

The PRINCESS, the PENGUIN & the POTTING SHED

'The Princess, the Penguin & the Potting Shed' will be the 35th Pantomime performed by the Westhoughton Methodist Amateur Dramatic Society since our first pantomime in 1981.

The Nursery Rhyme part of Pantoland is being invaded by the wicked Queen of the Underground and her evil henchman, Mindthedoors. The Queen's hordes of evil minions are starting to march through her newly completed CrossPanto tunnel. The Queen is keen to create chaos and mayhem using spells from Granny Pop-out-of-bed, the wicked witch of Pantoland.

The ancient scrolls foretell that in such a dire emergency, a Princess and a Hero must be found to save the Nursery Rhyme part of Pantoland. Jack and Jill, who run a water carrying business, decide to use the magic Portal for this quest, even though the Portal has been unreliable in the past. Is this a wise move, or will it end in tears?

Meanwhile, in Hart Common, the eccentric scientist Professor Quatermess and his housekeeper Mrs Danvers, are expecting a visitor and the delivery of the evening paper. It is highly unlikely that Bobbie and Roy Rover, the paperboy, are a princess and a hero but stranger things have happened in the past. Either way, the Professor is determined to keep his invisible potting shed and its contents a closely guarded secret.

Life in Pantoland will soon become difficult for the Nursery Rhyme folk. Will Jack Sprat waste away from a lack of lean meat? What will Little Jack Horner pull out of his next Christmas pie? Will the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe have to go through the entire range at the shoeshop to find suitable accommodation for her large number of offspring? Will the Council of Jacks ever make a decision, or are they only interested in eating lunch and playing endless games of "Fish"? Who is the mysterious Penguin who keeps appearing? Is it related to Jack the Jackass Penguin on the Council of Jacks?

The Grand Old Duke of York and his men might save the day, or they might not. Will everything rest on Jack and Jill actually finding the Princess and the Hero?

'The Princess, the Penguin & the Potting Shed' is a fast moving story bringing together several Nursery Rhymes and their characters, similar but quite different to Narnia and Yonderland. It contains scenes of mild peril involving an invisible potting shed, a house building kit, WonTon TaiChi, impractical first aid, pies, buckets, sing-a-long songs, audience participation and traditional pantomime jokes. No fish, frogs, three-headed monkeys, spiders or penguins have been harmed in this production.

Script written and directed by Bill Greenhalgh

'The Princess, the Penguin & the Potting Shed' is suitable for all ages.

Performance dates are Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Friday 19th and Saturday 20th February 2016. Curtain Up is 7.15pm prompt.

Tickets (including refreshments) are:

£4.50 for Adults and £4 for OAPs and children (Friday 12th & Saturday 13th ONLY)

£5 for Adults and £4.50 for OAPs and children (Friday 19th & Saturday 20th ONLY)

Tickets can be booked by phoning 01942 812435 or by emailing: wmads@f2s.com

All performances will be held at the Westhoughton Methodist Church Hall, Wigan Road, Westhoughton, BL5 3RQ