Performing since 1990

THE LAKESIDE PLAYERS

www.lakesideplayers.com



A Panto by Ben Crocker

Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre
Nov 5 - 8, 2026
Britannia Park

President’s Message

Welcome to Lakeside Players Ottawa's production of The Sleeping Beauty!



Community theatre is about so much more than putting on a show. It's about bringing people together, sharing talents, building friendships and creating something special. Pantomime captures this spirit beautifully, bringing performers of all ages and generations together to share in the fun, laughter and magic of live theatre.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary people who generously give their time, energy and creativity to Lakeside Players Ottawa. From our performers and backstage crews to the parents, families and many other volunteers who lend a hand in countless ways, each makes an invaluable contribution. To all of you, a heartfelt thank you. Your enthusiasm and commitment are what make our theatre community so special.

I'd also like to extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors and supporters, and, of course, to you — our audience. Your continued encouragement helps keep community theatre thriving.

Thank you for joining us, and enjoy the show!

Vanessa Cook, President, Lakeside Players, Consort of Felix

The Lakeside Players, Board of Directors (2026-2027 Season)

President - Vanessa Cook	Treasurer - Dael Foster
1st Vice-President - Michelle Robb	2nd Vice-President - Adam Goldberg
Past President - Harold Swaffield	Secretary - Vacant
Member - Cathy Dowsett	Member - Ann Empey
Member - Andrew MacDonald	Member - Elissa Chauvin

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Message From the Directors

What a wonderful adventure it's been bringing The Sleeping Beauty to life!



Pantomime is a special kind of theatre — full of laughter, music, mischief and, of course, a little magic! It's been a delight watching our talented cast embrace the larger-than-life characters, outrageous humour and sheer silliness that make panto such a joy.



We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped bring this production to the stage, and especially to our Stage Manager, Andrew MacDonald, whose patience, good humour and steady hand have helped keep us all on track (well, most of the time!).

Above all, we've had tremendous fun working together and hope that our enthusiasm is reflected in what you see onstage.

So sit back, join in, cheer for the heroes, boo the villains, and enjoy the magic and mayhem of The Sleeping Beauty!

Michelle Robb & Vanessa Cook, Directors, Sleeping Beauty

Synopsis

The hapless monarchy cannot help their daughter. She falls asleep waiting for the perfect man and falls in love with the first person to kiss her. While the cats are ~~away~~ asleep, the rats will play.

SETTING: The Royal Palace and Grounds, the Village, and Dreamland

Script provided by **Ben Crocker Pantomimes**

Cast

QUEEN (DAME)
Aidan Cooney
Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder

KING
Alix Wenkoff
Blind, apparently

BILLY
Elissa Chauvin
The Butler Did It

KITTY
Branna Cohen
The Real Ruler of the Palace

PRINCESS
Julia Phillips
Sleeps more than the Cat

PRINCE
Ava Ford
Random Kisser

CARABOSSE
Rylen Marsden
Ne'er-do-well

SPINDLESHANKS
Nicole Barber
Partner in Crime

FAIRY PEACEFUL
Ann Empey
Peaceful in Name Only

FAIRY BEAUTIFUL
Sloane Butler
Loveliest in all the Land

FAIRY THOUGHTFUL
Qwynn Butler
Knew You Might Need It

FAIRY GRACEFUL
Simonne Savoie
Ballerina in a Past Life





THE SLUMBERTONES
Laine Wyman, Kevin Dixon,
Trevor Curtis, John-Marc Desmarais
Also Known As 'The Loudness'



CHORUS
A Barrel of Rats
Claire Ash, Mica Boone, Amora Burgess, Eva Burgess, Katie Cronin, Ryshia Ding, Venezia Di Sano, Riley Dorion, Genevieve Fraser-Arnott, Natalie Fraser-Arnott, Hazel Green, Carmie Larizza, Serafina Larizza, Amelia MacDonald, Thomas MacDonald, Jaxson Mercier, Everly Packenham, Emma Raaymakers, Evie Raaymakers, Abigail Robb, Silvia Robu, Amelia Shea, Ella Toffinetti, John Tysick, Lily Tysick, Eleanor Wang



Wall of Dames

Year	Actor	Role
2025	Adam Goldberg	Dame Auntie Em
2024	Adam Goldberg	Dame Dolly Dumpling
2023	Will Wightman	Dame Brunnhilde Blunderberg
2022	Harold Swaffield	Dame Durden
2021	No Panto	COVID
2020	No Panto	COVID
2019	Will Wightman / Paul Arbour	Dames Cheryl and Beryl
2018	Adam Goldberg	Dame Flora Dora
2017	Adam Goldberg	Dame Ma
2016	Adam Goldberg	Dame Gertie
2015	Adam Goldberg	Dame
2014	Harold Swaffield	Queen Dorothy
2013	Harold Swaffield	Dame Dolly
2012	Kevin Rockel	Queen Marmaduchess
2011	Harold Swaffield	Dame Trott
2010	Harold Swaffield	Nurse Jemima Bloggs
2009	Harold Swaffield	Dame Sarah
2008	Harold Swaffield	Mrs. Sinbad
2007	Harold Swaffield	Dame Durden
2006	Brian Lloyd	Widow Twankey
2005	Sean Kelly / Matthew Hunter	Tutti / Frutti
2004	Kevin Rockel	Hetty Hencake
2003	Kevin Rockel	The Queen of Hearts
2002	Glenn McCue	Queen Marmaduchess
2001	Anthony Pearson	Dame Foxtrot
2000	Lawrence Evenchick	Dame Trott

Year	Actor	Role
1999	Dave Rothwell	Mrs. Crusoe
1998	Laurie Dickson	Nurse Hallowpenny
1997	John Parr	Mother Goose
1996	Anthony Pearson	Queen Suun
1995	John Parr/Laurie Dickson	Asphyxia and Euthanasia
1994	Anthony Pearson	Dame Trott
1991	John Collins	Widow Twankey

What is a Pantomime?

A pantomime, or “panto,” is a lively form of theatrical entertainment that blends music, comedy, dance, slapstick, and audience participation. It is often based on familiar fairy tales or folk stories, such as *Cinderella*, *Aladdin*, or *Jack and the Beanstalk*, but these classic tales are reimagined with modern humor, topical references, and playful twists that engage audiences of all ages.

One of the most distinctive features of pantomime is its exaggerated and interactive style. Characters are performed in a larger-than-life manner, with the *Dame*—a comical older woman traditionally played by a man—serving as a central source of humor and energy. The audience plays an active role in the performance, shouting out responses, warning characters of danger, and joining in on familiar catchphrases such as “He’s behind you!”

Pantomime thrives on spontaneity, parody, and improvisation, often including contemporary songs, dance numbers, and local jokes. It is a celebration of storytelling and community spirit, offering a shared theatrical experience where laughter and participation are just as important as the plot itself.

The Panto Cloak

Be sure to visit our Panto Cloak, proudly displayed in the lobby. Each ribbon commemorates one of our past pantomime productions and indicates the show's year and title. Take a moment to read the story behind this special Lakeside Players tradition!

Production Team

Directors
Vanessa Cook & Michelle Robb

Music Director
Marc Lange

Assistant Stage Managers
Claire Arjang & Sam Dorion

Set Construction
Kevan Shantz

Lighting
Ajitesh (AJ) Dhariwal

Costumes Assistant
Qwynn Butler

Hair & Makeup
Simonne Savoie

Photography
Murray Robb

Tickets
Terry Butler

Program
Murray Robb

Canteen
Christine Wex-Butler

Chorus Directors
Kiara Cote & Diane Cote

Stage Manager
Andrew MacDonald

Producers
Michelle Robb & Vanessa Cook

Sound Engineers
Rik Cote & Pat Cooney

Costumes
Amy Better Savoie

Props
Natalie Clark & Jennifer Heale

Graphic Design
Julianna Ma

Videography
Landon Arbuckle

Social Media
Elissa Chauvin

Front of House
Dael Foster

Production, Set, and Choreography Support
Emilie Cote

Despite our best efforts to recognize the many volunteers that contribute to the show we may have missed someone. If we have missed you, please be assured that your contribution is known and is very much appreciated.

About the Lakeside Players Ottawa

Lakeside Players Ottawa was founded in January 1990 by a group of theatre enthusiasts who saw an opportunity to bring new life to the underused stage at Lakeside Gardens (now the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre).

Since then, we have continued to bring live theatre to the Lakeside stage, with our productions typically including a British pantomime in the fall and a play by a Canadian playwright in the spring. In 2019, we officially became a not-for-profit theatre company.

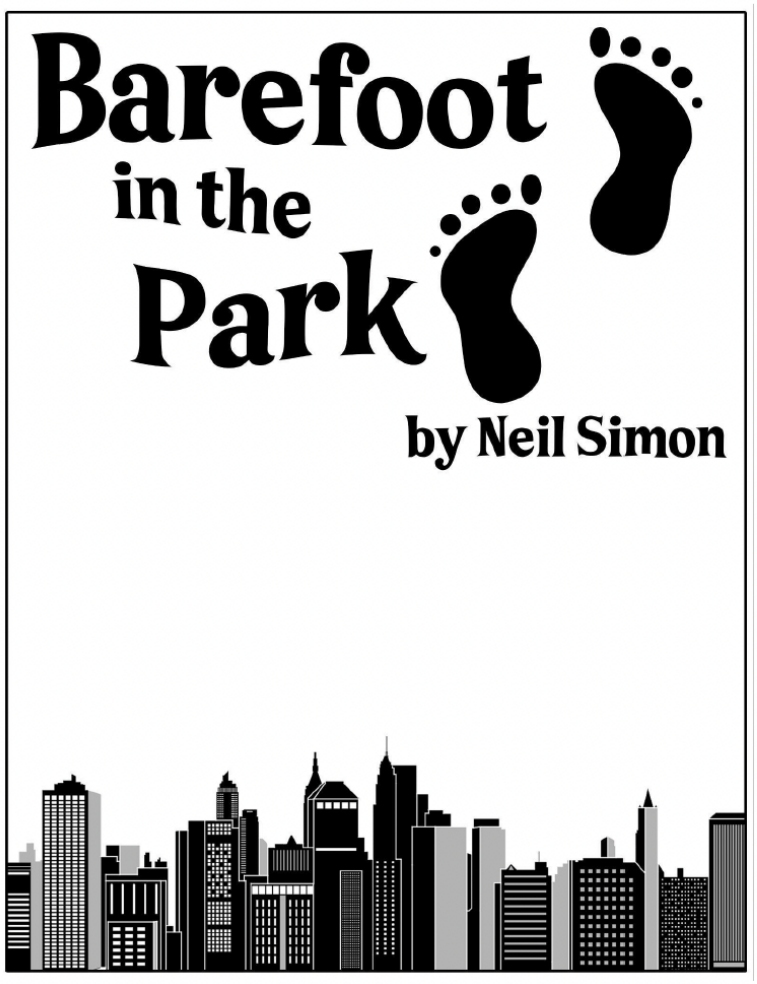








Announcing our Spring Play



Auditions coming in January. Look for details on the Lakeside Players socials and website in December for details and a link to register!
We welcome all ages interested in joining our theatre company and acting in our shows.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Help us bring the magic of community theatre to life!

Lakeside Players Ottawa welcomes the support of local businesses and individuals who share our commitment to community theatre. Your sponsorship helps us bring entertaining productions to the stage while providing opportunities for performers and volunteers of all ages.

We offer three sponsorship levels:

Take a Bow - $100

- Logo placement on the production's event page on our website.
- Recognition in the show programme.
- Two complimentary tickets to the performance.

Break a Leg - $250

- All benefits of the *Take a Bow* level.
- Logo placement on pre-show promotional materials, including posters and flyers.
- Acknowledgment during the intermission announcement.

Encore! - $500 and over (*Annual Sponsorship)

- All benefits of the 'Break a Leg' level, extended to productions throughout the sponsorship year.
- Logo placement on additional promotional materials produced for our shows.
- Recognition in our press releases and social media posts.
- Four complimentary tickets to each production.

**Our highest sponsorship level provides recognition and benefits throughout the year, rather than for a single production.*

Annual sponsorships are valid for 12 months from the date of sponsorship. Logo placement and promotional recognition are subject to production schedules and promotional deadlines.

These people or companies have sponsored the Lakeside Players for the 2026/2027 season of shows. We want to know we appreciate them for their kind contributions.

Our theatre company relies on donations.

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Rotary
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LES FOUGÈRES

With Thanks for all YOU have done!

Thank you to Ann Empey, Matt Welsh, and Megan Dowe

Thank you to the staff from the City of Ottawa,
the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre, and Nepean Creative Arts Centre.

Thank you to the City of Ottawa.

Thanks to Cozmos Souvlaki.

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