

St Luke's Players: "Jack & the Beanstalk"

St Luke's Players is busily preparing for its upcoming production of "Jack & the Beanstalk" - the fourth annual panto at St Luke's. Sets are being built and painted, costumes borrowed, altered and created, props found and made, lighting & sound designed, publicity is happening, together with the 101 other tasks that are involved in a large production of this type.

With a cast of 25 and a production team of over 50, this is an ambitious undertaking for St Luke's Players and is stretching their resources to the limit. However, they know they are up to the challenge (as demonstrated by their previous three pantos) and everyone is working very hard in preparation for ten magical performances that will entertain audiences of all ages.

The cast includes Dick Newson as the evil Fleshcreep, Elaine Lewis as the Vegetable Fairy, Chris Harris as Silly Billy, Philip Bogod as King Satupon, Mike Chadwick as Dame Trot, Tamara Malczewska as Jack, and Neville Owen as the Giant. Of course, not forgetting Joanne and Antonia Frappell as Daisy the Cow!

The first panto version of "Jack & the Beanstalk" took place in London in 1819 - almost 200 years ago! This production also marked the appearance of the first-ever female "Principal Boy" in the role of Jack - one of the traditions that St Luke's Players has maintained in this latest production.

The St Luke's Players panto is fast becoming a Christmas tradition for many families in the Victoria area. As well as being family entertainment, this year's production of "Jack & the Beanstalk" involves a number of local families in the cast and production crew, with many sets of brothers & sisters, parents and children, husbands and wives, grandparents and grandchildren etc. In fact, over 30 members of the cast or crew enjoy some kind of family connection with each another

The production contains all of the usual ingredients found in a traditional panto, such as a well-known story line, lots of action, local humour, corny jokes, singing, dancing and plenty of audience participation!

This year's panto traditionally opens with a matinee performance on Boxing Day, December 26. There are subsequent matinee performances on December 27 & 28 and January 1, 2 & 3, with evening performances on December 29 & 30 and January 1 & 2.

You are encouraged to buy your tickets early so you are not disappointed! They can be obtained from Ivy's Book Shop in Oak Bay Village, Petals Plus Florist at 3749 Shelbourne Street, Amica at Douglas House, 50 Douglas Street, a member of the cast, by calling 250 884 5484, or at the door - if there are any left! Remember, last year "Sleeping Beauty - the Panto" sold out before the first performance!

Dave & Helena Hitchcock - Directors