

The Belgrade Theatre Family Pantomime

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently asked questions from parents – if you haven't been part of a pantomime before then the question that is on the tip of your tongue is probably in the list that follows.

- **Where will the rehearsals be held?**

The rehearsals will be held at the Belgrade Theatre usually in the Patrick Suite or on stage.

- **Do parents need to attend rehearsals?**

No, the Belgrade Theatre will provide a fully licensed Chaperone(s) to cover all rehearsals and performances

- **Are holidays permitted throughout the rehearsal and performance period?**

No, it is very important that your child is at all rehearsals and performances

- **Is it Ok for my child to miss rehearsal(s)?**

No

- **What does my child need to wear to rehearsals?**

Suitable comfortable clothing for dancing along with Jazz shoes, if they have them.

- **Where are the drop-off and pick-up points for rehearsals?**

The panto chorus will be signed in and out at the Stage Door entrance opposite the Town Wall Tavern

- **Can I leave my child at the drop off point?**

No, a parent or guardian must sign the child in or out with the chaperone before leaving them

PERFORMANCES

- **What time do the children have to arrive before a performance?**

No later than 35 minutes before the performance starts, a separate schedule will be given to you with all times on .

If you arrive before your call time, you must stay with your child until the chaperone is by law permitted to take charge of your child.

Please note that the Company Stage Manager/Director/Choreographer have the remit to change the call times- this information will always be given to both you and your child by the chaperone(s)

- **Will my child receive complimentary tickets for the pantomime?**

Yes, you will be given a letter detailing what you are entitled to.

- **Is it Ok for my child to miss a performance ?**

No, this is very disruptive and difficult to phone around to get a last minute replacement.

- **Is there a way to share lifts with other parents from the same area to and from the theatre?**

This can be arranged once the teams have been chosen

- **What do I do if my child is ill and cannot attend rehearsals or a performance**

You must contact the chaperone(s) or Company Stage Manager at the first possible instance that you think that your child may not be able to perform. You will be given a mobile number to contact at the start of rehearsals. Early notice gives the team a chance to be able to contact your child's 'buddy' and get them on stand by – Always think that its never too soon to call.

- **Why can't my child swap teams during the run of the show?**

Unfortunately this is not possible. The creative staff that put the teams together on the day of the auditions take the time to ensure that the teams are pulled together for size matching and doubling. Although we do try and keep family members together, sadly we are not always able to keep friends together, as friends are often of the same age and therefore height. However they will spend the whole rehearsal process together.

FOOD ARRANGEMENTS

- **Are children allowed out of the theatre for meal breaks during rehearsal and shows**

As long as your child has a written letter of consent from you and you realise that you will have to take responsibility for them whilst they are off theatre premises, then they can leave the theatre during breaks.

We do encourage parents to pick their children up between shows and particularly for Boxing Day as it is important that staff have a break as well.

COSTUME, HAIR AND MAKE-UP.

- **What shoes will my child need**

If your child attends a dance school and has a pair of jazz shoes , please bring these. If not please give them a soft comfortable shoe to dance in. When in performances, shoes will be supplied by the theatre.

- **How will my child need their hair for rehearsal and performances?**

Hair will need to be tidy and the style will be advised by the Head of Wardrobe and conveyed via the chaperone(s) Please ensure that your child has their own hair brush. Please provide plenty of hair grips and safety pins. **Could parents please ensure that their child does not change the colour of their hair during the rehearsals and performances.**

- **Can my child wear make up to rehearsals and the performances**

No, the children will be advised what to wear for the dress rehearsals and performances. Please allow them to bring their own cleanser as many children have skin allergies, so we do not provide this.

- **Can my child wear nail varnish or false nails ?**

No, nail varnish is not permitted and no false nails due to health and safety.

- **Do I need to provide any costume or tights?**

No, the theatre will provide all tights but please make sure that the children wear 'sensible' underwear appropriate for underneath costumes, your child may need to wear secondary black underwear for UV scenes depending on the costumes, this will be notified in rehearsals but will be provided by the theatre.

RESERVES

- **What is a reserve?**

We establish a team of reserves, the members of this could be pulled in at any time between audition day and the first technical rehearsal. This may be for various reasons beyond anyone's control. E.g. long term illness.

- **Do reserves need to attend rehearsals?**

No, not unless they are called into one of the main teams.

CHAPERONES AND CHILD CARE

- **How will my child be cared for?**

The Belgrade Theatre have a team of licensed chaperones that will perform the duty of care for your child. They will be looked after at every step of the rehearsal and performance process. We do expect children and parents to read and sign our Code of Conduct guidelines which form the basis of the expected behaviour from our panto chorus

If you hold a Chaperone License and would like to know how to get involved with the Belgrade Theatre, please either e-mail or phone Denise Duncombe on dduncombe@belgrade.co.uk or 024 7684 6718.

- **Are there trained first aiders on site?**

Yes, the chaperones have a list of those staff who are trained first aiders and are on duty.

- **How do I let you know if I ask some one else to pick up my child?**

Please ensure that you let the chaperone know as soon as you know and whether this person is known to your child.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

- **Should I name and label what my child will be wearing and bringing?**

Yes please name and label your child's personal clothing to ensure that nothing gets lost amongst the children

- **Will the theatre take responsibility for any valuables brought into the theatre by my child.**

No, please advise your child not to bring in anything valuable as the theatre cannot be held responsible for items that are lost, stolen or damaged.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Will photographs/videos be taken of my child?**

Yes, production shots and an archive recording of the show will be taken, which is why we ask for signed consent on both the audition and Code of Conduct forms.

- **How much time off school will my child miss?**

We have kept their time away from school to a minimum and tried to keep most of the rehearsal times to after school time – when we go into the tech week and for dress rehearsals the children will be here for most of a complete day. We will be able to give you accurate information once we know what team your child is in and the rehearsal and performance schedules.

- **Will my child be paid, for taking part in the production?**

They do not receive payment for taking part in the production but they do receive out of pocket expenses to cover travel etc.,.

If you have any other questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Denise Duncombe on dduncombe@belgrade.co.uk or 024 7684 6718

.....and finally on behalf of everyone at the Belgrade Theatre we would like to welcome you to the wonderful world of Pantomime – we hope you all enjoy the experience.

