

AUDITION PACK

<u>About Us</u>

Kinver Light Operatic Society was formed in 1977 and was the brainchild of the late Les Pursey (at the time a mathematics teacher at Edgecliff School and a brilliant musician in his own right) and Ann Benbow, under the Chairmanship of the late Dr. Denis Ellis. Our first production was 'The King and I' (repeated in 2005), followed by 'The Sound of Music' in May 1978 (repeated in 2012). Our main shows have been presented in May ever since.

We are active members of NODA (The National Operatic and Dramatic Association) and several of our members are recipients of NODA Long Service Awards for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and even 45 years! We have won many awards our first being Birmingham Evening Mail award for our play 'Sailor Beware' in 1983. In recent years we have been going from strength to strength in all areas, winning the NODA award for Best Pantomime (Region 8) for 'Dick Whittington and his Cat' in 2015 and then again for 'Beauty and the Beast' in 2017. We have also received NODA (Region 8) nominations for Best Regional Musical for our 2013 production of 'Wizard of Oz', our 2015 production of 'Hairspray', our 2018 production 'Annie' and nomination for Best Play 'It Runs in the Family'. We have also been nominated for Best Programme - Deluxe category - for our show programmes 'Grease' 2014, 'Copacabana' 2016 and 'Sister Act' 2022. We won the NODA award again for Best Pantomime (Region 8) for our 2018 production of 'Sleeping Beauty'. We most recently won Best Musical (Region 8) for the first time for our 2019 production of 'Legally Blonde'. We were also nomianted for Best Musical (Region 8) for our 2022 musical 'Sister Act' and our 2023 musical 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert'.

Production Team

Producer: Philippa Bishop Director: Harvey Dalloway Musical Director: Kate Cox Choreographer: Martyn Davies

The Show

Kinver Light Operatic Society are delighted to be presenting 'Dick Whittington and his Cat' as our annual pantomime this year.

Young Richard 'Dick' Whittington has travelled to London to seek his fortune, and guided by Fairy Bow Bell, finds Tommy, a friendly kitty companion! Upon arriving in London, Dick meets Alice Fitzwarren, a local shopkeeper who is in need of a crew for a shipment of rat poison to Morrocco. She takes on Dick and his cat to help deal with the rat problem at her store, alongside Sarah the Cook and Idle Jack.

Meanwhile, the evil King Rat is conspiring against Dick and his cat, and plots to kill all the cats in the kingdom! He frames Dick as a thief, but, after hearing King Rat's ploys, Alice soon makes amends with Dick, who she herself begins to fall for! They all set sail to Morrocco, under the direction of the Captain and his doting Mate, but things go awry as King Rat sabotages them once again, sinking the ship and its cargo of rat poison!

Our heroes wash ashore in Morrocco, where they meet the Sultan, who does NOT take kindly to intruders. However, after Dick introduces Tommy's rat catching abilities, the Sultan honours the guests, only to be ambushed by King Rat and his army of rats! But Tommy and Dick fight valiantly and put an end to King Rat! In their final reunion, Alice and Dick declare they are to be married when they return home, and they all set sail back to London!

The panto is made up of 10 principal roles, a children's chorus and an adult ensemble/dancers. There are several smaller roles which will be shared between the ensemble during the rehearsal period. The show has a range of big full cast numbers with movement along with solos. All interested in taking part in the show need to be comfortable singing, dancing and acting.

<u>Rehearsals</u>

All rehearsals take place at either St Peters Church Hall, Kinver, DY7 6HJ or Methodist Church Hall, Enville Rd, Kinver, DY7 6BU.

- Rehearsal Nights Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:15pm till 10pm
- First Rehearsal Monday 2nd September from 7:15pm (full company)
- Sunday afternoons from 9am till 2pm starting from Sunday 3rd November

As we get nearer to showtime we will start running the full show and therefore will require the all cast to attend on a Sunday. Please see the rehearsal schedule for more detail. We'll try our best to stick to the planned schedule, but it is subject to change as the show develops.

We expect cast to attend the majority of rehearsals, catching up at home on any that are missed by learning song words or practicing dance routines. The following dates are **mandatory**, if you are unable to make any of the dates below you will not be able to perform in the show.

Monday 18th November - Rehearsal Wednesday 20th November - Preview Night Sunday 24th November - Full Run Through Tuesday 26th November - Technical Rehearsal Wednesday 27th November - Technical Rehearsal Thursday 28th November - Costume Fitting Friday 29th November - Dress Rehearsal Saturday 30th November - Dress Rehearsal/First Performance Sunday 1st December - 2 Full Performances Wednesday 4th December - Full Performance Thursday 5th December - Full Performance Friday 6th December - Full Performance Saturday 7th December - 2 Full Performances

Administration

There is a one-off show fee of £35.00 to take part in the production. This covers a range of costs including insurance, venue hire, costumes and more. This is in addition to your yearly membership fee. This can be paid in full on the first rehearsal, however if required we are more than happy to stagger payments, please speak to us to arrange this. Should you be successful in auditioning you will be expected to sell a minimum of 10 tickets. We may ask you to provide a small number of self-dress costumes including shoes and basics that you may have at home already.

Non-Members

If you would like to audition for the show however not currently a paid member of KLOS you will need to do a separate membership audition prior to the Dick Whittington audition day. These auditions will be held on Wednesday 12th June at St Peter's Church Hall. Please contact our membership secretary Charlotte Wood to arrange your membership audition – membership.klos@outlook.com

KLOS' membership year runs from 1st August – 31st July. We offer three types of membership: Adult - £35 Family - £45 Student 16+ - £20

Subscriptions must be paid for the year if a member wishes to audition for a forthcoming production. Failure to pay will result in membership to the society being withdrawn.

Pre Audition Meeting - Wednesday 22nd May from 8:00pm

This session is to bring everyone together ahead of the auditions to find out all about the show and hear our plans for the production. During this session we'll go through the different characters in the show and play some of the audition songs. On the website we will have sign up form for people to register their interest. The audition pieces will be available on our website www.klos.co.uk/audition-information for people to download and practice.

Auditions - Sunday 23rd June

This day is for all everyone who would like to be part of the show. Please wear clothes you can dance and move around in plus bring a drink. The day will run as follows:

- Full Company Dance Workshop (This is a compulsory dance workshop for all auditioning for the show)
- Dancer Audition (This is for all wanting to be considered for Dancer)
- Individual Auditions

Timings for the day will be sent out closer to the time depending on the amount of people auditioning for the show.

<u>Cast List</u>

Dick Whittington

A dream-filled young man who has travelled to London to seek his fortune! Dick is the typical pantomime leading male who falls for Alice Fitzwarren, a shopkeeper whom he comes across on his travels. He is determined and headstrong, especially with his trusty cat at his side. Must be a strong and confident singer with some dancing ability.

Gender: Any

Tommy' the Cat

Tommy' (or whatever the audience names the cat each show) is Dick's faithful companion and the hero of the show! He is a rat-catcher supreme and helps Dick along every step of his journey. NOTE: We want to see your interpretation of the cat! Members of any age and gender can audition for the cat, and it's up to you as to how to play it. Perhaps the cat is expressive and lively and only speaks through body language, or perhaps the cat is fat and sluggish with occasional funny quips. Feel free to ad-lib within the given audition piece if your interpretation deems it necessary. THIS IS A NON-SPEAKING ROLE unless your interpretation calls for dialogue to be added.

Gender: Any

Alice Fitzwarren

The typical pantomime leading female. Owner of Fitzwarren's Stores, she is a kind and forgiving soul who makes good friends of her employees. Must be a strong and confident singer with some dancing ability.

Gender: Female

Fairy Bow Bells

A fairy who is eager to aid Dick and his friends on his journey, despite King Rat's best efforts. She guides Dick throughout and keeps him on the right track. Could have a cockney accent. Must be a strong and confident singer.

Gender: Female

King/Queen Rat

A mean, pompous and villainous rat with a vendetta against all cats. He vows to kill all cats in the kingdom with the aide of his army of rats, and actively sabotages Dick and his cat throughout their adventure but is eventually brought to justice. Must have a regal yet menacing voice, and an intimidating stage presence. A strong singing ability is desirable.

Gender: Any (Male preferred)

Idle Jack

A mean, pompous and villainous rat with a vendetta against all cats. He vows to kill all cats in the kingdom with the aide of his army of rats, and actively sabotages Dick and his cat throughout their adventure but is eventually brought to justice. Must have a regal yet menacing voice, and an intimidating stage presence. A strong singing ability is desirable.

Gender: Any (Male preferred)

Sarah the Cook

The motherly Dame character who works at Alice's store. She is always hungry for food (and men) and has a particular fondness for the Captain. Must have great comedic timing and have confidence working an audience. Must have strong comedic singing ability.

Gender: Any (Male preferred)

Captain

Gruff and sea-faring, the Captain is responsible for leading Alice's crew to Morrocco with a shipment of rat poison, and tries to keep them in order (often failing to do so!) with the help of his bumbling sidekick, the Captain's Mate. Loveable yet commanding. A pirate's accent is desired. Must have great comedic timing and some comedic singing ability.

Gender: Any (Male preferred)

Captain's Mate

The Captain's mate is the naive and daft assistant to the Captain, whom they look up to as a mentor and a leader. Asks lots of questions – doesn't seem to learn from the answers. Has a big crush on Alice Fitzwarren. Could have a Bristolian/West Country accent. Must have great comedic timing and some comedic singing ability.

Gender: Any

The Sultan/Sultana of Morrocco

A harsh and brutal leader with a taste for the finer things in life. Features in one scene towards the end of the show. (Will double up as Ensemble or Dancer). Must be a confident singer.

Gender: Any

Ensemble Roles

Ensemble members and dancers will take on various roles throughout the show, including:

- Townsfolk
- Sailors
- Rats
- Sultan's Harem/Sultana's Posse
- Sultan's Guards

As always, the ensemble will require a strong set of singers and some movement.

Audition FAQ's

What do I need to prepare?

Instrumental tracks and lyrics have been edited and provided on the website. Please prepare the songs assigned to the character you wish to audition for. These same instrumental tracks will be provided for you at the audition. Please make sure you are familiar with the lib and song ahead of your audition and off book.

What if you want to audition for more than one part?

You can put your name down for more than one character however, be prepared!

Not sure what role to audition for?

Check out the detailed character descriptions above or online. Still not sure? Prepare the ensemble part.

What time should I arrive?

We ask that you arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled timeslot. Arriving early gives you time to relax, focus and not feel rushed.

What if I see this audition notice at the last minute? Can I just show up?

If you are a member of KLOS you can sign up to audition at any time however we do ask you give us as much notice as possible to we can arrange the timings of the day. If you are not a paid member of KLOS you will need to do a separate membership audition prior to the audition day. These auditions will be held on Wednesday 12th June at St Peter's Church Hall. Unfortunately if you have not done this prior to the Dick Whittington audition day you will not be able to audition.

Where do I go to audition?

All auditions will be at St Peter's Church Hall, Vicarage Drive, Kinver, DY7 6HJ

How do I find out the audition results?

The cast list will be posted on our website the evening of the auditions www.klos.co.uk/audition-results

Audition Tips

- Project your voice (both singing and speaking) so people all the way at the back can hear you!
- Don't just sing/read the lines, perform them! We're looking for people who can sell the song. Think about what you are saying/singing and show the panel how that character feels.
- Prepare! Read all the information in parentheses and italics so you know what is going on in the scene before you get up there.
- Always give your audition 100% of everything you have. You'll regret it if you don't. Just go for it!
- Don't be nervous! BREATHE! This is fun!!! Enjoy it! We look forward to meeting you.

Need any more info?

The Pre-Audition Meeting on Wednesday 22nd May 8:00pm is your chance to ask any questions or queries you may have around the show and speak to the production team. If not, you can contact our Production Secretary Philippa Hickinbottom on 07429 095987

We're extremely excited to get started on this fantastic show and we'd love for you to be part of the fun. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Thanks,

Philippa, Harvey, Kate & Martyn - Production Team