

# Fee Fi Fo Fum, Christmas in Oldham is cracking good fun!

An Oldham Coliseum Theatre pantomime

## ***Jack and the Beanstalk***

Saturday 16 November 2019 – Saturday 11 January 2020

By Fine Time Fontayne and Chris Lawson

Directed by Chris Lawson

Designed by Celia Perkins

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**Press Night: Saturday 16 November, 7.30pm**

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Families across Oldham and Greater Manchester are in for a gigantic treat this festive season at Oldham Coliseum Theatre's nationally renowned pantomime, ***Jack and the Beanstalk***.

Poor young lad Jack sells his cow for some magic beans, much to the dismay of his mother. But when the beans grow into an enormous beanstalk Jack sets off for an adventure in the magical land above the clouds.

Based (loosely) on the Old English fairy tale, the Coliseum's pantomime ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** is packed with hit songs, silliness, a sprinkling of fairy dust and a generous helping of "It's Behind You!"

This year Coliseum favourite **Richard J Fletcher** makes his first outing on the Coliseum stage as Pantomime Dame after 11 years at Oldham's beloved high-flying, heel-kicking Pantomime Comic. Richard is praised year on year by audiences and critics for his boundless energy and skilful enticement of audience participation.

**Richard commented:** *"Being an Oldhamer, the Coliseum panto was a big part of my childhood, I couldn't imagine spending Christmas anywhere else. It's an honour to be asked to play the Dame."*

As he steps into the Dame role Richard passes the baton of Pantomime Comic to another Oldham actor, **Sam Glen**, playing the titular role of Jack. A previous member of Oldham Theatre Workshop, Sam appeared on BBC1's Take That musical audition programme *Let It Shine* with Gary Barlow. Sam's previous performances at the Coliseum include the theatre's popular production of Tom Wells' *The Kitchen Sink* and a sell-out performance of *Letter to Boddah* in the Studio which followed a hit run at Edinburgh Fringe Festival this summer.

Richard and Sam will be joined by a cast of old friends: **Shorelle Hepkin** (*Cinderella*, *Dick Whittington*) as Jill, **Mitesh Soni** (*Cinderella*) as Giant Moorside and Hazy the Hippy Cow, **Sophie Mercell** (*Bread & Roses*) as Grotton, **Jenny Platt** (*Meat Pie*, *Sausage Roll* and four years as Violet Wilson on ITV's *Coronation Street*) as Mavis Moorside and Good Fairy Greenfield and **Patrick Bridgeman** (five Coliseum pantomimes between 2006 - 2010) as Lord Thickpenny Grabbmuch.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre's nationally renowned pantomime has been putting the extra sparkle into the festive season for generations. Last year, almost 35,000 people saw the Coliseum's pantomime of *Cinderella*, which was also nominated for a national Great British Pantomime Award.

With two fairies, a magic hen, a GIANT and a pantomime cow, ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** is the perfect Christmas treat for kids and not-so-grown-up grown-ups. ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** runs at Oldham Coliseum Theatre from Saturday 16 November 2019 – Saturday 11 January 2020.

This year's pantomime is sponsored by George Hill Timber and Building Supplies, Jigsaw Group and N Brown Group. ***Jack and the Beanstalk***'s Educational Partner is Oldham Hulme Grammar School.

- Ends -----

#### Notes to Editor:

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

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/jack-and-the-beanstalk-2/>

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

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#### Images:

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** and a selection of images of the cast is available to download from Dropbox via: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dp1v6z7fz6c6ogy/AAAzanmSgsfu-6C6ZHp1c65Aa?dl=0>

**Cast:**



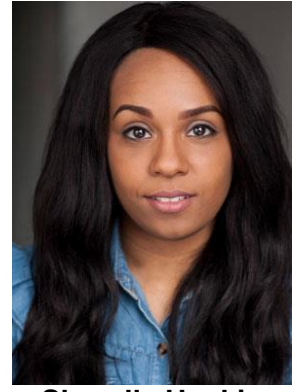
**Patrick Bridgman**  
- Lord Thickpenny  
Grabbmuch



**Richard J Fletcher**  
- Dame Dotty Trott



**Sam Glen**  
- Jack Trott



**Shorelle Hepkin**  
- Jill Grabbmuch



**Sophie Mercell**  
- Grotton



**Jenny Platt**  
- Mavis Moorside /  
Good Fairy Greenfield



**Mitesh Soni**  
- Giant Moorside /  
Hazy the Hippy Cow

**Production Team:**

Writers: **Fine Time Fontayne and Chris Lawson**

Director: **Chris Lawson**

Designer: **Celia Perkins**

Musical Director: **Dave Bintley**

Choreographer: **Beverley Edmunds**

Lighting Designer: **Douglas Kuhrt**

Sound Designer: **Gerry Marsden**

Fight Director: **Kaitlin Howard**

DSM On the Book: **Caroline Bowen**

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## About Oldham Coliseum Theatre

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 each year 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.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is supported by Arts Council England, Oldham Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a Registered Charity, no 508829.  
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