

PLAY
TO THE
CROWD

FOUR DAMES IN SEARCH OF A PANTO

Written & directed by James Barry
Original music by Simon Slater

Festive family fun
in a socially distanced
covid secure venue



See it
safely

#BackOnStage

Supporting the return of live theatre to the stage

Supported by
 Winchester
City Council

Supported by
 Hampshire
County Council

**THEATRE
ROYAL
WINCHESTER**

5 Dec 2020 – 3 Jan 2021
(Livestream options available)

theatreroyalwinchester.co.uk

FOUR DAMES

IN SEARCH OF A PANTO

Cast

Obnoxia	Tom Attwood
Widow Twankey	Julian Eardley
Dame Dolly	Libby Gore
Dame Trott	Ed Thorpe

Production Team

Writer / Lyricist / Director	James Barry
Composer / Musical Supervisor	Simon Slater
Creative Producer / Designer	Rachel Fox
Choreographer	Sam Taylor Martin
Company Stage Manager	Cams Denton
Technical Manager	Spatz Crawford
Lighting Designer / Programmer / Senior Technician	Tom Callaghan
Sound No.1	Hannah Johnston
ASM / Stage Crew / Wardrobe	Anthony Wateridge
Stage Painter	John Waterworth
Costume Maker	Beth Rose
Set Builder	Handmade Productions
Theatre Announcer	Harriet Benson

Many thanks to all the staff, Trustees and volunteers of Play to the Crowd.

Acknowledgements

Mayflower Theatre, Whitwam Ltd, Ingrid Ryder

Audio Describer: Charles Wiltshire

BSL Interpreter: Gemma Bryant

Four Dames in Search of a Panto has been adapted from a script James Barry originally written for Proteus Theatre Company. It was commissioned and directed by Mark Helyar and toured from November 2004 to January 2005.



Tom Attwood

Tom has held the credit of musical director on our most recent pantomimes - *Dick Whittington* (2019), *Beauty and the Beast* (2018) and *Peter Pan* (2017). Tom first performed on our stage back in 2002, in a production of *Spot's Birthday Party*. Now he's back, playing the same pink piano he played 18 years ago!

Favourite thing about Winchester?

The variety of market stalls on the high street, but I especially like the cheese stall!



Julian Eardley

Winchester's favourite Dame is back! *Four Dames in Search of a Panto* marks Julian's 11th Christmas appearance with Theatre Royal Winchester and we're delighted he has returned. Christmas in Winchester wouldn't be the same without him!

Favourite thing about Winchester?

The medieval Butter Cross, because the steps at its feet are so handy to have a little sit down when you're shopping!



Libby Gore

Libby lit up the stage last year as the magical Fairy Bow Bells in *Dick Whittington*. She is thrilled to be returning to Winchester for *Four Dames in Search of Panto*.

Favourite thing about Winchester?

All the lovely old buildings and how beautiful they look at Christmas time.



Ed Thorpe

Ed is joining us for a fourth year in a row, after playing the title role in last year's *Dick Whittington*, as well as Wally in *Beauty and the Beast* (2018) and Smee in *Peter Pan* (2017). A'hoj there shipmates!

Favourite thing about Winchester?

Having a lovely boozy hot chocolate in the Cabinet Rooms after a long day of making people laugh at Theatre Royal Winchester.

Welcome back and thank you!

A note from Deryck Newland, Chief Executive

On behalf of the whole team at Play to the Crowd I wanted to say how delighted we are to be back presenting live performance for you on our beautiful stage.

Thank you so much for your belief in and support of us. Live performance and the arts in general are such a critical part of making Winchester an exciting place to live, work and play in. They also do so much for people's health, well being and happiness; so important especially in these difficult times.

The pandemic has hit all theatres very hard and we are only still here thanks to the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our local community. You literally saved us from going out of business entirely by supporting our Survival Appeal this summer in your thousands.

You are also supporting our future sustainability by coming to the theatre and to our Cafe Bar so please keep doing that as we offer you as many opportunities as we can in the months ahead.

From the moment we were forced to postpone *Aladdin* we were determined to ensure Christmas would not be cancelled and that we would still find a way to delight our audiences in the festive season. So I am very grateful to our regular creative team, who normally create our pantomimes, for pulling together to come up with this imaginative solution.

Four Dames in Search of a Panto is full of joy, warmth and unity and absolutely retains the spirit of panto and of Christmas as well as representing our collective resilience in the face of extraordinary challenges for us all in 2020.

Welcome back to Theatre Royal Winchester and enjoy the special experience of live performance with us once again.

Thank you.
Deryck

Don't miss next year's panto on sale now!

