



**WATFORD  
PALACE  
THEATRE**

**FEATURING  
THE VOICE OF  
STEPHEN FRY  
AS THE GIANT**

# **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

**BY STEVE MARMION**

**PROGRAMME**

**29 Nov – 4 Jan**

**Box Office: 01923 225 671  
[www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk)**



## About Watford Palace Theatre

Step right up, dear audience! We invite you to take a magical trip through the ages - from glittering Edwardian music-hall nights to the bold, inventive creative centre of tomorrow - in the story of your beloved Watford Palace Theatre. Pull back the curtain and let's cheer on this grand old house as she writes the next act.

## A Page-Turner of a Past

Our story begins in 1908, when the Palace Theatre first opened its doors on 14 December. Built in a flourishing Watford of the early twentieth century, it began life as a music-hall and variety theatre, bringing laughter and song to a growing town.

Designed by architect H. M. Theobald and built by Barker Brothers, the building soon became the place where everything from vaudeville and variety stars to local talents passed through.

Over the decades it has adapted – moving through the repertory years, hosting a pantheon of brilliant performances, and always remaining at the heart of the Watford creative community.

In short: this is no ordinary theatre. She is our local landmark, our stage of dreams, and a place where the show has always gone on.

## And Now... The Next Big Chapter

Now, fast-forward to 2025, and the Palace is about to dazzle in a brand-new light. A major transformation has taken place. One that respects our heritage and embraces the future with four new creative spaces - transforming the theatre into a future-facing, multi-media creative hub at the heart of Watford.

# WELCOME TO JACK AND THE BEANSTALK!

Hello and welcome, dear friends, to our very own *village pantomime*!

This year's adventure up the beanstalk is bursting with all the things that make panto magic: brave heroes, big laughs, catchy songs, a sprinkle of chaos, and more local references than you can shake a magic bean at.

At Watford Palace, we believe pantomime is for everyone — a time when families, friends, and neighbours come together to laugh, cheer, boo, and maybe even sing along (consider yourselves warned!).

Creating this show has been a real labour of love — from our brilliant cast and creative team to the backstage crew and front-of-house heroes who keep the magic alive every day. It's been grown right here in Watford, with plenty of heart, humour, and sparkle.

And a very special thank you to **faithful national treasure Sir Stephen Fry**, whose booming tones bring our Giant to life — proof that even up in the clouds, you can still find a bit of British charm!



So sit back, warm up those vocal cords, and get ready to climb with us. Thank you for being part of our Palace family — it wouldn't be Christmas without you.

*Enjoy the show!*

Steve Marmion  
Writer & CEO, Watford Palace Theatre



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# MEET THE CHARACTERS

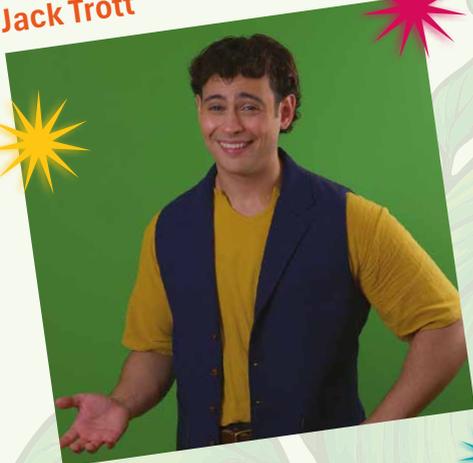
Jack Trott is your classic village hero, Jagger is no ordinary cow, Dame Trott has seen it all — bad weather, bad men, bad puns, Jill has grown just a little tired with being the sensible one, Smart Simone is the only badger in Watfordshire with GCSEs, Judi Henchman is bad to the bone, Fairy 'Nuff tries her best — it's just that her best tends to explode, larger than life and twice as loud, Giant Trumpet runs a monopoly on Watfordshire's weather and Goosey was hatched in confusion and has been winging it ever since.

Giant Trumpet



Jagger  
the Cow

Jack Trott



Judi Henschman



Jill



Smart Simone Trott



Dame Trott



# Cast List

## Dame Trott - Terence Frisch



Watford Palace Theatre's resident Dame: Cinderella, Dick Whittington and his Cat, Jack and The Beanstalk, Aladdin, Beauty and The Beast, Mother Goose, Robin Hood and Sleeping Beauty. Elsewhere: Peter Pan, Aladdin, Cinderella, Jack & the

Beanstalk, Dick Whittington and Snow White.

Other theatre: Dal Segno (Tabard Theatre); Absurd Person Singular (Watford Palace); Joy Bubbles (The Other Palace); Polonius in Hamlet (Backsbroke Theatre); Septimus Bean and His Amazing Machine (Unicorn Theatre); Andy Capp The Musical (Finborough Theatre); Oysters (Eastern Angles); The Trojan Women (Gods & Monsters); The Manual Oracle (Phoebe von Held); The Ring Cycle Plays (Gods and Monsters); Faulty Towers - The Dining Experience (ITI); Noggin the Nog (Third Party); This Place Means (High Hearted Theatre); The Hit (Two Shoes and Cake); Nocturnal (Rada); One Snowy Night (Slot Machine); Jerusalem (Royal Court); The Lord of the Rings (Drury Lane); Romeo and Juliet (Globe); The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek (Royal Exchange); Richard III and The Changeling (both Third Party); Outside Edge (the Mill at Sonning) and Wait Until Dark (Southwold).

Television includes Suspect: The Shooting of Jean Charles De Menezes (Disney), Eastenders, Alder, The Nevers, The Vineyard, Doctors, The Windsors, Call the Midwife, Holby City, EastEnders; Harry Hill's TV Burp (Avalon) and Small Island (Ruby Films/BBC).

Recent films include Christmas at Plumhill Manor (Brian Herzlinger), One Night in Soho (Edgar Wright) and Hugo (Scorsese).

## Jack Trott - Imad Eldeen



Imad graduated from Leeds Conservatoire in 2024 with a BA in acting.

He is a multilingual performer currently based out of North Wales with a Welsh-Egyptian mixed heritage. Imad was nominated for the 'Best Newcomer to Industry' award at The Pantomime Awards 2025.

Theatre includes Paris in 'Romeo a Juliet' (Theatr Cymru & Shakespeare's Globe), Hari Pary in 'Mother Goose' (Theatr Clwyd), and Performer in 'Intermission' (Riptide Theatre). Final year drama school projects include Sir Dennis Hedge in 'Scandaltown' (Leeds City Varieties), and Orlando in 'As You Like It' (Leeds Playhouse).

## Judi Henchman - Jessica Dennis



Theatre includes The Rainbow (Perth Theatre), The Merchant of Venice: 1936 (RSC, Watford Palace Theatre, West End, National Tour), The Habit of Art (Original Theatre, 59E59 Theater), Boeing Boeing (London Classic Theatre),

Jack and the Beanstalk, Aladdin (Stephen Joseph Theatre), Twelfth Night, Romeo + Juliet (The Orange Tree Theatre), Henry V + The Tempest (Shakespeare's Rose Theatre, York), Offside (Futures Theatre), The Wind in the Willows (Polka Theatre), Meet Me In The Ruins (Belgrade Theatre).

She also works as a voice over artist, singer and a regular performer for The Wireless Theatre Company for whom she has appeared in many audio dramas, including productions for BBC Radio 4 and Audible.

## Smart Simone Trott - Philippa Carson



An Irish performer trained in screen acting at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

TV includes ITV's The Reckoning with Steve Coogan, in TV movie MEN IN BROWN with Ant & Dec

(ITV), in Apple TV's TRYING, BBC QUICKIES, and feature-film ANTIMATTER (Kaleidoscope) in which she "steals every scene" (Joni Blyth). Also, on the cutting room floor of BBC One's MARRIAGE with Sean Bean!

Philippa's comedy sketch group JUST THESE PLEASE are known for their viral videos with tens of millions of views online, and for their five-star sold-out shows at Edinburgh Fringe, on Virgin Voyages cruise ships and at the Soho Theatre. She has been an improviser for many years, working with various improv groups including Bumper Blyton, and was in the cast of the renowned musical satire NEWSREVUE (Ed Fringe & Arts Theatre West End).

She's a panto regular, a musical cabaret host at The Room Where it Happens in Soho and has thus far avoided playing a badger. UNTIL NOW!

## Fairy 'Nuff - Lauren Azania



Theatre includes The Harder They Come, Stratford East, Hadestown, West End, Close Up at the Menier, Heartbeat of Home, Piccadilly Theatre, Boogie Nights, The Gatehouse Theatre, Disco Inferno and Magic of Motown on tour, and

productions of The Wizard of Oz, Little Shop of Horrors, Robin Hood and Happy Ever After.

TV includes X Factor, Silo and performances at the Olivier Awards and Big Night of Musicals (with Hadestown).

Film includes Wicked, Dinner with Herve and Hadestown (proshot).

Recordings include the original cast recording of Hadestown.

## Jill - Tia Antoine-Charles



Trained at the Arts Educational Schools in London.

Theatre includes Original Cast of 13 Going On 30 u/s Paige & Wendy (UK Premiere), Original London Company of Mean Girls, u/s Janis (Savoy Theatre), Lily in Bhangra Nation (Birmingham

Rep), EVITA (Leicester Curve Theatre), Let's Face The Music (Royal Albert Hall), South Pacific (UK Tour), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (UK Tour).

TV includes Olivier Awards 2023 (Royal Albert Hall).

Theatre in training: Diana Morales in A Chorus Line (Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation Theatre), Sweeney Todd (Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation theatre).

## Goosey/Understudy Dame Trott - Tom Giles



Theatre includes Silence! (Udderbelly & The Turbine Theatre), The Lord of the Rings (Watermill Theatre), Miss Littlewood & Boundless As The Sea (Royal Shakespeare Company), A Dark Place (Pleasance), Dick Whittington

(Theatre Royal Stratford East), Mr Gum and the Dancing Bear, The Winter's Tale, Walk in the Light (National Theatre), Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch), Rothschild and Sons (Park Theatre), Ragtime (Charing Cross Theatre), Royal Vauxhall (Latitude Festival / Edinburgh Fringe), Shakespeare Untold: Titus Andronicus (Shakespeare's Globe / UK Tour), Rumpelstiltskin

(MAC, Belfast), Muse of Fire (Shakespeare's Globe), One Sandwich Short of a Genius (UK Tour), Raven Boy (Infectious Theatre), Merlin (Royal & Derngate), The Tempest (Theatre Royal, Bath), Merrie England (Finborough Theatre), The Recruiting Officer (Donmar Warehouse), As Within, So Without (Live Theatre), Pinocchio (Hull Truck Theatre), The Merchant of Venice and Much Ado About Nothing (UK Tours).

Television includes Emmerdale (ITV).

Workshops include: Over The Hill (HOME), No More Mr Nice Guy, The 43 Club, Krankenstein, The Forgotten Island (Young Vic) and Flipped Out (Salisbury Playhouse).

## Ensemble/Understudy Jack, Simon, Goosey, Dance Captain - Ben Anderson



Ben graduated from Bird College in 2021 with a first class degree in Professional Musical Theatre and Dance.

Theatre includes: Fender in Hairspray (UK Tour), Ensemble/Cover Genie and Mildew Funk in Aladdin (Hackney Empire),

Ensemble/Cover Pepper in Mamma Mia! (Royal Caribbean), Ensemble in Candide (Welsh National Opera), Ensemble/Cover Muddles in Sleeping Beauty (Churchill Theatre), Leo Bloom in The Producers (Bird College).

Television includes: Scenes In The Square Launch, Gene Kelly Singin' in the Rain (Premier), Dancer on Britain's Got Talent: The Champions (ITV).

## Ensemble/Understudy Judi Henschman, Fairy 'Nuff, Jill - Hannah Lancaster



Trained at Guildford School of Acting & Bird College.

Credits include: Demeter in Cats (RCCL), Dance Captain/Swing in Where Is Peter Rabbit (Old Laundry Theatre), Demeter in Cats (RCCL), Swing/Aerialist in Come Fly With Me (RCCL),

Kiki/Cover Ms Wilde in Flashdance (Italian Tour).

Credits Whilst Training: Maggie Jones in 42nd Street, Solo Vocalist in Wonderlands, Mrs Meers in Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Hannah is over the moon to be joining the cast of Jack & The Beanstalk and would like to thank the wonderful team at Apollo Artist Management, her family, and especially her Dad, Paul, for practicing and cheering her on always.

# Cast List

## Voice of the Giant - Sir Stephen Fry



Featuring national treasure Sir Stephen Fry as the voice of the Giant. The much-loved actor, author, and broadcaster lends his unmistakable voice to our towering villain.

Sir Stephen Fry is known for his roles in *Blackadder* and *The Hobbit*, as the host of *QI*, and as the voice of the audiobooks of *Harry Potter*, amongst many other fabulous projects. More recently in *The Celebrity Traitors*, and currently in *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the West End.

This year's production promises larger-than-life sets, dazzling costumes, toe-tapping musical numbers, and plenty of laughs — with Sir Stephen Fry's booming presence as the Giant adding a touch of star-studded magic!



## Jagger the Cow - Neve Oldroyd

Neve is delighted that her first professional stage credit is as the backend of the cow in pantomime at her local theatre. She has previously been part of the 'Fright Night' cast at Thorpe Park and is currently completing her first year of training at Rose Bruford College.

## Young Ensemble

### Team Cloud

Anjali Kumar

Charlotte Goodhew

Cleo Tyack

Emma Pirjoleanu

Hannah Gascoigne

Maria Dimitrova

Selena Smyth

Zak A-M B

### Team Rain

Aimee Rogers

Brooke Simmonds

Daisy Jobanputra

Eloise Brand

Kishori Tripathi

Lucas Mannion

Ma'kayjah Bazile

Summer Canning

## YOUNG COMPANY

### Enjoyed our Young Ensemble in panto?

Well you too can take centre stage as part of our thrilling programme of regular groups, masterclasses, and performance opportunities.

From **stand up** to **song** or **drama** to **drag** we have a bit of everything for anyone from ages 7+.

So, if you want to work in the creative industries, grow your skills, or just meet some new people, then this is for you.

**No audition** required to join, and new members can try a **free taster session** before committing to the term.

Email [yc@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](mailto:yc@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) for more information.



# Band

**Keys** Dominic Bull

**Drums** Andy Campbell Smith

**Guitar** Sophie Lagan

# Creative and Production Team

**Writer**

Steve Marmion

**Director**

James Williams

**Musical Director**

Bobby Goulder

**Associate**

**Musical Director**

Dominic Bull

**Choreographer**

Sundeep Saini

**Lighting Designer**

Richard G Jones

**Sound Designer**

Kate Harvey

**Costume Designer &  
Wardrobe Supervisor**

Laura Hack

**Wardrobe Manager**

Kate Turner

**Production Manager**

Jack Opie

**Company**

**Stage Manager**

Becky Brown

**Deputy Stage Manager**

Millie Swinchin Rew

**Assistant Stage Manager**

Rosie Bowers

**Stage Crew**

Charlie Bailey, Isabella  
Sinclair, Marc McDonald

**Lighting Programmer**

Jacob Shooter

**Lighting Programmer**

John Lawrence

**Costume Makers**

Penny Fraser, Asher  
Thomas, Jen Clarke

**Makaton Consultant**

Sharon Calcutt Cheadle

**Chaperones**

Ahmed Khan, Rob Meyer,  
Miranda Glasser, Melanie  
Ward, Rosella Ferrentino,  
Catherine Owusu

**Panto Sound No 2**

Dominic Cherry

**Panto Sound No 3**

Nathan Houghton

**Panto Flys**

Rex Moule / Iain Gonoude

# Staff

**Steve Marmion**

Chief Executive &  
Director of Programming

**Jamie Arden**

Executive Director

**Andrew Phillips**

Director of Finance

**Martin Derbyshire**

Senior Producer

**Christine Piper**

Head of Technical  
Operations

**Samantha Ford**

Head of Business &  
Community Engagement

**James Williams**

Associate Director

**Kalwinder Bhogal**

Head of Marketing &  
Communications

**Audrey Langevin**

Head of Digital

**Katrina Gibson**

Producer

**Katrina Tepper**

Finance Supervisor

**Paula Gover**

Building & Facilities  
Manager

**James Weatherby**

Building Maintenance  
Technician

**Dan Frost**

Technical Manager

**Paul Boyall**

Bar Manager

**Palvinder Heer**

Finance Officer

**Ines Ferreira**

Business & Community  
Coordinator

**Andrea Lungay**

Assistant Programming  
Producer

**Peter Shelton**

Data & Ticketing  
Supervisor

**Lewis Covey-Crump**

Deputy Technical  
Manager, Panto Sound  
Number 1

**Marek Wedler**

Duty Manager

**Ben Mulcahy**

General Technician,  
Panto Crew Chief

**Sharon Hunt**

Cleaning Supervisor

**Djomi Tsate**

Apprentice, Panto  
Tech Swing

**Koduah Ankomah**

General Cleaner

With special thanks to: our brilliant Front of House and Bar teams, DMLK Video, Adele Curtis, Raffaella Minichiello, Christine Allum, Lola Ford, Laura Lloyd, Alex Maynard and Lawrence Michalowski.

# THE GIANT'S PALACE PUZZLE PAGE!

## 1. SPOT THE MAGIC BEANS!

The sneaky Giant has dropped 5 magic golden beans somewhere in this programme! Can you find and circle them all before Jack eats them by mistake?

## 2. DAME TROTT'S SHOPPING LIST MIX-UP

The Giant's storm blew Dame Trott's shopping list all over Watford Market!

Help her find things she needs to buy from the items below. Tick the correct answers! Tick the correct answers!

Hint:  
She doesn't need anything that bites or sings

Soup

Shampoo

Carrots

Cow Bell

Magic Hat

Rock Band

Milk

Snake



## 3. SMART SIMONE'S BEAN-QUIZ

Are you bean-brilliant or bean-baffled? Tick the correct answers!

- How many beans did Jack get for selling the cow?  
 5     50  
 5000
- What do you get when you cross a cow and a trampoline?  
 Milkshake  
 Jumping Beans  
 A very confused trampolinist
- What should you shout when you see a panto villain?  
 Hello  
 Boo!  
 Would you like a bean?



## 4. HELP JACK FIND JILL!

Jack's lost in the clouds again! Draw a wiggly line along the beanstalk for him to reach Jill!



## 5. Bonus Challenge!

Can you design your own magic bean? What powers does it have?

Draw it here, give it a name and a power.

My magic bean's name is:

Its power is:



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## Get 20% off at Heavenly Desserts Watford!

Receive 20% off all items on the menu when you present a valid ticket for Jack & the Beanstalk on the day of your visit at Heavenly Desserts Watford!



Heavenly Desserts is a popular dessert cafe known for its luxurious and beautifully presented sweet treats. Located in the heart of Watford, it offers a menu filled with gourmet waffles, pancakes, sundaes, croffles and artisan drinks.

Brunch by Heavenly Desserts offers a new and exciting twist on brunch, now being served daily from 10am to 4pm. We offer exquisite dishes like Keralan Spiced Beans on Sourdough, Bacon & Egg Croffle, and our Signature Chai & Pecan Granola.

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age of jet-setting*

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# NEW SEASON SHOWS 2026



Fun for little ones -  
A tribute to Ms Rachel

**February Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>**



ZOG - A roaring, soaring  
musical

**March Sat 28<sup>th</sup> - Sun 29<sup>th</sup>**



Ice Age Adventure Live -  
The Coolest Show On Earth

**April Mon 6<sup>th</sup>**



K-Pop Party

**April Thurs 9<sup>th</sup>**



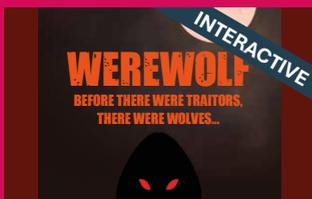
Peppa Pig's Big Family  
Show

**April Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> - Fri 26<sup>th</sup>**



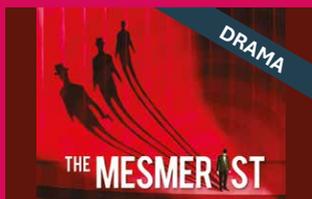
A Christmas Carol -  
The Pantomime

**PANTO 2026**



Werewolf

**December Mon 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 -  
January Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026**



The Mesmerist

**March Sun 1<sup>st</sup> - Sat 21<sup>st</sup>**



Bridget Christie's Jacket  
Potato Pizza

**March Sun 8<sup>th</sup>**



Legend -  
The Music of Bob Marley

**April Fri 10<sup>th</sup>**



James Bond  
Spectacular

**April Sat 11<sup>th</sup>**



Spitfire Girls

**April Tues 28<sup>th</sup> -  
May Sat 2<sup>nd</sup>**

# WELCOME TO THE PALACE OF ENTERTAINMENT

## Our Spaces

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### 1908 Cabaret

By day, a relaxed café / co-working space; by night, a cabaret venue where local voices shine and every microphone could spark something special.

### Two Studio Spaces

**Studio One:** Flexible space for podcasting, livestreaming, intimate performance

**Studio Two:** A professional rehearsal and showcase space—now the new home of the Young Company, nurturing the stars of tomorrow.



### The Watford Palace Workshop (formerly “The Barn”)

A hands-on creation space for building set, props, ideas; linked into community groups and production teams alike.



### The Palace of Entertainment

A vibrant refresh welcomed by new touches—quirky arcade machines, playful installations (yes, even a pink musical toilet!), and a canopy to greet you in true Palace style.

### Environmental & Technical Upgrades

Over £1 million invested to make the building more sustainable, comfortable, and fit for 21st-century performance.



[watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/spaces/](http://watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk/spaces/)

All spaces available for hire and community events.  
Contact [admin@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk) for more information.

# Why this matters to you

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## Because Watford Palace is *your* theatre.

- If you're coming for the annual panto, you'll step into a house that's as warm, friendly and full of wonder as ever—but better equipped to surprise you.
- If you're a local artist, a youngster with a big idea, or part of a community group, the new studios and workshop mean place and support to create your work.
- And the mixture of heritage and innovation means we honour the past (that glorious auditorium, the 1908 legacy) while planting seeds for the future: new voices, new formats, new stories.

Our mission is to **“entertain, inspire and represent”**.  
And with these new developments, we are doing just that.

## Looking ahead (and a wink back)

We hope you'll take a moment while walking through the foyer to glance up at the light sculpture, walk past the places where Dickensian jokes once echoed, and remember: a century ago this very building hosted twice-nightly variety shows for Watford workers after a long day of toil. Now the building is poised to host podcasts, digital streams, cabaret nights—and yes, spectacular pantomimes.

So, whether you're watching tonight's show, sipping a drink in the refreshed bar, or simply marvelling at the new décor —know that you're part of the next chapter in a story that began in 1908.

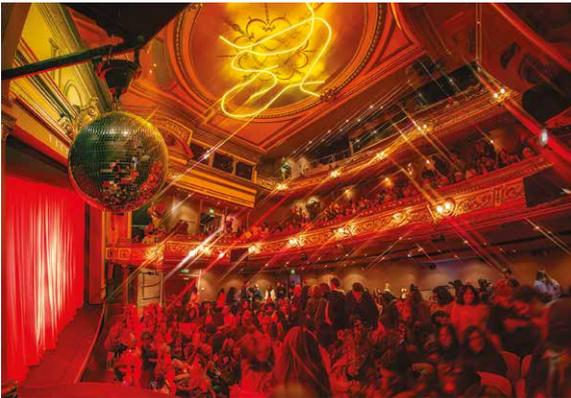
## Curtain Call

Here's to you, our audience. Here's to this grand old house, which has stood, bows at the ready, for over a century.

And here's to what comes next: bold, bright, inclusive, and full of fun.

Welcome to the next act of the Watford Palace Theatre story. May it be delightful, mischievous and full of magic. See you in the stalls!

***Steve and the Palace Team***





**WATFORD  
PALACE  
THEATRE**

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