



Press Release

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 11AM, THU 1 OCT 2026

FE-FI-FO-FUM... The Met promises a giant dose of festive family panto fun

Full cast announced for *Jack and the Beanstalk* coming to Bury this Christmas

This festive season Bury audiences have *bean* invited on a gigantic adventure as **The Met** presents a brand-new adaptation of the hilarious and magical panto, ***Jack and the Beanstalk***.

Produced by acclaimed panto professionals **The Big Tiny**, (the team behind 2025's *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* and previous productions of *Rumpelstiltskin*, *Dick Whittington* and *Aladdin*), this unmissable new production, directed by **Robert Styles**, comes to **The Met** from **Saturday 5 - Monday 28 December**.

Featuring a powerhouse of all Northern talent, the full cast includes: **Marcquelle Ward** (*The Ridiculous Rhyme Show*, Laugh 'n' Learn, *Rapunzel*, Albert Halls and Polka Dot Theatre) in the title role as Jack; joined by **Georgia Willbourn** in her professional stage debut as his love interest, Jill.

Joining them is **Alex Cosgriff** (*Entertaining Murder*, Upstairs at the Gatehouse and LAMBCO Productions, *We Will Rock You*, Royal Caribbean and Queen Theatrical) as Dame Trott; **Natalie Fletcher** (*Hansel and Gretel*, The Big Tiny, *Pat The Painting Pig*, Gambolling Arena) as Fairy Bury; **Nathan Hoble-Smith** (*The Pied Piper*, The Big Tiny, *Beauty and The Beast*, Ellesmere Port Civic Hall) as Fleshcreep; and **Alex Lafferty** (*East*, Sir Crazy Productions, *The Odd Couple*, Wigan Little Theatre) as Silly Billy.

The production will also include a young company of local young actors, who will be announced shortly.



The creative team includes: **The Big Tiny** (producer); **Robert Styles** (director); and **Jason Harrison** (choreographer).

Jack and the Beanstalk director, Robert Styles, said on the announcement: *“I’m delighted to be directing Jack and the Beanstalk with Big Tiny at The Met, Bury. Having previously performed as a Dame in three of The Big Tiny pantomime productions, including their production of Dick Whittington right here at The Met, it’s wonderful to return in a completely different role. Jack and the Beanstalk is a brilliant story to play with, and I can’t wait to work with the cast and creative team to bring audiences plenty of laughter, magic, mischief and all the panto fun they know and love.”*

Big Tiny Writer, Ben Richards and producer Will Cousins said: *“We’re thrilled to be returning to The Met this Christmas. We love creating bespoke local pantomime for the people of Bury, and we are incredibly excited to bring Jack and the Beanstalk to the Met this year. It’s a fantastic story packed with comedy, adventure and all the ingredients of a brilliant panto.”*

The Met’s Artistic Programme Manager, Sophie Cade says: *“We’re so pleased to be working with Big Tiny again and to welcome them back to The Met with another pantomime. It’s wonderful that we can offer families and audiences across Bury a fun high-quality festive experience to enjoy together. We’re really looking forward to seeing Jack and the Beanstalk come to life on our stage.”*

When Jack trades the family cow for a handful of mysterious beans, he finds himself on an unexpected journey filled with towering dangers, magical surprises, and a kingdom in need of a hero. With the help of Dame Trott and Fairy Bury, Jack must face the Giant and uncover the secrets hidden high above the clouds.

Can Jack outsmart the Giant? What will he discover in the land above the clouds? And will the Trott family’s luck finally change?

There’s only one way to find out – join Jack on the journey of a lifetime this Christmas at The Met.

Packed with side-splitting comedy, show-stopping moments, and festive magic from start to finish, **Jack and the Beanstalk** promises an unforgettable adventure for the whole family.



Jack and the Beanstalk comes to **The Met, Bury** from **Saturday 5 - Monday 28 December**. Tickets are on-sale now.

For full info and to book tickets visit themet.org.uk/beanstalk

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Cast and director are available for press interviews. To arrange an interview or request review tickets please contact Daniel Hicklin at dan.hicklin@themet.org.uk

Press night: Tuesday 8 December, 7.30pm

Tickets from £15

School performances are available from **Tue 8 - Wed 16 Dec**. Tickets are £14 + 1 free teacher place per 10 children. To book, teachers can call **0161 761 2216** or email info@themet.org.uk

- **Pyjama Performance** Fri 11 Dec 6:30pm. Stay up late and wear your pyjamas or onesies to the show.
- **Relaxed Performance** Sun 13 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 18 Dec 6:30pm. For people with hearing difficulties or for whom British Sign Language is their preferred language.

Notes to Editors

The Met

The Met is a leading live arts venue in the heart of Bury. It presents a diverse programme of live music, theatre, comedy, family entertainment and community activities welcoming audience from across Bury, Greater Manchester and beyond.

Alongside its performance programme, The Met supports emerging artists, offers a recording studio for artists and local communities and hosts a wide range of groups and creative opportunities for people of all ages.

For more than 50 years, The Met has played an important part of Bury's cultural life and has



welcomed a wide range of performers and artists, including artists who went on to achieve national and international recognition.

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.