

**CARRIAGEWORKS
THEATRE**

PAUL HOLMAN ASSOCIATES
& CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE
PRESENT

PHA
paul holman associates

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Director PAUL GIDDINGS • Choreographer JACK STORM • Musical Director JAY TAYLOR



VISUAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This is a visual guide for *Sleeping Beauty* at the Carriageworks Theatre.

You might find this guide helpful if you're nervous about your trip to the theatre, if you are living with dementia, if you have a sensory processing difference, or if you've never been to see a theatre show before.

WHAT IS A PANTOMIME?

A pantomime is a traditional British theatre show with singing, dancing, and jokes, often based on fairy tales. It is especially popular during the Christmas season and they are known for their exaggerated characters, slapstick comedy, audience participation, and a strong emphasis on family-friendly fun.

Key features of pantomimes include:

- **Stereotypical characters:** The main characters are often based on traditional fairy tale figures, such as the hero, heroine, villain, the silly sidekick, and the dame (a comic female character played by a male actor).
- **Music and song:** Pantomimes are filled with catchy songs and a variety of musical styles.
- **Audience participation:** The audience is actively encouraged to shout out responses, boo the villain, and cheer for the hero.
- **Slapstick comedy:** Physical humour and exaggerated actions are common in pantomimes.
- **Happy ending:** Pantomimes always have a cheerful ending, where good triumphs over evil.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

This year's pantomime is based on the popular tale of **Sleeping Beauty**; you may have read the story, or seen the Disney adaptation. Pantomime stories tend to take liberties with their source material, veering away from the original fairy tales or folklores they are based on. This ensures that the performances remain fresh, relevant, and enjoyable for audiences of all ages!

“When the wicked fairy Carabosse puts a curse on Princess Ariana to prick her finger on a spinning wheel and sleep for 100 years, it’s up to a dashing prince, a good fairy, and her best friend Muddles to save the day. But will true love’s kiss be enough to break the spell?”



AT THE THEATRE

A theatre is a building or space where performances are held. At the Carriageworks Theatre, the auditorium seats about 350 people on tiered seating across three levels, and there is a stage where the performances take place.

The main entrance to the theatre is situated on Millennium Square within The Electric Press building. You will find our ticket office, Leeds Ticket Hub, here on the ground floor.

Access

Lift access is available to all levels. There are male and female toilets available on levels 2 and 3 and accessible unisex toilets with baby changing facilities are available on all levels.

Refreshments

The bars are on levels 1 and 2 and will both open an hour before the performance is due to start, they will then re-open at the interval. Tap water is free and available from either bar at any point before the performance or during the interval.

For more information about what to expect when you arrive, please [visit our website](#)



THE PERFORMANCE

When it is time for the pantomime to start, there will be an announcement to let you know you can go and find your seats. You will have seats assigned to you, and your seat number and level will be on your ticket. One of our staff will be able to help you find where you need to sit; they will be wearing navy blue t-shirts with a small, yellow Leeds City Council logo embroidered on the chest.

You may need to wait a little while other people find their seats. This might mean moving around to let people pass by. You may feel excited or impatient, but everyone will settle down once the performance begins. This will be your seat for the whole of the performance.

On the stage is something called a set, which helps the performers pretend to be in the story. Sleeping Beauty has multiple sets, which include the village, the woods, the castle and the tower. The backgrounds for the sets are lowered onto the stage, and set up by the crew in between scenes.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Sleeping Beauty lasts for approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes. There will be a 20-minute interval around 1 hour into the performance. Act two lasts about 1 hour and includes the audience shout-outs and a finale song.

If you need to get up and leave the room to take a break or use the toilet you can do that whenever you want, just remember to be mindful of those around you.

There is a quite space in the corner of the level 1 bar should you need it.



When the pantomime is about to start, the room will get a little darker and the stage will get a bit brighter. This helps you to see the performers better.

It is important to be quiet in the theatre so everyone can hear the performers. You might hear other people make noise sometimes, and that's okay. Sometimes the performers will even ask you to answer a question or make a noise. It's fun to join in, but you don't have to if you don't want to.

THE CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

The Fairy

The Fairy is magical, and she helps the good characters throughout the show. She mostly appears in one corner of the stage, and speaks in rhyme. The Fairy wears a purple dress with sparkly wings.



Prince Benedict

Prince Benedict is the love interest of Princess Ariana from a kingdom near-by. He is loveable and awkward around the princess. He is most often wearing a blue tunic over a white shirt.



Dame Dolly

Dame Dolly lives at the castle as Princess Ariana's nanny, and is the mother of Muddles. She is very over the top and wear lots of different outfits throughout the show, which are often comical!



The King

The King is the father of Princess Ariana and lives at the castle, he is very protective of his daughter. He wears a large green robe, and a crown.



Muddles

Muddles is a a bumbling and lovable comic character, he is the son of Dame Dolly and lives with her at the Castle. He wears blue dungarees with a green t-shirt, and a red backwards cap.



THE CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

Princess Ariana

Princess Ariana is the heroine of Sleeping Beauty, and the love interest of Prince Benedict. She has been cursed by the evil Carabosse to prick her finger and fall into a dreamless sleep for 100 years! She wears a floral dress and a tiara.



Carabosse

Carabosse is the evil witch and the sister of Princess Ariana's mother. She has cursed Princess Ariana to one day prick her finger and sleep for 100 years. Carabosse wears a red and black dress, with a headpiece that looks like horns. You can boo this character when she appears on stage.



The Villagers/Fairies/Demons

These characters wear different outfits throughout the show for various scenes and dances, they are in the background of most scenes.



DURING THE SHOW

During the performance, the lights may get darker or lighter, there will be music and songs, and the performers may speak to and involve the audience. Occasionally throughout the performance the audience may clap and cheer for the performers, this is how the audience thanks the performers. You can join in if you wish.

Pantomimes often involve the audience in their jokes and the cast may also come into the auditorium to interact with the audience members, they will not interact with you if you are not interested, so there is no need to feel as though you have to.

AFTER THE SHOW

After the performers leave the stage, it is time for everyone to leave the theatre. This will be noisy and busy because everyone will still be excited about seeing Sleeping Beauty. You can stay in your seat until other audience members have left if you'd prefer to leave the theatre at a quieter time.



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY SLEEPING BEAUTY

If you have any feedback on our accessible performances, this guide, or would like to discuss anything with us, please feel free to reach out at carriageworks@leeds.gov.uk