



The Guild Players are part of Finchley Methodist Church but we also have many people connected with us from the surrounding community. New members are always welcome, whether you are interested in acting or backstage roles. If you would like further details of the Players, or wish to join, please contact our membership secretary, Betty Robertson, on 020 xxxx xxxx.

For more information about us, including photos of past productions, visit our comprehensive website at www.guildplayers.org.uk

Our production dates for next year are planned to be:

- Touring Easter Production 11th - 14th April 2006
- Spring Production 4th - 6th May 2006
- Autumn Production 23rd - 25th November 2006

To receive details of forthcoming productions, join our mailing list, either via our website, or by sending a text message starting GUILD LIST followed by your name and address to 8XXXX (standard text charge)

Recent Guild Players Productions

1995	The Vigil	Jack And The Beanstalk
1996	Rebecca	The Marry-Go-Round
1997	Four Plays For Coarse Actors	Aladdin
1998	A Murder Is Announced	Trelawney Of The Wells
1999	Barefoot In The Park	Robinson Crusoe
2000	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	It Runs In The Family
2001	The Importance Of Being Earnest	Cinderella
2002	Absent Friends	Holmes Sweet Holmes
2003	Will You Take This Woman?	Mother Goose
2004	Murder In Play	On Monday Next
2005	Pygmalion	



Dick Whittington



a pantomime by John Morley

at Finchley Methodist Church Hall
Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3

Wednesday 7th December at 7.45 pm
 Thursday 8th December at 7.45 pm
 Friday 9th December at 7.45 pm
 Saturday 10th December at 3.00 pm & 7.45 pm

www.guildplayers.org.uk

PROGRAMME

Welcome . . .

. . . to the Guild Players autumn production 2005.

As is our usual custom, we do not make a charge for programmes. However there are collecting boxes for *'The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital'* in the foyer. We would be most grateful if you could make a contribution to this good cause that supports the work of our local hospital.

Many thanks.

Profit from the performance on Wednesday 7th December 2005 will be donated to two small local charities:

- The Joseph Fox Youth Trust
- The Renee Heatherington Memorial Trust

The Joseph Fox Youth Trust

Joe Fox was a member of The Guild Players and involved in youth work in Finchley Methodist Church for many years. The Trust, set up in his name, gives small grants to help children and young people in youth groups in Barnet to attend residential events, training courses & camps.



Registered
Charity
No. 1046287

The Renee Heatherington Memorial Trust

Registered Charity
No. 1058667

Renee Heatherington played many leading roles in Guild Players productions and directed some of the Players most successful offerings. For 34 years she was one of this country's leading counsellors. The Trust provides bursaries for needy students studying for counselling qualifications and has also supported work in prisons, training inmates in counselling skills.

Playing The Part

Playing Pantomime is not a soft option for an actor. It is a bit like walking a tightrope without a safety net!

In a straightforward play the actor has the security of the 'fourth wall' - an invisible wall dividing the actor from the audience who are merely looking in on what is happening on stage. In Pantomime there is no 'fourth wall'. It is the job of the actor to directly engage with the audience and to make them part of the action.

Good Panto actors can make this look simple - but it is not. For any amateur players to put on a Pantomime requires not only interest and a variety of skills but a determination to work through a punishing rehearsal schedule which, for us, began back at the beginning of September.

All the Guild Players team (both on stage and backstage) will be putting their feet up for a well deserved rest over Christmas. However the production process starts all over again in January for our Spring performances. . .

Christmas 2005 at Finchley Methodist Church

Sunday 18th December

11.00 am Holy Communion for Advent
6.30 pm Carol Service

Saturday 24th December

10.30 am Crib Service
11.00 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December

10.00 am Christmas Morning Family Service

Production Team

Director	Mike Sparks
Musical Director	Carole Catley
Choreographer	Kelly Rubin
Stage Management	Helen Costin
Set Design, Construction & Painting	David Constable Mike Sparks & members of the company
Costume	Jenny Sparks
Dressers	Irene Sparks Barbara Heatherington Kim Goldsmith Kristel Burgess
Lighting	Chris Newton Martin Higgins Andy Higgins Jon Sparks
Prompt	Betty Robertson
Front of House Manager	Ruth Crawford
Box Office	Betty Burgess
Programme & Publicity	David Constable

Additional lighting & technical equipment supplied by CWNewton
www.cwnewton.com

Dick Whittington

A Pantomime by John Morley

Directed by Mike Sparks

Will The Real Dick Whittington Stand Up?

We are all familiar with the homely tale of poor country boy Dick Whittington finding fame and fortune in London through the rat catching activities of his cat in far away lands.

The truth is just a little different. Richard Whittington was born in 1350, the son of a Gloucestershire Knight. When his father died and his older brother inherited the estate, Richard (Dick) travelled to London to be apprenticed.

He became a merchant dealing in valuable cloth from abroad - silks, velvets and cloth of gold. The main market for such goods was the Royal Court. Dick Whittington supplied goods to King Richard II as well as King Henry IV and Henry V. He lent large sums of money to the Crown. In return he was allowed to export wool without paying customs tax. He became rich and was made Mayor of London (there was not a Lord Mayor at the time) on four occasions (1397, 1398, 1406 and 1419).

Dick died in 1423. His wife Alice predeceased him and they had no children. He left his great wealth to be used for the benefit of the City. The money was used to set up almshouses for poor people, a college, a library and to carry out public works. The Whittington Charity still benefits disadvantaged Londoners.

There is no evidence that Dick Whittington ever kept a cat, and as a son of a wealthy nobleman he was never really poor. But the legend flourished and as early as 1606 a play was produced which has developed over the centuries into one of the best loved Pantomimes - The Story of Dick Whittington and His Cat.

Act 1

Prologue

1. Outside Fitzwarren's Stores in London
2. Petticoat Lane
3. Inside Fitzwarren's Stores
4. Near the Mansion House
5. The Milestone on Highgate Hill

Interval - Refreshments will be served in the foyer

Act 2

1. The 'Saucy Sal' at the Port of London
2. Below Decks
3. The 'Saucy Sal' at Sea
4. The Shores of Morocco
5. The Harem of the Court of Morocco
6. Back home in London
7. The Whittington Wedding

Band

Piano	Carole Catley
Cello	Jill Clarke
Flute	Kirsty Tavendale
Guitar	Harry Mackie
Drums & Percussion	Charles Harvey

Please SWITCH OFF all mobile phones
whilst in the auditorium

Cast

Queen Rat	Judith Shrank
The Fairy of the Bells	Sally Martin
Alderman Fitzwarren owner of Fitzwarren's Stores	Paul Sparks
Alice Fitzwarren his daughter	Kirsty Lincoln
Idle Jack his apprentice	David Constable
Sarah Suet his cook	Paul Manel
Captain Cockle of the 'Saucy Sal'	Paola Burgess
Mr Mussel the mate	Jadwiga Laskowska
Dick Whittington a country lad	Mary-Ann Ochota
Tommy the magic cat	Catherine Walker
Sam Seaweed a sailor	Ciarán Ward
The London Town Crier	Stephen Sewell
Sheik Dabottal the Sultan of Morocco	Laurie Heatherington
Tuffazell the harem keeper	Neil Grace
Werafez a Moroccan guard	Stephen Sewell
El Macho another Moroccan guard	Karen Abbott
Avocado a seductive slave girl	Davina Page
Chorus of Londoners, sailors & slaves	Karen Abbott Penelope Nachir
	Emily Bridges Davina Page
	Neil Grace Stephen Sewell
	Paul Hartley Ciarán Ward

NO flash photography or video cameras
may be used during the performance