

The  
Little  
Theatre



Disney  
**BEAUTY  
AND THE  
BEAST**

**THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**

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**17 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2024**  
The Little Theatre, Leicester



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# Production Team

## Keiran Whelan-Newby *Director / Producer*



"We don't like what we don't understand... in fact, it scares us" – my favourite lyric in 'Beauty and the Beast'. Never truer words spoken. Last night we finished setting our final big company number, 'The Mob Song'. Throughout this entire process I have been amazed by our brilliant company and their ability to retain information and deliver energetic and committed performances. It has been a special year for me in many respects – it has been a celebration of ten year's hard work, a time to celebrate the people who made it all possible and a time to reflect and be grateful for everything we've achieved. 'Beauty and the Beast' seemed the ideal choice to present as our

10th anniversary show - a beautiful story with a stunning score, perfect roles for all the people I love working with and a show with big Broadway pizzazz and heart to match. It hasn't been the easiest journey - juggling many different hats, setting epic company numbers that run for nearly ten minutes and managing a cast of nearly 30 people – there were times when I thought we would never get here! But here we are and I am thrilled with the results. All of my heart and imagination has been poured into this magical show and although the thought of presenting this Disney classic at times was intimidating, I have refused to compromise on telling my own version of this story. 'Beauty and the Beast' is ultimately a classic love story about not judging a book by its cover and learning to love the inner beauty within others. For me, it's much more than that. It's a lesson in acknowledging our own flaws, learning to reevaluate the things we don't "understand" and discovering the truth and beauty within ourselves. That is exactly how I would sum up the last 10 years. I dedicate this show to all the family I've made along the way and all the people who have ever bought a ticket to watch us - it's been one hell of a ride!

Directing Credits include: 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS), 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' (Kirby Players) and as co director for three LDS pantomimes; 'Robin Hood', 'Cinderella' and 'Aladdin'. As Producer/ Director for KW Productions; 'A Slice of Saturday Night', 'Company', 'Into The Woods', 'The Sound of Music', 'The Last Five Years' (2021 NODA Lockdown Hero Award), 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' (2022 NODA Award Best Musical) and 'Gypsy' (2023 NODA Award Best Musical).

## Amanda Sadler *Properties*

Amanda is a Charity Marketing and Promotion Coordinator. In 2017 she was invited to Buckingham Palace to meet HRH Prince Charles (as was) as the Girls' Brigade group she started in 2015 was awarded the Youth United Social Action Award, as the youngest social action group in England. Her favourite Disney film is 'Pete's Dragon' – "a captivating story of family, love and imagination" and her dream role is Donna in 'Mamma Mia!'. If Amanda was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a chandelier – "one with lots of glass so I could project rainbows everywhere when the sun shines through!".

Properties for KW Productions; 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' and 'Gypsy'.

## Tim Stokes *Musical Director*

"'Beauty and the Beast' is a fantastic show to MD. Bringing to life the iconic songs that are forever in people's hearts, as well as having some artistic licence with the new songs added for the stage, has been a joy and a privilege. Thank you, as always, to Keiran for his continually increasing faith in me to be part of creating his vision. Thank you also to Paul Timms for being my support as assistant MD and the cast for working so hard. Special thanks must go to my band who are talented and have been patient with a man taking his first time behind the baton!"



Tim is currently training to be a Music Therapist whilst working in Alternative Education Provision and for the Disabled Children's Service – he can also tilt the front of his nostrils upwards without touching them! His favourite Disney film is 'Pirates of the Caribbean' – "I have watched it so many times as a child and an adult. So much fun and what a score!". Tim's dream role is Quasimodo in 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a piano – duh!

For KW Productions; Jack/Steward in 'Into The Woods', Rolf/Children's MD in 'The Sound of Music', Tommo/Assistant MD in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' and Tulsa/Musical Director in 'Gypsy'.

## Caroline Walsh *Dance Choreography*



"I've loved working on 'Beauty and the Beast', it's an enchanting show full of fun, love and laughter. This is exactly what rehearsals have been. I feel very proud to be part of this extremely talented team" Caroline (Caz) is a driving instructor and once was on 'Blankety Blank' with Lily Savage! Her favourite Disney film is 'Newsies' – "because of the dancing" and her dream role is Mrs Wilkinson in 'Billy Elliott: The Musical'. If Caz was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a time machine – "so I can relive our family trips to Disney World!".

Favourite choreography credits include; 'A Chorus Line' (Hinckley Concordia), 'Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical' (WAOS) and 'Robin Hood' (LDS). For KW Productions; 'Gypsy'.

## Joe Roberts *Projections Director/Creator*

Joe works as an attendance, PR and Marketing Manager in Education and his first time acting was with the Little Theatre's Youth Theatre playing Prince Caspian in 'The Snow Queen' (many many moons ago!). His favourite Disney film is 'Frozen' – "because without the film there wouldn't have been the stage musical which is just pure Disney magic!". If Joe was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a broom – "so I could fly out of Leicester to somewhere much more magical!".

Technical Director for; 'Ghost: The Musical' and 'Grease' (WAOS).

## Cast

Narrator/Madame D'Arque  
The Enchantress  
Belle  
Gaston  
Lefou  
Les Filles de la Ville  
  
Maurice  
Lumiere  
Cogsworth  
Mrs Potts  
Chip  
Babette  
Beast  
Madame de la Grande Bouche  
Ensemble

**Monica Winfeld**  
**Liz Kavanagh**  
**Rose Bale**  
**Vaughan Barton-Ashcroft**  
**Matt Barton-Ashcroft**  
**Rachel Wheeler, Phillippa Hamilton and Kerry Smith**  
**Tony Whitmore**  
**Simon Butler**  
**Russell Webster**  
**Siobhan Ball**  
**Edward Lander/Hollie Longley-Wilford**  
**Katherine Ardley**  
**Keiran Whelan-Newby**  
**Karen Gordon**  
**Tracey Holderness, Karen Hamilton, Olivia King, Reema Crooks, Jay Kenney, Russell Glesinger, Lyd Rushton, Georgina Hall, Caoimhe Gavagan and Lauren Leggett**

## Production Team

Direction and Musical Staging  
Musical Director  
Dance Choreography\*  
Production Assistant  
Projection Director/Creator  
Properties  
Stage Managers  
Deputy Stage Manager  
Sound Design  
Lighting Designs

**Keiran Whelan-Newby**  
**Tim Stokes**  
**Caroline Walsh**  
**Emily Hall**  
**Joe Roberts**  
**Amanda Sadler**  
**Lydia Clemence and Simon Dickens**  
**Andy Mear**  
**Tom Brooks**  
**Alex Crooks**

*With special thanks to Paul Timms*

## The Band

REED 1	<b>Dana Morgan</b>
REED 2	<b>Rosie Curtis</b>
REED 3	<b>Mick Curtis</b>
HORN	<b>Fran Penny</b>
TRUMPET	<b>Hannah Matthews</b>
PERCUSSION	<b>Dan Shooter</b>
KEYBOARD 1	<b>Sarah Jordan</b>
KEYBOARD 2	<b>Portia Stringer</b>
VIOLIN	<b>Mike Shaw</b>
CELLO	<b>Sam Goldsworthy</b>
BASS	<b>Jon Heywood</b>

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# Musical Numbers

## Act One

Overture	Narrator
Prologue (The Enchantress)*	Belle, Gaston, Lefou, Les Filles de la Ville and Townspeople
Belle	Maurice and Belle
No What What	Maurice
No What What (Reprise)/Wolf Chase*	Gaston and Belle
Me	Belle
Belle (Reprise)	Belle
Home	Mrs Potts and Madame de la Grande Bouche
Home (Reprise)	Lefou, Gaston, Les Filles de la Ville and Townspeople
Gaston*	Gaston and Lefou
Gaston (Reprise)	Beast
How Long Must This Go On?	Lumiere, Mrs Potts, Cogsworth, Madame de la Grande Bouche, Chip, Babbette and Enchanted Objects
Be Our Guest*	Beast
If I Can't Love Her*	

Please note: There will be a 20 minute interval between each act

## Act Two

Entr'acte/Wolf Chase*	Belle, Beast, Lumiere, Mrs Potts and Cogsworth
Something There	Lumiere, Madame de la Grande Bouche, Cogsworth, Mrs Potts, Babbette, Chip and Enchanted Objects
Human Again	Mrs Potts
Beauty and the Beast*	Beast
If I Can't Love Her (Reprise)	Belle
A Change in Me	Gaston, Lefou, Madame D'Arque and Townspeople
The Mob Song	
Fight On The Tower	Belle and Beast
Home (Reprise)/Transformation	The Company
Finale Ultimo: Beauty and the Beast (Reprise)	

# Meet The Cast

## Rose Bale as Belle



Rose works as a Secondary School English teacher and her Dad dresses as a woman at Christmas (if you know, you know). Playing Belle fulfils a lifetime dream for Rose and it is no surprise that 'Beauty and the Beast' is her all time favourite Disney film – "it is a beautiful 'tale as old as time', full of magic enchantment and forgiveness. I love the message that beauty can be found within and that everyone deserves a second chance". If Rose was turned into an enchanted object for the day, she would be a broken clock – "so at least I'm on time twice a day!".

Favourite roles include; Emma Carew in 'Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical' (WAOS), Lily in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' and the title roles in 'Cinderella' and 'Puss in Boots' (LDS). For KW Productions; Louise in 'Gypsy'.

## Keiran Whelan-Newby as Beast

Keiran is a composed Retirement Housing Officer by day and an insanely crazy person who produces, directs and acts in his own shows by night. Keiran's favourite Disney film is of course 'Beauty and the Beast' – "I think it was the first time I saw animation and musical theatre combine so beautifully on screen – it was magical". Keiran's dream role is Sweeney Todd and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a clock – "so I could freeze time - there's never enough hours in the day!".

Favourite roles include; Archibald Craven in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS), Curly in 'Oklahoma!' (TMMTC), The Man in 'Whistle Down The Wind', Sam Wheat in 'Ghost: The Musical' and the title roles in 'Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical' (WAOS). For KW Productions; Rick in 'A Slice of Saturday Night', Robert in 'Company', Cinderella's Prince/ Wolf in 'Into The Woods', Captain von Trapp in 'The Sound of Music' and Jamie Wellerstein in 'The Last Five Years'.



## Vaughan Barton-Ashcroft *as Gaston*

Vaughan is the Chief Finance Officer at Northamptonshire Police & Fire. He once visited the actual castle in Bavaria, Germany that inspired the famous Disney castle and was featured in the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. Vaughan's favourite Disney film is 'Mary Poppins' – "I have fond memories of watching it with my family" and his dream role is Jean Valjean in 'Les Misérables'. If he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would Alan Menken's piano... definitely not a toilet brush!

Favourite roles include; Sir Robin in 'Spamalot' (KPAOS), Jesus in 'Jesus Christ Superstar', Lord Farquaad in 'Shrek: The Musical' and Jerry in 'The Full Monty' (LAOS). For KW Productions; Gary in 'A Slice of Saturday Night' and Paul in 'Company'.



## Matt Barton-Ashcroft *as Letou*



Matt is a self employed fitness instructor and also works as a Business Relations Coordinator for Rutland House Counselling & Psychotherapy. His favourite Disney film is 'Hercules' – "I love the Gospel upbeat soundtrack, especially by the muses, and it's different to any other Disney film". Matt's dream role is Olaf in 'Frozen' and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a mug of tea or a blanket – "to help people destress".

Favourite roles include; Donkey in 'Shrek: The Musical' (LAOS), Scuttle in 'The Little Mermaid', Drag Angel in 'Kinky Boots' and Willard in 'Footloose' (ESNA).

## Simon Butler *as Lumiere*

Simon started his stage career as a runway model for fashion shows, now by day he works as a Student Support Coordinator. His favourite Disney film is 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' – "it is Alan Menken at his best - soaring choral work, passionate melodies and motifs that make your heart chime like the very bells". Simon's dream role is Phil Connors in 'Groundhog Day: The Musical' and if he was turned into an enchanted object for they day he would be a kite – "so I could go outside to see the world from above and feel the wind in my sails!".

Favourite roles include; Oberon in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (Curve), William Barfee in 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee' (Four-Wheeled Theatre), Dickon in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' and Tom, The Miller's Son in 'Puss in Boots' (LDS). For KW Productions; L.A. in 'Gypsy'.



## Russell Webster *as Cogworth*



Russell spent two years learning to speak like Micky Mouse for his nephew. By the time he'd done it, he wasn't interested anymore! By day, he is a Warehouse Assistant. His favourite Disney film is 'Aladdin' – "the Genie's songs are super catchy and fun to sing" and his dream role is Shrek in 'Shrek: The Musical'. If Russell was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be....

Favourite roles include; Audrey II in 'Little Shop of Horrors' (IDOLS), Lord Evelyn Oakley in 'Anything Goes' (LOPs), Dr Neville Craven in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' and Fusspot in 'Puss in Boots' (LDS).

## Siobhan Ball *as Mrs Potts*

Siobhan works as a singing teacher and once had Christmas lunch with Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson during the height of 'The Young Ones'. Her favourite Disney film is 'The Lion King' – "because of its beautiful animation and amazing soundtrack". Shiv's dream role is Mrs Johnstone in 'Blood Brothers' and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a fridge – "so I can be really cool!".

Favourite roles include; Patsy Cline in 'Always Patsy Cline' (Scottish Tour), the title role in 'Peter Pan' (Assembly Halls Tunbridge Wells), Ruth in 'Blithe Spirit' and Pamela in 'The 39 Steps' (LDS). For KW Productions; Chris in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical'.



## Katherine Wadd *as Babette*



Katherine is a silversmith by day and has played in orchestras since she was ten years old. Her favourite Disney film is 'The Little Mermaid' – "when I was younger I always wanted to be a mermaid when I grew up!" and her dream role is Eliza Dolittle in 'My Fair Lady'. If Katherine was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a campervan – "so I could be parked on a beach by the sea all day!".

Favourite roles include; Gwendoline in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', Priscilla in 'Mother Goose' and The Robin in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS). For KW Productions; Sister Mary in 'The Sound of Music' and Agnes in 'Gypsy'.



## Karen Gordon *as Madame de la Grande Bouche*



Karen is descended on her Father's side, from King James II of Scotland (allegedly). By day she is a coffee shop assistant. Her favourite Disney film is 'Sleeping Beauty' – "I saw it at an impressionable age, fell in love with the Prince, was petrified of Maleficent and started a life long worship of the music of Tchaikovsky". Karen's dream role is Mrs Cheveley in 'An Ideal Husband' and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a pair of red pointe shoes – "that could dance beautifully – I've always wanted to be a ballerina!".

Favourite roles include; Judith Bliss in 'Hay Fever', Lady Chiltern in 'An Ideal Husband' and Mrs Robinson in 'The Graduate' (LDS). For KW Productions; Joanne in 'Company', The Witch in 'Into The Woods', Marie in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' and Mazeppa/ Miss Cratchitt in 'Gypsy'.

## Tony Whitmore *as Maurice*

Tony works as a charity worker and is a massive Prince fan having seen him live five times – "I have all the CDs including the banned ones and limited edition". His favourite Disney film is 'Toy Story' - "I want to be Buzz Lightyear!". Tony's dream role is the MC in 'Cabaret' and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he'd be a guitar!

Favourite roles include; The King in 'The King and I', Fagin in 'Oliver!', Harold Hill in 'The Music Man' (IDOLS) and Fred/ Petruchio in 'Kiss Me Kate' (Market Harborough). For KW Productions; Narrator/Mysterious Man in 'Into The Woods', Max Detweiler in 'The Sound of Music', Rod in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' and Herbie in 'Gypsy'.



## Hollie Longley-Wilford *as Chip*

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday Evening



Hollie is still at school and she wasn't interested in dance and drama until 2019-2020. Her favourite Disney film is 'Frozen' – "because I grew up watching it" and her dream role is Eliza Schuyler-Hamilton in 'Hamilton'. If Hollie was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a stuffed animal – "because I would get to sleep and be cuddly!". Favourite roles include; Phyliss in 'The Railway Children: A Musical' (LDS), Tiny Tim in 'Scrooge' (Seaton Starlights) and Sister May Clare in 'Sister Act' (Trevonne Stage School).

## Edward Lander *as Chip*

Wednesday, Friday Evening & Saturday Matinee



Edward (Teddy) is a school boy and enjoys studying Greek mythology – "my favourite tale is about Daedalus and Icarus". His favourite Disney film is 'The Lion King' - "because of the funny characters and the song Circle of Life!" and his dream role is the title role in 'Oliver!'. If Teddy was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a paper aeroplane – "so I can fly!".

Favourite roles include; Colin Craven in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS) and Bruce in 'Matilda Jnr' (Kings Academy).

## Liz Kavanagh *as The Enchantress*

Aside from bringing enchanting magic to the rehearsal room, by day Liz is a Programme Administrator at Leicester University. Her favourite Disney film is 'Dumbo' – "because it was the first film I ever watched at my Primary School film club". Liz's dream role is Glinda in 'Wicked' and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a cafetière – "because I love a proper coffee!".

Favourite roles include; Miss Hannigan in 'Annie', Peggy Sawyer in '42nd Street' (KPAOS), Mari Hoff in 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' (Kirby Players) and Babette in 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast' (LAOS). For KW Productions; April in 'Company', Jack's Mother/Cinderella's Stepmother in 'Into The Woods', Baroness Elsa Schraeder in 'The Sound of Music', Celia in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical' and Tessie Tura in 'Gypsy'.



## Rachel Wheeler *as Les Filles De La Ville*



Rachel loves running and later this year will be running her fifth half marathon. By day she is a results and certificate officer at an exam board. Her favourite Disney film is 'Beauty and the Beast' – "because when I was younger Belle had brown hair and hazel eyes like me – and I was also very jealous of her library!". Rachel's dream role is Bobbie in 'Company' (new gender swap version) and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a duvet – "so I can stay in bed all day!".

Favourite roles include; Serena in 'Legally Blonde' (LOPs), Lady in Waiting in 'Shakespeare in Love' (LDS) and as Ensemble in Nativity! (KPAOS) and Sweeney Todd (Curve).

## Philippa Hamilton *as Les Filles De La Ville*

Pip is a Customer Marketing Specialist by day and a 'Silly Girl' by night. She once jumped out of a plane at 14,000 feet for charity and of course, her favourite Disney film is 'Beauty and the Beast' - "a very nostalgic childhood favourite and close to my heart... it's full of magic". Pip's dream role is Mary Poppins and if she turned into an enchanted object for the day she'd be some sort of magical cleaning product - "I'm always cleaning! Spit spot!".

Favourite roles include; Essie in 'Parade', Little Pig in 'Shrek', Inventor in 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', Office Worker in '9 to 5' (LAOS) and Factory Girl in 'Made in Dagenham' (KPAOS).



## Kerry Smith *as Les Filles De La Ville*



Kerry is the editor of the local magazine Niche and takes an active role in The Little Theatre's membership and marketing. Her favourite Disney film is 'Snow White' - "I'd watch it on repeat as a kid. I've seen so many versions of the story and even did my dissertation on it at uni!". Her dream role is Lydia in 'Beetlejuice' and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a dog basket - "for puppy cuddles - an enchanted basket that spawns puppies - as long as it's clean!".

Favourite roles include; Martha in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS), Kate in 'Legally Blonde' (WAOS), Judy in '9 to 5' and as Ensemble in 'Nativity!' (KPAOS). For KW Productions; Thelma/ Renee in 'Gypsy'.

## Jay Kenney *Ensemble*

By day Jay is a Commissioning Officer, by night he is a dancing spoon. He once flew across a quarry at 100kmph! His favourite Disney film is 'Mary Poppins' - "I was born and raised on this film, how could anyone not love Mary Poppins?!". Jay is actually fulfilling his dream role by playing spoon #1 and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a cafetière - "so I've always got a fresh cup of coffee to get me through the day!".

Favourite roles include; Hugh R, Kettlewell in 'Acorn Antiques: The Musical', Monty in 'Made in Dagenham', Sonny in 'Grease', Monsieur O'Hara in 'Sister Act' and Willy Lopez in 'Ghost: The Musical' (all for WAOS). For KW Productions; Herr Zeller in 'The Sound of Music'.



## Karen Hamilton *Ensemble*



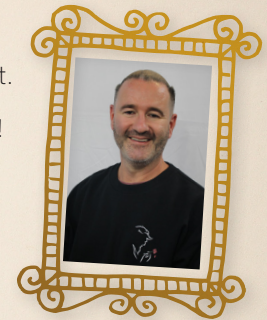
Karen once auditioned at Pineapple Studios for a Disney cruise ship! By day she is a Pharmacy Assistant at Boots. Her favourite Disney film is 'The Lion King' - "it's so moving and has a great soundtrack". Her dream role is Christine in 'The Phantom of the Opera' and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a teapot - "I LOVE tea and teapots, they are so pretty!".

Favourite roles include; Adelaide in 'Guys and Dolls', Irene Malloy in 'Hello, Dolly!', Tuptim in 'The King and I' (KPAOS) and Audrey in 'Little Shop of Horrors' (LDS). For KW Productions; Miss Wilson (Coffee) in 'Calendar Girls: The Musical'.

## Russell Glesinger *Ensemble*

Russell is a hairdresser by day and an enchanted spoon by night. He used to dance in the parades at Disney and his favourite Disney film is 'Homeward Bound' - "Coz Animals! Animated up! It has Kevin and Russell in it!". His dream role is Velma Kelly in 'Chicago' and if he was turned into an enchanted object for the day he would be a bed - "so I could sleep all day long!".

Favourite roles include; Oliver in 'Oliver!', Peter Pan in 'Peter Pan' and Vittorio Vidal in 'Sweet Charity' (WAOS).



## Olivia King *as Young Belle / Ensemble*



Olivia is a musical theatre teacher. Once Dwayne Johnson sent a good luck video to a show company she was part of. Her favourite Disney film is 'Moana' - "the soundtrack is incredible and the pet pig-pua is the cutest Disney character ever!" and her dream role is Lydia in 'Beetlejuice'. If Liv was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a trampoline - "because I've always got a spring in my step!".

Favourite roles include; Mary Lennox in 'The Secret Garden: The Musical' (LDS), Amy March in 'Little Women' (LTG), Pandora in 'Adrian Mole' (LAOS), Anna in 'Frozen' and Katherine Howard in 'Six' (Swing Theatre).



## Tracey Holderness *as Belle's Mother / Ensemble*

Tracey is a singing teacher and boasts to have a collection of over 100 Smurfs – “my three-tiered wedding cake was entirely decorated in Smurfs with a bridegroom and Smurfette on the top layer!”. Her favourite Disney film is ‘Beauty and the Beast’ – “Belle is such an empowering role model”. Tracey’s dream role is Claire in ‘Ordinary Days’ and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a wine glass – “that is magically always full!”

Favourite roles include; Fran in ‘Home, I’m Darling!’ (LDS) and Emily Tallentire in ‘The Hired Man’ (KOS). For KW Productions; Ruth in ‘Calendar Girls: The Musical’.



## Reema Crooks *Ensemble*



Reema is a Primary School Teacher and has been written as a character in a book series by New York Times’ best selling, very good friend and favourite author Maria V Snyder – “I love seeing my name in books!”. She doesn’t have a favourite Disney film because she loves them all! – “I love watching the original films with my kids and watching their faces experience the magic of Disney”. If Reema was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a book – “I love reading! Reading is the gateway to magic and other worlds!”.

Favourite roles include; Slave of the Ring in ‘Aladdin’ (LDS) and ‘Grease’ (WAOS). For KW Productions; DSM for ‘Into The Woods’, ‘Calendar Girls: The Musical’ and ‘Gypsy’

## Monica Winfield *as Narrator / Madame D'Arque*

Monica is retired and loving it! She learnt to horse ride in her 50’s and can ride Western like a cowboy. Her favourite Disney film is ‘Tangled’ – “I just love how they took the story of Rapunzel and developed it into a proper adventure!”. Monica’s dream role (“I’m too old”) is Emily Tallentire in ‘The Hired Man’ and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be something in Buckingham Palace – “I’d love to know what the Royals are like in real life!”.

Favourite roles include; Fairy Godmother in ‘Cinderella’ (LDS). For KW Productions; Lady Cravenshire in ‘Calendar Girls: The Musical’.



## Lauren Leggett *Ensemble*



Lauren is a dancer teacher by night and works in insurance during the day. She has got a blue belt in Taekwondo and her favourite Disney film is ‘The Little Mermaid’ – “because I love all of the songs!”. Lauren’s dream role is, not surprisingly, Ariel in ‘The Little Mermaid’ and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a dancing Santa – “so I can always be on the shelf once a year!”.

Favourite shows include; Dancer in ‘Puss in Boots’ (LDS).

## Georgina Hall *Ensemble*

Georgina is a Forest School Teacher and always does well in crazy golf!. Her favourite Disney film is ‘Mary Poppins’ – “I just love the music and I watched it lots when I was younger with my family”. If Georgie was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a plant pot – “because I love to watch things grow!”.

Favourite shows include; Dancer in ‘Sleeping Beauty’, ‘Cinderella’, ‘Aladdin’ and ‘Puss in Boots’ (LDS). For KW Productions; Marjorie May/Caroline the Cow (back) in ‘Gypsy’.



## Lyd Rushton *Ensemble*



Lyd is a Primary school and dance school teacher and before every performance she does a wellness/mental health check on every member of the cast and crew. She admits to “not being a Disney person” but loves ‘Cool Runnings’ or anything to do with the Marvel series. If Lyd was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be a pasta machine – “because my hair looks like noodles!”.

Favourite shows include; Dance Captain for the LDS pantomime for the last ten years, Dancer for Barefoot Festival (Tallulah Blue Cabaret) and as choreographer for ‘Grease’ and ‘Ghost: The Musical’ (WAOS). For KW Productions; Dolores in ‘Gypsy’.

## Caoimhe Gavagan *Ensemble*

Caoimhe is a dance teacher/waitress and in 2012 she held the Olympic torch! Her favourite Disney film is ‘Tangled’ or ‘The Little Mermaid’ – “they have been my favourites for as long as I can remember. I think it’s the hair!”. Caoimhe’s dream role is Penny in ‘Hairspray’ and if she was turned into an enchanted object for the day she would be Sleeping Beauty’s crown – “so I can sparkle and glitter all day!”.

Favourite roles include; Alice in ‘Alice in Wonderland’ (Leicester Dance Company), a Dancer in many LDS pantomimes and as Ensemble in ‘Legally Blonde’ (LOPs), ‘Hairspray’ and ‘Annie’ (KPAOS).



## IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

*A romantic poet once wrote: 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty.'  
But what do these ideas really mean? The dictionary defines:*

**BEAUTY:** the quality that gives pleasure to the sight... a particular grace or excellence

**TRUTH:** faithfulness; constancy...

We can appreciate the romantic idea of natural scenes as essentially beautiful: a sunset, a mountain, a waterfall, but when it comes to applying this idea of beauty in our fellow human beings, things become a whole lot more complicated! We have all heard sayings like "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder" and "You can't judge a book by its cover", but real-life does not always take account of this proverbial wisdom.

We all respond to certain features in other people but, culturally, we have created new and different ideals of 'beauty', which are almost totally based on outside appearances – glossy magazines are always telling us how we can reach these artificially created standards of beauty and we are bombarded with the same sort of thing from our television screen and in the flawless faces and figures of film stars and models.

As human beings, we also tend to instinctively shrink from anything that is very different from what we think is 'normal'. The kind of horror we feel is well exploited in stories that have been turned into popular entertainment such as The Hunchback of Notre Dame or The Phantom of the Opera. Something which is simply a difference rather than a disability is all too often considered ugly and should be feared and persecuted.

Fairy tales are often a way of passing on the wisdom of previous generations in the form of a story. Although the moral of the tale may stay the same, ways of telling the story have to keep up with the times to make sure people take note and listen to them.

The story of 'Beauty and the Beast' was first written in 1740, although the story itself is certainly far older than that. Two hundred and fifty years later, Disney's version of the story gives us a heroine who starts out fairly sure of herself, but who is definitely seen as 'different'. The townspeople admit that she is beautiful, but think she is strange because she is more interested in books than boys! Belle has to be tested by a series

of experiences before she comes to realise who she really is, beneath her beauty outside. The Beast has already been turned inside out; his human outside has been replaced by a beastly appearance which more accurately reflects his character and behaviour. Both of them have to learn important lessons about the true nature of beauty before they can find happiness both within themselves and then, finally, with each other.

The story of Beauty and the Beast is a fascinating and entertaining way of showing us that it might be a good idea to try and see past surface appearances, whether they be beautiful or beastly, if we want to find the true beauty that lies within.

*Elaine Peake - John Good Holbrook*



*'Beauty is just in time to save the Beast's life'*

Illustration by Warwick Goble, in The Fairy Book



*One of the most beautiful love stories ever told*

Film version of Disney's  
Beauty and the Beast, 1991

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*Apologies to anyone who may have been missed after sending this programme to print.*

# Previous Productions



**2014**

**A Slice of Saturday Night**  
(Upstairs at the Western)



**2015**

**A Slice of Saturday Night**  
(Little Theatre, Main Stage)



**2015**

**Company**  
(Upstairs at the Western &  
The Little Theatre Studio)



**2018**

**Into The Woods**  
(Little Theatre, Main Stage)



**2019**

**The Sound of Music**  
(Little Theatre, Main Stage)



**2021**

**The Last Five Years**  
(Live Streamed Production)  
*WINNER 2022 NODA Lockdown Hero Award*



**2022**

**Calendar Girls: The Musical**  
(Little Theatre, Main Stage)  
*WINNER of the 2022 NODA  
District 6 Award for Best Musical*



**2023**

**Gypsy**  
(Little Theatre, Main Stage)  
*WINNER of the 2023 NODA  
District 6 Award for Best Musical*

Photographs by Pamela Raith, Tim Neville, Sally Evans, Gina Fernandes and Dave Morris Photography



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