The story of Dick Whittington and His Cat

Unsure what to expect from our purr-fect family panto, read our guide to the story below!

Meet the Characters:



Dick Whittington – An endearing, hapless young man from Doncaster who dreams of making something of himself. Devoted to his mum Sarah, he finds love with Alice and friendship with Tommy the Cat. He finds the courage to face his fears and learns that success need not mean leaving your hometown behind.



Sarah the Cook – Our pantomime dame. A flamboyant, flirtatious and outspoken Yorkshire woman with a weakness for sweets and handsome men. A fiercely protective single mother to Dick, she finds romance with Fitzy. Beneath her outrageous comic exterior is a loving mother who must learn to trust her son's independence.



Alice Fitzwarren – Intelligent, compassionate, practical and adventurous. Having devoted herself to helping her father run the family business following her mother's death, she longs to explore the world, and one day even “The North". Through her relationship with Dick and Tommy, she finds the opportunity to pursue her own dreams and become a hero in her own right.

CAST



Tommy the Cat – A fearless, fabulous, disco-dancing and martial arts fighting cat with bags of attitude and personality. Tommy becomes Dick's loyal companion and protector, helping him defeat Queen Ratella and her rat army.



Queen Ratella – A glamorous, power-hungry rodent diva with ambitions of world domination. Vain, vindictive and desperate for admiration, her villainy masks a deep loneliness. Once defeated, she learns that she doesn't need power, possessions or a husband to be fabulous.



The Spirit of the Bells – A flamboyant, mischievous magical guardian of London. Ratella's nemesis and Dick's mentor, the Spirit uses sparkle, humour and encouragement to inspire others, demonstrating that the most powerful magic is helping people believe in themselves.

CAST



Fitzy (Fitzwarren) – A charming, fast-talking Cockney wheeler-dealer with an eye for a business opportunity. A widower, devoted father to Alice and romantic interest for Sarah, he must learn to trust Dick and give his daughter the freedom to follow her dreams.

Shipzy (Captain Warrenfitz) – Fitzy's brother and Alice's uncle. An enthusiastic, commanding and good-humoured sea captain who enables the group's adventure to Paradise Island, recognising Dick's leadership potential and giving each member of the crew a purpose.

Kingzy – The third brother and ruler of Paradise Island. Humiliated and enslaved by Ratella following the theft of his magical crown, he enlists the help of Alice and her friends to liberate his kingdom and restore his rightful position.

All three of the above characters are played by the same actor.



Ensemble and Junior Ensemble – The colourful inhabitants of Doncaster, London and Paradise Island, alongside Ratella's army of rats. They populate the world of the pantomime, driving its musical numbers, comedy and physical storytelling.

Once upon a time in Doncaster, there lived a cheerful, young lad called Dick Whittington! Dick lived with his lovely mum Sarah the Cook - they were great



friends, and had lots of fun together whilst eating Sarah's delicious cakes. There was only one problem, they were so poor that they didn't have two carrots to rub together, and they had even run out of enough money to buy the necessities in life, like sweeties!

The Spirit of the Bells, Dick's magical guardian, decided it was time to help, and they secretly enchanted a newspaper with stories of adventure and gold, that would encourage Dick to go on a grand adventure to London to seek his fortune!

But although Dick was funny and kind and sweet and silly, he was also not very brave, and he was too scared to travel to London on his own. "Fear not", cried his lovey mum, "I'll go too. Together we can be brave". So off they set for a grand adventure!

When they arrived in the great big, booming city of London, they started to look for work, and sooner than you could say "Cast's Christmas Panto", they met two of the best and greatest people there - Alice and her Dad, Fitzy. Alice and Fitzy owned a bakery and invited Dick and Sarah to work there with them, be their friends and bake brilliant cakes.



However, on their way to the bakery, two big, fat rats scuttled past them. Dick was petrified and jumped into Alice arms. Alice told him that the streets were overrun with rats. Big, fat hairy rats everywhere! In all the nooks and all the crannies, and running across every street and road! But she also told him not worry and that she would look after him.

Soon they were back at the bakery, and Dick and Alice were having lots of fun, laughing at all the same jokes, playing the best games with each other, and maybe... just maybe... falling a little bit in love!

Everything was perfect, well almost everything, there was still one very BIG, and very hairy problem... In all the nooks and all the crannies, and in every street and

every road, and even in the bakery, there were rats! And every time Dick saw one, he was petrified!

Luckily for Dick, he had The Spirit of the Bells watching over him, and they knew the best way to help Dick to be brave was to send him a brilliant friend. So, that's what the Fairy Godmother did, and sent Dick, Tommy - the amazing dancing cat!



Tommy was a brilliant cat with soft brown eyes, a long swishy tail, and when the radio was playing… as if by magic…he had bangin' dance moves! Dick and Tommy became the best of friends straight away. Dick loved Tommy and loved his amazing, magical dancing, and it soon came in very hand!

The very next time the rats turned up, Tommy used his fab dance moves to scare them all away! In no time at all, the rats of London had had enough and decided to leave the city and to set sail to Paradise Island.

When the Queen of the Rats, Queen Ratella, heard that her rat army was leaving all because of Dick and his amazing cat, she was furious! She made a plan to set off after them to Paradise Island to get her army back, but not before she took her revenge on Dick!

Queen Ratella stole all the money from the bakery, and tricked, Alice, Fitzy and Sarah into believing that Dick had stolen it. Things were looking pretty bad for Dick, but Tommy the Cat came to the rescue by acting out what really happened.

Mustering up all his courage, and with the help of his friends, Dick decided to follow the rats to paradise Island to get back the gold, and defeat Queen Ratella! Together, they set off on a great big ship with blooming white sails across the blue ocean to Paradise Island.

Meanwhile on Paradise Island, the Paradise was pretty thin on the ground. As soon as she arrived on the island, Queen Ratella had stolen the King's magical crown and now was using magic to rule all, and she was not ruling in a very nice way at all. She made everyone do as she wanted. She was very happy… everyone else was miserable!

CAST

As Dick's ship entered the bay, Queen Ratella spied it coming and used her magical powers to whip up a huge storm with massive crashing waves and fierce winds, until eventually the ship that Dick and his friends were travelling in, sunk to the murky depths.



For a moment, it looked as if all were lost. But, again Dick's magical guardian, The Spirit of the Bells, jumped in and saved the day. They used their good magic, to rescue everyone on board, and soon everyone was washed up on the beachy shores of Paradise Island, safe but very, very, VERY wet!

Dick and his friends, decide it's time for a plan. A plan that involves being very brave. They disguised themselves as singers and planned to sneak into the Palace of Paradise Island where Queen Ratella has set up her court, get their money back and release Paradise Island, by stealing the crown.

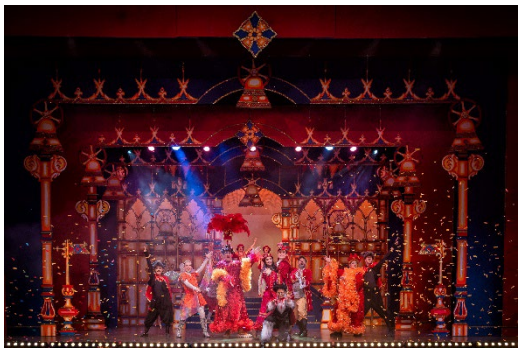
When they arrive in the throne room for their performance, Dick, Alice and Tommy see jewels and diamonds sparkling everywhere, and in the midst of it all, sits Queen Ratella surrounded by her army of rats. The gang start to perform, but Queen Ratella is not tricked for long, and despite their best efforts, Dick and Tommy are captured. Queen Ratella decides to take her final revenge on Dick and Tommy and conjures up all her magic to cast a terrible spell on them… but it doesn't work. She tries again, again it fails. That's when she realises, in the confusion of the battle, Alice had stolen back the magical crown!

Queen Ratella is powerless, and Alice uses the power of the crown to free everyone and restore Paradise Island to its King, who richly rewards them.

Together, Dick, Tommy, Alice and their friends have saved the day, and they sail back to London in triumph. No sooner do they arrive at London docks, when the people of London ask Dick and Alice to be the Lord Mayors of London, and the people of Doncaster ask them to be the Lord Mayors of Doncaster too.

Dick decides that there is no place like home, and Alice who is keen for new adventures, agrees to go with him, to become the New Lord Mayors of London.

CAST



As the city celebrates and the bells ring out, Dick tells Alice how much he loves her and Alice tells Dick how much she loves him, and they agree to live happily ever after!

The end.

CAST