



## Character Notes for auditions

*In general these are 'grown up' roles and unless there are exceptional circumstances will be played by cast members over 16 years. They are not listed in order of appearance or importance.*

### **Fairy Bow Bells** (female)

This is a traditional Fairy role. She's the narrator and commentator throughout, so she must be able to engage the younger audience members with her story telling. It won't be a Pearly Queen type role so there's no cockney rhyming slang as such. Sometimes the dialogue is in the style of a bad nativity play; this is quite deliberate - which will hopefully be quite funny!

### **Dick Whittington** (male/female)

Dick is in search of fame and fortune. He's not the cleverest fellow but he is good hearted, honest and the hero of our show. He must be a big personality, with a strong singing voice as he leads several songs. He comes from Gloucester so he could have a country accent. Or we could just change that and make him from Milton Keynes!

### **Tommy the Cat** (male/female)

Tommy is Dick's faithful pet, who ends up winning the day thanks to his ratting skills! There is no dialogue as he does not speak. However there are auditions to demonstrate his cheerful, sparky, funny personality through mime. It's going to suit a small, nimble person, with strong dance skills; body language will play a big part in conveying his character and his 'dance fights' to see off the rats. He may be on two legs or on all fours, probably both at various times!

### **Royal Rat** (male/female)

This is our traditional villain! They will be renamed King or Queen, depending on the gender of casting. They need to have strong character skills, to truly wind the audience up into booing. They must use volume, intensity and comedy to let even the youngest child know they are not really scary and it's ok to boo along! They're usually exchanging insults with the Fairy or bossing around their own gang of ratlings. They need a strong singing voice as they have their own song.

### **Idle Jack/Lay Susan** (male or female)

This person is the comedy linkman role. They work as an assistant in Alderman Fitzwarren's shop. They need strong comic skills, not to be afraid to be silly and dive in with knockabout physical humour. They need to be the audience's best friend and engage with them in frontcloth chatting. Often works alongside Dame Sarah as a double act. Either Idle Jack OR Lazy Susan will be cast, depending on gender.

**Dame Sarah** (male)

Sarah is a traditional Pantomime dame. She works in the shop, usually as a double act with the comic. Funny and warm hearted, they need strong comic skills and to be able to engage with the audience. They get a comedy song, perhaps with the comic, so character singing skills are a must.

**Alice Fitzwarren** (female)

Alice is the Alderman's daughter and the love interest for Dick in our story. She is a bright, funny and clever character, quietly guiding others around her. She too needs to be a strong singer, leading several songs, often with Dick.

**Alderman Fitzwarren** (male)

Alderman Fitzwarren is Alice's father and owns the Fitzwarren Store. He's quite a bubbly person full of character and like's to be called Aldi! Unlike the traditional 'Father of the Princess' roles, Aldi is a major role, he stays throughout the story and even has his own song! Strong character skills and singing voice are a must.

**Captain Codfish** (male/female)

This is a smaller role, the heroes set sail on his/her ship at the end of Act 1. There's plenty for them to do in Act 2 though, with some hilarious 'on deck' scenes. It's not written in a piratical style, though it could be performed and rewritten that way. Needs plenty of swagger and character!

**Sheikh Yabuhmbuhm** (male/female)

Another smaller role, as they only appear in the final scene. They are ruler of the far off land on which our heroes are shipwrecked. They are more likely to be a King or Queen, or an Emperor or Empress, rather than Sheikh. But as a work in progress that's what it is at the time of writing and we'll change it later. Sheikh is a bright, fun loving character, a little indecisive and always looking to other people to make up their mind. As an option, it may be combined with Captain Codfish.

The Chorus will be London Townies, Shoppers, Ultra-Violet Dancers, Rats and Royal Courtiers. The Littlies chorus will be Fairies and Sailors.



**It's a Ding Dong of a Panto!**