




LANCASTER FOOTLIGHTS PRESENTS:



Robin Hood



THE MERRIEST PANTO OF THEM ALL



ROBIN HOOD AUDITION INFO

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello! My name is Cheryl and I want to welcome you to the Auditions for our 2026 Family Pantomime - Robin Hood. It's always great fun being part of the Footlights Panto and I have had the pleasure of directing and choreographing the show for the last 3 years. Our Panto is very popular and our main aim is to entertain and provide some festive magic and joy to our lovely audience, whilst also having a happy cast and crew where good friendships can be made in an atmosphere of kindness and support.

We know auditions can feel a bit daunting so we have put this document together so you know more of what to expect from the audition evening and from being part of the production.

Everyone is welcome to come along to audition whether you have been part of Footlights productions before or not. We love to see new faces and returning faces and no part is cast prior to auditions being held. You also can have lots of prior stage experience or none at all and just have a burning desire to perform!

Being part of Panto is a fabulous experience, but it is also hard work and requires commitment so that we can put on a great run of shows. Later in this document there are details about the rehearsals and show dates. To take part you need to be able to attend rehearsals regularly and be available for all the performances, so check out the dates.

The main thing about the audition evening is to have fun and enjoy it. Coming along isn't just about being cast; it's about enjoying the chance to perform, grow, and connect with others who love theatre as much as you do. Auditions are a chance to discover new skills and to learn from the talent in our community.

I hope this document helps ease any initial nerves you might have, and if you still have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch by email.

I'm really looking forward to seeing you at the auditions and want to say "Break a leg" and most of all have a fabulous time!

Cheryl

Footlights Panto Director and Choreographer

Email: Cheryl@lancastergrand.co.uk

OVERVIEW

FOOTLIGHTS

Lancaster Footlights is an amateur dramatics group which owns Lancaster Grand Theatre. Founded in the 1920s, Footlights purchased the theatre in 1951 from ABC Cinemas. Over the years, Footlights has evolved from being solely an amateur theatre group to one that, in addition to staging its own fantastic productions, also provides a venue for a range of community and professional shows.

This increases the diversity of its artistic and cultural offerings and helps the charity survive and thrive. The theatre is held in trust under charity number 1198714, named "Lancaster Footlights & Grand Theatre," which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). More information about the charity and its operations is available in our Strategy:

[Click to read our *Strategy for 2024-27*](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership isn't required to audition for our Footlights shows, but if you're cast, you'll need to become a member.

Our membership comes with many benefits, so we encourage you to join even if you're not cast or choose not to audition. Visit our website for details on how to join.

AUDITION DATES

We'll be opening the theatre early on our **Principals' (the speaking roles) audition on Tuesday 30th June** to give auditionees time to familiarise themselves with the material.

You are not required to learn the material/lines for your audition.

If you attend the Principals' audition and wish to also be considered for the Chorus you do not need to attend the chorus audition as well, just ensure you tick the box on the registration form on the night indicating this.

The **Chorus audition is on Tuesday 7th July**. The Chorus roles are just as important as the Principal roles as they sing, dance, act and provide stage atmosphere, reactions and help bring the show to life. Some Chorus parts will have a couple of lines or special parts in the show.

The **Dancers audition is on Wednesday 8th July.**

If you are not able to attend the audition date for the part you would like please email Cheryl (cheryl@lancastergrand.co.uk) to arrange to come on another of the audition nights. (Please note it may not be possible to arrange an alternative night for Dancers to audition due to availability of the theatre and the time taken for Dancers to Audition).

We do have licenced chaperones present during the auditions, however any young people under the age of 16yrs will need to have an adult stay in the theatre during the audition process.

Details of the cast roles are below.

See details of timings and what will happen in **Audition Process section** below.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

It's the year 1200 and King Richard leaves his castle and people with the corrupt Sheriff of Nottingham whilst he goes off to fight in the crusades. The greedy Sheriff wants wealth and power and imposes huge taxes on the people. Robin Hood and his band of "Merry Men" take on the Sheriff with the help of Maid Marion, to rob the rich and feed the poor and protect King Richard's young niece and nephew from the Sheriff's treacherous plans. There's music, songs, dances, fun and laughter along the way as our heroes work to defeat our baddies.

REHEARSALS

We start rehearsing on 4th September. Schedules are given out in the first rehearsal. We rarely add additional rehearsal dates as we know people need to plan their lives. This means it's important that people attend rehearsals so we can cover and set the whole show.

The magic of panto is created by people bouncing off each other and creating chemistry. When people are missing it has a big impact on everyone else and creates delays when things have to be re-done and could impact on the quality of the show for our audiences. However, we know life carries on so very special one-off occasions can lead to missing a rehearsal but please let us know this at the auditions. All other rehearsals must be attended.

Rehearsals are on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons for the whole Cast. Principal roles also have a rehearsal mid-week on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. Dancers' additional rehearsals are on Sunday mornings. The schedule will tell you who needs to attend when.

TECH & DRESS REHEARSALS

The tech rehearsal (18th November) is when we run through the entire show with all technical elements in place - microphones, lighting, sound, and any other effects we'll be using in the performance. Only Principal roles are required to attend.

The dress rehearsals (22nd, 24th and 25th November) require the whole cast and are a full run of the show, just as if we were performing for a real audience, complete with costumes, props, and all technical cues.

AUDITION PROCESS

TIMINGS

We plan to keep to the below schedule as much as possible, though timings may change as the evening progresses. We are not able to set a finish time for the audition as we don't know until the night how many people will attend. However, we audition the youth roles first as we are aware it is a school night.

Auditions generally encompass a warm-up activity, singing a song (the chorus of **A Million Dreams from The Greatest Showman**) - singing solo for principals, in groups of 3 for chorus/dancer roles), learning a short, simple dance sequence which will be performed in small groups and then reading excerpts of script for the principal role auditions.

Dancers will warm up and learn and perform 2 short dance sequences (ballet and modern) and will demonstrate a small amount of tap dancing.

PRINCIPAL AUDITION – TUESDAY 30/06/26

Timings	Activity
6:10 – 7.05pm	Doors Open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration - Pre-Read Audition Material
7:05 - 7.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions - Health & Safety - Quick Audition Overview
7:20 – 7.30pm	Icebreaker activity in a group
7:30pm	Audition starts: Song, dance, Reading for the roles

CHORUS AUDITION – TUESDAY 07/07/26

Timings	Activity
6:15 – 7.00pm	Doors Open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration (Pre-Read Audition Material if any principal auditionees who did not attend on 30/6/26)
7:00 - 7.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions - Health & Safety - Quick Audition Overview
7:15 – 7.30pm	Icebreaker activity in a group
7:30pm	Audition starts: Song, dance, Reading for the roles (for any principal auditionees present)

DANCERS AUDITION – WEDNESDAY 08/07/26

Timings	Activity
6:15 – 7.00pm	Doors Open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration
7:00 - 7.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions - Health & Safety - Quick Audition Overview
7:15 – 7.30pm	Warm up
7:30pm	Audition starts: Song Learn and perform Modern sequence Learn and perform Ballet sequence Demonstrate Tap dancing ability

REGISTRATION

When you arrive on the audition evening, you'll be asked to complete an online audition form, which can be accessed via QR code posters displayed around the auditorium.

If you experience any trouble accessing or completing the form, or don't have a device with you, please speak to a member of the audition panel and they'll be happy to help.

With your permission, your photo will be taken by one of our chaperones — this won't be shared publicly, but it helps us during the casting process and is deleted from our system once the show has been cast.

The audition will also be video recorded to help the casting process. This will not be shared publicly and is deleted once the show has been cast.

PRE-READ AUDITION MATERIAL FOR PRINCIPAL ROLES

Our doors will open at 6:10pm, slightly earlier than our official start time, to give auditionees a chance to familiarise themselves with the audition material.

You are not expected to memorise it and can read off the sheet during the audition.

Printed extracts will be available on the tables at the front of the auditorium, please take only one extract at a time so everyone has the opportunity to prepare.

ICEBREAKER

We understand that audition environments can sometimes feel daunting, whether you're an experienced performer or brand new to the stage. To help everyone relax and get to know each other, we'll start the evening with a fun warm-up game and encourage everyone to join in.

READING FOR PRINCIPAL ROLES

During the audition process, we'll announce which scene is being read and which characters are needed for that extract. Anyone auditioning for those roles will be asked to line up at the side of the stage so that no one misses their chance to read for their scene.

CASTING PROCESS

WHEN WILL I HEAR BACK?

Waiting to hear back from an audition is exhausting so we aim to contact everyone as soon as a decision has been made via SMS. You should hear back within 1 week after the final audition date.

We contact people by SMS to ensure everyone gets to know at the same time so that people are not waiting whilst others know the outcome.

MORE ACTING OPPORTUNITIES

We also have more auditions taking place in the future for other productions. To stay up to date, frequently check our socials and [Auditions Page](#).

NON-ACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Due to our limited cast size, we may be unable to offer roles to all auditionees. There are, however, many other opportunities for those aged over 16yrs to be part of the production, including roles on our tech, props, set, costume, FoH, and chaperone teams.

For more information about volunteering with Footlights, please visit our [Members/Volunteers Portal](#) or [Lancaster Grand Website](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I audition if I have never done Panto before?

Absolutely YES! Both new and experienced people are all very welcome. No roles have been given/cast before the auditions and new faces are always welcome. Those who perform the best at auditions, and fit the roles, will be cast.

Do I have to be available for all 21 performances?

Yes, please do not audition if you know you are not free for the entire run as our audiences deserve our best performances and the cast need consistency.

I work and am not sure if I have time?

Don't worry, lots of the cast and crew work (as we are all volunteers) and find if they are organised there is time to fit panto in. There is only one show date which may require those who work typical 9-5 hours to book leave, which is Christmas Eve as this is a matinee (2.30pm curtain up). The rest of the shows are on evenings or weekends or bank holidays.

I don't think I will be good enough at dancing and singing, can I still audition?

Yes, please do come along, most people just need to show some potential and be willing to learn and work at their dancing. You need to be able to sing well enough to follow a tune and the key principal roles will need to sing well.

I can't attend one of the audition dates, can I come to one of the other dates?

For Chorus and Principals, you can, just please email in advance to let Cheryl know. Dancers however need to attend on 8th July and apologies but cannot audition on the other dates. If any dancers are not able to come, then please contact Cheryl and if we have not cast all the dancers on 8th July, we may hold an extra audition date if this is possible, but unfortunately this cannot be guaranteed.

How much does it cost?

All those who are in the Cast have to join/be members of Footlights (adults £20/year; Students £10/year; juniors free). There is no charge to audition. For the shows, Cast provide their own footwear, base layer, makeup and hair stuff. All costumes and accessories will be provided.

Will I have fun?

Definitely! We have so much fun in rehearsals and during the show run, whilst also working hard. Cast and Crew become one big panto family, so kindness, care and consideration for each other are the most important things.

CHARACTERS

Role	Description
Robin Hood	Brave hero, who becomes an outlaw, Confident leader <i>(Traditionally Female, 16+)</i>
Friar Tuck	Plump and Jolly Friar who joins the Merry men with a sideline in winemaking and drinking, a little lazy <i>(Male, 18+)</i>
Little John	Large in stature but small in the brain department, daft character, a member of the Merry Men <i>(Male, 16+)</i>
Will Scarlett	Brave, cheerful, good friend to Robin, Member of the Merry men <i>(Any Gender, 16+)</i>
Much the Miller	Cheerful, Hardworking, Member of the Merry men, (grinds grain to make flour) <i>(Any Gender, 16+)</i>
Alana Dale	Light-hearted, sings some of their lines, Member of the Merry men and a wandering minstrel <i>(Female, 16+)</i>
Sheriff of Nottingham	Ruthless, Greedy Tyrant, Desire for wealth and power, Reacts differently around their former Nurse as a bit scared of her, Baddie of the cast <i>(Any Gender, 18+)</i>
Maid Marian	The Sheriff's ward, Kind-hearted, caring, warm and brave <i>(Female, 16+)</i>
Nurse Nellie Nickerlastic	The Sheriff's former nanny and Nurse to the children, Panto Dame Role, funny and warm, bosses the Sheriff <i>(Male, 18+)</i>
Snivel & Grovel	The Sheriff's bungling henchmen and tax collectors, daft characters, funny, make mistakes, fear the Sheriff <i>(Any Gender, 16+)</i>
Ella & Sam	The King's Niece and Nephew, warm and cheerful, honest and sincere <i>(Male & Female, 12+)</i>
King Richard	The Good King Richard the Lionheart, strong leader, good character, confident, slightly smaller role <i>(Male, 18+)</i>
Poet	Rhyming Narrator and also member of chorus, very small speaking role, opens the show and Act 2, good at movement <i>(Any Gender, 14+)</i>

Guy of Gisbourne	A pompous nobleman and part of the chorus, small speaking role in first scene (<i>Male, 14+</i>)
Chorus	Villagers/ forest characters/ royal courtiers/ children in the classroom - support the principal roles and are so important in setting the atmosphere and bringing life to the performances, will need to act, sing and dance/move (<i>Any Gender, Aged 9 to 100</i>)
Dancers	Able to perform ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary and tap to a good standard. Need to be happy with quick costume changes and be able to pick up choreography quickly, good expressive faces (<i>Any Gender, 10+</i>)