



worthing theatres and museum

PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:  
Kevin Quilty, Head of Marketing & Sales | [kevin.quilty@wtm.uk](mailto:kevin.quilty@wtm.uk)  
Connaught Theatre | Union Place | Worthing | W.Sx BN11 1LG  
Direct Line: 01903 947503 / 07398 649868

7 October 2025

Press Release - for immediate release



## WORTHING THEATRES & MUSEUM ANNOUNCES STAR-STUDED CAST FOR *CINDERELLA - THE PANTOMIME*

Worthing Theatres & Museum is delighted to announce the cast and creative team for this year's magical pantomime, *Cinderella*, running at the Pavilion Theatre from Thursday 4 December 2025 - Sunday 4 January 2026. Following the runaway success of last year's Robin Hood, bookings for *Cinderella* are hotfooting their way to the ball.

Heading up the cast is **Puja Panchkoty**, well-known to families across the UK for her role as Jen in the BAFTA-winning CBeebies series *Andy's Adventures*. Making her Worthing pantomime debut, Puja brings warmth, charisma and star quality to the title role, leading the cast to get a magical festive experience for audiences of all ages.

Returning after their crowd-pleasing performances in Robin Hood the Pantomime are **Paul Giddings** and **Jannine Pardo**. Paul, whose credits span theatre and television, will once again double as performer and director, playing the ever-sparkling Fairy Fou Fou. Janine steps into the villainous role of the Wicked Baroness, guaranteed to get audiences booing and hissing in true panto style.

They are joined by a stellar cast including **Harry Hodge** as Prince Charming, **Jessica Spalis** and **Katherine Kotz** as the outrageous Hardup Sisters, **Richard Edwards** as Dandini and the inimitable **Dizzy** as the loveable Buttons.

Behind the scenes, the creative team reunites following last year's success: **Paul Giddings** as director, **Danielle Drayton** as assistant director and choreographer, and **Harry Wells** as musical director. Together, they promise another show filled with spectacular dance numbers: show-stopping songs, laugh-out-loud comedy and unforgettable magic.

**Amanda O'Reilly**, CEO and Artistic Director of WTM said: "Our annual pantomime is the highlight of the festive season for families across the region. We are thrilled to welcome Puja Panchkoty to the Pavilion stage, alongside returning favourites Paul Giddings and Jannine Pardo. With such a fantastic cast and creative team, this year's production of *Cinderella* will be bigger, bolder and more magical than ever."

**Paul Holman**, Founder and CEO of PHA said:"

"We're absolutely delighted to be bringing *Cinderella* to the Pavilion Theatre this Christmas. It's the ultimate rags-to-riches fairytale, filled with spectacular costumes, dazzling sets, and all the laughter, music and magic that make pantomime so special. Worthing audiences are always incredible, and we can't wait to share this festive adventure with them."

Tickets for *Cinderella* are already selling quickly. Book early to secure the best seats to the ball.

<ENDS>

NOTES TO EDITORS

Listing information:

**Cinderella: The Pantomime**

Thursday 4 December 2025 - Sunday 4 January 2026

See website for performance times.

Pavilion Theatre, Worthing

Book tickets at: [wtm.uk/events/cinderella-the-pantomime/](http://wtm.uk/events/cinderella-the-pantomime/)

Special performances:

Press Night	7 pm Wednesday 10 December
Dementia Friendly	2 pm Thursday 11 December
Captioned & BSL	6.30 pm Tuesday 16 December
Relaxed	2 pm Tuesday 30 December

Images: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCwuud>

For further information, please contact:  
*Kevin Quilty, Head of Marketing & Sales*  
*Kevin.Quilty@wtm.uk*  
*01903 947 503/ 07398 649 868*

### **About Worthing Theatres & Museum:**

Worthing Theatres & Museum is a leading cultural charity dedicated to enriching the artistic and cultural fabric of Worthing and the surrounding areas. Focusing on exceptional performances, exhibitions, and community initiatives, WTM continues to play a vital role in the region's cultural landscape.

Facebook, Instagram & TikTok: @wtmworthing  
Website: [wtm.uk](http://wtm.uk)  
Box Office Phone: 01903 206 206

### **About Paul Holman Associates**

Paul Holman Associates (PHA) is one of the UK's leading producers of live family entertainment, specialising in spectacular pantomimes and large-scale theatrical productions. With over 30 years' experience, PHA has delighted audiences across the UK and further afield by bringing together star-studded casts, dazzling production values, and the very best in comedy, music, and magic.

Working with some of the nation's most iconic theatres and a wide variety of talented performers—from household names to emerging stars—PHA is dedicated to creating unforgettable live experiences for audiences of all ages.

For more information, visit [paulholmanassociates.co.uk](http://paulholmanassociates.co.uk).

## **Cast and Creative**

### **Puja Panchkoty**

Cinderella

Theatre credits include: Viola in *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare Globe Theatre), Jen in *Ocean Adventure* (CBeebies Proms Tour)

TV credits include: Jen in *Andy's Adventures* (CBeebies), Bella in *Beauty and the Beast* (BBC Studios), *Taggart*, *The Will and Greg Sketch Show*, *Freshly Squeezed* and *Still Game*.

Puka is delighted to join the cast of *Cinderella* at the Pavilion Theatre, bringing warmth, charm and a fresh energy to this much-loved fairy tale.

---

## **Dizzy**

Buttons

Training: LIPA and trained with legendary clown teachers; Phiiiipe Gaulier, Spymonkey, Dr Brown and John Wright.

Theatre credits include: Swing/Cover Deb in *Elf The Musical* (Dominion), Nina in *Mamma Mia The Party* and Sue/Swing in original London Cast (O2 London), Maria in *School For Scandal* (Midsummer Scene, Dubrovnik), Hermia in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (UK and Saudi Tour), Jim's Mum/Captain Flint in *Treasure Island* (UK Tour), Puppeteer/Ensemble in the original cast of *Circus 1903* (Royal Festival Hall, Sydney Opera House, Pantages LA, Madison Square Gardens NYC), Ensemble in *Faust* ENO (London Coliseum), Alisa/Dance Captain in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Adelphi), Astrid/Helen Shapiro/Dance Captain in *The Beatles Musical* (Italian Tour), Ophelia in *Shakespeare Shorts* (Action To The Word), Queen of Hearts/Dance Captain in *Alice In Wonderland* (Greenwich Theatre), Fire Tuck/Dance Captain in *Robin Hood* (Worthing Theatre), Aladdin in *Aladdin* and Dick in *Dick Whittington* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland* and Ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* (Lichfield Garrick), Puppeteer/Ensemble in CBBC Arena Tour (UK), Vocalist for *Blues Brothers* (UK Tour), Vocalist for P&O (Australia), Aerialist in *OneTen* and *Pirates Live* (Hippodrome Circus). Co-found Dizzy O'Dare, a company that has created over 20 original shows.

Television credits include: *Coronation Street*; *The Royal Variety Performance 2018* (ITV), *This Morning* (ITV), *The Today Show* (NBC), *The Late Show* (CBS), *Explore The Universe* (CBBC) and *Shell Girl* in *The Harry Hill Movie*.

We don't want to overdo it, but Dizzy is basically an icon. A walking inspiration. A beacon of charm, comedy, and chaotic brilliance. Funny? Yes. Handsome? Obviously. Universally adored? Without question.... and when he's not dazzling audiences, Dizzy dreams of raising a tribe of cute but dangerous cats with perfect hair, who fight crime, and love pizza.

---

## **Paul Giddings**

Fairy Fou Fou and Director

Paul trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre credits include: *My Night with Reg* (Apollo Theatre), *The Vote* (Donmar Warehouse), *Handbagged* (UK Tour), *The Mousetrap* (60th Anniversary UK Tour), *Artificially Yours* (Riverside Studios), *The Woman In White* (UK Tour), *People Like Us* (Union Theatre), *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Rose Theatre and UK Tour), *Time and Tide* (Park Theatre), *Besame Mucho* (Charing Cross Theatre), *1000 Polar Bears On A Beach In Kent* (Southwark Playhouse), *Spitting Image* (King's Head Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (*Shakespeare In The Squares*), *The Audience* (Kenneth More Theatre), *Superman and Me* (King's Head Theatre), *Entertaining Mr Orton* (Arcola Theatre), *Clench* (Greenwich Theatre), *Be Civil, Disobey* (Lost Theatre), *The Philanthropist* (Rehearsed Reading, Donmar Warehouse), *The Darkest Part of The Night* (Rehearsed Reading, Tricycle Theatre), *Under The Table* (Barons Court theatre).

Film and TV credits include: *Outrageous*, *Emmerdale*, *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*, *The Rise Of The Krays*, *The Followers*, *Larry Grayson: Shut That Door*, *Born on Sunday*, *Silent*, *Wedding Day Winners*, *Top Of The Pops Saturday* and two series of CBBC's *Stitch Up!*

---

## **Harry Hodge**

Prince Charming

Training: Guildford School of Acting

Theatre credits whilst training include: *Head over Heels*, *The Pajama Game*, *Grab me a Gondola*, *Bradley Jaden Live in London* and *Westend does Christmas 2024*

Cast Recording: *Grab me a Gondola 2025*

---

## **Janine Pardo**

Wicked Baroness

Training: Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, with a Masters in Performance, Musical Theatre.

Theatre credits include: *Little Red* (Wales Millennium Centre, Brighton Open Air Theatre, Newport Arts Centre); *My Dear Mr Coward* (Worcester Rep); *Drowning on Dry Land* (New Wimbledon Studio Theatre); *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Landor Theatre); *Va Voom* (Courtyard Theatre); *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Cameron Mackintosh Studios); *Aladdin* (Buxton Opera House); *Me and My Girl* (London Palladium).

Tours include: *Sleeping Beauty*; *Alice in Wonderland*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *Peter Pan* (PMA Productions).

Film and TV credits include: *Code of Conduct* (Edge Picture Company); *Go Buster* (Moonbug Entertainment); *Fable* (Molinaire); *Ant and Dec's Push the Button* (ITV); *Already Dead* (Inspired Monkey Productions).

---

## **Jessica Spalis**

Khloe Hardup

Training: LIPA

Theatre credits include: Swing/Cover Deb in *Elf The Musical* (Dominion), Nina in *Mamma Mia The Party* and Sue/Swing in original London Cast (O2 London), Maria in *School For Scandal* (Midsummer Scene, Dubrovnik), Hermia in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (UK and Saudi Tour), Jim's Mum/Captain Flint in *Treasure Island* (UK Tour), Puppeteer/Ensemble in the original cast of *Circus 1903* (Royal Festival Hall, Sydney Opera House, Pantages LA, Madison Square Gardens NYC), Ensemble in *Faust* ENO (London Coliseum), Alisa/Dance Captain in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Adelphi), Astrid/Helen Shapiro/Dance Captain in *The Beatles Musical* (Italian Tour), Ophelia in *Shakespeare Shorts* (Action To The Word), Queen of Hearts/Dance Captain in *Alice In Wonderland* (Greenwich Theatre), Fire Tuck/Dance Captain in *Robin Hood* (Worthing Theatre), Aladdin in *Aladdin and Dick* in *Dick Whittington* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland* and Ensemble in *A Christmas Carol* (Lichfield Garrick), Puppeteer/Ensemble in CBBC Arena Tour (UK), Vocalist for *Blues Brothers* (UK Tour), Vocalist for P&O (Australia), Aerialist in *OneTen* and *Pirates Live* (Hippodrome Circus).

TV/Film credits include: *The Royal Variety Performance 2018* (ITV), *This Morning* (ITV), *The Today Show* (NBC), *The Late Show* (CBS), *Explore The Universe* (CBBC) and *Shell Girl* in *The Harry Hill Movie*.

---

## **Katherine Kotz**

Kourtney Hardup

Acting/Writing credits include *Natal Attraction* (Brighton Fringe '24), *The Motherhood Project* (Battersea Arts Centre), *Pop Music* (Paines Plough/Birmingham Rep), *Happy to Help* (Park Theatre), *A Pilgrim's Progress* (Yard Theatre), *Patterns in the Sky* (VAULT Festival), *Twelfth Night* (Rabble Theatre).

Alongside her creative practice, Katherine is a Relational Dynamics Coach and founder of The Happiness Revolution [www.thehappinessrevolution.co.uk](http://www.thehappinessrevolution.co.uk).

---

## **Richard Russell Edwards**

Dandini

Training: Southern Theatre Arts Centre and Royal College of Music & Drama, awarded the RWCMD Musical Theatre Prize.

Theatre credits include: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Slovenia Summer Theatre Festival), White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* (Madinat Theatre, Dubai), Red Lobster in *Pinocchio* (Lyric Theatre, Belfast) and many UK tours with Sasha Regan's All Male Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, including Cousin Hebe in *HMS Pinafore* (for which he won The Craig Dodd Prize for Best Actor in a Featured Role), Hebe Flo and U/S Kitty Shaw in *The Mikado* (Wilton's Music Hall and UK tour), Hebe / Connie / Kate in *The Pirates of Penzance* (Hackney Empire, UK tour, Wilton's Music Hall and The Palace Theatre, London), Peep-Bo and U/S Katisha in *The Mikado* (Bath Theatre Royal and UK tour) and Fairy Queen in *Iolanthe* (Theatre Royal, Winchester, and UK tour).

---

## **Harry Wells**

Musical Director

Training: University of Chichester

Recent work includes: Triple Threat Showcase (Shaw Theatre, Ldn), We Aren't Kids Anymore (Chichester Festival Theatre) *The Secret Garden* (Weald and Downland), *Bugsy Malone* (New Theatre Royal) + orchestrations, *9-5 The Musical* (Performers College), *Shrek* (University of Chichester), and for PHA: *Robin Hood* (Pavilion Theatre) last year.

Follow him on Instagram @harrywellsmusician | [www.harrywellsmusician.com](http://www.harrywellsmusician.com)

---

## **Danielle Drayton**

Choreographer and Assistant Director

Training: Leeds Dance College

Choreography credits include: *Christmas Wonderland* (Ferrari World, Abu Dhabi), *Jack & the Beanstalk*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, (Worthing Pavilion) *Aladdin* (Harlequin, Redhill) *Beauty & the Beast* (The Spotlight, Hoddesdon), *Peter Pan*, *Snow White*, *Aladdin*, (Theatre Royal, Bath), *Dick Whittington*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin*, *Peter Pan*, *Jack & The Beanstalk*, *Snow White*, (The Capitol Theatre, Horsham), *Vegas Flavas* (The Venetian Casino, Macao),

*Coyote Ugly* (The Sands Corporation, Macao), *The Greatest Showman* (BBC Children in Need) *Boogie Fever*, *Musicals Now*, *Jingle Bell Rock*, *Music To Watch Girls By*, *Movicalls*, *Call Me* (Warner Leisure Hotels), *Shake It Down* (Tony Mortimer Music Video), *Britain's Got Talent Ident* (Thames TV), *Celebrity Wedding Planner* (Channel 5), *The Big Performance* (BBC), *All Star Mr & Mrs* (ITV), *One Fine Day*, *Fiesta Fiesta* (Thomson Gold), *Get Up & Dance* (Disney Juniors)

Directing credits include: *Robin Hood* (Worthing Pavilion) , *The Night Before Christmas* (Chelmsford Theatre), *The Night Before Christmas* (Wimbledon Theatre), *Café Chapeau* (Warner Hotels).

Since 2006, Danielle has been creative director for Blue Fish Entertainments and, within this role, she has directed and choreographed for many large-scale events and companies, including a performance for HRH Queen Elizabeth II.