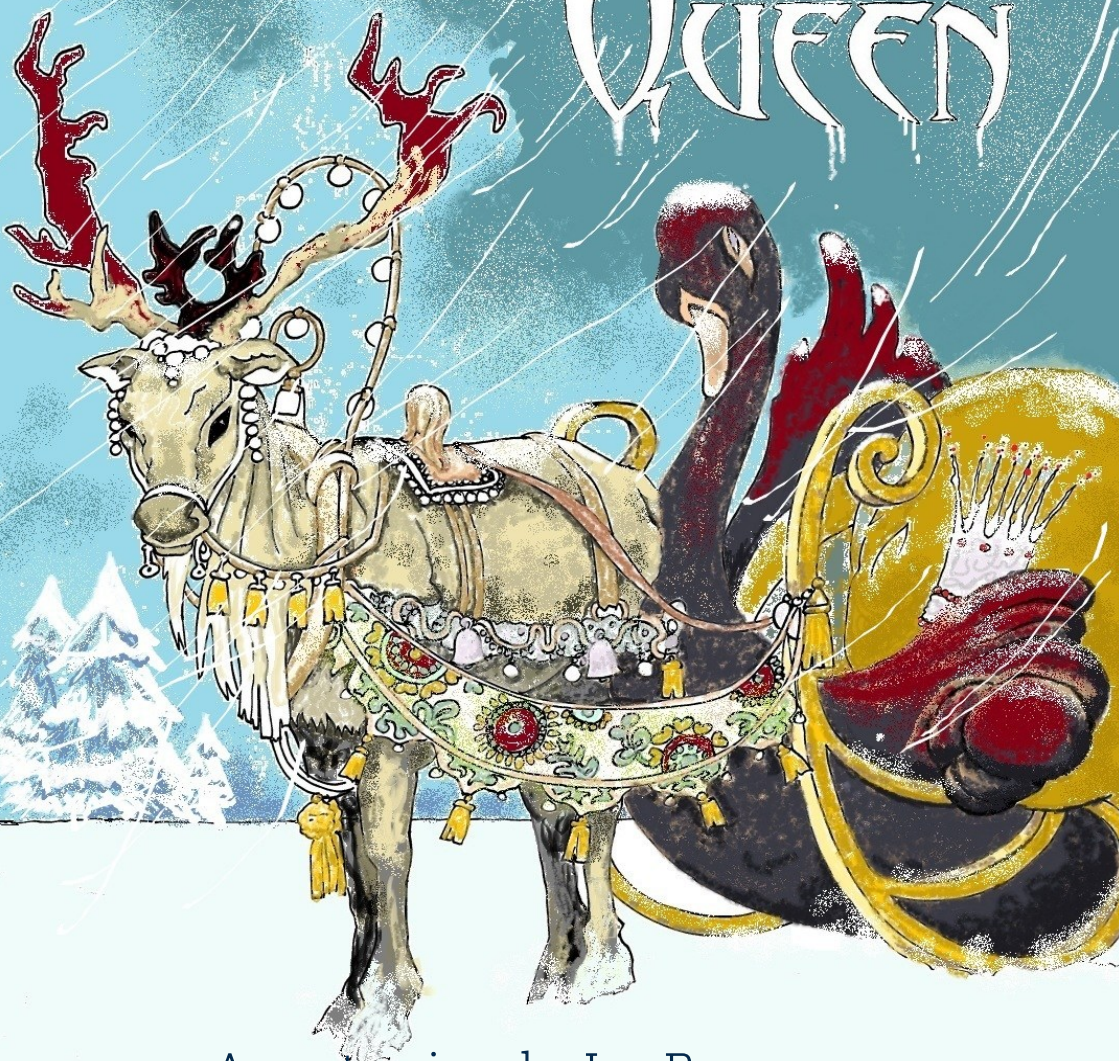


THE CUMNOR PLAYERS PRESENT

THE SNOW QUEEN



A pantomime by Ian Bannerman

December 2025 at Cumnor Village Hall



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From our Directors

The Snow Queen is a fantastic fairytale from Hans Christian Andersen, irresistible for its combination of folksy village setting and chilling icy power. Our scriptwriter Ian has, in his inimitable fashion, created a few extra characters to populate our pantomime world, some of whom loom large in a story not ostensibly about them, but whose personalities bring hilarity and new perspectives to the classic tale. We have had a lot of fun bringing all the nonsense together for your enjoyment: please sit back, relax, shout “Boo!” and “He’s behind you!” when called upon to do so, clap along and above all laugh. If it’s funny, that is ... (we think it is!)

Jules & Ally



SET

How do you build a shattering mirror? How do you radiate out the Snow Queen's freezing power? How manoeuvrable must her sleigh be? These are just some of the questions the set team had to address this year. There's continuity from previous productions, as lengths of wood are repurposed and gradually cut down from one year to the next. The Snow Queen's sleigh runners, for example, have previously been a boat (*Little Mermaid*) and supported a net (*Neverland*), though they were once part of a hatstand. We hope you think we've risen to the creative challenges the author has set up.

You may recognise other elements appearing reworked this year—versions of the sunlit uplands of Denmark and the frigid Ice Palace have both adorned the stage in previous productions. Too good to be used just the once, we hope they bring the usual magic to the hall.

David Klein and the set team



MUSIC



The Band: Sleighed (geddit?)

**Paul Chesson
Gid Hammond
Jon Heffernan
Shannon Stephen**

Choosing music for the panto is always a little random—how on earth to narrow down choices from the vast, vast universe of sounds out there...? This year, I unashamedly took the Snow/Ice theme as my starting point, and hence, you'll find a few crackers along those lines.

A couple of ice-themed undeniable bangers present some of our cast with a rare opportunity to channel their inner 80's legend/rapper. A Led Zep classic has the benefit of giving our bassist Paul, guitarist Jon and drummer Gid a proper challenge, keeping that driving rhythm going through wind and storm.

The Snow Queen tale is the basis for the mighty Frozen, and we couldn't resist including a couple of tunes from that—you'll love our Queen letting it all go, and our flowers requesting an ice cream from the scary viking... both songs give Shannon a good outing on the keyboard.

For a romantic moment, we've gone right back to the 70's for a bit hopeless devotion, introduced by a swooning guitar line from Jon, whereas our Dame gets thorny with horticultural passion.

Our American princess gets the opportunity to try to sell us her Royal brand, and we finish up with an iconic song we hope will get you all dancing up the aisle, to a sax solo from Jon, having had the time of your lives! Well, we can dream...

Ally Baker

COSTUME

DESIGN

The Snow Queen is a classic tale, so we decided to be true to fairytale images. Our design board included: original drawings by Hans Christian Andersen's original illustrator, Vilhelm Pedersen; designer Tord Boontje's metallic creations; the illustrations of Jackie Morris; photographs of Sami clothing; many, many photographs of reindeer harnesses; and clothing by Alexander McQueen. As ever though, our costume dreams have to be created within a very small budget, so some of the more fantastical ideas had to be laid aside to be revisited when we have a West End budget!

We trawled our stores for wonderful white garments for the Snow Queen, and for red and green trousers, skirts and waistcoats for Gerda and Kay. Our Dame appears in three different interpretations, a challenge risen to with hats and aprons. Look out for the last hat – a balancing act for our lovely dame.

Eric the Viking is immediately recognisable with his helmet and hammer – if you can't have a cliched costume in a panto, when can you have one? Sven the gardener may be taking his work a bit too seriously with the amount of greenery attached to him. We've had to make sure our little flowers Petal, Rose and Bud, with their beautiful headdresses, are well out of reach of his secateurs. An evil queen always needs a sidekick, and ours is Slushbucket, the ice-cream seller. His ice-cream coloured stripes hide his malevolent nature.

Our Prince and Princess are suitably regal, and we had fun with the feathers for their security detail, The Crows. The sneaky robbers pair up with stripes and masks.

What is a panto without a panto creature, ideally a two-person creature? Keith, our reindeer and Keith's rear-end are clad in fur from our stores and you will hear him (them?) coming by the jingling bells on the harness.

We hope you enjoy the colour and light in our costumes as much as we have enjoyed creating them for our cast.

Avril Horn



SYNOPSIS

Act 1

Scene 1: The village

Grandma is arranging her flowers, Rose, Petal and Bud, for the Cumnor show, with help from Sven the under-gardener. Kay and Gerda arrive, and Grandma warns them to watch out for the Snow Queen. Slushbucket appears, selling ice creams, and with a magic mirror that makes any reflection appear cruel and ugly. They are interrupted by the palace security guards, Sheryl and Russell Crow, and a royal visit from the Prince and Princess. The royals think that the flowers are a gift and leave with them, much to the annoyance of Viking Grandpa Eric. Keith the reindeer arrives, chatting with the villagers until they realize he is bringing the wicked Snow Queen to their home.

Scene 2: The village (cont'd)

The Snow Queen tells Slushbucket to sprinkle bits of broken mirror into an ice cream to corrupt one of the children. Kay eats the ice cream and becomes cold-hearted, leaving his family for the Northlands. The robbers, Nicky and Robbie take pity on Gerda and join her quest to rescue Kay, with help from Keith, who has defected from the Snow Queen.

INTERVAL

Act 2

Scene 1: The Woods

Despite various chases and “behind you” moments, Kay, The Snow Queen and Slushbucket always remain one step ahead of Gerda, Nicky, Robbie and Keith. Slushbucket disguises himself as a hairdresser to slow Gerda down and she becomes separated from the rest. In despair, Gerda cries into a pot of jam (stolen earlier from the Royals). Help comes from Eric and the flowers, from Grandma’s identical Finnish sister, and then from the prince, princess and the crows. With their support, Gerda travels through the woods to meet Grandma’s identical Lapland sister.

Scene 2: The Ice Palace

Kay is holed up in the ice palace with Slushbucket and the Snow Queen. Gerda tries to rescue Kay but the Snow Queen is wise to her plans, until Gerda remembers what the Lapland sister told her - the tears of a loved one can melt the ice in someone’s heart. She gives Kay some jam with her tears in it and he is restored to full health. Keith the reindeer is reunited with the rest of the herd in time for Christmas. The Snow Queen is banished and all live happily ever after.

Cast

In order of appearance:



Grandma
Bud,
Petal &
Rose, 3 flowers
Sven, the gardener
Gerda
Kay
Slushbucket, an ice-cream seller
Eric, a viking
Russell Crow &
Sheryl Crow, security guards
Princess
Prince
Nicky &
Robbie, 2 robbers
Keith, a reindeer
Keith's rear end
The Snow Queen
Jaq Frost

Tim Pottle
Chloe Tappin
Freya Briggs-Duchesne
Liza Zhyhadlo
Charlie Stockford
Grace Corti
Mo Harry
Eddy Hyde
Ian Bannerman
Robin Fisher
Nikki Reid
Rachael Rivers
Henry Furniss
Kate McDougall
Jan Kowal
Jenny Furniss
Micah Castella McDonald
Pippa Denton-Dixey
Jacqui Lewis

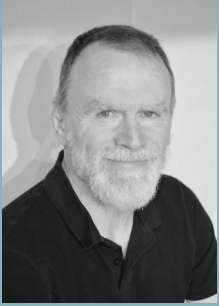




The Crew

Director	Jules Pottle
Musical Director	Ally Baker
Scriptwriter	Ian Bannerman
The Band: Sleighed	Paul Chesson, Gid Hammond, Jon Heffernan, Shannon Stephen
Set Design & Painting	Ally Baker, Kim Heffernan, Jacqui Lewis
Set Construction/ Stage Crew	David Klein, Alan Sawyer, Andy Stevens, Chris Warne, with contributions from Jonathan Brock
Costume	Ally Baker, Avril Horn
Lighting Desk	Stuart Newton, Emily Newton, Flossie Pottle
Sound Desk	Steve Croft
Stage Manager	David Klein
Props	Helen Stevens, Donna Murphy, Jules Pottle, Olivia Stevens
Prompt	Fiona Newton
Wardrobe	Avril Horn
Makeup and Hair	Kim & Eva Heffernan, Jacqui Lewis, Issy Miller
Bar	Dom Corti, Dom Furniss
Children's Chaperones	Anna Clark, Avril Horn, Emily MacDonald, Lucy Tappin, Jenny Furniss
Front of House	Margo Mills, Simon Briggs, Archie Chesson, Alison Corti, Clare Denton, Toby Denton-Dixey, Ezra Dobson, Francesca Duchesne, Amanda Gaydon, Eleanor Wadge
Café	Donna, Anya & Freya Connelly-Warne, Natalie Kerby, Paul Bobby
Rehearsal Refreshments	Donna Connelly-Warne, Margo Mills, Helen Stevens
Advertising & Sponsorship	Jenny Furniss
Photography	Jules Pottle
Graphic Design & Programme	Ally Baker
Press	Jenny Furniss
Tickets	Tim Pottle
Treasurer	Kim Heffernan
Health and Safety	Helen Stevens
First Aid	Donna Murphy
Video	Stuart Newton
Website	David Klein



**Ian Bannerman*****Eric***

The Snow Queen is the ninth panto script that Ian has hammered out. He's looking forward to wielding the hammer on stage.

**Freya Briggs-Duchesne*****Petal***

Freya has always loved acting and drama and is extremely pleased to be part of such a great community doing panto this year.

**Micah Castella McDonald*****Keith's rear end***

Micah has absolutely loved his 5th panto and is only slightly scared of being the back end of the reindeer (despite Jenny's promised diet regulations).

**Grace Corti*****Gerda***

Grace is thrilled to be back for this year's panto season, especially playing Gerda, the original version of her favourite Disney Princess, Anna!

**Pippa Denton-Dixey*****The Snow Queen***

Pippa began panto at seven, playing rats, frogs, and a tiny musketeer before her first speaking role as Rapunzel! Now thrilled to be the baddie — boos welcome!

**Robin Fisher*****Russell Crow***

Robin is thrilled to be back with the Cumnor Players for the second year and living his month's-long dream of rapping on stage.

**Henry Furniss*****Prince***

Henry is delighted to be playing royalty this year, even if it does mean going ginger!

**Jenny Furniss*****Keith, the reindeer***

Jenny has loved getting to know her better half, it's just a shame he is always one step behind her!

**Mo Harry*****Kay***

After 4 years of playing nice characters, Mo is enjoying being a nasty one for once.



Cast

**Eddy Hyde*****Slushbucket***

Can I tempt you with my nuts...? Maybe some whipped cream...? Slushbucket's magical ice creams. Guaranteed to satisfy!!

**Jan Kowal*****Robbie***

Hello. I'm Jan Kowal. You may know me from such movies as: "Mowing your lawn with Honda". I've forsworn my glittering Hollywood career to play in humble, honest Cumnor.

Jacqui Lewis***Jaq Frost***

Love an icy panto, and what fun being part of the spirit world—great to be part of the team again.

**Kate McDougall*****Nicky***

Kate is delighted to be in her third pantomime with an amazing cast and is thrilled to be playing a human for the first time!

**Tim Pottle*****Grandma***

I'm back as Grandma (the Dame) and am loving it! It's so lovely to be part of the team again. Expect fun, mischief, and plenty of innuendo.

**Nikki Reid*****Sheryl Crow***

Caw! Am I pleased to be back on stage after 12 years in Australia! Treading the boards as Sheryl Crow, keeping the Royals safe from those panto baddies!

**Rachael Rivers*****Princess***

Oh yes she is! Rachael is thrilled to be Cumnor Players' Princess this year. Having grown up watching these pantos, she's now living her fairy-tale dream.

**Charlie Stockford*****Sven, the gardener***

Charlie is excited to be back for another panto with his partner in crime, Tim.

**Chloe Tappin*****Bud***

Hi, I'm Chloe, playing Bud the flower - I am cheeky, cheerful and ready to sprout smiles in this year's pantomime garden!

**Liza Zhyhadlo*****Rose***

Liza is excited to be involved in panto this year. She enjoys taking part in rehearsals, loves her character, and is looking forward to performing on stage.

Thank Yous

The Cumnor Players would like to thank

Amber Financial Planning

and

Waylands Volvo Oxford

for sponsorship.

- * Paul Bobby for being a viking at short notice
- * Emma Boor for providing storage and painting facilities
- * Jonathan Brock and Beard for transporting our costume container
 - * Andrew Down for loan of monitor
- * Christopher Hansen for kindly loaning his garage to the set crew
- * Cumnor Primary School for use of their hall
- * Russell Turner at Fineprint for programme printing
- * Chris Warne for the loan of his scaffolding tower.
- * Volunteers backstage, front of house and serving refreshments
- * And last but not least, our long-suffering families...

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Cumnor Players have been making pantomimes since 2007!

Keep in touch with us via our website

www.cumnorplayers.org.uk,

where you can see photos from past productions and news of
each panto as it develops.

Auditions usually happen either in June or early September:
email us via the website to be added to our mailing list for audi-
tion info, or to get involved with the production team.