

18 July 2019

## Help Jack climb the Beanstalk at the Coliseum this Christmas

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is on the lookout for talented young people aged between 8 and 15 to join the young chorus of this year's pantomime, ***Jack and the Beanstalk***.

The Coliseum's annual pantomime is nationally renowned, described last year by **The Guardian** as "A lovingly made dessert of a panto" and **Upstaged Manchester** as "the best traditional panto in the North".

Pantomime is the biggest show of the year at the Coliseum, attracting audiences of 35,000 people. Joining the pantomime as part of the chorus gives young people the opportunity to perform alongside the theatre's cast of professional actors, including pantomime favourite **Richard J Fletcher**, who makes his debut as the Pantomime Dame this year after 11 years as the Coliseum's beloved Pantomime Comic.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre's nationally renowned pantomime has been putting the extra sparkle into the festive season for generations; with all the ingredients for fantastic family fun: hit songs, silliness, a sprinkling of fairy dust and a generous helping of It's Behind You! In ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** poor young lad Jack sells his cow for magic beans, much to the dismay of his mother. But when the beans grow into a gigantic beanstalk Jack and Jill set off for an adventure in the magical land above the clouds.

The theatre is looking for three teams made up of **both boys and girls** to form the chorus for ***Jack and the Beanstalk***. Auditions will take place on **Sunday 1 September** at the Coliseum. Audition times will be allocated based on age and slots can be registered for by downloading the form on the Coliseum's website at <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/work-with-us/pantomime-chorus/> and returning it to [casting@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:casting@coliseum.org.uk). The deadline to register for an audition slot is **Monday 26 August at 9am**.

Those interested in joining the pantomime chorus must be able to dance and should wear clothes that they can easily move around in to their audition. There is no need to prepare anything in advance. If chosen to be part of the chorus, each young person will need to have approximately six full days and four half-days off school for performances. Rehearsals for ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** young chorus will take place on two weekday evenings and Saturday days each week between 28 September - 16 November (exact dates to be confirmed). Successful chorus members will need to have excellent availability for rehearsals.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre's annual pantomime has been entertaining families of Oldham and beyond for generations. Joining the pantomime's chorus is an amazing opportunity for young aspiring performers to take part in a professional, fun-filled and much-loved theatre tradition.

- Ends -----

**Notes to Editor:**

Auditions for this year's pantomime chorus take place on Sunday 1 September at Oldham Coliseum Theatre. Audition times will be allocated based on age and slots can be registered for by downloading form on the Coliseum's website at [www.coliseum.org.uk/pantomime-chorus](http://www.coliseum.org.uk/pantomime-chorus) and returning it to [casting@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:casting@coliseum.org.uk). The deadline to register for an audition slot is **Monday 26 August at 9am**.

***Jack and the Beanstalk*** runs at Oldham Coliseum Theatre from Saturday 16 November 2019 – Saturday 11 January 2020

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)  
<http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/jack-and-the-beanstalk-2/>

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale on 0161 785 7012 or [shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk)

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a cultural and educational charity that works with over 150,000 individuals per year.

The Coliseum has a rich history in Greater Manchester dating back to 1885. It provides a wide variety of distinctive theatre performances and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and beyond. It creates original productions which are presented at the Coliseum and on tour. Intrinsic to the town's on-going regeneration, the theatre works with its local communities and young people to develop creative programmes to facilitate learning, engagement and community cohesion.

-----