



PIRATE PRODUCTIONS
MELUSINA
THE PANTOMIME



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Once again I am delighted to write the foreword for what I am sure will be another stupendously successful Pirate production!

Culture takes many forms and I think we can all agree that Luxembourg has plenty to offer. Government at national and local level are, it seems to me, immensely supportive of the arts, including financially, and communes large and small often have impressive facilities for cultural events and offer richly diverse programmes. And, being Luxembourg, theatre and other language-based culture is available not only in the three official languages of the country but in many other languages too, including English. It is also no surprise, given how international Luxembourg's population is, that orchestras, chamber ensembles, theatre and dance groups, jazz, folk and rock bands, authors, artists and performers from every genre and from all over the world come to Luxembourg to entertain us. In short, we're pretty spoilt.

I am particularly pleased that it is possible to see so much British or UK-based talent here in Luxembourg. This year, for example the Philharmonie's programme includes concerts by the London Symphony Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Last Summer the Grand Theatre ended its season with triumphant performances of Akram Khan's *Giselle* by the English National Opera. This year the Grand Theatre's programme includes performances by Akram Khan himself and his Company, Sadlers Wells productions, and of course Cabaret directed by the National Theatre's Rufus Norris. I remember one balmy Saturday last July when you could have gone to hear Trinity College Choir Cambridge singing at the Cathedral and then walked across to the Kinnekswiss to listen to Sir Bryn Terfel. British bands are frequent visitors to Den Atelier, Rockhal and other venues around the country – earlier this year I even managed to get to see the Specials, one of my favourite bands from my teenage years. British artists are regularly shown at Mudam and other galleries in the City and elsewhere. You will all have your own memories of occasions in the last year when you have seen British or UK-based performers here, or tickets that you have bought or plan to buy for performances in 2020. Whether the UK leaves the European Union with or without a deal – and at the time of writing this in mid-October that was still unclear – I am confident both that the UK will continue to attract talent from the EU, as it does from around the world, to its travelling orchestras, theatre and dance groups, and that the rich programme of cultural exchange I have outlined above will continue.

As well as enjoying visiting international performers in Luxembourg we are also spoilt in the amount of local talent that is around, including English-speaking performers and artists. Pirate Productions are of course a brilliant example of this, entertaining us annually with top quality pre-Christmas shows. From the title I assume *Melusina the Pantomime* offers us a local storyline to one of the great entertainment traditions of the English-speaking world. What could be better. So sit back and enjoy!

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Philip Dutton & Valerie Scott - Co-chairs



The legend of Melusina is such a well-known story in Luxembourg, and in other parts of Europe, that perhaps it was only a question of time before a Brit decided to turn the legend into a pantomime with all the traditions associated with British panto – the cross-dressing where the leading comedienne is a man, the leading boy is a girl, lots of silly (and sometimes painful) jokes, well-known songs which have been modified to fit the plot and villagers dancing their little socks off! *Melusina the Pantomime* has it all!

Rachel Parker had the inspiration to research the legend, write the script and direct the production, ably aided and abetted by Neil Johnson as assistant director who had the special remit of making sure the comedy is funny and looking after the 'little people'. For this production we have Eric Gherardi as Musical Director and Dominique Vitali as choreographer supported by Marina Tomasic as Dance Captain. Valerie Scott is in the Producer's seat for this production, supported by Beverley Atkinson and Seth Ruef is wearing the Stage Manager's hat this time round!

We are delighted to be back at Centre Culturel Kinneksbond which feels more like coming home to family. As with several previous productions, the last of which was *Young Frankenstein*, *Melusina the Pantomime* is a co-production with Kinneksbond and we would like to thank everyone: Jérôme Konen, Sam Weisenfeld, Virginie Magis, Ronnie Calimlim, Thierry Pratt and Sabine Sabotic for making us feel so welcome and for all the support they give us every time we come to put on a large production.

It is seven years since Pirate Productions put on their last pantomime and we are delighted to be offering a show that specifically has children in mind – even if many of them are in their 60s and 70s! It is also the first time we've performed a pantomime at Kinneksbond, giving us a great opportunity to offer, once again, this uniquely British form of entertainment here in Luxembourg.

We invite you to relax and enjoy travelling back through time to meet Melusina and Count Siegfried.

Rachel Parker - Director

It's quite a few years ago since I first became involved in musical theatre with Pirates back in the 1990s. Among the parts I was lucky enough to play was a lead was a Principal Boy in a pantomime and I will never forget coming out on that stage and seeing the reaction of the audience, and especially the children to this very special form of theatre.



As my involvement in musical theatre went on, I developed an interest in both writing and directing, including some training courses. I started with combining the two in the show 'Lost in the Stars' in 2017, which was small but very satisfying to me as a chance to tell the story of my favourite composer Kurt Weill.

It seemed natural to try my hand at a pantomime next. It was actually in reading about the various legends of Luxembourg that it came to me that a lot of the tales and characters would lend themselves really well to a pantomime. Melusina, as the most famous legend seemed ideal as the main story, but as I researched a bit deeper, I found all sorts of other interesting tales and characters that I have tried to incorporate. I also wanted to bring in some Luxembourg traditions. I will let you discover which ones during the show!

It's been a challenging but fun process bringing the show to life. I started with my own ideas, the team added to these, and then we all began working out how to turn them into reality. I have a newfound admiration for the creative skills, organisation and sheer hard work involved in a show like this. The cast all threw themselves into the process, ably coping with many long rehearsals with perseverance and good humour.

Pirates is an international group, and though we happily include Luxembourgers both on stage and in the creative team, we are mostly foreigners. So, the show is a celebration of Luxembourg and its history but told in our own way i.e. with a lot of theatrical silliness!

I hope you all enjoy the results of our hard work.

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Eric Gherardi - Musical director



After I started playing music at the age of eight, it became clear very soon that music would be a very important part of my life. Indeed, after finishing school, I went abroad to study orchestral percussion and music teaching in Maastricht (NL). I started playing as a drummer for Pirate Productions when I was still studying percussion in the Netherlands. It was the show called *The Jazz Club* that brought me to the Pirates family and I have been working together with these wonderful people ever since. I have done a few more shows as a drummer and percussionist and I had the honour to be assistant musical director in the productions of *Oliver!* and *Harlem Hotel*. A couple of years ago, a dream then finally became true and I was asked to be the musical director for *Scrooge! The musical*.

I work as a percussion teacher for the Conservatoire in Luxembourg city, and I conduct the Harmonie Municipale in Schifflange, my hometown. I love working on musical projects of all sorts, with my orchestra and with Pirate Productions, and I am happy to be back as a musical director for our current show *Melusina the Pantomime*. This one is very special for me because the director gave me the opportunity to write the arrangements for the songs we are using myself, and even compose some original music for the show. It has been a fantastic and very interesting project as I could learn a lot about the traditional British pantomime, a genre which (I must admit) I only discovered because of this show. But as we worked on the project, I kept discovering more and more fun things you can do in a pantomime and that artistic freedom makes this genre a great opportunity to try out new ideas. A perfect playground for me!

So here I am, in the orchestra pit with a fantastic band, playing music that I have written for them, hopefully making everybody in the theatre enjoy the show as much as we do.

Dominique Vitali - Choreographer



I started dancing at the age of nine after seeing a World Championship on TV. Today I know that had there been a stage school anywhere in or around Luxembourg, that's probably the path I would have chosen. There wasn't, so dancing it would be! The bullying and name calling did nothing to change that, the passion was stronger and at the age of 19 (decades before *Billy Elliot*) I turned professional and opened my own dance school in Metz. At 34, after becoming French professional champion in Latin-American Show dance and European finalist I decided to call it a day, grateful that I was able to fulfill my childhood dream.

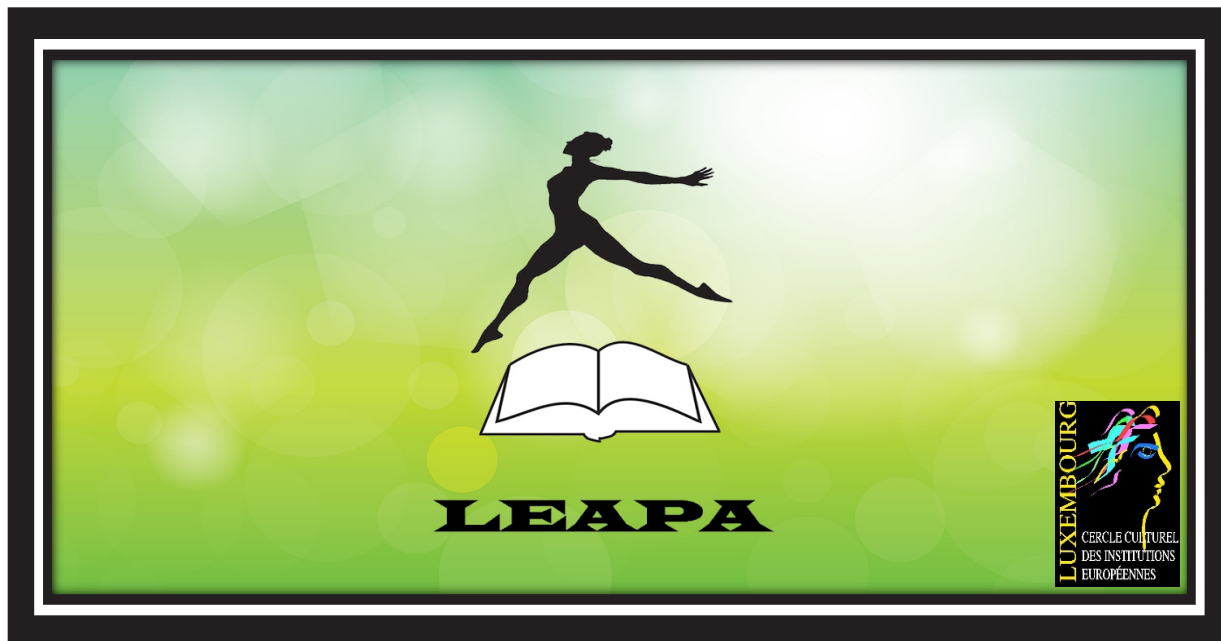
I have danced both as an amateur and a professional with a focus on ballroom and Latin-American dancing. Having also trained in ballet, historical dances, tap dance and flamenco, I kind of have a general knowledge that comes in handy when it gets to staging choreography for musicals playing in various periods of history and with casts of mixed dancing skills. To me, nothing compares to the feeling you get when you see a show coming together and that moment the orchestra plays the overture on opening night! This probably explains why after *Cinderella*, *Stepping Out*, *Showtime*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Nunsense*, *Scrooge the Musical*, and *Young Frankenstein*, *Melusina the Pantomime* is my tenth production with Pirate Productions as a choreographer.

Neil Johnston - Assistant director



I've been a member of Pirates for over 20 years (I take vitamins, in case you're wondering) so I guess I could be called a stalwart. The cast of this production might call me other, less savoury names but I'm sticking with stalwart! It's been a lot of fun coming up with some of the dodgier jokes for this production and directing some of the cast how to slap a thigh with just the right amount of gusto. I can safely say that they are some of the best slappers I've had the privilege to work with (and I've worked with a fair few in my time in Pirates these past two decades, believe you me). There was this one time, at summer camp er perhaps I shouldn't mention that in a family show. I digress, I really hope you enjoy *Melusina the Pantomime* and it puts you in the mood for the festive season to follow.

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Every theatre season, our committee reviews the City of Luxembourg's theatre productions and chooses English-language performances we believe our members would enjoy. We reserve **a limited number of tickets for a specific performance** of those selected productions and, subject to availability, our members can purchase those tickets at a discounted price via our website, www.leapa.eu. **Discounts range from 10% to 20% off the regular ticket price!**

We also meet regularly at the European Foyer (10 Heinrich Heine, L-1720 Luxembourg) to watch, listen to, or take part in radio plays, musicals, or song sessions. We co-organise a Murder Mystery Dinner every year and offer an annual New Year's Dinner, Karaoke Night, Summer BBQ, and Quiz Night, as well as singing workshops, social gatherings, and more!

We are enthusiastic, full of ideas for new and interesting events, and excited about meeting new people and increasing our membership! Please check out our website (www.leapa.eu), like us on Facebook ([@leapa.luxembourg](https://www.facebook.com/leapa.luxembourg)), or email us for more information (info@leapa.eu). We would love to hear from you!

Join LEAPA now for just 25€ and your membership will be good through 31 December 2020. What's more, subject to availability, you can enjoy discounted tickets for *Cabaret*, at the Grand Théâtre on 4 January 2020, and several other popular shows!

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Cast List

Principals

Melusina
Count Siegfried/Siggy
De Kropemann
Mr. Groschlecht
Jean
Josephine/Jo
Jempy
Girl Baddie

Rachel Kathryn Lloyd
Jennie Elizabeth Kenton
Steve Wilkie
Alex Teligadas
Patrick Taylor-Kielty
Frazer Alexander
Mike West
Eva Puc

Adult Ensemble

Chantelle Bonnici
Charlotte Whitehouse
Cherine Makram
Daire Kenny
Daniela Badea
Dominique Vitali
Emma Lasar
Iveta Spröge
Joanne Roberts

Kim Hermans
Kira Stewart
Leila Cabeza
Maiken Thamdrup
Maja Kwasny
Marina Tomasic
Marta Gilotti
Mary-Rose de Vries
Michael Watson

Natacha Wagner
Petra Lahr
Philip Dutton
Soumaya Naouar
Tanya Duhr
Thomas Mortimer
Valerie Scott
Victor Bonanno
Zoe Combeleran

Young Cast Ensemble

Alba Cabeza
Dakota Range
Emma McInerney

Indigo Range
Katy Frank
Marco Puc

Nicolo Broom
Vishana Georgieva



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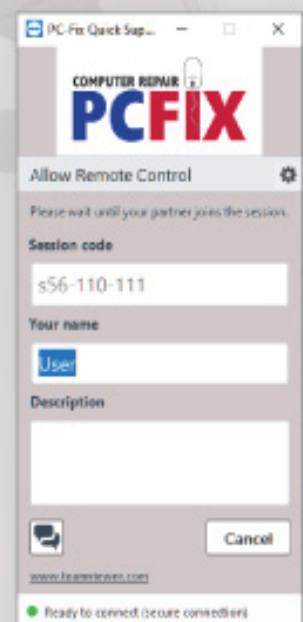
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Principals (in order of appearance)

Steve Wilkie (de Kropemann)

My first Pirates show was a panto, back in the Jurassic era. I've done a few others since then, plus more (and less) serious stuff in between. Has much changed? Most of the cast seem to be younger; I've got a few more lines (oh, and some in the script); the choreography is much more ambitious, but this time I've avoided most of it (and at least this time I don't have to tap-dance). What doesn't change is that a lot of people do a lot of work to put together what you see on stage; they and the backstage crew make it possible for us to perform. So take your seat and enjoy the show. Just a word of warning: I've been told there might be a ghost, but I haven't seen it. Let us know if you do.



Patrick Taylor-Kielty (Jean)

Most of my life has been spent under the lights, I always knew what path I wanted to follow but where it will take me, I still don't know. This will be my third show with Pirates but my first principal role, so my hands are shaking. The main reason I wanted to do this show is because of my dad, I've seen how well he coped with his past two roles and I'm hoping I can do just as well, if not better - scary right? Every time I see my dad perform, I'm left teary-eyed with a smile on my face which is why I will put in 110% in all of the performances, because I know he will be out there watching, teary-eyed with a smile on his face.



Jennie Elizabeth Kenton (Count Siegfried/Siggy)

Ever since I was a little girl I've known that singing, dancing and acting were a huge part of who I am. I was the lead singer in the pop/rock band Jeneli & The Barely Legals for four years, but am currently working on my own solo project as Jeneli. When I was younger, I took part in many plays and school productions and then after a long break of 13 years I was honoured to find my way to Pirate Productions! I was cast as Helen in *Scrooge! The Musical* and then as Inga in last year's production of *Young Frankenstein*. It's a huge pleasure to be able to play the principal boy in this show and it's my very first panto too, which makes it even more special!



Rachel Kathryn Lloyd (Melusina)

My first Pirates show was *Oliver!* in 2016 and I've been involved, either onstage or offstage, with every Pirates show since. This is my first principal role with them, and I am very excited to be able to be a part of Melusina the Pantomime. I have been doing theatre for as long as I can remember, and I am hoping to do musical theatre professionally in the West End.



I currently study classical voice and jazz voice at the Conservatoire as well as ballet and tap at Ecole de Danse Jaga Antony. I am also preparing for the role of Young Catherine in the upcoming BGT production. In between my training, I am working on my Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, specializing in creative writing and music, with The Open University as well as teaching drama at the European School.

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Principals (in order of appearance)

Frazer Alexander (Josephine/Jo)

Hello Girls and Boys! I'm accustomed to drag; as a small boy, aged 6, I dressed up as a glamorous lady for carnival. Having sung in the church choir from a very young age, singing also comes naturally to me. So the dame role suits me down to the ground and with such an interesting storyline for the pantomime, I knew I had to be part of it. After my first taste of Pirates (*Harlem Hotel*, 2017) I knew there would be another opportunity. Pirates runs in our family, with my father Stuart having been in numerous productions since we arrived in Luxembourg in 1983. I have always admired my father for his talent. Since returning from the UK in 2015 after a 10-year military career, I have also been in two cabaret shows (2017 & 2019) with my local brass band in Lorentzweiler.



Mike West (Jemmy)

I burst on to the stage at the age of five as Second Shepherd in Winterbourne Road Infant School's nativity play. I must have impressed because I got the role again the following year. However, sickness on opening night drew elevation to being one of the Three Kings because I knew the line. I have never looked back since.



I have been a regular member of Pirates since 1995, popping up in shows for Pirate Productions and NWTC, singing, dancing, knitting, being a soldier, doing panto, being a police torturer or a man wrapped in a bra. I have even scaled the dizzy heights of being a stage hand. I tapdanced once but all the video evidence is safely locked away in a damp corner of the garage. I am glad to be back on the boards again, working with old friends from many shows and having a fine old time.

Alex Teligadas (Mr. Groschlecht)

I initially joined Pirates in 1997 for *Oklahoma*, where I played the villain. It was a great experience, so I stayed on to participate in many more productions. I have been a musician, a wing singer, a backstage gopher and even a director, but for me the real thrill is still to be on stage. Over the years, I've been in several pantomimes, notably as one of Cinderella's hideous sisters and Aladdin's hopelessly daft brother. In this production, after all this time, I'm a villain again! I'm sure I will thoroughly enjoy plotting evil schemes and subverting all those silly honest people with my crooked ways... Oh Yes I Will!



Eva Puc (Girl Baddie)

In this play, I'm playing the Girl Baddie. It's a really interesting and fun character and I hope you'll enjoy watching it as much as I enjoy acting it. I've done many productions in the past including school plays, *Oliver!* (2016) and *Scrooge the Musical!* (2017) with Pirates, playing Gollum in *The Hobbit* (2017) with NWTC. I have been in numerous films as an extra or supporting role and performing in an opera in the Grand Theatre. I'm also a student at Conservatoire where I play the violin, piano and have singing lessons. I absolutely adore acting and singing (especially in musicals) and my biggest dream is to study musical and dramatic arts in London.



Young Cast Ensemble

Alba Cabeza (10 years) (Minion, Flower girl)

This is my first time in a show, so I'm very excited. I think that this pantomime will be a lot of fun. I like that I'm a flower girl and one of the minions. I like the minions because they are funny and I like the flower girl because she is different from the other characters. Apart from acting, I also play the drums. My grandfather has been in lots of Pirates shows so I'm happy to be continuing the tradition.



Dakota Range (11 years) (Minion)

I am from Australia, and I have been living in Luxembourg for two years. This is my first show with Pirate Productions and I hope it will not be the last. Recently, I co-starred in a film in Czechia for a New York University project. I have also recorded two songs in a studio. I am very much looking forward to being in the show!



Emma McInerney (6 years) (Very young Melusina)

This is the first time I have been in a Pirates show and it was a bit scary in the beginning but now it's better because I know what I have to do. I play the part of the very young Melusina and I'm told that I am the youngest cast member they've ever had! I go to the International School in Junglinster and have been doing ballet since I was three.



Indigo Range (10 years) (Minion)

This is my first time being in a Pirates production. I have also done a short film for NYU and a last year, I was in a promotional video clip for Young Frankenstein for Pirates. I love acting because I feel you can do anything when you're on stage. It's been such fun rehearsing with my fellow actors and I've made friends on this journey. I hope you love the show.



Katy Frank (9 years) (Minion, Young Melusina, Flower girl)

I've watched all the Pirates' shows since *Oliver!* because my brother was in them, so when I had the opportunity to audition I was delighted. I have enjoyed the dancing and singing. I do hope you enjoy the show.



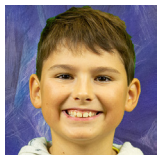
Marko Puc (11 years) (Minion)

I really want to be an astronaut. In fact, I hesitate between my space and my Lego designer career. In the meantime, I spend my time playing guitar, drums, attending choir and solfège but I always liked singing and acting like my older sister. It all started when I played in *Scrooge! The Musical* (2017). Since then I've played in many school musicals and now, I have come all the way to playing a minion and a water sprite in *Melusina the Pantomime*. See if you can spot me!



Nicolô Broom (11 years) (Minion)

I featured in my first Pirate Production as one of the orphans in *Oliver!* when I was seven years old. Though I had to miss the school trip, I still did it because it was a lot of fun. After that, I started taking musical theatre lessons until this year then I got the opportunity to go back and be in another Pirate Productions show as one of the Minions in *Melusina the Pantomime*.



Vishana Georgieva (11 Years) (Minion)

This is my first show with the Pirates and I am super excited! My last role was Bobby Cobblestone in my school's *Rockbottom* performance. I enjoy dancing classical and jazz ballet a lot and playing the cello and singing! I dream of becoming a Broadway actress one day. I saw *Scrooge the Musical!* by the Pirates Christmas 2017, and earlier *Oliver!* in 2016, and loved them. It is a great pleasure to be in the company of so many talented people!





Orchestra

Bob Rumé
Daniela Kryouger
Jeff Schmit
Liz Turner
Luca Sghirinzetti
Marc Gillet
Marc Schmit
Martine Marx
Michèle Spanier
Pascal Thiry

Drums/Percussion
Bass
Clarinet/Bass clarinet
Keyboard
Guitar
Trumpet
Baritone saxophone
Flute/Tenor saxophone
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Trumpet

Wing Singers

Antonia Corvasce
Jasmin Singh
William Stock



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Running Order

ACT I

1. *Prologue by the Alzette* - The fairy Pressyne must give up her baby daughter
2. *In the Countryside* - Welcome to the story. Count Siegfried (Siggy) and his friend Jean are hunting and Melusina is now grown up
3. *The Village Square* - A local couple are short of cash, and some baddies try and rob them but fail
4. *Beside the Alzette* - Siggy finds Melusina again and they agree to marry, then a castle appears
5. *Inside the Castle* - Locals arrive looking for jobs
6. *Melusina's Dressing Table* - Melusina tells a secret
7. *Inside the Castle* - A bishop arrives and the baddies have a suggestion
8. *In Mel's Chambers* - Siggy finds out Melusina's secret with disastrous results

ACT 2

1. *Outside the Castle* - The people are distraught and so is Siggy. A search for Melusina begins
2. *Down in the Grund* - At the Stierchen Bridge, Jo and family make a search
3. *Out on a Heath* - Three witches speak to Siggy and Jean, who return to the castle
4. *Inside the Castle* - The baddies fall out, but a new gang of villains arrive. The good guys are thrown in the dungeon
5. *In the Casemates* - Siggy and Melusina are both lost, seemingly trapped. An old friend arrives
6. *Inside the Castle* - A fight breaks out and is joined by more and more people, some with a quite unexpected attitude
7. *The Ending* - To be revealed



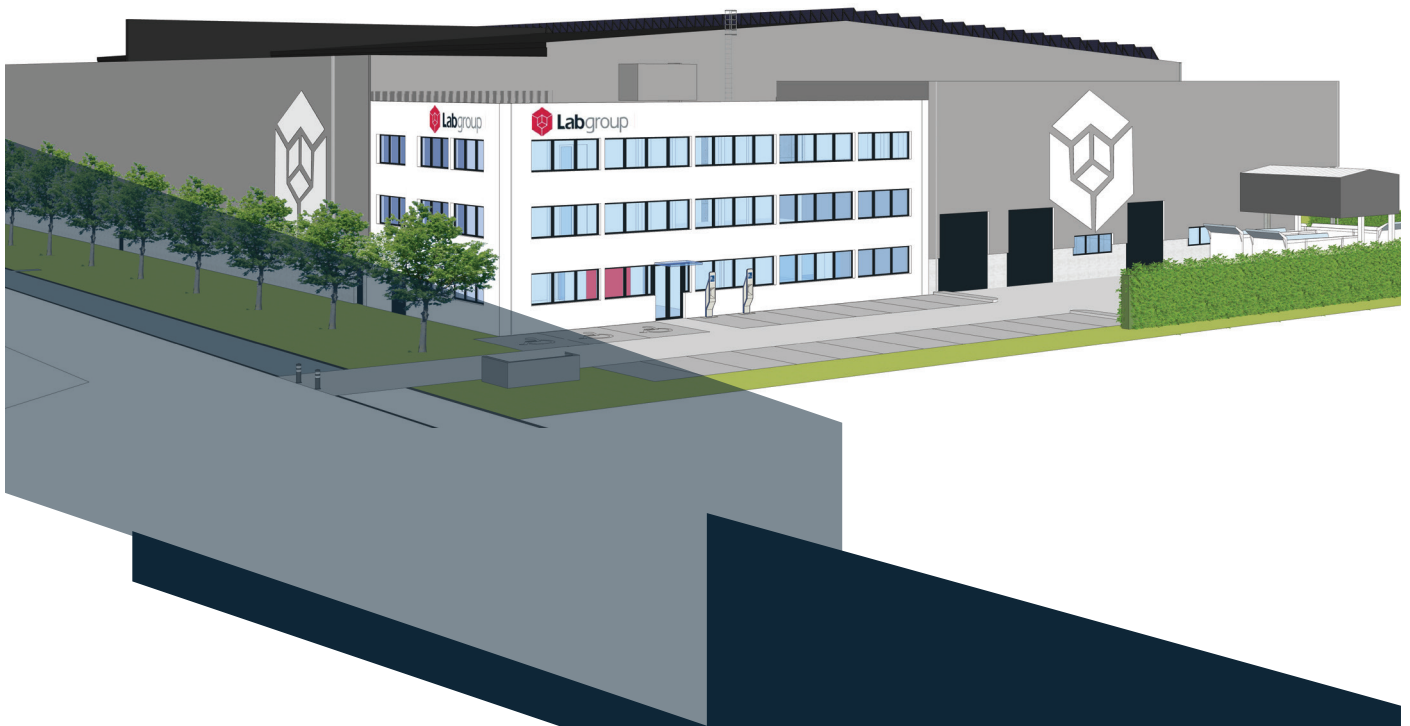




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Adult Ensemble (in order of first name)

Chantelle Bonnici (Pressyne, Sister: Marie-Chantelle, Villager)

My first panto role was in *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* in Malta in 2010 and it was then that I caught the theatre bug. Since joining Pirates' multicultural theatre family in 2016 I've loved and learnt a lot from every role- from helping backstage with hair and makeup, to chorus and solo parts. This year I get to embody a magical creature and girl power - what more can a girl ask for? Theatre makes life bearable - it's absolutely wonderful to leave the daily grind behind you and come to the theatre to make magic on the side - you should try it. Get ready for some cheeky panto humour and surprises along the way!



Charlotte Whitehouse (Sister: Marie-Lynn, Villager)

I have been doing theater since I was five and have taken theater classes and been in quite a few plays such as *Grease* and *Bertie's War*. This is the second time I have been a show with Pirates. I love to try new activities and new challenges and last year I was in *Young Frankenstein*. It was a great experience and I was surrounded by numerous talented people and I still am. I hope to pursue an acting career in the future.



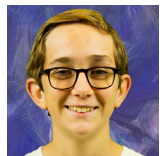
Cherine Makram (Water Sprite, Dark Nasty, Wall #6, Villager)

I am a veteran of Fortune 100 companies working as Sales Manager in the Middle East. Moving to Luxembourg three years ago for my husband's work along with our kids was a defining moment for me. It has allowed me to rediscover myself and follow my passion. I've started my own radio show *Let's be Friends* on Radio ARA. A new passion took hold after watching Pirates show last year, *Young Frankenstein*. I was mesmerized, baffled and smitten by the magic of singing, acting and dancing in this colourful musical. I'm happy to be part of an incredible production such as *Melusina the Pantomime*.



Daire Kenny (Irish Nasty)

This is my first show with Pirates but I have been involved with the youth group of New World Theatre Club since I moved to Luxembourg two years ago. I previously lived in Jamaica where I played Quasimodo in a musical adaptation of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* and the Count in a Jamaican adaptation of *Frozen* for which I won the best actor award. I have always loved watching pantomimes and I am over the moon to be involved in this production.



Daniela Badea (Water Sprite, Sister: Marie-Celeste)

Dancing was my first love, but I've always been drawn to the theatre as well. My very first role (in my first year of primary school) was that of a fox, and I remember wearing a real fox pelt as my costume. Many school productions followed, until I turned 14 and went to high school. Then there was a very long period of theatrical drought in my life, until I came to Luxembourg and, one day, was persuaded by a friend to audition for the Pirates' next show, *Calamity Jane* (I thought - I can't sing!). Nine years later, I am still here, singing, dancing, acting and having a great time!



Dominique Vitali (Willibrord)

The first time I found myself centre stage in a Pirates' show was in 2006, playing Zaza/Albin in *La Cage aux Folles*. When, 13 years later Rachel Parker called me saying that on top of my job as a choreographer she would like to coax me back on stage for a smaller part as she needed "a camp Bishop who can dance" (your words Rachel, not mine) to play Willibrord, the man who inspired the good people of Luxembourg to create the dancing procession of Echternach, my first reaction was to think: talk about type casting... and my second was: who cares, sounds like fun! At this stage, as a good Catholic boy, I can only hope that my portraying of the less known "fun" side of the Saint won't get me excommunicated!



Adult Ensemble (in order of first name)

Emma Lasar (Water Sprite, Horse (front end), Sister: Marie-Paule, Villager)



In 2015, I auditioned for *Oliver!* just for fun not expecting to be part of the show. Until then I had never had any singing, dancing or even theater experience. To my great surprise I was accepted. It was possibly one of the best experiences in my life and theater became my passion. I discovered a whole new world!!!! Since becoming a member of NWTC Youth Group I took part in several shows (*The Hobbit*, *Berties War* to name but two). When I heard that Pirate Productions was doing a show again I was thrilled and auditioned. I am really excited to now be part of the *Melusina the Pantomime* cast!!!!

Iveta Sproge (Water Sprite, Sister: Marie-Thérèse, Villager)



My dancing and acting experience is about four years in total in my life. When I was eight years old I participated in theatre at school and also did a bit of ballroom dancing. Then when I was 17 years old - I did folk dancing for about a year, and now for the first time I have been taking ballet classes for six months. Today my childhood's dream - to dance on the stage is being fulfilled, by taking part in this wonderful musical comedy, *Melusina the Pantomime*. Thank you to Rachel for believing in me and having me in the cast, thank you to Dom, our fantastic choreographer, for the inspiration and motivation and a big thank you to our musical director Eric. Finally, I'd like to thank all the talented people I have had the honour to work with.

Joanne Roberts (Water Sprite, Dark Nasty, Wall #5, Villager)



I enjoy going to the theatre and I have seen a few musicals by Pirate Productions. I have never participated in any show before, but after trying karaoke with more or less success, my friends and I decided to go for singing lessons, which I have very much enjoyed. I was encouraged by my singing teacher and friends to go to the next auditions for the upcoming show of *Melusina the Pantomime*, so I thought, why not have a go. I was thrilled to be accepted to be part of the ensemble troupe, but at the same time, very nervous. It has been a fun, demanding and rewarding experience for me and I have met some wonderful talented people.

Kim Hermans (Belgian Nasty, Villager)



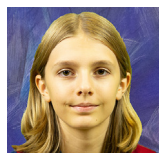
I am Belgian and arrived in 1997 in Luxemburg. I helped Pirates backstage in *Cinderella* in 2003. Because I'm not a singer or dancer I decided to support the group by watching their shows instead of participating. In 2018 I returned to Pirates by helping backstage for *Young Frankenstein*. When I heard about auditions for a panto I decided to give it a try. I was delighted to hear that I passed the auditions and that I got the part of the Belgian nasty. I enjoyed the rehearsals and now it's time to go on stage. Enjoy the show!

Kira Stewart (Witch, Villager)



This is my third Pirates Musical after *Oliver!* and *Scrooge: The Musical!* I have always wanted to act as a fantasy creature and finally I get to be a witch! I don't think I'm a very scary witch though - more funny and dozy than frightening! I also have the pleasure of being in a show with my daughter (Zoe Combeleran) even if my dance steps aren't quite as fast as hers! Our director has done a fantastic job of writing this script about the local Luxembourg legend from scratch, saving us money as there are no performing rights. Congratulations Rachel!

Leila Cabeza (Young lady Melusina, Villager)



I started acting two years ago with the Youth Theatre section of the New World Theatre Club. We only performed in workshops and I always acted in a small part, so, technically, this is my first proper production, so I'm quite excited! I'm playing nearly-adult-Melusina and I quite like it because she is so special and different from other people. She has a sort of high-ranking but kind air about her, and I like getting the feel of being her.

Maja Kwasny (Water Sprite, Sister: Marie-Anne, Villager)



I've dreamed about doing musical theatre since I was little and *Melusina the Pantomime* is going to be my first musical. I had trouble finding an English-language theatre group, but since finding out about Pirates, I'm very excited to participate in this and their future productions as well! Being cast as an ensemble member definitely posed a challenge for me, but I wouldn't change it for anything and I really enjoyed being part of such a diverse and fun chorus line.

Marina Tomasic (Water Sprite, Sister: Marie-Claire, Nun)



I first joined Pirates in 2004. Since then, I've participated almost every year in one of the productions, nevertheless this is the first time the altos get to sing the main tune. Now I finally understand why the sopranos always look so smug! Life is so much easier when one doesn't have to sing some strange harmony. Also for the first time I am a water sprite and a nun and for once in many years I am nobody's mother! Life is good.

Marta Gilotti (Sister: Marie-Christine)



This is my first experience with Pirates. I saw last year's musical, *Young Frankenstein*, because a friend of mine was in it. After the show I decided that I wanted to join because I have always liked dancing, acting and singing. The opportunity came with *Melusina: The Pantomime*. The ambience I have found with Pirates has been great and I have made lots of new friends. So far, I have been acting only with my school's drama group, which I'm so fond of. I love performing and being on stage. This is what I would like to keep on doing.

Mary-Rose de Vries (Water Sprite, Dark Nasty, Wall #1, Villager)



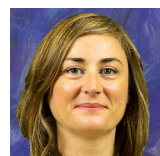
I have always been wondering what it would be like to play in a musical or pantomime. Since I was a child I loved singing & dancing, going to musicals, and have enjoyed all the Pirates shows. Finally, I decided to jump outside of my comfort zone and to go on stage despite my knee problems. I am excited and nervous for the big day, and I can also see how much time is involved in trying to improve oneself. A big applause to all those involved! We hope to be rewarded with a full house and to reach that feeling of satisfaction and pride which will make us tremendously happy!

Michael Watson (British Nasty, Villager)



So after having finished playing the Vicar in *Young Frankenstein* last year, I am now making my third appearance at my second home as I like to call it, Centre Culturel Kinneksbond Mamer. I've been a fan of pantomime villains since I was a kid, and it's a part I've always wanted to play. But finally tonight you will see me playing a henchman to the baddie Mr Groschlecht. This is my third pantomime appearance, having done two back in the UK. Make the most of me in this show, as this year will be my last stage appearance. Next year it's down into the orchestra pit, so if you hear a trumpet in a future production, that'll be me. Fear not, for I will embrace the stage once again in the near future. I want to thank the cast and crew for giving me a wonderful time and colourful journey in panto land. Tonight is going to be the best panto you've ever seen. "OH NO IT WON'T, OH YES IT WILL"

Natacha Wagner (Dark Nasty, Wall #2, Villager)



This time last year, I was working as a special educational needs teaching assistant in a primary school in Samoa to help children with learning difficulties. On one occasion, I did a lesson that introduced me and my native country to the kids. I talked about Luxembourg and showed them photographs of famous landmarks. I also explored some of Luxembourg's enthralling stories, including the legend of Melusina and Count Sigfried of Luxembourg. Who'd have thought back then, that one year later, I'd actually be in a show about Melusina? Being part of the cast is indeed a pleasure and I'm thrilled to share the stage with so many talented people!

Petra Lahr (Burgermeisterin, Wall #3, Villager)



I have loved musical comedies, stage shows, dance, theatre since I was a kid. I took some acting and singing classes in Paris and, while working as Scuba instructor at Club Med, I really loved being part of the nightly stage shows. I have also loved creating the original decor and set for the Kannerwonsch Galas (ex-Make-A-Wish) in Luxembourg since 2015. I joined Voices International in 2014 and sang with them for eight seasons. This is my first time in a Pirates show and I am very grateful for this new experience.



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Philip Dutton (Water Sprite, British Nasty, Villager)



Sometimes being involved in Pirates can be a bit perverse. Most of the time people want you to do the things you're good at but for this show they want me to dance! Luckily, I am quite tall which means I get to stand at the back. This has two advantages... the audience cannot see me very well but I can see what all the good dancers in front of me are doing! I also have small speaking part as a British Nasty... type-casting again?? Actually, being in a Pirates chorus is great fun. I recommend it to anyone who is thinking about perhaps appearing on stage for the first time.

Soumaya Naouar (Water Sprite, Witch, Villager)



I was born and raised in Tunisia, in north Africa and I am passionate about art in all its forms. My story with theatre started when I was 10 years old when I used to participate in school plays and then carried on till university where I joined an amateur club of theatre lovers. We had five beautiful years of writing, directing and playing. I came to Luxembourg in December 2018 and then came across Pirate Productions, I sent an email and went to meet the troupe in Schifflange at the auditions. And now, here I am and happy to say that I am one of the witches in the *Melusina the Pantomime*!

Tanja Duhr (Water Sprite, Sister: Marie-Angelique, Nun, Ghost)



A passionate dancer, I've been in many dance shows, but also acted in theatre pieces (playing a lighthouse owner in my first play) and performed in musicals at school and later with Pirates (*Jazz Club*, *Lost In The Stars*, *Young Frankenstein*). *Melusina the pantomime* came to life with Rachel's vision and Neil's help. Having Dom as a choreographer is great and so much fun. All the cast have put their heart into this and I hope you enjoy it. I'm a good ghost that just wants to play... honest! ;)

Thomas Mortimer (German Nasty, Villager)



My first performance with Pirates and all I can say is, sorry! Those hairy legs just had to get a spotlight! I've done some previous performances as a child but this will be my first time on stage for quite a while, assuming you don't count when I've run training sessions. I've enjoyed the time rehearsing with Pirates and hope to help out in future productions, after all they are such fantastic bunch of people. I hope you enjoy the show and don't forget to join in!

Valerie Scott (Witch, Wall #4, Villager)



When I first joined Pirates over 20 years ago, I was given the role of a witch in a pantomime which allowed me to stomp around the stage being angry with everything and everybody – very cathartic! Since then I have been a duchess, a baroness, a hotel owner, a sweet girlfriend, a saleswoman who liked to sell things 'on the side' not to mention being a singer and dancer in numerous other productions. In this production of *Melusina the pantomime*, I am a witch – again, and am experiencing a touch of déjà vu! However, this is on a much smaller scale than the first time and there are three of us 'hubbling and bubbling'! When I'm not stirring potions, I'm #4 of the wall in the Casemates and the ever ubiquitous villager! We've had fun putting this show together and hope you enjoy watching it!

Victor Bonanno (French Nasty)



I've been involved with Pirates ever since I moved to Luxembourg from Malta eight years ago. I had heard of Pirates when my friends took me to watch that year's panto, *Aladdin*. I loved it so much that I signed up to join their next production. This time, I'm very excited to be involved in this year's panto, *Melusina the Pantomime*, with such a talented cast and team. I hope you enjoy it too and, who knows, maybe some of you out there might be tempted to join us for our next production!

Zoe Combeleran (Water sprite, Horse (back-end), Villager)



I am half French and half South African and go to the Vauban school. I love singing, dancing and acting as you get to express yourself in many different ways. I have been part of several plays such as *The Hobbit*, *Bertie's War* and *Treasure Island* with NWTC Youth Group. This is my first time in Pirates and I have enjoyed working with all the cast! Hope you enjoy the play!

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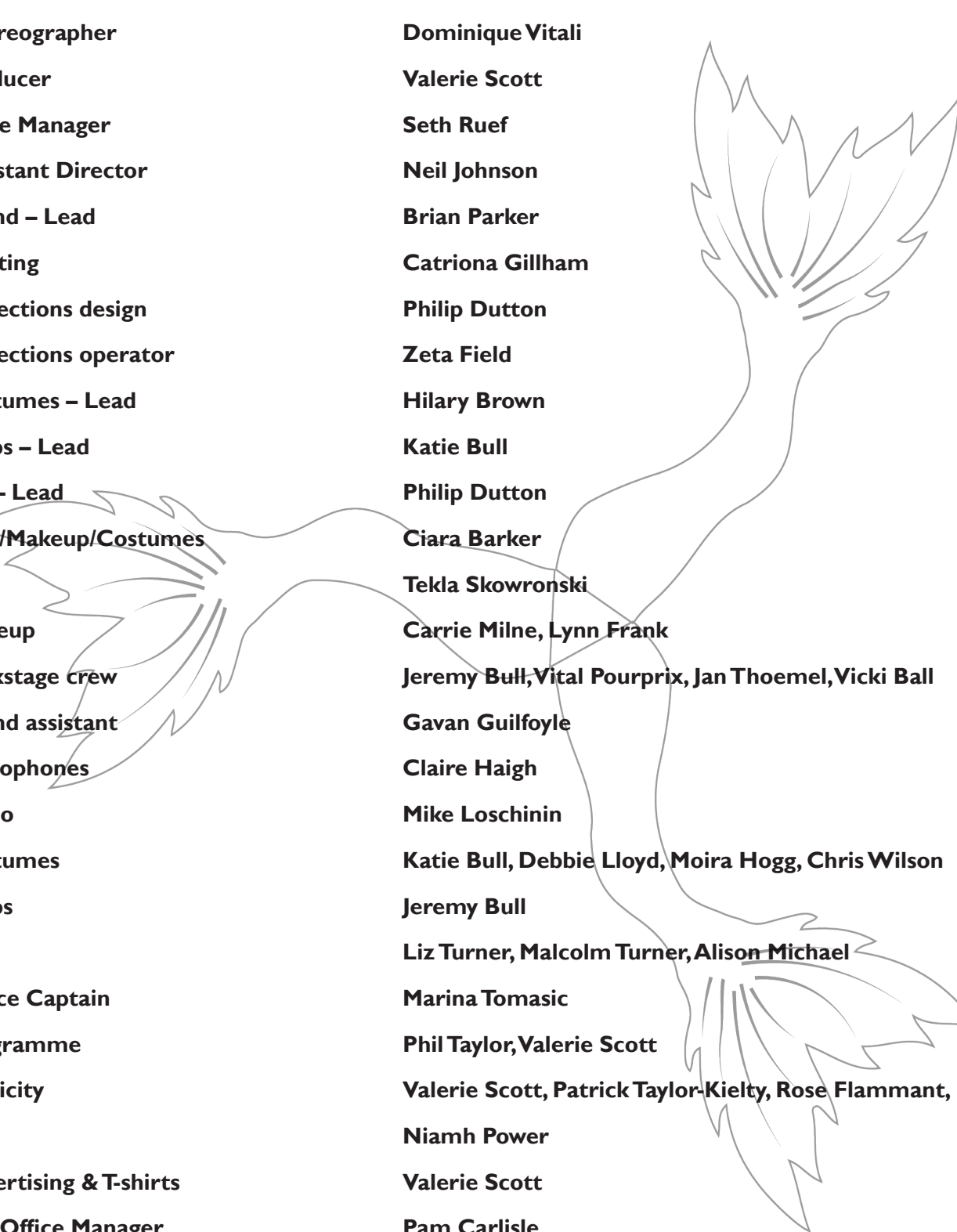
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Production Team



Director	Rachel Parker
Musical Director	Eric Gherardi
Choreographer	Dominique Vitali
Producer	Valerie Scott
Stage Manager	Seth Ruef
Assistant Director	Neil Johnson
Sound – Lead	Brian Parker
Lighting	Catriona Gillham
Projections design	Philip Dutton
Projections operator	Zeta Field
Costumes – Lead	Hilary Brown
Props – Lead	Katie Bull
Set – Lead	Philip Dutton
Hair/Makeup/Costumes	Ciara Barker
Hair	Tekla Skowronski
Makeup	Carrie Milne, Lynn Frank
Backstage crew	Jeremy Bull, Vital Pourprix, Jan Thoemel, Vicki Ball
Sound assistant	Gavan Guilfoyle
Microphones	Claire Haigh
Video	Mike Loschinin
Costumes	Katie Bull, Debbie Lloyd, Moira Hogg, Chris Wilson
Props	Jeremy Bull
Set	Liz Turner, Malcolm Turner, Alison Michael
Dance Captain	Marina Tomasic
Programme	Phil Taylor, Valerie Scott
Publicity	Valerie Scott, Patrick Taylor-Kielty, Rose Flammant, Niamh Power
Advertising & T-shirts	Valerie Scott
Box Office Manager	Pam Carlisle
Bar Managers	Beverley Atkinson, Blathnaid O’hAnnrachain, Simon Critchlow
Front of House Volunteers Co-ordinator	Erin Boggs
Cast Party & Gifts	Beverley Atkinson

Production Team

Valerie Scott - Producer



So, here we are again putting on another big show at the lovely Kinneksbond in Mamer. Ever since we knew that we were going to put on a pantomime based on the legend of Melusina, we have been finding references to her and her story all over the place – in British historical novels, as the name of a wine from the Douro in Portugal, primary school children in Samoa hearing about the legend. My role as producer is to be responsible for everything that doesn't go 'on stage' which includes box office, bar, publicity, programme, cast party, gifts, advertising – I don't do everything as there are some other great people who help with many of these things but, if you'd like to be a part of a show but not go on stage then helping in one of these areas would earn our deepest gratitude – well, maybe not our 'deepest' gratitude, but we'd be really pleased. Just send an email to chair@pirates.lu to find out more – no commitment.

Seth Ruef - Stage manager



I was first introduced to back stage work when my good friend and colleague Mike West asked me to step in and help with *Oliver!*. Since then, I have helped with *Scrooge the Musical!*, *Young Frankenstein*, with *Pirates* and with *Pillowman* and *The Seagull* with NWTC. I also joined my local theatre club and last year performed in *Alles fir e Millionär*. I have since become a member of the Theaterfrënn Teinten a.s.b.l. and actively support our local 'Duerftheater'.

Hilary Brown - Costumes lead



I became involved in theatre costumes for plays and musical productions around 1990 as I had a bit more time to spare as our children became older. I originally assisted on productions with a proper seamstress and I learned a lot from her. I have been involved in several Pirate and New World productions. I always enjoy them as I get to sew, as well as meeting new people. These days it has become more difficult to find enough volunteers to help out with sewing. I am grateful to Chris Wilson and Moira Hogg this time. This time I have been part of a team with Katie Bull and Debbie Lloyd making costumes and props which has been a change for me but fun at times! As usual, the preparation has been challenging at times but a lot of laughs have been had along the way.

Katie Bull - Props lead



A bit wacky, a touch off-piste, lateral (well, diagonal....maybe just wonky?) thinking...the ability to live with a crazy amount of mess ... seems to be the perfect recipe to experiment with props and a little bit of costume. I landed in Luxembourg several years ago and was lucky enough to bump into theatrical people. Having time on my hands it was an easy fit to get involved. I love making and creating things so props was my obvious area. And I'm still at it. Love the challenge, love the people I work with and, it may be voluntary, but I get richly rewarded with compliments ... when it goes right! Fancy helping me out? Please contact me via Pirates!

Philip Dutton - Set design and construction lead



My father built sets for school productions and local theatre groups. That was my very first introduction to theatre. I have often helped with bits of set for shows but this is the first time I have taken on the whole job. Whilst the designing scenery and projections could all be done from home, the real work happened at "the barn" in Filsdorf which became my second home for many months! I would like to thank the Parker family who handled much of the set painting and also Katie Bull who guided me on the best way to get the Pantomime Look for many of the pieces.

Brian Parker - Sound lead



As a long-time member of Pirates I have performed in quite a lot of shows over the years and also directed a few but I have always had an interest in the technical side of theatre so I am delighted to be in charge of sound for *Melusina the Pantomime*. Technical work in live theatre is always an exciting prospect and is somewhat of a “family business” when your wife happens to be the Writer and Director. Since we have had the same arrangement before for the show *Lost in the Stars*, I have a reasonably optimistic expectation of still being married by the end of the run.

Catriona Gillham - Lighting



Having been lucky enough to belong to Pirates for four years now, I've alternated between being onstage (most recently exploiting my annoying, shrill voice to play snobbish New-Yorker Elizabeth Benning in *The Young Frankenstein*) and doing the lights (*Harlem Hotel*, *Scrooge* and now *Melusina*). I think it's important for performers to give back to the theatre society by getting involved backstage from time to time, and to see just how much work goes on behind the scenes for us to enjoy the spotlight.

For me, the best bits of doing the lights are the sociable production meetings (especially the food and drink), the exploration of the script and the music, the creative process of designing the lights to match the various moods and settings, watching the production progress, and finally getting to see the performance over and over on every show night (you notice and appreciate something different every time!).

Ciara Barker - Hair/make-up/costumes



Like most Pirates, I enjoy 'hoofing' it up on stage and have enjoyed all - well, almost all, the roles I have been given over the years from being an upper class twit, a nun, a restaurant owner to being *Frankenstein's* 'bit on the side'! And also like many Pirates, I have helped backstage on numerous occasions from doing costumes, being assistant stage manager, doing makeup, patrolling and controlling everything going on in the dressing rooms. This time, I am helping with the makeup & hair/wigs and going OTT (over the top) with the outrageous make up for the dame – which is great fun! I hope you enjoy the show.

Tekla Skowronski – Hair



I joined Pirate Productions upon my arrival in Luxembourg some 30 years ago and my first musical was *Oedipus Tyrannus* (1992) when I had to wear pink scrubs and a full pig's head mask and added jangling earrings to add a touch of class! What an introduction to the club! We even took that show to Prague and the proceeds went towards buying a washing machine for a school. I trod the boards again in *Fiddler on the Roof* (1996) and in the *Music Hall* (1996). As a hair stylist by trade, but consider myself to be a creative entrepreneur, I started helping backstage with doing hair for *The Mikado* (1996), *Stepping Out* (2003), *Oliver!* (2016), *Young Frankenstein* (2018) and now *Melusina the pantomime*. It's fun and challenging to do hair for Pirates as there is such a variety of coiffs to produce!

Carrie Milne - Make-up



I have been involved in quite a few Pirates shows over the years, both on and off stage, starting with their production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore* in 1987 – which is over 30 years ago! I have enjoyed being part of the make-up team for several shows since then including *Scrooge the Musical*, *Oliver!*, *Aladdin*, *Calamity Jane* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* to name but a few!

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T	I	A	V	P	V	I	N	M	G	D	S	I	S	T	E	O	S	L	O	G	B	R	N	S	E	I	T	A	N
S	W	D	A	Y	O	E	K	U	R	R	O	P	M	N	O	G	F	E	B	N	U	E	T	Y	T	G	O	V	E
E	M	A	R	I	E	C	H	R	O	S	V	I	A	I	E	B	I	M	E	I	L	G	I	B	I	C	B	O	E
E	T	D	L	A	K	E	X	B	S	V	K	I	N	D	A	U	M	E	A	K	E	R	N	I	I	N	M	E	J
R	R	I	M	L	S	Y	A	B	S	N	I	N	E	G	E	E	G	E	I	K	K	E	A	L	C	A	T	O	T
I	S	M	E	B	B	M	E	L	S	E	Z	R	E	K	I	R	B	S	C	R	E	U	D	A	R	D	N	I	T
A	P	O	V	E	I	T	S	N	C	N	A	B	L	O	T	T	C	C	O	A	E	B	A	W	A	X	E	N	H
L	R	E	E	Y	G	M	E	P	O	R	K	R	N	I	W	C	F	P	S	D	U	I	E	I	C	Q	L	H	E
C	I	Y	L	T	B	I	B	B	S	M	I	E	I	A	I	U	E	O	C	E	B	G	A	L	E	P	O	R	K
E	I	U	E	B	R	O	M	O	S	O	Y	E	T	F	X	M	Y	R	R	Y	U	B	A	L	I	N	Q	M	R
I	S	M	B	A	D	D	E	B	C	B	A	E	R	N	T	S	R	G	R	T	C	A	R	T	J	E	N	A	O
R	E	S	S	E	E	A	K	I	H	U	S	F	N	T	L	O	E	S	G	M	H	D	P	O	R	K	V	A	P
A	I	L	C	R	E	M	K	S	L	L	E	B	E	O	I	R	Q	S	G	M	E	E	L	U	S	N	N	E	T
M	A	R	I	B	K	A	M	O	N	M	E	Y	D	D	M	C	A	A	S	C	M	A	M	B	I	N	T	O	T
N	Z	N	I	K	R	A	I	N	E	I	A	V	K	E	O	Y	Q	D	S	O	M	A	N	S	S	U	N	Q	R
A	A	D	A	N	C	I	N	G	I	N	T	H	E	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	R	N	A	E	E	M	A	M	E
L	I	O	E	E	R	T	S	I	O	T	U	S	U	L	M	S	I	N	A	T	S	G	M	B	R	L	E	N	T
L	A	I	D	E	K	R	O	D	A	N	C	Y	A	L	S	I	G	R	O	M	J	E	A	T	S	T	V	O	S
L	B	R	T	S	O	I	S	B	E	H	M	O	U	I	R	X	S	A	E	M	E	U	S	I	D	I	Q	E	I
P	G	R	O	S	C	H	L	E	C	H	T	A	G	W	I	L	L	D	O	A	G	R	O	I	O	C	A	B	S
A	R	K	I	N	D	D	J	E	J	M	I	G	S	Q	I	O	I	N	E	C	N	A	R	F	E	I	R	A	M
M	G	R	E	U	B	P	R	E	S	S	Y	N	E	U	D	I	E	A	M	A	E	R	A	M	N	N	S	R	A
S	E	E	M	U	S	I	A	A	B	A	U	C	K	I	E	T	I	Q	A	I	U	S	N	U	T	T	Q	E	U
Y	W	A	T	E	N	N	I	K	K	R	A	D	A	S	T	I	E	M	E	L	U	S	I	N	S	T	R	D	Q

Can you find the following characters and songs?

DANCING IN THE STREET

DARK KING

GROSCHLECHT

IT MUST BE LOVE

JEAN

JEMPY

JO

KROPEMAN

LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

MARIE CHRISTINE

MARIE CLAIRE

MARIE FRANCE

MEL

MELUSINA

MINIONS

MONEY MONEY MONEY

PRESSYNE

SIGGY

WATERSPRITES

WILLI



SISTERS ARE DOING FOR THEMSELVES

Thanks for your support

We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their help with this production. Help ranges from providing rehearsal space to having us on their radio programme for an interview.

ACL
ARA City Radio
Bernard Massard
British Embassy
Chronicle.lu
Culturando
Delano
Director and Staff at Kinneksbond
Harmonie Municipale Schiffange
John Brigg
Luxembourg Times
Radio Ara
Waldorf School
Wendy Winn

We'd also like to thank partners and offspring who have had to put up with all this!

<div data-bbox="124 1137 758 1326"><h2>WALDORFSCHOOL</h2><p><i>The joy of learning!</i></p></div> <div data-bbox="199 1361 746 1442"><p>Our school houses the following: Preschool Kindergarden Afternoon care Primary Secondary International Baccalaureate</p></div> <div data-bbox="199 1518 726 1599"><p><i>Come and discover what the Waldorfschool of Luxembourg is all about at the</i></p></div> <div data-bbox="199 1624 726 1724"><p>OPEN DAY 14. 03. 2020 from 11h to 16h</p></div> <div data-bbox="199 1796 694 1881"><p>On the open day we offer: Workshops Presentations Homemade lunch Animations for young and old Coffee & cake</p></div> <div data-bbox="199 1944 529 2060"><p>Waldorfschool Luxembourg 45, rue de l'Avenir Luxembourg (+352) 46 69 32 www.waldorf.lu www.ibo.org</p></div> <div data-bbox="561 1921 750 2060"><p>Fräi-öffentlech Waldorfschoul Lëtzebuerg</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1056 1120 1220 1288"></div> <div data-bbox="809 1361 1471 1496"><p>New World Theatre Club (NWTC) is delighted to support Pirate Productions' Melusina and to say "Break a leg" to the cast and crewwe know the audience is in for an entertaining show..."Oh yes we do !...".</p></div> <div data-bbox="809 1574 1471 1787"><p>NWTC has been running for 50 years, successfully staging over 150 English language plays, from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams and comedy to tragedy. We welcome amateur actors, directors and production crew of all nationalities and are also especially keen to welcome volunteers to help with the administrative aspects of the club (membership, venue identification, publicity, accounts...the list is endless)...</p></div> <div data-bbox="809 1877 1471 1966"><p>Enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in theatre are the only prerequisites... email committee@nwtc.lu to find out more and get involved.</p></div> <div data-bbox="896 2045 1385 2134"><p>New World Theatre Club A.s.b.l Registered address : 1 Rue Evrard Ketten, L-1856 R.C.S Luxembourg : F226</p></div>
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