

# HOW A DIRECTOR IS CHOSEN

## **Requirements**

- Applicants must be residents of Haddenham & Aldreth Parish, or have a strong connection to those villages.

## **Conditions**

- Copyright for the script remains with the director but on accepting to direct the show the director grants the Fundraising Committee (FRC) permission to use the script for the performance of the agreed pantomime.
- There must always be two CRB-checked individuals at children's rehearsals and one at adult rehearsals where children are present.
- The Director is required to have passed a CRB check, as will the Assistant Director and anyone else likely to be, or potentially, left alone with children.
- The Director or Asst Director cannot act or have any other significant role in their own show (except in exceptional, emergency circumstances).

## **Director's Responsibilities**

- The Director is responsible for the following:

### Primary

- Providing an original script & the overall vision for the show
- Casting the show
- Providing appropriate direction to the cast in their performance
- Appointing an Assistant Director who can assume control of the show in the event that the Director is required to be absent for any length of time

### Secondary

- Ensuring provision for the technical elements of the show
  - Lighting
  - Sound
  - Special Effects
  - Set Construction, Painting & Decoration
  - Props
  - Costumes
  - Music & Choreography
  - Stage Crew

These responsibilities are delegated (see structure chart). The FRC can identify a number of people with experience of managing and performing these areas of the production. Ask the Production Executive if you require help in delegating these responsibilities.

## **FRC responsibilities:**

- Front of House
- Catering
- Publicity, Tickets & Programmes
- Ensuring the show goes ahead

If there is more than one applicant, the FRC may prioritise a director that has not recently directed a Haddenham Pantomime.

## **WRITING YOUR PANTOMIME**

### **Choosing Your Pantomime**

Your submission is more likely to be successful if the story you have chosen has not been produced recently. The FRC would be happy to provide you with a list of previous Haddenham pantomimes and the years when they were performed.

### **Writing Your Script – Some Things to Consider**

The ultimate aim is to put on a plot-driven, family-oriented show with music, comedy, audience participation and a happy ending.

If you need help or inspiration there are a number of sources of guidance on writing a pantomime, both in terms of stories, plots and suggestions:

- The entry on [pantomimes](http://www.wikipedia.org/) at <http://www.wikipedia.org/>
- Available via Cambridgeshire Library Service (amongst others):
  - “Pantomime” by Tina Bicat ISBN: 1861266928
- The FRC can put you in touch with previous Directors if you wish to draw upon their experience.

The length should ideally be about 2 hours (plus interval). The FRC are here to help you, it contains many past directors who are happy to advise on panto length if required.

We anticipate your script will contain the usual witty banter, however, the FRC does have editorial rights over anything considered unsuitable or offensive.

As I'm sure you are aware, Haddenham has a reputation for outstanding visual effects. However, these can be expensive, so please feel free to discuss your vision with the committee.

It is the policy of the Haddenham Pantomime not to turn away anyone who is eligible and wants a part, be they adults or children. This means that until after the auditions you may not know exactly how big your cast is or what it comprises. For this reason you should be prepared for some level of re-writing post-audition to accommodate additional parts if necessary.

Please do not be alarmed by any of this, the FRC are here to help!

## **THE SELECTION PROCESS**

Example timeline (for January 2013 pantomime)

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| October 2011   | – Deadline for applications<br><i>(application must include a synopsis &amp; 2 completed scenes)</i>               |
| January 2012   | – FRC chooses Director & notifies in writing<br><i>(Arkenstall Committee may appoint an impartial adjudicator)</i> |
| March 2012     | – CRB checks completed on Director & Asst Director   |
| September 2012 | – Completed script required  |