

Playing the 'dame' a tradition for Parker in the annual Christ Church pantomime

By KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

'Dame' Charlie Parker is back, this time as part of the cast of *Dick Whittington*, the fourth annual pantomime presented by the youth group at Christ Church Anglican.

"It has almost become expected that I will be the dame," said Parker, cheerfully. "People say they look forward all year to seeing what my new dress looks like."

For those unfamiliar with the genre, the English pantomime dame is always played by a man, while the role of the leading man goes to a young woman.

Derived from the classic performances of English music hall, pantomime comprises just about everything except mime including song, dance, drama, slapstick, comedy and satire.

And the audience is as much a part of the proceedings as the cast, providing boos, hisses, laughter

and verbal prompts to the characters on stage.

Dick Whittington is an English folk tale, based on historical fact, which tells of a poor boy in search of his fortune. His travels take him to London where, according to legend, the streets are paved with gold. While the reality he encounters is hardly the stuff of his dreams, Dick eventually finds fame and fortune as Lord Mayor of London after a series of weird and wonderful adventures.

The script for the Christ Church production was written by Parker, a pantomime veteran who, as always, has taken a number of liberties with the original story.

The result is certain to appeal to audiences of all ages and anyone who would like to take a comic break from the long winter chill.

Dick Whittington is played by Caris Reid and Lindsey Hutchison plays Dick's faithful cat.

Directed by Denise Pettitt, with musical adaptations by Mark

Peters and Julia Topping, this is a wonderful outing for all the family.

Performances take place Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m., with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and are available from Boyds Sports, Stouffville Travel and Freckles, or by calling the church office at 640-1461.

Slaughter house visitors sought

A 31-year-old Oakville resident is looking for school children from Stouffville who were taken to a slaughter house for a field trip in the mid 70's.

Carrie Armitage, formally of Stouffville, is trying to track down former Grades 1 to 4 students from Whitchurch Highlands Public School who witnessed the killing of animals at a slaughter house. Now gone, the facility was located near the Stouffville Recreation Complex on the 9th Line.

Armitage is writing a paper on human development and early childhood trauma. She said her memories of the field trip are both vivid and disturbing.

Armitage can be reached at 3065 Seneca Drive, Oakville, Ont., L6L-1A8 or by fax at 905-469-9675.



Winter walkies

Charlene Bartlett with her great pyrenees Bandit take a walk on the outside in the bitter cold at the Stouffville Dog Show on Saturday. The show took place at the Stouffville Country Market over the weekend.

Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

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