

# Beauty AND THE BEAST



A PANTOMIME BY

**Gordon Barr**



Lambeg|players



Our new website **www.lambegplayers.com** will keep you up to date with our new productions and news - and of course you can have a look through the picture archives of our previous plays and pantomimes.



## a message from the chairman



**Fiona Dickson**  
CHAIRMAN

Welcome to this year's pantomime. The Lambeg Players are delighted that you are able to join us for this year's show – Beauty and the Beast. Every year, the panto goes from strength to strength, and I think you are in for a treat tonight. Our cast work very hard on the stage to bring words and music to life. Their unstoppable energy and visible enjoyment never cease to amaze me. However, I am also able to watch the show from behind the scenes as a member of the costume team. There are so many dedicated people working off the stage to bring the show to you who turn up to rehearsals week after week.

There would be no set, without our team of builders headed up by Alastair. The show would be silent without Michael's music. The costumes would lack sparkle without Catherine and Della (and Primark!). The show wouldn't make it to the Island Centre without Henry's business sense. But, perhaps most importantly, there'd be no chocolate biscuits at tea-break without Barbara. And of course, there would be no show without the tireless contribution of our three producers – Emily, Ian and Laura (who can also find the energy to be in the show) and their fantastic assistant Winston, who has done the most work.

There are so many others who have helped to bring the show to you – please take time to read the programme and acknowledge their contribution. The players have a fantastic family ethos and I always feel like part of a big family as a member of the Lambeg Players. So now I invite you to sit back, relax, clap and cheer with your own families (or friends), and most of all

**. . . enjoy the show!**

## a message from our president



**RJC Boyd OBE**  
PRESIDENT LAMBEG PLAYERS

I am very pleased to be invited to contribute to the Programme for this Pantomime and my first words are to every member of the cast, and to say "Very well done".

I have been in and out during the long rehearsal period and have enjoyed seeing the improvements week by week. Now you have the audience and in there your friends, relations and strangers all here to see you.

To you, the audience, "thank you for coming". I can tell you in advance you are going to see a first class show performed by a dedicated group of amateur performers who have enjoyed the rehearsals. Now I hope you will experience some of that enjoyment and be transported to distant lands in music and song and then go home just that wee bit happier for having been there.

May I say thank you for your help in a little known part of our operations. You have helped us raise nearly £60,000 for various charities over the years. I am hopeful that we will continue to help others while we bring you enjoyment.

Many thanks and enjoy the show.





The production team Laura Kerr, Winston Kerr, Ian Bennington and Emily White.



Michael McCormick

## musical director

Michael has been working with Lambeg Players for a few years now and we are always amazed at how he can play absolutely anything without any music of any description and can stay on keyboards for long periods sustained only by tobacco.

Whilst he has, in past years, been our accompanist and band leader, this year he has accepted the poisoned chalice of taking our musical achievements to new heights and his talent and patience have been greatly appreciated by the producers.

Michael plays in various bands and combos and has recently been dueting with tonight’s guitarist Kevin Sage who has also had a long association with Lambeg Players.

This year, for the first time, Michael and the band get a chance to rock it up with their own version of Status Quo’s *Rocking all Over the World* - so get your earplugs ready and remember, dancing is forbidden in the theatre for reasons of health and safety... and sanity.



## synopsis of the plot

Belle, a beautiful young princess, is being forced into an arranged marriage to Cuthbert (lately of Trumpton), the last thing in the world she wants. So she decides to run away and thus starts her big adventure. Lost in the woods, captured by the evil Nicodemus, then she meets the Beast, who is really a prince in disguise. I am sure you can imagine the rest or just wait for the Lambeg Players to reveal all.

**Will good triumph over evil?**

**Will Belle marry her true love?**

**What secrets are hidden in Castle Fearsome?**

**Will the Dame trap the Squire?**

**Will Suzi get the Ticklees?**

**Does Simon Cowell have the X Factor?**

**Will Manchester United win the league again?**

## the cast & crew

<b>Belle</b>	Christina Bennington
<b>Beast</b>	Jon Paul Bruce
<b>Prince Aaron</b>	Jacqueline Clarke
<b>Mary</b>	Sarah Beattie
<b>Dame</b>	Wilnor Tennant
<b>Squire</b>	Moore Brown
<b>Suzi</b>	Laura Kerr
<b>Tickles</b>	Ian Bennington
<b>Cuthbert</b>	Paula Brown
<b>Daisy May</b>	Emily White
<b>King</b>	Paul Bennington
<b>Queen</b>	Karen Webb
<b>Nicodemus</b>	Winston Kerr
<b>Lucy</b>	Amy Bennington
<b>Matthew</b>	Simon Harris
<b>Fairy</b>	Colin Boyd

### Villagers, Courtiers and Children

John Bennington, Karen Bennington, Charlotte Boyd, Sophie Brackenridge, Nicola Brown, Ellen Bruce, Daniel Clarke, Joshua Colquhoun, Hannah Currie, Alexandra Dickson, Emma Dickson, Matthew Good, Susanna Good, Steffan Kerr, Alex McAleenon, Katherine McCurdy, Anna McKinney, Amy Maze, Natalie Orr, Megan Pentland, Caroline Webb, Emma Williamson, Hannah Wilson, Kathryn Wardil.

### ACT ONE

SCENE 1	<b>The Town Square</b>
SCENE 2	<b>Inside the Squire’s Mansion</b>
SCENE 3	<b>A Glade in the Forest</b>
SCENE 4	<b>The Grounds of Castle Fearsome</b>
SCENE 5	<b>Castle Fearsome’s Main Hall</b>

### ACT TWO

SCENE 1	<b>The Palace Grounds</b>
SCENE 2	<b>Another part of the Garden</b>
SCENE 3	<b>The Land of Darkness</b>
SCENE 4	<b>The Royal Palace</b>

### Backstage Team

Producers	Ian Bennington, Laura Kerr & Emily White
Assistant to Producers	Winston Kerr
Membership Secretary	Karen Webb
Choreography	Emily White
Stage Manager	Alastair Dickson
Lighting	Dermott McCurdy
Sound	Geoffrey Clarke
Costumes	...Catherine Bennington, Fiona Dickson, Della McKinney
Dames Costumes	Alison Forte
Set Construction	Alastair Dickson, Phil Grimes, Colin Agar, John Clarke, Matthew Grimes

Set Painter	Lisa Lovell
Makeup	Amy Webb
Rehearsal Accompanist	Michael McCormick
Programme Design	Ian Bennington, Henry Brown
Business Manager	Henry Brown

### Backstage/Front of House Team

Colin Agar, John Clarke, Phil Grimes, Matthew Grimes, Peter Harrison, Sam Boyd, Peter Bennington, Andrew Bennington, Roberta Bennington, Joan Brown, Andrew Brown, Sandra Brown, Jackie Brown, Barbara Carson, Tom Carson, Angela McCurdy, Jasper McKinney, Luke McKinney, Daniel McKinney, Eddy Kerr, Tim Webb, Amy Webb, Mark McCurdy, Charlie Brown.

### Orchestra

Michael McCormick	Keyboards
Kevin Sage	Guitar/Keyboards
Des Sage	Bass Guitar
Conor Sage	Guitar
Philip Hynds	Drums





# it'll be alright on the night



Random dance movements - the only ones they know!



The beast is on the left and the beauty on the right.



A ceiling leak is discovered...



Communal toilet request.



The chorus indicate how many words of the song they have learned.



The ubiquitous panto thigh slap.



Ian casts his vote for "Rear of the Year."



Laura threatens to sack the choreographer...



Who's paying attention and who is loving the lens?



Winston recalls his days as a football referee.



Some "armless" acting!



Ian manipulates the whole cast using Bluetooth.





## the full cast and backstage team







## cast biographies



### **Belle** **Christina Bennington**

Christina has appeared in several previous pantos but this is her first leading role. Earlier this year she performed at the Royal Albert Hall in BBC Talent's "The Water Diviner's Tale" and in 2004 she took part in "The Little Prince" on BBC2. Christina also performs with Belfast Operatic Company

and sings with the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra. Her sporting interests include ice hockey – she is a cheerleader for the Belfast Giants.



### **Mary** **Sarah Beattie**

Sarah returned to the company for our 50th birthday celebrations and stepped into the role of Edna Bucket at short notice. She had featured previously in a number of pantomimes including "Beauty & the Beast", "Aladdin" and "Frankenstein meets Robin Hood" Last year she took the lead in Aladdin. Play credits include

"Second Honeymoon" and "Post Horn Gallop".

Outside of dramatic activities she is busy looking after two children, two dogs and one husband and working as a physio. (Hopefully we will not need her professional services during the run of the show!)



### **Dame** **Wилnor Tennant**

Wилnor made his debut with the Lambeg Players three years ago as tropical island king Chief Yum Tum and followed this up with the contrasting role of one of the Ugly Sisters. He obviously impressed in this genre as he has been cast as the panto dame for the second year in a row. He has an extensive dramatic CV which he added to

as Stanley Monteith in the Lambeg Players production of Sam Cree's "Strictly for the Birds". He has worked with many Christian drama groups both acting and directing. Wилnor headed off to Brazil last year to work with street children and the Lambeg Players are keen to support this work through this year's show.



### **Beast** **Jon Paul Bruce**

Jon Paul made his debut with Lambeg Players two years ago in the summer production of "Second Honeymoon" and then went on to bring the house down as the Genie in Aladdin. He has performed in quite a number of musical productions in the past including "Godspell", "Oklahoma", "Irene" and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat".

An e-Business consultant by trade, Jon Paul admits he has once again been bitten by the performance bug.



### **Prince Aaron** **Jacqueline Clarke**

Jacqueline joined her sisters Laura and Paula, and brother Charlie as a Lambeg Player three years ago. Last year her son Daniel joined her to continue the Lambeg family tradition. She also has created the strong characters of Mrs Mansfield in "Second Honeymoon", and Janet McVeigh in "Married Bliss". Like many

others of the company her early appearances were in Gang Show and with Salvation Army Productions.



### **Squire** **Moore Brown**

Moore, who began his career in Gang Show, is a veteran of Lambeg pantos and has taken on many roles ranging from Dame to benevolent Baron. Two years ago he was rescued from King Neptune's ocean deep and transformed into an Ugly Sister. This year he is more respectable as the Squire. He has also had

many parts in the plays with highly acclaimed performances as Harold, he of the weak bladder, in "Stop it Nurse", Uncle Fred in "The Mating Season" and of course, Ernie Ramsey in last year's "Married Bliss".



### **Tickles** **Ian Bennington**

Ian has been performing in musicals since early schooldays. He joined Lambeg Players some fifteen years ago and has taken prominent roles in Pantomimes and plays as well as more recently producing a number of Sam Cree comedies. He is also a member of Belfast Operatic and played Edgar Beane in Titanic the Musical in May

2005 and again in November '06 in the newly refurbished Opera House. He also played Nahum the Beggar in BOC's production of Fiddler on the Roof.



### **Cuthbert** **Paula Brown**

Paula has taken leading roles in both pantos and plays with the Lambeg Players in recent years. Notable roles have included Mrs J in "the Mating Season", Freda Ferguson in "Stop it Nurse", Dandini in "Cinderella" and of course, her tour de force performance as Grace Ramsey in last year's "Married Bliss". Paula is

another member of the cast whose early performances were in Gang Show. She is actively involved in youth work with the Salvation Army. The whole company is delighted at her recent engagement to Sid.



### **King** **Paul Bennington**

Paul has been with the Lambeg Players for 30 years having first appeared in Dick Whittington in 1975, having cut his acting teeth in school plays and Gang Show. He has played various roles in pantomime ranging from the arch villain through comic robber to the dame. Paul has taken a leading role in many of Lambeg Players

plays most recently as Donald MacDonald in "Married Bliss" and as Malcolm Adair in "Second Honeymoon". Paul was recently very pleased to co-produce with Colin Boyd the "Fleur de Lis" concert in the Waterfront Hall to celebrate 100 years of Scouting.



### **Suzi** **Laura Kerr**

Laura has a wide and varied experience of musical theatre, acting and singing. She has been performing since the age of seven in various settings but most recently has been spending her time with The Belfast Operatic Company and The Lambeg Players. In recent years with the BOC at the

Grand Opera House in Belfast she has played the parts of Dolly Levi, in "Hello Dolly", Annie Oakley in "Annie Get your Gun", Alice in "Titanic the Musical" and Hattie in "Kiss me Kate".



### **Daisy May** **Emily White**

Emily has featured in many of our productions over the years and after a break three years ago, returned to the cast of the pantomime. Last year she added production and choreography to her many talents and developed them further as part of this year's new production team. She has

taken leading roles in some of our recent plays including "The Mating Season", "Married Bliss" and "Stop it Nurse".



### **Queen** **Karen Webb**

Karen made her debut with the Lambeg Players three years ago and has been a regular in pantos and plays ever since. She has undertaken a number of formidable roles including those of Cinderella's stepmother and Empress Kow Tow. She featured as Lily in our production of "Strictly for the

Birds", Mrs Ligget in "Second Honeymoon" and the "mother" in last year's "Married Bliss". Karen is the co-owner of a puppet company - Kaz & Co - which has toured throughout Ireland performing in schools and youth organisations. Karen runs a creative arts group for children, which has performed a musical in Lagan Island Theatre, Lisburn.







**Nicodemus  
Winston Kerr**

Winston and his muscular frame is now a regular feature of our Panto. His previous roles have been the evil Jester Sneere in “Wee Willie Winkie”, the Sheriff of Nottingham in “Babes in the Wood”, the Baron in “Cinderella” and Man Friday in “Robinson Crusoe”. He made his first appearance in a play three years ago as Mervyn in “The Mating Season” and played hen pecked Walter in “Second Honeymoon”. Previous dramatic activity has been with Salvation Army groups usually under the direction of his sister-in-law Laura. This year Winston has joined the production team and lent his tireless energy to organising the lyrics, the downloads and most of the hard work.



**Lucy  
Amy Bennington**

Amy is now in her 7th Lambeg Players pantomime taking on the role of Lucy. She has featured in plays and the choir at her school Banbridge Academy – Midsummer’s Night Dream and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Her latest role was as Cecily in “The Importance of Being Earnest”. She soon will be sitting

her Grade 8 in Speech & Drama. Good Luck Amy – we know you will pass with Distinction!



**Management  
Henry Brown**

Henry continues his stewardship of all aspects of the “business” side of our panto and has yet again been instrumental in co-ordinating all the charity and fund raising activities as well as compiling the programme with Ian.



**Matthew  
Simon Harris**

Simon shot to prominence as Lord Brockhurst in the Pond Park PS production of “The Boy Friend”. He has followed this up with 4 panto appearances and in the “Fleur de Lis” concert in the Waterfront Hall. Simon is a keen rugby player but has taken the old theatrical adage “break a leg” a

little too literally at times and yet again has spent some more time plastered in rehearsal.



**Fairy  
Colin Boyd**

Colin has been with the Lambeg Players for over 30 years with many leading roles in both pantomime and plays. His early theatrical performances were on the stage of the Grand Opera House in the Belfast Gang Shows of the 70’s and 80’s and he has recently returned there in guest

appearances with Belfast Operatic Company, most recently as the Major in “Titanic”. He has also made guest appearances with Dunmurry Dramatic Society and Lisnagarvey Operatic Society. Colin’s stage credits include Councillor Albert Parker in JB Priestley’s “When we were Married”, Benjamin Tapeworth in “Strike Happy” by Duncan Greenwood and of course, the definitive Andrew Calvin Knox in last year’s “Married Bliss”. Although he has often entertained us as the Dame, Colin’s favourite panto role is as the Fairy, which he plays in his own inimitable way. He has been part of the panto production team, along with Paul, for over 10 years but took a break to co-produce with Paul Bennington the “Fleur de Lis” concert in the Waterfront Hall to celebrate 100 years of Scouting.



Michael going bananas (Far right)



Boy's Chorus



Girl's Chorus



Catherine's Angels AKA The Costume Team



Backstage Team





## Oasis Village, Ndola

This year's pantomime will be our fifth "sponsored" event with Lambeg Players. To date over £3500 has been raised from plays/pantomimes.

The above money has so far contributed to children's work in Zambia including educating village children to give them hope for the future.

The latest project is called Oasis Village. The initial vision of Oasis Village is to build 10 chalets in Ndola, Zambia which will house six orphans in each one. There are plans to build an administration block, library, canteen and playground. House mums will also be employed to look after the children on a 24 hour basis. The estimated total cost of the initial vision is £40,000.

Thanks to the fantastic response of last year's pantomime and play, two chalets have already been constructed – A chalet can be built for £1000.

A big thank you to the Lambeg Players for providing such a wonderful opportunity to fundraise and to everyone who continues to support the Oasis Village Project. The images to the left are the best way of showing our gratitude. With hard work already beginning to make a difference, these are merely a glimpse of what is still to come.

Anyone who would like information on the orphanage project or who feels they could help in any way, please contact:  
**[oasisvillagendola@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oasisvillagendola@yahoo.co.uk)**



## Lambeg Players and charity

For many years Lambeg Players have worked with a variety of other groups to raise funds for charity. This symbiotic relationship has raised over £60,000 in recent years. We started out helping local churches by performing plays and pantomimes in their church halls. We have now diversified to collaborate with other charities, including Banbridge Lions, Bannside Presbyterian Church Banbridge, CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Masonic Charities, Meningitis Research, Salvation Army, Scouting in Malawi, Sunday School Charities and various primary school PTAs. The Lambeg Players have in recent years adopted a charity of our own donating directly to them. Charities we have supported have included Scouting in Malawi (£1200), the Tsunami Appeal, (£2000) Children's Hospice (£1300). CLIC Sargent (£600) and NI Kidney Research Fund (£600). This year we will be taking up a retiring collection after some of the evening performances for Oasis Village Orphanage in Zambia and OutReach Amazon in Brazil. Some of our shows this year have been sponsored by the following charities:

Charities being supported by this year's show

Wednesday 2nd	<b>Oasis Village Orphanage</b> <b>Banbridge Lions</b>
Thursday 3rd	<b>Meadowbridge Primary School PTA/</b> <b>Diabetes UK</b> <b>Templepatrick Primary School PTA</b>
Friday 4th	<b>Masonic Charities</b> <b>(including Masonic Widows)</b>
Tuesday 8th	<b>Malone Presbyterian Church Brownies</b> <b>Outreach Amazon</b>
Wednesday 9th	<b>Church Army</b> <b>Banbridge Junior Hockey Club</b> <b>St Hilda's Parish Church Kilmakee -</b> <b>Mother's Union</b> <b>Mitre Trust</b>
Thursday 10th	<b>Cystic Fibrosis Trust/ Pond Park</b> <b>Primary School PTA</b>
Saturday 12th	<b>CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children</b> <b>Dundonald Elim Church Girls' Brigade</b>



# Lambeg|players

## next production

We are presenting Sam Cree's hilarious comedy "WIDOW'S PARADISE" on tour to a number of theatres and of course, Portrush Summer Theatre in August. Please keep an eye on [www.lambegplayers.com](http://www.lambegplayers.com) for dates and venues.

## previous productions

1974- Robin Hood	1989- Jack and the Beanstalk /	1998- Sleeping Beauty /
1975- Dick Whittington	When We Were Married	Widows' Paradise
1976- Aladdin	1990- Cinderella /	1999- Robin Hood Meets
1977- Jack and the Beanstalk /	Rhyme or Reason	Frankenstein / When
Wedding Fever	1991- How the Other Half Loves	We Were Married
1978- My Favourite Family	My Favourite Family	2000- Cinderella /
1979- Strictly for the Birds	1992- Red Riding Hood /	Wedding Fever
1980- Cupid Wore Skirts	Tons of Money	2001- Family Fever
1981- The Feminine Touch	1993- Goldilocks and the Three Bears	2002- Ali Baba and the Forty
1982- Stop It Nurse	1994- Beauty and the Beast /	Thieves / Strike
1983- Rhyme or Reason /	Post Horn Gallop	Happy
Married Bliss	1995- Aladdin /	2003- Wee Willie Winkie /
1984- Second Honeymoon /	Second Honeymoon	Stop It Nurse
Dry Rot	1996- Dick Whittington	2004- Babes in the Wood /
1985 - Simple Spymen	1997- Mother Goose /	The Mating Season
1986- Babes in the Wood /	Cupid Wore Skirts	2005- Robinson Crusoe /
Dry Rot		Strictly for the Birds
1987- Wee Willie Winkie		2006- Second Honeymoon /
1988- Sinbad the Sailor		Cinderella
		2007- Aladdin / Married Bliss