



A Giant Panto Sprouts at the King's Wharf Theatre

Friday, May 31, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, a giant panto your way comes! Magic beans, an enchanted harp, and a hungry giant take over Penetanguishene as a brand new panto version of the popular fairy tale *Jack and the Beanstalk* hits the stage at the **King's Wharf Theatre** from **June 5 to June 22**.

Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto tells the story of a boy named Jack and his mother who need to make money fast. Jack must sell their beloved cow Daisy at the market, but much to his mother's dismay, he returns with only a few beans. But these are no ordinary beans ... they're enchanted. When a princess is kidnapped by Evilus Maximus, a giant's wicked assistant, Jack offers to save the day to win the royal reward. He climbs the enormous beanstalk that has sprouted up in the middle of his family's garden to reach the giant's castle. Jack is quickly joined by his friends who help him break into the castle inhabited by a humongous giant who has an even bigger appetite. The story has been adapted for the stage by **Caroline Smith**.

"*Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto* is packed with fun for the whole family," says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "The outrageous characters, beloved storyline, extravagant costumes, and contemporary music make for a wildly entertaining production for everyone. You can't help but get caught up in the action – cheer for Jack and boo the evil giant!"

Geoffrey Whynot directs and choreographs this production based on original direction and choreography by **David Connolly**. He is aided by Assistant Choreographer **Christine Watson**. Music Director **Nico Rhodes** leads a five-piece band through familiar pop songs from artists including Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, ABBA, Whitney Houston, and many more.

From Jack's village to the castle in the sky, Set Designer **Jean Claude Olivier** brings the fairy tale to life with stunning backdrops that are complimented by **Kevin Fraser's** kaleidoscopic lighting design. Costume Designer **Rachel Berchtold** offers extravagant costumes full of vibrant colours, cheery patterns and lots of glitz and glamour that help to bring this joyous story to life.

Leading the charge on this harrowing adventure is **Ben Chiasson** making his Drayton Entertainment debut as Jack. Chiasson is a recent graduate of Sheridan College. He previously

appeared in *Freaky Friday* at Theatre Aquarius, *Red Rock Diner* at Stage West Calgary, and *Anne of Green Gables* at the Charlottetown Festival.

A panto isn't a panto without a dame – **Justin Bott** is Jack's zany mother Widow Twaddle. Bott appeared as Simeon in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and as one of the stepsisters in last season's panto *Cinderella*. **Tim Porter**, whom audiences will remember from several pantos including *Snow White* (Woody), *Aladdin* (Wishy) and *Cinderella* (Buttons), is Jack's younger brother, Super Simon.

Stacey Kay is sure to provoke many boos from the audience in the role of the baddie, aptly named Evilus Maximus. Kay has appeared in several Drayton Entertainment productions including last season's hit *Kings & Queens of Country*. This powerhouse vocalist was also a finalist on Season 10 of America's Got Talent and has a new album out climbing the charts in Canada.

Sheldon Davis takes on the role of The Town Crier Clarence, with **Karen Wood** as Mother Nature, a goofy fairy who assists Jack in his adventure. Davis has appeared in many Drayton Entertainment productions including *Sexy Laundry*, *All Shook Up*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, among others. Wood spent eight seasons at the Stratford Festival and ten seasons at the Shaw Festival. She has appeared in the Drayton Entertainment productions of *All Shook Up*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Too Many Cooks*, *The Sound of Music*, and many others.

Mariah Campos makes her Drayton Entertainment debut as Princess Buttercup, the spirited royal who rules the land with her overprotective father King Buttercup, played by **Curtis Sullivan**. Campos appeared in *The Music Man* at the Stratford Festival, *Air Farce New Year's Eve Special* on CBC, and *King of the Camp* on YTV, while Sullivan has appeared in numerous productions with Drayton Entertainment including *Man of La Mancha*, *Anything Goes*, *Carousel* and more. He is also a performer in many renowned opera companies.

Matthew Chenuz, **Sam DiGiuseppe**, **Heather Kosik**, **Tyler Pearse**, **Kristen Pottle** and **Sash Striga** round out an impressive ensemble cast, which also features 30 local youth who perform on a rotating schedule throughout the run alongside the professional cast.

The children's chorus includes:

- **Brooklyn Chenard**, and **Cassidy Ramsay** of Barrie
- **Julia Edwards** and **Lilia WestSmith** of Collingwood
- **Jackson Bray** and **Kylie Sarabura** of Elmvale
- **Caitlyn Brophay**, **Annie Corrigan-Ross**, **Gabriele Gillespie**, **Ella Howard**, **Nolan Jagos**, **Andrew**, **Carina**, and **Luke Jones**, and **Meredith Thomson** of Midland
- **Caleb Healy**, **Addison** and **Lilly Hoffman**, and **Myles Muzzell** of Owen Sound
- **Alexa** and **Julia Buttineau**, **Cooper**, **Emma**, **Olivia** and **Spencer Reynolds**, and **Sophie Ward** of Penetanguishene
- **Isabella Gendron** and **Chloe Walc** of Tiny
- **Callum Goodhue** of Victoria Harbour

Regular performance tickets are \$48 for adults, \$29 for youth under 20 years of age and \$39 for groups of 20 or more and select Discount Dates. HST is applicable to all ticket prices.

Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto is proudly sponsored by **John Sharp Images**. The Media Sponsors are **104.1 The Dock**, **KICX Country 106**, and **The Midland Mirror**. The Design Sponsor is **95.1 The Peak**. The Youth Theatre Education Sponsor is **TD Bank Group**. The 2019 Season Media Sponsor is **CTV**.

Jack and the Beanstalk: The Panto is on stage from **June 5** to **June 22**. Tickets may be purchased in person at the **King's Wharf Theatre** Box Office, online at www.kingswharftheatre.com or by calling the Box Office at **(705) 549-5555** or toll free at **1-855-DRAYTON (372-9866)**.

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