

## The South-West's best pantomime returns to the Everyman Theatre stage with Tweedy and a stellar West End cast



Gloucestershire's hometown hero returns to his roots this Christmas, when **Dick Whittington and His Cat Tweedy** takes centre stage at **The Everyman Theatre** from **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

This *purrr-fect* pantomime adventure is a must on every festive family calendar, with spectacular sets and singalongs, a star-studded cast and gags aplenty set to transport audiences to the streets of London town, paved with gold...!

Everybody's favourite clown Tweedy returns to Cheltenham's iconic stage as Dick's sidesplittingly silly sidekick, hoping to help his friend find fame, fortune and happiness in a magical rags to riches tale. Tweedy spent three weeks living with cats, as a cat, in preparation, and promises his most *paw-some* performance yet.

With the help of his feline friend and the fabulous Fairy Bow Bells, will Dick defeat King Rat to win the hand of his love and become Mayor of London? Sam Holmes and Phoebe Samuel-Gray star as the magical fairy and fair maiden Alice Fitzwarren, while returning favourite Kevin Brewis – the most dazzling dame of them all – looks set to have theatregoers of all ages in stitches as Sarah The Cook.

Tweedy said: ***"Sharing the magic of panto with family at Christmas is so special; it gets everyone into the festive spirit. And nowhere does it better than The Everyman Theatre!"***

***"This year's show has something for everyone: there are jokes for adults that go over the kids' heads, slapstick for the little ones, songs, dancing and, of course, lots of opportunities for everyone to get involved."***

The tale of Dick Whittington is a local legend, inspired by the real Richard Whittington, who is believed to have been born at Gloucestershire's Pauntley Court in 1352 to William Whittington, Lord of Pauntley. He was sent to be apprenticed to John Fitzwarren at the age of 13, and later became known as the greatest merchant in medieval England – and Mayor of London four times, no less.

Award-winning writer Sam Holmes will co-direct alongside acclaimed director and choreographer Nick Winston, with the prolific Philip Witcomb, promising yet more sensational sets and costumes.

There are plenty of opportunities to see the annual Everyman panto, from morning to night throughout the festive season, with 56 shows to choose from, including audio-described and relaxed performances. Peak performances are selling fast, however there are great family rates still available.

So pack up your hanky and join plucky Dick Whittington, Tweedy and friends for an all-singing, all-dancing, traditional family treat at The Everyman Theatre. Available online now, tickets cost from £10 per person and are expected to get snapped up quicker than you can say 'Christmas cheer!'

For more information and to book, visit [www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk) or call the box office on 01242 572573.

**ENDS**

### **Editors Notes**

For further information, quotes or interviews, please contact [melanie.jones@encorepr.co.uk](mailto:melanie.jones@encorepr.co.uk)

High-res imagery available here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/19wm0gsof47tjns/AAAGKL98cz8kRFEVjWeZnZUGa?dl=0>

## **About The Everyman Theatre**

The Everyman Theatre is Gloucestershire's leading live entertainment venue, presenting a wide range of productions year-round, including ballet, opera, drama, dance, comedy, live music and a traditional annual pantomime. Opened in 1891, The Everyman Theatre is a Victorian masterpiece, with its magnificent, recently restored, main auditorium designed by esteemed architect Frank Matcham.

A registered charity, The Everyman Theatre is proud to offer a leading education, community and outreach programme, which includes a Summer School, Youth Theatre and Community Choir, offering people of all ages the opportunity to engage with the arts.

### **About Scrubditch Care Farm – Pantomime Charity**

Set in a beautiful location with stunning views in open countryside, Scrubditch Care Farm provides meaningful farm-based activities for adults and young people with learning difficulties, challenging behaviour, or mental health problems.

Students perform a variety of activities including working with animals, growing vegetables, fruit and flowers, cooking and learning basic woodworking skills. The Farm also runs weekly 'feel good farming' sessions for people living with dementia or struggling with mental health and wellbeing.

Scrubditch Care Farm is a small registered charity, and the site is a secure and safe environment where students feel at home.

**About St James City Farm & Riding School – Pantomime Charity**

St James City Farm & Riding School lies at the heart of one of the most deprived areas of Gloucestershire and offers a taste of the countryside to those who need it most as well as being a wonderful place to visit for families.

The City Farm & Riding School offers hands on practical farm experience and gives access to opportunities; acting as a gateway, building knowledge, experience and aspirations so city people can have fun, learn and benefit from interaction with animals and nature.

Run by ‘The Friendship Cafe’ - a registered local, charity, run mainly by volunteers - the farm provides a safe and welcoming space for volunteers of all ages and backgrounds.

**Investec – Pantomime Sponsor**

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Investec, which has had an office in Cheltenham for over 40 years, provides bespoke and integrated financial planning and investment services for local clients. It has a strong corporate social responsibility ethos and is keenly aware of its broader responsibility to society, seeking to make a positive impact by focusing on initiatives that support local communities.

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