

23 November 2020

Celebrate achievements with messages from the Panto Dame

Oldhamers are invited to nominate people who have achieved something great or overcome something challenging during the coronavirus crisis for a special message from Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Dame Dotty Trott.

This year Oldham Coliseum Theatre's nationally renowned pantomime has been postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus crisis, as it is not possible to present it with social distancing. This is the first time in decades that there will not be a pantomime at the Coliseum. **Messages from the Dame** is one of a series of offers from the Coliseum designed to help keep some panto magic alive in Oldham in 2020.

Nominees for **Messages from the Dame** could be someone who works for the NHS, a teacher, a neighbour, a co-worker, volunteer or simply a good Samaritan. Nominations can be made by completing a submissions form, which can be downloaded from the Coliseum website, and returning it to the theatre by Wednesday 2 December.

Messages from the Dame will be unique for each successful nominee, recorded on video and shared via a link. There are 20 messages available and nominees will be selected from all submissions by the Coliseum.

The Coliseum's other digital festive offers include **Advent Plays**, a little sprinkle of Christmas perfect to watch whilst you eat the chocolate out of your calendar at home, released daily across the theatre's social media channels, and **Panto Digital Storytelling**, which will run online from Saturday 12 December – Saturday 2 January, giving audiences the opportunity to invite Dame Dotty Trott and Cinderella into their homes for unique tellings of their famous tales.

Panto Digital Storytelling: Jack and the Beanstalk and **Panto Digital Storytelling: Cinderella** star Coliseum pantomime favourite actors Richard J Fletcher and Shorelle Hepkin. The pre-recorded videos were written by Chelsea Morgan, directed by Rachel McMurray and filmed and edited by the Coliseum's Digital Associate Grant Archer.

- Ends -----

Notes to Editor:

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale via email at shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk (please note I am currently working from home)

Oldham Coliseum Theatre

The Coliseum 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.

www.coliseum.org.uk

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