sensational costumes, one gorgeous pantomime dame, hit songs and a side-splitting script, it's a magical sensation.

Poor young lad Dick Whittington and his rat-catching cat set off to find fame, fortune and adventure in London, but they soon find out that the path to happily-ever-after isn't always easy when the wicked Queen Rat hatches an evil scheme to get Dick out of the city. Are the streets paved with gold? Can the cat catch the rat? Will Dick triumph in the end?

The role of Dick Whittington is played by Bury local Connor Baldwin appearing on the Bury stage after a very busy summer entertaining holiday makers in Lanzarote!

He is joined by The Big Tiny favourite Robert Styles as Sarah the Cook. Robert's glitzy list of credits includes appearing in Priscilla Queen of the Desert in the West End and in King Lear at the Old Vic.

The important role of The Cat is played by Manchester's very own Leni Murphy who is also Leni Assistant Director to Ben Richards.

Other cast members are: Naomi Wynter as Fairy Bowbells; Lauren Steele as Alice Fitzwarren; Ian Hayles as Alderman Fitzwarren, Captain Whisk, Sultan and Postman; and Nancy Penvose as Queen Rat.

This fabulous production of Dick Whittington features glorious costumes, glitz, glamour, silliness, slapstick and a host of hit songs to sing along to. The Met's first panto is the perfect festive treat for the whole family for the very young and the young at heart.

Dick Whittington is written and directed by The Big Tiny's Ben Richards. Ben has written and directed plays up and down the country, on national tour, in London and at the Edinburgh Fringe.

David Agnew, Artistic Director of The Met said:

"Panto is a traditional celebration of the festive season and I'm so pleased that we're able to launch our own family-friendly pantomime for the first time this year at The Met. I'm especially excited that we're working with The Big Tiny, one of the most dynamic and exciting theatre producers in the North West. Acclaimed by audiences and press alike, The Big Tiny has quickly become known for creativity, innovation and through the roof production values. I'm sure everyone will have a great time at Dick Whittington."

**Ends**

**Press night tickets, rsvp to Shelagh Bourke, [she@we-r-lethal.com](mailto:she@we-r-lethal.com), 07971 819016 before 24 November.**

Dick Whittington, 8 – 24 December, dates and times:

<https://themet.org.uk/event/dick-whittington/>

Pyjama Performance, Thursday 15 December, 6.30 pm

Relaxed Performance, Monday 19 December 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted Performance, Tuesday 20 December 6.30 pm

### **The Big Tiny Productions**

Will Cousins and Ben Richards set up The Big Tiny Productions Ltd in 2019. Since then they have established a track record leading quality and innovation in the entertainment industry.

The Big Tiny have enjoyed bringing a number of panto titles to the stage, including *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Dick Whittington* at the Millgate Arts Centre in Saddleworth and the same titles to the Festival Drayton Centre, Shropshire. Last year TBT also produced *Robin Hood* for the Lawrence Batley Theatre, bringing their usual excellent standards and making the show the second most nominated pantomime in the country in the National UK Pantomime Awards (winner of Best Newcomer and nominated for Best Pantomime (under 500 seats), Best Director and Best Script).

Other theatre includes *Moab Is My Washpot* (Stephen Fry's autobiography workshopped in conjunction with The Lowry and written by TBT's own, Ben Richards), *Alfie the Elf's Christmas Rescue* (for the Lawrence Batley Theatre).

The Big Tiny's work also includes a trilogy of immersive theatrical children's puzzle games: *Charlotte Holmes: Adventure Box*, *Charlotte Holmes: TOP SECRET* and *Balthazar Snapdragon*. The trilogy received much critical acclaim including being listed as a 'top thing to do in lockdown' by the Guardian for 11 consecutive months and described as 'Delightful' by the New York Times.