



# Cambridgeshire West Pantomime Challenge



In this year, where everything in our lives is changing, it is difficult to come together and celebrate Christmas with parties and outings as we usually do. We were really looking forward to going on a Pantomime Trip and later holding a Pantomime Workshop. Sadly, this will not be possible in the winter of 2020/21. This set us thinking about what we could do to offer something that would bring us together and so the Cambridgeshire West Pantomime Challenge was designed. The aim is to experience the production and performance of a pantomime but there is no need to actually stage your chosen play to achieve the badge.

We hope you enjoy the challenges and that they inspire your own productions.  
Break a leg!

The Events Team

## How it Works

This challenge is designed to be carried out by individuals, by a unit meeting virtually or during face-2 -face meetings.

To complete the challenge, you will need to select a pantomime as your inspiration. Then complete 6 challenges based on your chosen panto, 2 from each section –

***Create, Rehearse and Perform.***

This is the minimum and you are welcome to complete as many challenges as takes your fancy.

**Along the way we would like you to collect photographs, video or audio recordings of your activities and share them with us in the Grand Finale.**

**Here are some suggestions to help you decide on your pantomime;**

- Draw a picture of your favourite pantomime and ask others to name your show.
- Play charades where each player mimes the name of a pantomime. When the game is over the favourite is your show.
- Make a list of pantomimes. Rank the list by putting your favourite at the top and the least favourite at the bottom.
- Have a game of Guess the Panto. One person chooses a Pantomime and everyone else takes it in turns to ask questions until the identity is revealed.
- Take a vote– Two or three teams each choose a Pantomime. Put forward the case for your suggestion. Draw up a ballot paper, then take a secret vote. Enjoy the thrill of the count to see which panto is the winner.

**Now it's time to start your badge!**



## Create (Choose two activities from the list below.)

- ✚ The Script - Listen, read or share the reading of a fairy tale which forms the basis of your pantomime.
- ✚ Rename the characters in your story eg; new names for the seven dwarfs.
- ✚ Tell the story in a circle game starting 'Once upon a time' and ending 'And they all lived happily ever after'. Each participant adds to the story which could go round the circle a number of times until it reaches its conclusion.
- ✚ Make up a magic spell for a Witch, Wizard or Fairy Godmother.
- ✚ Find an alternative, or make up a 'twisted' version of your pantomime, for example Wicked is an alternative version of the Wizard of Oz. What would be the tale for your pantomime?
- ✚ Find a script -There are lots of scripts available on the internet. Your leader may have a copy of a pantomime published in old editions of guiding magazines, or Girlguiding Southwest have a script based on Cinderella , <https://www.girlguidingsouthwest.org.uk/member-information/region-resources/59-pantomime-script-a-night-at-the-theatre> and royalty free pantos can be found at <https://savvytheatre.wixsite.com/pmfly/free>
  - Remember to check that the script is age appropriate.
- ✚ Write a song for your show or use an old tune and write new words. For example, there are many versions of 'If I were not a good Girl Guide something else I'd rather be'. You could use this to make up a song for your pantomime.
- ✚ Make up some topical jokes for your production.
- ✚ The Audition - Show your ability to demonstrate different emotions by playing a game of 'The Director Says....'. You could include actions for scared, happy, too cold, too hot, furtive, bilious, tired, injured, sad, smug and many more.
- ✚ Practice a short speech as a character from your pantomime. Use a recording to perfect your performance.
- ✚ Hold a run-through. Using a script, taking it in turns to play different characters.



- ✚ The Casting Couch – Choose your favourite actors and actresses to create your dream cast for your pantomime.
- ✚ The Creative Concept - Every show has a design concept. For example, Sleeping Beauty usually has a medieval feel. Try something different. If you were the Artistic Director for your production what would you do? Draw some sketches to show your ideas.

✚ Draw a story board of scenes from your chosen pantomime.

✚ Build a model of your performance space, does it have a flat floor, balcony, curtains, trap door? Where do the audience sit?

✚ Design a costume for one (or more) of the characters in your pantomime.

- Each person in your unit could take a different character to make all the costumes required.
- Take it further: create your costume by dressing
  - a potato or stick person
  - a cut-out paper doll
  - a peg, mop or wooden spoon



✚ Make part of a costume such as fairy wings, masks, crowns or fancy footwear.

✚ Try making a ball gown from newspaper or other recycled materials.

✚ Collect together some items (props) which would be useful to set the scene on the stage during your production. You could work in sixes or patrols working on different scenes. Don't forget to keep a list.

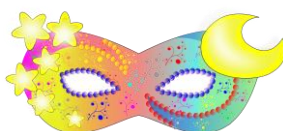
✚ Make some props to help the actors tell the story e.g. a wand, candlestick, stage food, jar of fairy dust. Don't forget the glitter!

✚ Why not use junk to make props, eg: the Genie's lamp from a bottle.

✚ Grow your own beanstalk or carve a pumpkin for Cinderella's coach.

✚ Create a piece of scenery, for example a magic carpet on paper or fabric.

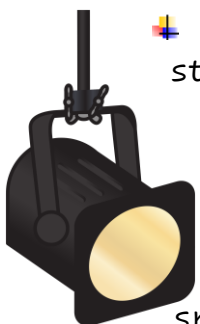
✚ Make a poster or a programme to advertise your production. You could design the front cover, take photos of the cast or write a biography of one of the actors.



## Rehearsal (Choose two activities from the list below)

To develop a pantomime all sectors of the performing arts and artistic departments work together. Rehearsals are carried out to perfect the performance.

- ✚ With a partner practice mirroring some moves.
- ✚ Mime part of your story.
- ✚ Quick change costume game- have some costumes in front of you, while the music is playing, dance. When the music stops quickly change into a costume before the music starts again!
- ✚ Try on the costumes for your production. Hold a dress rehearsal.
- ✚ With a partner practice telling jokes such as;
  - Question: I say, I say, I say what time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?
  - Reply: I don't know what time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?
  - Answer: Time to get a new one. (groan and laugh!)
- ✚ If you have a large sheet of paper, paint a backdrop for your stage or make a miniature version for your model theatre.
- ✚ Choreograph a dance for your panto. Make sure you are properly warmed up before you start and that there are no obstacles to trip you up in your performance area.
- ✚ Unfortunately, during the COVID Pandemic singing in public is banned at the moment. However, you can always practice at home. How about using sign language to share your song?
- ✚ Find a sing along version of a song for your pantomime - sing along karaoke style. You Tube is a great source of sing along songs. Just remember to do this at home!



✚ Gobos are used to make shapes on the floor of the stage with light. Make some gobos for a torch and stage a light show. To do this you cut out a disk of cardboard and cut shapes out from the middle- like a stencil. Then tape your disk over the end of the torch, now your light will project the shape from your gobo! How about joining torches together to make a snowstorm or lots of leaves or trees to make a forest?





✚ The Director tells the actors where to stand and how to move around the stage - draw a diagram of positions on the stage for each of the actors in one scene.



✚ Use a Green Screen App to add some action shots to your production.

✚ Rehearsals are very tiring. Make some fairy cakes to boost your energy.



## Performance (Choose two activities from the list below.)

✚ Colour a mask or face template to show how you would make up a character.

✚ Make up -Using face paint (or make up with permission), make up your face as one of the characters in your show. Remember to patch test for allergies before application and only use products designed to be applied to skin.

✚ Before you start to sing you need to warm up your vocal cords. Find out what vocal exercises you need to do and practice them at home or on Zoom.

✚ Being nervous is a normal part of being a performer. Try some meditation or breathing exercises to help you cope with real life situations. (Link to Rainbow Healthy Mind, Brownie Mindfulness, Guide Meditation or the Ranger Self-care interest badges)

✚ The Show - Actors are very superstitious. Find out about the rituals that bring good luck for a show.

✚ Conduct a piece of music for the overture at the start of your production.

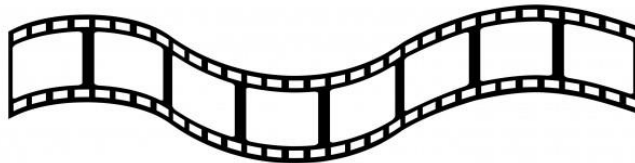



✚ Audience participation is really important. If you are lucky enough to be part of a real audience try recording the booing and hissing or calls of 'it's behind you', the louder the better!

- ✚ Perform your pantomime (or a scene) to an audience. This could be performances by real actors or use puppets or shadow puppets to tell your story.



- ✚ Try taking on the role of the prompt (a person who whispers the script to the actor if they forget their lines). You will need a script, then read out some the lines very quietly and very clearly.
- ✚ Perform a song and/or dance that is part of your show. If you are singing, get someone to record your performance at home to share with your unit.
- ✚ Be a theatre critic. Take up your notebook and pen and write a review of a pantomime you have seen. Include what you liked and didn't like about the production. Who was the star of the show?
- ✚ Film part of your production or make a photo montage of the production.
- ✚ At the end of a performance everyone takes a 'Curtain Call'. This means that everyone takes a bow, it can be quite a challenge to get everyone to do it at the same time!
- ✚ After the show is over it is traditional to have an after party, make yours a panto theme.





## **The Finale**

**On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
we hope to be able to join together  
to share a virtual experience showcasing your  
highlights of the Pantomime Challenge. We would like you  
to collect photographs of artwork or recordings of your  
performances for an audience of Girlguiding members,  
friends and family. Unit leaders, please make sure that  
any photographic permissions are up to date before  
submitting the photographs or recordings of girls in  
your unit. If individuals submit items for inclusion, then  
they are agreeing for the image(s) to be used by  
Girlguiding Cambs West.**

**We look forward to seeing the wonderful things you create!**