


Sleeping Beauty 2026 – Community Ensemble Information Pack

We are looking for local performers to be part of the Community Ensemble for this year's pantomime Sleeping Beauty at Theatre Royal Winchester.

This is a fantastic opportunity to perform on a professional stage. The role will be primarily dance-based, with some singing and performance required.

Production Dates

Sleeping Beauty

 Theatre Royal Winchester

 **Friday 4 December 2026 – Sunday 3 January 2027**

There will be **54 performances** in total across the run.


However, members of the community ensemble will only be expected to perform in half of these performances. To help manage the workload, we split our community ensemble into two teams. We recognise that some participants may want to commit to the entire run and this will be considered where possible. You will have the opportunity to discuss your availability at the audition.


Eligibility

- Local performer aged 16+ (you must be 16 by 31 August 2026)
- Dance experience
- Keen on acting and singing

Audition details

 **Saturday 20 June 2026**

 **9.30am – 1.00pm**

 **University of Winchester** (Paul Chamberlain Building – Studio 3 - King Alfred Campus - Winchester SO22 4NJ)

- Arrival time: 9.30am
- You do not need to book a time slot
- You do not need to prepare anything in advance

How to Register

To audition, complete the online registration form available here: [Sleeping Beauty 2026 - Community Ensemble call out form - Google Forms](#)

 **Application deadline: Sunday 14 June 2026 at 11.59pm**

If you are unable to attend in person, please get in touch with valerie@playtothecrowd.co.uk to discuss if an alternative submission is possible.

You will be contacted **w/c 15 June 2026** with final audition details.

The audition

Who will be there?

Sam Taylor-Martin, Choreographer and Assistant Director
Shian Hunter, Young People's Producer

You may also meet Robin Belfield, our Writer and Director, and Rachel Fox, our Creative Producer.

Arrival

- Make your way to Studio 3 where the team will welcome you.
- You will be given a label with your name on it.
- A picture of you will be taken to support the casting process. A video may also be taken. Photo permission is requested for this purpose on the call out form.

Format

After you register on arrival, Sam will lead you through a warmup and then teach one, possibly two dance routines. Auditionees will then perform the routines in small groups.

It is important to note that whilst this will be primarily a dance-based audition, we are always keen to take those who show personality and performance as well as suitable skills. Panto should be fun to watch and therefore please feel free to bring an element of fun to the audition and we will hope to do the same for you.

As well as this, please do make us aware of any interesting, unique or unusual performance skills you might have.

What to wear

- Please be dressed ready to dance and move in either dancewear or suitable alternative (eg jogging bottoms, not jeans!)
- Dance shoes or trainers.
- No hanging jewellery
- Long hair tied back

What to bring

- A bottle of water
- A bag to keep your belongings together.
- Any questions you have about the process.

Rehearsals & Availability

- A schedule of rehearsals and performances is available at the end of this pack.
- You are expected to attend all rehearsals
- If you have prior commitments that clash, please contact valerie@playtothecrowd.co.uk to discuss viability
- If absences exceed an acceptable level, you may be asked to withdraw.

After the auditions

- The team will make their final decisions on casting following the audition.
- Everyone who auditions will be contacted by email whether you are successful or not. We will aim to contact you within two weeks of the audition.
- If offered a place, you will have three days to decide if you would like to accept the place on the team, after which we will offer your place to one of our reserves.
- Upon accepting the place, you will be asked to declare any unavailability. This will be taken into consideration as much as possible when forming the teams.
- Team allocation will be confirmed later in the summer.

What to expect during the run?

This is a **voluntary position**, which offers a fantastic opportunity to:

- Gain industry experience
- Work alongside established professionals
- Perform on the stage of Theatre Royal Winchester
- Be part of a joyful production
- Connect with Play to the Crowd Local Creatives* network and other activities throughout the year.

* Play to the Crowd's Local Creatives Programme creates opportunities in Winchester for people interested in all areas of live performance. Designed for those aged 18 and over, it supports creatives in expanding their professional networks, developing industry knowledge and exploring a range of disciplines. The programme offers informal Local Creative Socials at Theatre Royal Winchester for connecting with others, professional-led masterclasses covering skills such as writing, puppetry and clowning, one-to-one Connect Sessions for tailored advice and guidance and access to callouts for performance opportunities.

Each Community Ensemble member will receive:

- 4 complimentary tickets (2 during the first weekend and an additional 2 during the run valid for super saver and off-peak performances, subject to availability)
- An invitation to watch the other team's final performance

Please note:

- This is a significant commitment, including performances over the Christmas period. This is also super fun!
- You may need to request absence from college or university
- You must attend a warm-up 35–60 minutes before each show
- You may leave once you are out of costume after the performance
- You are responsible for your own travel to and from the theatre
- A small contribution to travel costs is available, capped at the equivalent of a return train fare between Winchester and Southampton Central.

Costumes

- Measurements will be required promptly once an offer has been accepted



Arts & Education Charity
Winchester

Theatre Royal Winchester
21-23 Jewry Street
Winchester
SO23 8SB

01962 844 600
info@playtothecrowd.co.uk
playtothecrowd.co.uk

Variety of performances

We offer a range of performances for varying audience members such as school, BSL signed, relaxed and audio described performances.

Contact

Please contact Valerie Skaf, People and Policies Manager, via valerie@playtothecrowd.co.uk if you have any questions.

Have fun and we are looking forward to meeting you (yes, we are!).

Incorporating

**THEATRE
ROYAL
WINCHESTER**



PLAYMAKERS

Play to the Crowd is an Arts & Education Charity, registered in England.
Company No 03696681. Charity No 1077139. VAT No 744 8764 89.

Sleeping Beauty 2026 - Schedule

Key

	All members of the community ensemble is required
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Members of the community ensemble will only be expected to perform in half of the performances below. To help manage the workload, we split our community ensemble into two teams. We recognise that some participants may want to commit to the entire run and this will be considered where possible. You will have the opportunity to discuss your availability at the audition.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
Sunday 1 November	Read-Through	10am to 6pm
Saturday 7 November	Rehearsal	10am to 4pm
Sunday 8 November	Rehearsal	10am to 4pm
Saturday 14 November	Rehearsal	10am to 4pm
Sunday 22 November	Rehearsal	10am to 4pm
Tuesday 24 November	Rehearsal	4pm – 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November	Rehearsal	10am – 6pm
Tuesday 1 December	Rehearsal	4pm – 7.30pm
Wednesday 2 December	Tech rehearsal	9.30am – 8.30pm
Thursday 3 December	Tech rehearsal	9.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday 3 December	Dress rehearsal Team 1	6.15pm – 8.30pm
Friday 4 December	Dress rehearsal Team 2	2pm
	Performance 1	7pm
Saturday 5 December	Performance 2	2.30pm
	Performance 3	7pm
Sunday 6 December	Performance 4	1.30pm
	Performance 5	5pm
Monday 7 December	No show	
Tuesday 8 December	Performance 6	7pm
Wednesday 9 December	Performance 7	1pm
	Performance 8	6.30pm
Thursday 10 December	Performance 9	9.45am
	Performance 10	1pm

Friday 11 December	Performance 11	10am
	Performance 12	6.30pm
Saturday 12 December	Performance 13	11am
	Performance 14	2.30pm
	Performance 15	7pm
Sunday 13 December	Performance 16	11am
	Performance 17	2.30pm
Monday 14 December	No show	
Tuesday 15 December	Performance 18	9.45am
	Performance 19	1pm
Wednesday 16 December	Performance 20	10.30am
	Performance 21	6.30pm
Thursday 17 December	Performance 22	10am
	Performance 23	6.30pm
Friday 18 December	Performance 24	6.30pm
Saturday 19 December	Performance 25	11am
	Performance 26	2.30pm
	Performance 27	7pm
Sunday 20 December	Performance 28	11am
	Performance 29	2.30pm
Monday 21 December	No show	
Tuesday 22 December	Performance 30	2.30pm
	Performance 31	7pm
Wednesday 23 December	Performance 32	11am
	Performance 33	2.30pm
	Performance 34	7pm
Thursday 24 December	Performance 35	11am
	Performance 36	2.30pm
Friday 25 December	No show – Merry Christmas!	
Saturday 26 December	Performance 37	2.30pm
	Performance 38	7pm
Sunday 27 December	Performance 39	11am
	Performance 40	2.30pm
	Performance 41	7pm
Monday 28 December	Performance 42	11am

	Performance 43	2.30pm
Tuesday 29 December	No show	
Wednesday 30 December	Performance 44	2.30pm
	Performance 45	7pm
Thursday 31 December	Performance 46	11am
	Performance 47	2.30pm
Friday 1 January 2027 (Happy New Year!)	Performance 48	2.30pm
	Performance 49	7pm
Saturday 2 January	Performance 50	11am
	Performance 51	2.30pm
	Performance 52	7pm
Sunday 3 January	Performance 53	11am
	Performance 54	2.30pm

Rehearsals will be in Winchester (Venue TBC)

We are **Play to the Crowd**: An Arts and Education Charity

Our VISION

We believe in a world where Communities are Delighted and United through live performance and participation

Our IDENTITY

We put culture, learning, joy and community at the heart of all our work. We run both a beautiful heritage venue, Theatre Royal Winchester, and the internationally recognized Outdoor Arts Festival, Hat Fair.

Our VALUES

Inclusive – we believe in collaboration and equitable access to the arts for all

Passionate – we are passionate about and ambitious for the positive impact our work has on people's lives

Kind – we foster kindness for each other, our environment and the diverse communities with whom we work

Our MISSION

To Delight and Unite Communities through the power of live performance and participation by;

Celebrating the joy that excellent creative performance experiences offer

Connecting people together to improve community cohesion and reduce loneliness

Improving mental wellbeing and fostering happiness

Nurturing talent and offering opportunity