

Lambeg|players
PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty

a pantomime by

Bruce Gardner

welcome from... Lambeg|players

A Message from our Chairman



Welcome to this year's
Lambeg Players' Production of

Sleeping Beauty

Karen Webb

Last year we enjoyed performing the timeless classic - Cinderella but this year we are again taking up a classic tale and presenting Sleeping Beauty. We had loads of folk auditioning for the part of Sleeping Beauty - but once we weeded out those who thought they only had to sleep and look beautiful (myself included) - we settled on a great cast. They have spent months rehearsing: dancing, singing, and tirelessly practising "sleeping" and now I believe we have a great show to present to you.

As always, this show can only happen with the amazing talents and energy of a number of Lambeg Players and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following: Our producers Laura Kerr and Paul and Ian Bennington, ably assisted by Winston Kerr and Fiona Dickson: a special thanks to Laura for the great choreography and having the patience to "teach" the more mature members of the cast!! A big thank you to Michael McCormick for playing at every rehearsal and organising the music - even, against his better judgement, giving in to having two numbers from Frozen - Let it go Michael!!

Oh yes - and a word of thanks to the stalwart Colin Boyd who did some specialist coaching with a few cast members who had graduated to senior roles for the first time. And let's not forget Joan Turkington for her UV number choreography.

Thanks also to our backstage crew - Alastair Dickson and Jasper McKinney for all the creative work on sets and props. To Catherine Bennington and her costume team Joan, Della, Fiona and Roberta. Thanks to Ellen Hillen for the marketing and to Henry Brown our Business Manager.

So many people make up a great show - and we hope you will enjoy it as much as we enjoyed every week of rehearsing - even when the "sweat was lashing off us"!! So sit back and enjoy the show as we present "Sleeping Beauty".

The Producers



L-R: Fiona Dickson, Paul Bennington, Laura Kerr, Winston Kerr, Ian Bennington and Michael McCormick.

Once again the Lambeg Players have turned to the renowned triumvirate of Laura Kerr, Paul Bennington and Ian Bennington to produce the pantomime. All three have participated many times, both singly or in partnership with others, in the production and direction of Lambeg Players pantomimes and plays. They are able to harness their various strengths to deliver what we hope you feel is a quality end product. (Don't bother letting us know if you disagree but do tell others if you enjoy the show!).

Like all good shows there is a legion of people supporting the producers. In addition to those mentioned adjacent, we should thank Peter Bennington for lighting, Wilnor Tennant for special costume work and a special mention must be made of Jasper's innovative backdrop scenery.

Of course we must not forget the lovely ladies who make the tea and juice every rehearsal night.

Any Lambeg Show would be incomplete without music...

From early September last year, our Musical Director, Michael McCormick has patiently guided us through the varied programme of music we present tonight. The long nights spent rehearsing in Lambeg over the last four months, and the effort put in by all of us, have just one aim - to present a great night of entertainment.

You be the judge as we ask you to sit back, relax as we present "Sleeping Beauty".



Sleeping Beauty

This well known tale has been turned into pantomimes and films by many writers and we have adapted one of these for this year's show. Our story is set in the small mountain kingdom of Restoria. The beautiful princess is cursed by the wicked fairy and will die when she pricks her finger on a spinning wheel. The good fairy protects the princess and she falls asleep for one hundred years until woken by the kiss of a handsome prince.

Well that is what is meant to happen but this is the Lambeg Players so keep your eyes peeled for additional characters changing the plot. Don't worry, all ends well by the Grand Finale. But in between...

Will the Princess fall asleep without a "wee sleeping tablet"?

Will the Blackthorn be stronger than the Thistle?

What happens if the needle is blunt?

Will the forest be too thick for the Prince to get through?

Will he get a good chainsaw from B&Q?

Where is Restoria - we thought it was something bald men use?

Will our Crystal turn out to be a real diamond?

Will there be snow on top of the Matterhorn?

Has too much Christmas cheer given King Rudolph a red nose?

Will Jimmy & Timmy get the pies for the King?

ACT 1

Prologue

Scene 1 Throne Room
King's Palace

Scene 2 Forest Track
(18 years later)

Scene 3 Throne Room
King's Palace

ACT 2

Scene 1 Edge of Thorn Forest
(100 years later)

Scene 2 The Palace Courtyard

Scene 3 Throne Room
King's Palace

Scene 4 Corridor in the
Palace

Scene 5 Throne Room
King's Palace

the cast & crew

Fairy Thistledown (A good Fairy) Anna Nelson
Fairy Blackthorn (A bad Fairy) Sarah Beattie
Penny Peace (A Trainee Fairy) Laura Kerr
Princess Crystal (Our heroine) Beth Craig
Prince Stephen Goodheart (Our hero) Lauren Mackey
King Rudolph of Restoria Aaron Tennant
Queen Natalia Karen Webb
Martha Matterhorn (Nurse to the Princess) Wilnor Tennant
Billie Bosker (Squire to the Prince) Caroline Webb
Timmy Pyekin (Jester) Joshua Colquhoun
Jimmy Pyekin (Jester's son) Joshua Colquhoun
Chamberlain Winston Kerr
Millie (Palace Servant) Lisa McCormick Baxter
Tillie (Palace Servant) Joanne Law
Wandering Minstrel Noel Marsden
Characters 'Crowbarred in' Ian Bennington, Paul Bennington
Colin Boyd

Chorus - Ellie Bamford, Lucy Beattie, Fern Belshaw,
Lucy Belshaw, Karen Bennington, Katie Bowden, Nicola Brown,
Nicole Buckingham, Lea Carson, Anna Chambers,
Alexandra Dickson, Eve Dickson, Fiona Dickson, Katie Haskins,
Ellen Hillen, Sophie Lister Tinsley, Amy Riley, Sophie McMaster,
Sian McCullough, Erin Moore, Jane Morrow, Bethan Pollard,
Molly Simpson, Joan Turkington, Ian Bennington,
Paul Bennington, Colin Boyd, Joel Easton, Adam Patterson,
Peter Gilmore, Nathan Howe, Steffan Kerr, Joe McCormick,
James Marsden, Noel Marsden, Jonathan Moore, Jack Netherton,
Jake Spence, Rhys Waterworth, Ben Armstrong.

Behind the Scenes

Producers Laura Kerr, Paul Bennington, Ian Bennington
Assistant Producers Fiona Dickson, Winston Kerr
Musical Director Michael McCormick
Choreography Laura Kerr, Joan Turkington
Additional Script Writing Ian Bennington
Stage Manager Alastair Dickson
Set Design Jasper McKinney, Alastair Dickson
Lighting Peter Bennington
Projection Della 'Digital' McKinney
Sound Geoff Clarke (Geoff Clarke AV)
Costume Catherine Bennington, Roberta Bennington,
Joan Brown, Della McKinney, Fiona Dickson
Special Costume Design (Dame) Wilnor Tennant
Set Construction Alastair Dickson, Jasper McKinney,
Della McKinney
Special Scenery & Props Jasper McKinney
Rehearsal Accompanist and Digital Tracks.. Michael McCormick
Band - Michael McCormick, Keyboards;
Kevin Sage, Keyboards/Guitar; Conor Sage, Guitar; Des Sage, Bass;
Billy McIlwaine, Drums.
Programme Design... Ian Bennington, Henry Brown, Sam Hunter
Marketing & Promotion Ellen Hillen
Business Manager Henry Brown
Backstage Team and Front of House - Sandra Brown,
Jackie Brown, Charlie Brown, Roberta Bennington, Liz Boyd,
John Clarke, Lynne Chambers, Eddy Kerr, Amy Webb, Tim Webb,
John Nelson.

Lambeg Players would like to thank the following:

Banbridge Musical Society, Belvoir Players, Chris Hill
(photographer), Part Two Design



Someone stood on Lisa's toe.



A few girls who can actually dance.



You can just hear Laura shouting "eyes front"!



Flying lessons Lambeg style.



Keep fit.



Laura worship.



Gentle persuasion.



Advert for hair conditioner.



Put the heating on!



Caroline and Joanne getting a bit "stagey"!

the full cast & crew of...

Sleeping



s Beauty



cast biographies



Anna Nelson – Fairy Thistledown

A member of Belfast Operatic Company, Anna has had some great roles, notably as Kate Magowan in the wonderful musical "Titanic". In 2012 Anna guested with us as the very provocative and very French Monique Le Blanc in our hilarious production of Sam Cree's "Cupid Wore Skirts" and then played Judy Marshall in our recent production of Sam Cree's "Separate Beds". Anna was formerly in Phoenix Players in her native Portadown where she played in several musicals. She is a GP and so comes in very handy when we get over excited in rehearsal as the slap stick gets out of hand.



Sarah Beattie – Fairy Blackthorn

Sarah has featured in many of our productions including "Beauty and the Beast" and "Frankenstein meets Robin Hood", not to mention the role of James the Jessie in our 'Western' "Panto at the OK Corral".

This year she is the deliciously wicked Black Fairy and gets the chance to do a lot of growling and snarling. Play credits include "Second Honeymoon" and "Post Horn Gallop". Outside of dramatic activities she is busy looking after two children, two dogs, and working as a physio and she is glad to have her daughter on stage with her. Hopefully her professional services will not be required during the run of the show.



Beth Craig – Princess Crystal

Beth, a pupil at Bloomfield Collegiate, is taking part in her third Lambeg Players pantomime. In 2012 she was in the chorus and in 2013 graduated to the part of the Queen in Cinderella. This year she is delighted to be cast in the title role as she gets lots of shut eye! Beth has also taken part in a number of school productions including Oliver. She is currently studying for her A levels and has obtained a Grade 8 qualification in Speech & Drama.



Lauren Mackey – Prince Stephen Goodheart

This is Lauren's second outing with Lambeg having debuted last year as Prince Charming in Cinderella. This year she continues in traditional thigh slapping mode as another Prince!

She is a pupil at Bloomfield Collegiate and has a lot of experience taking part in her school's productions, including Joseph and Hairspray. She also was a member of her school choir that performed in the Waterfront Hall with Peter Corry in Christmas 2013. She has recently performed as part of the BSPA's production of "Miss Saigon" in the Mac Theatre in Belfast.



Joshua Colquhoun – Timmy/Jimmy Pyekin

Joshua has been with Lambeg for almost ten years on and off, though he strangely doesn't seem to regret any of it. This is the largest role he's ever had with Lambeg - no pressure! While most comfortable in comedic roles, Joshua has taken on a wide variety of characters in recent times, ranging from the enigmatic Narrator in "Blood Brothers", to the lovable Lt. Gruber in "Allo 'Allo!", to the stalwart butler Sidonie in "The Gate of the Year". While the stage is never too far from Joshua's mind, he is also studying a masters' degree in criminology at Queens. Look out for him as Ethan McGrandles in 2015's "Braxton" - the first slasher movie ever produced in Northern Ireland!



Wilnor Tennant – Martha Matterhorn

Wilnor made his debut with Lambeg Players 8 years ago as tropical island king Chief Yum Tum in “Robinson Crusoe” but has not played a male character since. He has enjoyed the roles of all the major pantomime dames clocking up yet another this year as Martha Matterhorn. He has worked with many Christian drama groups both performing in and producing shows all over Ireland and as far away as Kenya, Romania and Brazil. Wilnor Heads up Outreach Amazon Project (Home Office) which works with disadvantaged families in Brazil, and have just this year opened a second school in the middle of the Amazon. This is a charity previously supported by Lambeg Players. Wilnor is a man of great energy for whilst rehearsing our show he has been directing and starring in another pantomime for Art’s Care to be staged end of January. This year Wilnor became a Grandfather to Isaac and Naomi, the best role he has ever played.



Joanne Law – Tillie

This is Joanne’s 7th time on stage with Lambeg Players and she is delighted to be taking on a comedy role this time round. She has played Calamity Jane, Aladdin and Cinderella previously with the company.

Joanne has also played Linda in ‘Blood Brothers’, Vicki in ‘The Full Monty’ and ‘Michelle’ in ‘Allo Allo’. When not rehearsing she teaches speech and drama from home and also attends college, and is studying beauty therapy. Joanne is looking forward to joining her Lambeg Family in another fabulous pantomime.



Lisa McCormick-Baxter – Millie

Lisa who has been with the Lambeg Players for many years returned last year to the cast after a seven year break - “resting”. Most of her panto roles have been as “leading men” although she did play Princess Jasmine in Aladdin. This year she has moved to a comedy role for the first time and is thoroughly enjoying the fun! When not in panto, Lisa is a lecturer in Lisburn College and a mum to 4 boys and she is delighted to have one of her sons join her on stage again this year.



Caroline Webb – Billie Bosco

Caroline has taken part in Lambeg Players pantos since 2006 and three years ago formed a successful partnership with Karen Bennington (Buttons & Bows) that was renewed again in 2013’s Cinderella.

She has also taken part in Hunterhouse College productions of “Blood Brothers” and “Dracula Spectacular” and ACTS’ staging of “Moses, Prince of Egypt” and “Prodigal”.



Winston Kerr (Chamberlain)

Winston has been a regular feature of our pantos now for several years. For many years Winston has been cast as the villain, and last year added to this in the form of an Ugly Sister. Play credits include Mervyn in the “Mating Season” and Walter in “Second Honeymoon”. In his spare time he has been known to kick a mean football, and is Co-founder/Manager of Comber Rec Ladies FC. This season Comber Rec Ladies fulfilled another of Winston’s dreams, by winning the NIWFA Division 3 League Championship. Once again Winston is joined on-stage by his elder son Steffan, while Logan (who has also performed on stage beside his dad on previous occasions and baby Charlie look on).

cast biographies



Aaron Tennant – King Rudolph

Aaron is delighted to be performing in this year's pantomime with Lambeg Players. He has been to see the show over the past eight years and has decided to take to the stage this year, playing the King in Sleeping Beauty. Aaron has been involved with many different drama groups from a very early age. He has been doing Pantomimes with Art's Care for 10 years. He has worked with A.C.T. drama group playing the lead in Moses, The Prodigal, and many more productions. After playing the King in Sleeping Beauty he is going on to play the Lion in the Wizard of Oz at the end of January.



Karen Webb – Queen Natalia

Karen once got a complex when she got the part of the Ward Sister in "Stop It Nurse" and Ian told her that she was a natural for the part as the Ward Sister had to be exceptionally bossy. She soon calmed down when she realised what fun it was to be in charge. She had a lot of training for bossy roles having performed in pantomimes as the Stepmother in 'Cinderella' and Ali Baba in 'Sinbad'. Her roles in our plays continue to be equally assertive, playing Maud in 'Family Fever' and her recent outing as Madge in "Separate Beds". Karen has been involved in the Holocaust Memorial Day in the City Hall and toured for a year with the play which was written by another Lambeg Player, Wilnor Tennant. In our annual pantomimes, Karen is renowned for playing a large number of roles in the same show with her appearances as different characters often running into double figures! However this year we have clipped her wings!



Laura Kerr – Penny Peace - Trainee Fairy

A member of both Belfast Operatic and Lambeg Players, Laura has played leading roles in musicals, pantomimes and plays for many years. She also produces pantomimes and does choreography for Lambeg Players. Her numerous stage credits include Aunt Harriet in 'Cupid Wore Skirts' the dual roles of Miss Cherry and Martha in 'Stop it Nurse!', Alice Beane in BOC's Titanic the Musical, Miss Hannigan in Annie (a role she has played twice in Dublin's National Theatre), Annie in Annie Get Your Gun and of course, the definitive Dolly Levi in BOC's Hello Dolly. Laura has just finished appearing as The Wicked Witch of the West in The National Concert Hall Dublin's production of "The Wizard of Oz" and is next in the Grand Opera House as The Mother Superior in the musical "Sister Act". In May 2014 Laura produced Pond Park's The Wizard of Oz and a week later played the role of the wicked stepmother in BOC's Cinderella in the Grand Opera House.



Noel Marsden – Wandering Minstrel

Noel is a very talented singer and musician who joined Lambeg Players some three years ago and has established himself as a regular in both pantomimes and plays. We now have someone we can rely on that can actually sing which is extremely useful when you've got Wilnor. Who will forget his expert rendition last year of the Great Pretender, allegedly he received three offers of marriage from within the company, two of them from women.

Those who are impressed with his outing this year as the Wandering Minstrel may wish to check out their local hostelry as he often plays live in pubs and establishments of ill repute.



James Marsden & Steffan Kerr - Two Servants

James has been in Lambeg Players with his dad Noel for three years and this is his third pantomime. He has appeared in many school productions and is following in his father's footsteps with his all round musical talent.

Steffan is also a regular in our pantomimes having been involved from a young age with his father Winston. Watch out for his cool rapping in one of the production numbers - apparently he came in very handy at Christmas with the family presents.

Lambeg Players & charity

For many years Lambeg Players have worked with a variety of groups to raise funds for charity. This symbiotic relationship has raised well over £90,000. Initially we started out helping local churches by performing plays and pantomimes in their church halls. More recently we have diversified to collaborate with other charities, some of whom are listed below.

Salvation Army	Asha-India
Cystic Fibrosis Trust	Meningitis Research
Scouting in Malawi	Church Army
The Tsunami Appeal	Lupus UK
Children's Hospice	Love for Life
CLIC Sargent	School Aid Romania (Sunshine Foundation)
Oasis Village Orphanage in Zambia	Malone Presbyterian Church
OutReach Amazon in Brazil	Brownies
NI Kidney Research	Macmillan Cancer Care

This year the following charities/groups have helped us sell tickets and raise funds for themselves.

Oasis Village Orphanage in Zambia	St Columba's Parish Church
OutReach Amazon in Brazil	St Hilda's Mothers Union
Church Army	Masonic Widow's Charity
Ballymacash Scout Group	Guide Dogs for the Blind

Traditionally after our last two evening shows we have an "orange bucket" collection for a chosen charity. This year we will be giving the proceeds to NI Children's Hospice and Christians Against Poverty(CAP). All donations will be gratefully received.

Please consider supporting these local charities this evening.

NI Children's Hospice – www.nihospicecare.com

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Started in 1996 in Bradford when John Kirkby gave up his successful career in consumer finance to help people out of misery and poverty associated with unmanageable debt. They have grown into a national charity with a vision to have a CAP Debt centre, opened in partnership with a local church, in every town and city across the UK. A CAP centre was opened in Lisburn in 2014 and is supported by a number of local churches. This local branch is finding there is an increasing need in the area and has recently taken on more staff. Contact www.capuk.org or 08003280006

Information on two of the other charities we are supporting this year.

OutReach Amazon

OutReach Amazon is backed by the Elim International Missions and has local Northern Ireland connections. The Rescue Project is one of their current projects bringing help to the people of Maues in Brazil. Below is an extract from their recent newsletter.

The Rescue Project

"What a tremendous year at the Rescue Project, so much has been happening it is hard to keep up with it all. The school, play park has been built this year, football and volleyball equipment provided, jujitsu kimonos and mats, the horticulture course has established an emergent vegetable patch with a water tank placed on the kitchen roof to provide water even when there is no water being pumped in the city. Thank you so much for your kind giving. The Project has become part of this

would be 'hostile' community where they have received the team with incredible respect and also taken on board that the Project is theirs to protect and overlook with no recorded thefts (apart from glue for kites that went missing in the first week!) which is unheard of in the area. Without keeping on beating the same old drum; I would like to encourage you to keep on doing what you can, raising finance via fun runs, church events. Whilst we still don't have the monthly financial partners to maintain the Project open (and I firmly believe that the worker is worthy of his/her wage) we have been encouraged and blessed as one off donations have provided time and time again."

Oasis Village Trust

Oasis Village Trust is a charity with a vision to transform the lives of orphans in Ndola, Zambia. It is run by a local Belfast girl, Nicki Moyo, and her family who live in Ndola. The project started in 2007 with the purchase of a site and the initial aim is to have ten chalets which will house six orphans in each one. House mums will also be employed with preference given to widows so that in turn they can help to support their own children. We currently have eight chalets built, an ablution block, a large canteen and a jungle gym. We have also planted many fruit trees and the vision is also to set up a primary school which will be for our orphans and for children who live in the surrounding area so that this will help to bring money into the project.

The last two years have been a struggle in relation to digging a bore hole to bring water into the site. This is something that is needed before the orphanage can officially open. Praise God that on our fifth attempt in November 2013 we got a vast supply of water on site and the next stage will be to get this piped into the buildings. We also have electricity on site so we are very nearly at the stage where we can officially open.

It's been a difficult and challenging project over the last few years but it has also been very rewarding. All the fundraising and hard work over the years has been worth it when we think about the lives that will be changed as a result of the orphanage. We were very blessed in September 2013 when our first two children moved in. To see the transformation in their lives over the past few months has been incredible. They were living in dire circumstances and we couldn't sit back any longer. Their mum had died a few years earlier from AIDS and their dad was also sick with AIDS and had lost his job and they became homeless and he couldn't look after his children so they went to live with the grandparents, but it only came to light in the Summer of 2013 that they were being treated very badly. We have given their dad a job at Oasis so he can live with his children for the time that he has left. Their lives have been transformed overnight and they are so happy. The money raised from this pantomime went to buying Elijah and Gilrina their first ever bikes, probably their first ever Christmas present, they got them on Christmas Day and were speechless. The rest of the money raised will help towards their upkeep and school fees. I am so proud to be part of a vision where I can see how the money is spent and how it directly helps the people who need it most. I am so excited about the future as Oasis opens its gates to transform the lives of many orphans.

"I would really like to thank the Lambeg Players for partnering with Oasis over the last decade, we have enjoyed many shows and ultimately thousands of pounds has been raised to support Oasis Village and we are very thankful for the opportunity."

Annalisa Flanagan (Director - Oasis Village Trust)

For more information on Oasis Village Trust, check out our website www.oasisvillagetrust.com or follow us on twitter @OVTNdola

Sleeping Beauty

word search



Aladdin
Baron
Buttons
Cinderella
Fairy
Forest
Lambeg Players
Lisburn
Music
New Year
Panto
Portrush
Prince Charming
Princess
Pumpkin
Restoria
Sleeping Beauty
Snow White
Spinning Wheel
Ugly Sisters

dates for your diary

Look out for our next production, of course another comedy play, which the Lambeg Players will take "on tour" in the spring and summer. Catch us in Harmony Hill, Belvoir Theatre Belfast, Ballyearl Courtyard Theatre and the Portrush Summer Theatre.

updates on our website...

www.lambegplayers.com

