

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



Kilkenny County Council Library Service

Seirbhís Leabharlainne Chomhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh



DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF CASTLECOMER PANTOMIME

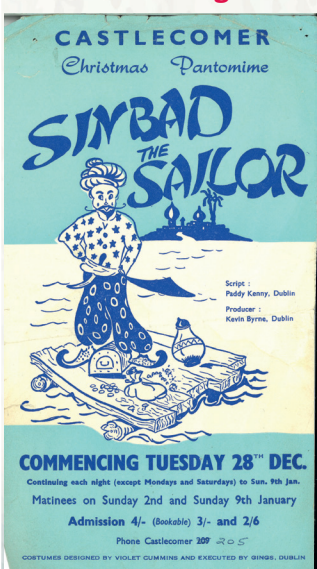


Front (left to right): Dan McCarthy (Ima Nysore), Edward Kelly (Little Drummer Boy), John Hetherington (Dirtan Muk). Sitting: Thomas Coogan (Iymana), James O'Connell (Mrs. Baba), Josephine Kelly (Morgiana), John Ryan (Ali Baba), Thomas Gleeson (Caliph). Standing: Donal McCarthy (Attendant), John Dunphy (Hakim), Margaret Brennan (Katisha), Alphie Hayes (Ima Miser), Martin O'Grady (Casimir)

The first pantomime performance in Castlecomer was on 29th December 1959 with the show, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. It was performed by the Deenside Players under the direction of Rev. Cleary, C.C.

It was a colourful, happy show, with laughs for all and songs to suit every taste. The Castlecomer String Orchestra, under its director, Miss Nora Dooley, provided the music. John Ryan played the lead role of Ali Baba and the excellent dame, Mrs. Baba was executed with great aplomb by Jimmy O'Connell. Many famous names of Comer were on stage for this momentous show.

Panto tradition begins



It proved to be an impressive debut and was an instant success.

The tradition of a pantomime in Castlecomer was born and it has continued down through the years, with a few breaks along the way. Shows continued annually for 14 years, to the early 1970s. Amongst the performances were perennial favourites including Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Puss in Boots and Sinbad the Sailor. The pantomimes were well received and many familiar faces were to be seen every year on the stage in Castlecomer.

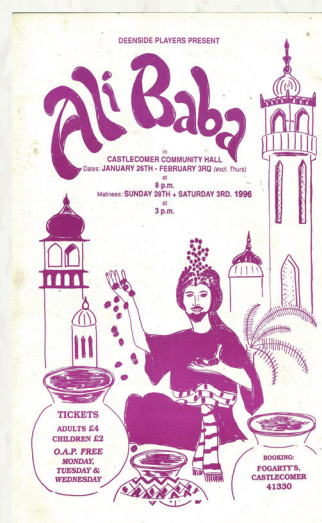
Deenside Players revival



The Deenside Players were revived in the 1980s and some pantomimes were produced in the 1980s and the early 1990s. Shows performed included

Cinderella, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Three Little Pigs and Sinbad the Sailor.

Community Hall



However, the shows stopped when the new Community Hall was being built in the 1990s. There was a new resurgence from 1996 when the Annual Castlecomer Pantomime was revived and it has thrived since then. Many familiar faces continue to be active in the Deenside Players and the next generation of families have started appearing in recent years. This family connection is an important factor in the panto in Castlecomer and it is a tradition that hopefully will continue into the future.



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CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Libraries will **close** at 2pm on Friday 22nd December

We are **open** on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th December.

Libraries are **closed** on Sat 30th December and Monday the 1st January 2024.

Libraries **re-open** on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 10am.

Our online services are available 24/7 through our website www.kilkennylibrary.ie

My Open Library Members have access to Castlecomer Library from 8am to 10pm every day all through the holiday period.



WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON



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Oklahoma in 1998 and The King and I in 1999. The pantomime has continued from 2000 to 2023 and while many are traditional shows, some more modern versions have appeared including Robin Hood meets Frankenstein, Pinocchio - Escape from Oz and Shrek on his quest for Cinderella.

Digital Archive



A digital archive of the Castlecomer Pantomime was launched on 5th December 2023. This digital exhibit is a collaborative venture between the Deenside Players and Kilkenny County Council Library Service and aims to record the longstanding tradition of local theatre and pantomime in the Castlecomer community. Over 30 programmes have been digitised to date along with some photos of various productions over the last 60 plus years.

To view this online exhibit, visit the Kilkenny Digital Archive via our website at <https://digital-archive.kilkenny.ie/>

This is an ongoing project and if anyone has any programmes from the Deenside Players Castlecomer Pantomime from previous years that they wish to submit for inclusion, please contact Karyn Deegan, Branch Manager Castlecomer Library, on **056 4440561** or email castlecomer@kilkennylibrary.ie

Panto today in Castlecomer

From 1996, the pantomime in Castlecomer has continued

annually, with the exception of the break during Covid-19 in 2020/2021. There was a slight change with tradition when musicals were produced with

DEENSIDE PLAYERS PRESENT

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Castlecomer Community Hall
31st January - 4th February 2023 | 8pm
Matinee @ 2:30pm Sat 4th | €15

SCAN ME



To book your tickets on eventbrite.ie, point your camera & scan QR code

Limited in person box office hours in Community Hall (cash only)

Mon 16th Jan: 10am-12pm
Mon 23rd Jan: 12pm-2pm
Mon 30th Jan: 10am-12pm

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from all at Kilkenny Library!

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year