



Media release

October 2025

## THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

**BRAND NEW PANTOMIME FROM THE MET AND THE BIG TINY  
SATURDAY 6 – SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER**

**PRESS NIGHT TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 7.30pm**

This December The Met is delighted to present **The Pied Piper of Hamelin**, a brand-new pantomime produced in house with panto professionals **The Big Tiny Production Company**, the team who brought you *Rumplestiltskin* and *Aladdin*.

A 'Very Bury' Christmas adventure for all the family, **The Pied Piper of Hamelin** is Bury's fourth homegrown pantomime and these fabulous productions have become highlights on Bury's Christmas calendar.

The Met presents a spectacular local twist on the classic tale. When the dastardly Pied Piper arrives in Bury with plans to strip away everything that makes our town special, only Fairy Bury and her magic can stop him.

Join Rudy, a young trader in Bury Market, as he falls head over heels for the girl of his dreams and helps his mum, Little Bea Poop, save all the black puddings in Bury. With a cast of colourful characters, this hilarious show features show-stopping musical numbers, spectacular effects, and all the audience participation expected from Bury's famous pantomime!

A must see for audiences of all ages – **The Pied Piper of Hamelin** is the ultimate festive treat for Bury families.

The Pied Piper is written and directed by The Big Tiny's Ben Richards who directed last year's sell-out production of *Rumplestiltskin*. Ben has written and directed plays up and down the country, on national tour, in London and at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Victoria Robinson, Chief Executive, The Met said:

"This brand-new production is The Met's fourth homegrown pantomime and we're so happy to be working with The Big Tiny for what promises to be one of the highlights of the Christmas Calendar. This year The Met is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and we can't wait to welcome you to our family friendly venue for this fun-packed pantomime at this special time of the year."

The cast includes:

**Anthony Gyde - Little Bea Poop:** Actor, singer and drag artist, Anthony was recently seen on the No. 1 UK Tour of *Everybody's Talking About Jamie* as *Laika Virgin* and 1st cover *Hugo/Loco Chanelle*. He is also widely recognised as international drag sensation *KY Kelly*. Anthony's credits span stage, screen and cabaret, including appearances on *Coronation Street* and leading roles in pantomime.

**Nathan Hopley-Smith - The Pied Piper:** Nathan has played Inspector Goole in *An Inspector Calls* and Macbeth in *Macbeth* for Kevali Productions, and Sam/Mr. Burns in *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* at Derby Theatre. His screen work includes roles in the BBC's *Years and Years* and *Our Zoo*, alongside a decade of original comedy with his company *Death by Pie*.

**Sarah Legg - Sir Orange Peel:** Sarah trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School where she won The Peter Ackerman Comedy Award. She played Gremio in an all -female production of *The Taming of the Shrew* at The Hope Mill Theatre and HOME, Manchester. She has worked in various regional theatres in productions including Alan Ayckbourn plays, Agatha Christie murder mysteries, Shakespeare and premieres of new writing.

**Jacob Goodchild - Rudy Poop:** Jacob was most recently lead vocalist with NCLH's Regent Explorer. He trained at the London College of Music, when he appeared at The Criterion Theatre in the new musical *Barcelona*. He also appeared in *Lord of the Flies* as one of the Lost Boys at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

**Lauren Wilson - Fairy Bury:** Lauren appeared at The Met in last year's panto *Rumpelstiltskin* and performs all over the UK as an actor, singer, improviser, and puppeteer. Her credits include: *The Business of Love* (Warrington Arts Fest); *Choices for Good* (OpenView Education); *All We Need is a Vicar* (Canal Cafe Theatre); *Dick Whittington* (Hurricane Productions); *One Week in Magaluf* (The Arden Theatre); and *The Producers* (Trinity Wells Theatre).

**Toby West - Pee Wee Poop:** Toby trained at LMA in Liverpool and after graduating moved to Paris to perform as a character and parade performer at *Disneyland Paris*. Last year he appeared in *Rumpelstiltskin* at The Met and previous panto credits include *The Jungle Book* and *The Little Mermaid*.

**Sophie Trueman - Anna Orange:** Sophie returns to The Met where she played Maria in last year's production of *Rumpelstiltskin*. She trained in dance at the Rose Bruford College and her most recent credits include the Alzheimer's Society Commercial *The Many Deaths of Mum*; *Big Bad Wolf* (Byte Back Theatre); *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*; *The Ugly Duckling* (Carrot Productions); *Things You See In The Rain* (Farewell Theatre); *Dolly Depart'n* (Peripeteia Theatre Company); and *Raves R Us* (Naughty Corner Productions) at Glastonbury 2024.

Ends

**Press night tickets, RSVP to Shelagh Bourke, [she@we-r-lethal.com](mailto:she@we-r-lethal.com), 07971 819016 before Friday 28 November**

### **The Pied Piper of Hamelin Saturday 6 – Sunday 28 December**

#### **Tickets:**

From Adults £20, Children £17 (includes booking fees)

Schools' performances are available from 9 – 17 December, the perfect festive trip for school children. Tickets are £13 + 1 free teacher place per 10 children, plus free tea and coffee for teachers before the show.

More information: <https://themet.org.uk/event/pied-piper/>

- **Press Night** Tue 9 Dec 7:30pm Our first public (and lowest priced) performance.
- **Pyjama Performance** Fri 12 Dec 6:30pm Stay up late and wear your pyjamas or onesies to the show.
- **Relaxed Performance** Sun 14 Dec 11:00am For anyone who would appreciate a more flexible atmosphere to enjoy the show. House lights will be on, and doors open. A touch tour will be available before the show begins.
- **BSL Interpreted Performance** Fri 19 Dec 6:30pm For people with hearing difficulties or for whom British Sign Language is their preferred language.

#### **Notes to editors: The Big Tiny**

Since setting up The Big Tiny Productions Ltd in 2019, Will Cousins and Ben Richards have established a track record of leading quality and innovation in the entertainment industry. They have worked with venues across the North West including The Octagon (Bolton), The Lowry (Salford), The LBT (Huddersfield), The Dukes (Lancaster), The Millgate Arts Centre (Saddleworth) and of course The Met in Bury.

The Big Tiny have produced all your favourite panto titles including Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin and Robin Hood, for which they won Best Newcomer at the National UK Pantomime Awards. They have also been nominated for

best panto (under 500 seats), Best Director and Best Script and have received five-star reviews across the local and national press. No wonder they have been named in the MEN as producing “The Best Little Panto in the Country.”

Other theatre include Moab Is My Washpot (Stephen Fry’s autobiography workshopped in conjunction with The Lowry and written by TBT’s own, Ben Richards), and 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.