



Youth Auditions Announced for Holiday Panto

Monday, August 12, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Drayton Entertainment is pleased to announce Children’s Chorus auditions for *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto*, on stage this holiday season in St. Jacobs. Auditions will take place at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge on **Sunday, September 22**. **Advance registration is required.**

Aspiring young performers, ages 9 to 15, are encouraged to attend the auditions. Dancing, singing, and acting experience are an asset and preferred. Hopefuls are asked to learn the song indicated on the audition registration page online. The young performers will be taught a dance combination to that song at the audition, and then perform the song and dance in small groups for members of our creative team. For complete details, or to register, please visit www.draytonentertainment.com/Online/Article/youth-auditions.

“It is our pleasure to showcase the vast young talent in this community,” says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. “We look forward to giving many aspiring young performers the chance to be on stage and learn from professional artists.”

To accommodate the demands of this grand-scale production, and to provide opportunities for as many youth as possible, the chosen performers will be divided into teams and will perform in the Children’s Chorus on a rotating schedule with professional actors in the lead roles.

The Creative Team is led by Director and Choreographer **David Connolly**, who helmed the previous panto productions of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Cinderella*, *Aladdin*, *Snow White* and *Peter Pan*.

Connolly is joined by Music Director **Nico Rhodes**, Set Designer **Jean Claude Olivier**, Costume Designer **Rachel Berchtold**, Lighting Designer **Kevin Fraser**, Stage Manager **Amber Archbell**, Assistant Stage Manager **Sadie Wannamaker**, and Apprentice Stage Manager **Cody Burns**.

Rehearsals for *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto* will begin in early November at the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge, with remaining rehearsals and performances at the St. Jacobs Country Playhouse. The production will run from **November 27 to December 22**. Children cast in the production must attend all rehearsals and performances assigned to their team.

Based on the beloved fairy tale, *Sleeping Beauty: The Panto* tells the story of feisty fairies, an enchanted spinning wheel, a malevolent villainess, and a dozy princess! When a lavish party is

thrown to celebrate the birth of a princess, the exclusion of the land's most powerful sorceress from the festivities unleashes a wrath of fury. The vexed villainess puts a curse on the young royal – on her 17th birthday, the princess will prick her finger on a mystical spinning wheel and fall asleep for hundreds of years. Doomed by fate, can the prince of her dreams stir her from the trappings of a ceaseless slumber? The panto adaptation of this fairy tale is written by **Caroline Smith**.

Sleeping Beauty: The Panto is proudly sponsored by **Home Hardware** and **Strassburger Windows and Doors**. Media Sponsors are **96.7 CHYM FM**, **Country 106.7** and **570 News Kitchener**. The Design Sponsor is **Courtyard by Marriott Waterloo St. Jacobs**. The Youth Theatre Education Sponsor is **TD**. The 2019 Season Media Sponsor is **CTV**.

Sleeping Beauty: The Panto runs from **November 27** to **December 22** at **St. Jacobs Country Playhouse**. Tickets are \$48 for Adults and \$29 for Youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for groups of 20 or more and select Discount Dates are \$39. HST is applicable to all ticket prices. Tickets may be purchased online at www.draytonentertainment.com or by calling the Box Office at **(519) 747-7788** or toll free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866)**.

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