



Byre
Theatre

Bard
in the
Botanics

Byre Theatre and Bard in the Botanics present

The 2025 St Andrews Panto

ALADDIN

AN AWFY BRAW
ADVENTURE



Official Programme

ALADDIN

AN AWFY BRAW ADVENTURE

A Message from our Writer and Director Gordon Barr

Aladdin has always been one of my favourite pantos - the adventure, the drama, the idea that your life could suddenly change – that all really appealed to me as a kid. So it's been a real joy coming back to the story this year and reinventing the classic tale for a Scottish audience and the "Fiefdom of Fife". The cast and creative team – and not forgetting our brilliant young cast – have all done an exceptional job in bringing this story to life and I hope you enjoy watching the show as much as we've enjoyed creating it. Get ready to cheer – get ready to boo – and get ready for an "awfy braw adventure"!

A Message from our Byre Director, Julie Ellen

Our pantomime partners Bard in the Botanics have once again created an exceptional production to lift our spirits and warm our hearts at the darkest time of the year, and our thanks go to them all. A heartfelt thank you to all of you for giving your time over the festive season to join us at the Byre, your positive energy charges the building up for the year to come. Have a wonderful time with Aladdin, his family, his pals and maybe with the baddie too.

The Byre's Christmas Appeal

Your generosity in 2024 meant that we were able to gift *Aladdin* tickets to more than 200 people who access support from local charities. Thank you for spreading festive joy and we hope you will consider giving again this Christmas.



Meet our Cast

Stephen Arden
Lauren Downie
Kyle Gardiner
Isabelle Joss
Éimi Quinn
Alan Steele

Salazar Sidewinder
Bish / Understudy
Aladdin McSwankey
Queen Fifi de Floof / Wee Jeannie
Lassie McSwankey
Maudie McSwankey



Young Cast

The Royal Guards

Bash
Bosh

The Pictsies

Hingummy
Wotsit

The Steamie Staff

Sadie Scrubbit
Soapy Senga
Mucky Magrit
Lather-Up Lola

The "Merry Munchkins"

Dodger
Bodger
Codger
Roger

The Dragons

Greta Keogh
Austin Manzie

Amy Foster
Mia Miles

Emily Green
Freya Oram
Keira Clarke
Kate Elrick

Robbie Bunch
Hannah Stevenson
Daisy Murray
Oscar Connell

The Unicorns

Matilda Gilbertson
Orelie de Majo

Maja Smith
Fergus Ward

Eleanor Small
Lily Robson
Florence Smale
Iona Hislop

Dylan Morgan
Eliza Gilbertson
Carys Noble
Jack Dobryden

Our Young Cast is managed by Byre Youth and Community Arts and generously supported by Friends of the Byre.

Creative and Production Team

Director and Writer
Designer
Lighting Designer
Choreographer
Musical Director
Tracks created by
Company Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Rehearsal DSM
Associate Designer
Wardrobe Team

Set Pieces by
Young Cast Liaison
Chaperones

Gordon Barr
Carys Hobbs
Benny Goodman
Stephen Arden
Samuel Macdonald
Andy Manning
Babette Wickham-Riddick
Chariya Glasse-Davies
Robyn Johnstone
Tamsin Harper-Jenkins
Glenn Parkinson
Sarah Michael
Russ Russell
Mary Angélique Boyd
Cue Props
Ashley Foster
Stephen Jones
Cintra Nemeczek
Sen de Majo
Amy Kate Wallace
Molly Tulleth



For accessible performances

Audio Describer
Captioner

Christopher McKiddie
Louisa McDaid



Photography

Production Photography
Pre-production Video and Photography

Viktoria Begg
Tom Duncan at Twin City Pictures



For the Byre Theatre

Director
Deputy Director,
Head of Programme and Marketing
Programme and Marketing Officer
Programme Administrators (job share)
Head of Technical and Operations
and Production Manager for Panto
Deputy Technical and Operations Manager
Operations Administrator
Theatre Technicians
Relief Technicians

Julie Ellen
Jan McTaggart

Katie Bletcher
Mill Valentine and Lindsey Leven-Pryce
David Venters

Bee George
Erin Karn
George Killick, Craig Crawford, Scott McKeen, Maddy Burt
Andrew Barron, Katie James, Rory Innes, Kyren Fox,
Calum Cooke, Iain Cunningham, Luke Lynch,
Anoushka Paymaster Thatcher



Head of Visitor Services and Systems
Deputy Box Office Manager
Deputy Front of House Manager
Visitor Service Assistants

Mary McKenzie
Tony Morrice
Karl Morgan
Keri Sutton, Dianna Stewart, Emma Stothers,
Isabelle Taylor, Roslyn Bates

Director of Sands: International Film Festival
of St Andrews

Ania Trzebiatowska

Other team members include our wonderful Front of House Volunteers.

Special thanks to the Domestic Technicians, and other colleagues from across the University who contribute to the success of the Byre.

On behalf of the cast, creative team and the Byre Theatre, a special thanks goes to: Jennifer Dick, Suzie Goldberg, National Theatre of Scotland, Ewan Bremner, Jack, Roo and Tali Hobbs-Sargeant, Eilidh Nicoll and The Tailend.

Meet our Cast



Stephen Arden
Salazar Sidewinder

Originally from Motherwell, Stephen trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now RCS). Stephen is an Associate Artist with Bard in the Botanics and his recent credits with the company include Dr John Watson in *Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia*, St John/Adele in *Jane Eyre*, Frank Ford in *The Merry Wives of Wishaw*, and Jack Worthing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In 2022, Stephen starred in *Sleeping Warrior's Crocodile Rock* and appeared as a tap-dancing baby in *A New Life*. A Byre Theatre panto regular, Stephen has portrayed villains such as Belladonna Nightshade, Cruella Disdain, and Count Olaf von Moneybags. Other credits with Bard in the Botanics include Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Cobweb/Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Horatio in *Hamlet*. Further roles include Sir Robin/Resident Director in *Spamalot* (UK Tour), Nicky/Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q* (UK Tour), Ensemble in *Still Game Live 2*, WJ Clinton in *Clinton the Musical* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe and King's Head, London), Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* (Dubai), and James in *Glasgow Kiss* (The Pavilion). Stephen also appeared onscreen in the BBC Short Stuff films *Fancy Man* and *The Split*.



Lauren Downie
Bish / Understudy

Lauren Downie is a Scottish actor, now back in the UK after previously living in New York City for eight years. She's performed in a variety of projects, including *Trainspotting Live* and the one-woman play *Dickless*, both of which she performed Off-Broadway before taking them to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and UK tours. She recently appeared in TV movie *I Was Honey Boo Boo* and played Zoe Douglas in the London cast of *Monster* (Seven Dials Playhouse).

Shout out to her fabulous agent at Anthony Paul Associates and she wishes everyone a very happy festive season!



Kyle Gardiner
Aladdin McSwankey

Kyle graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's BA Acting course and is awfy delighted to be joining the cast of *Aladdin* this festive period! Some of Kyle's other Christmastime performances include: *Oor Wullie* (Dundee Rep), *Aganeza Scrooge* (Tron Theatre), *Maw Goose and Is That You, Santa?* (Macrobert Arts Centre), *Mother Goose* (Byre Theatre), and *Snow White and the Seven Dames* (Perth Theatre). More recently, Kyle could be seen as Ronnie in the Scottish tour of *Restless Natives*, after appearing in A Play, A Pie and A Pint's production of *Dookin' Oot* at Òran Mór. He also appeared in Tron Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland's *Moorcroft*. TV, film and radio credits include *Traces* (BBC One/Alibi), *Sleazy Tiger* (Short – dir. James Ley), *The Raiders*, *The 5000*, *Leaving*, and *An Eye for a Killing* (BBC Radio Scotland).



Isabelle Joss
Queen Fifi de Floof / Wee Jeannie

Izzi trained at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has been awarded Pitlochry Festival Theatre's prestigious Leon Sinden award for Best Supporting Actress. Credits for Bard in the Botanics include *Hedda Gabbler* (CATS Award Best Production) and *The Merry Wives of Wishaw* (2024); *Medea* (CATS Award Best Production) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (2022 and 2003). Izzi has worked extensively with theatre companies across Scotland, the UK, and internationally. Most recently she could be seen treading the boards in Éimi Quinn's new play *Hauns Aff Ma Haunted Bin*, directed by Jennifer Dick and produced by A Play, A Pie and A Pint at Òran Mór. Izzi has also performed in *Peter Gynt* and *Men Should Weep* at the National Theatre in London, the West End, Broadway, and the Sydney Opera House. TV credits include *Shetland*, *Silent Witness*, *Life of Riley*, *Dear Green Place*, *Taggart*, *The Bill*, *Kitchen*, *Feel the Force*, *Goth*, *Scrotal Recall*. Film: *Pale Star*, *American Cousins*, *Small Faces*, *The Acid House*. Radio: *The Breach*, *The Tragic History of my Nose*, *Kidnapped*, *Iona*, *Whoever you Choose to Love*, *Love for Lydia*, *Forever Young*, *For the Love of Willie*. Izzi is really excited to be part of this year's panto clan at the Byre in St Andrews... Oh yes she is...



Éimi Quinn
Lassie McSwankey

Éimi is an actor and playwright who graduated from New College Lanarkshire in 2020, with a BA in Musical Theatre. Her theatre credits include; Lisa in *Hauns Aff Ma Haunted Bin* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Byre Theatre), Anne Page in *The Merry Wives of Wishaw*, Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Portia/Octavia in *Julius Caesar* (Bard in the Botanics), Emma in *The Funeral Club* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), Windolene in *Cinderella* and Doddit in *Snow White* (Byre Theatre), *The Celtic Story* (SEC), Small in *Is That You Santa?* (Macrobert Arts Centre), and Jade in *Class Act* (Traverse Theatre). Her TV credits include *Guilt* (BBC), *Six Four* (ITV), and *Shetland* (BBC). As a playwright, Éimi's first play, *The Funeral Club*, was produced in the 2024 Spring Season of A Play, A Pie and A Pint at Òran Mór. She was also one of the 2023 Mentored Playwrights with the Playwrights' Studio Scotland, with her second play, *Skelf*, and in Spring 2025 another of her plays, *Dookin' Oot*, went on tour across Scotland. Her most recent play *Hauns Aff Ma Haunted Bin* just had a sold out successful run in Glasgow. Éimi is really excited to be back at the Byre this Christmas, with the best folk you could hope to work with.



Alan Steele
Maudie McSwankey

Alan's credits for Bard in the Botanics include Sir John Falstaff in *Henry IV* and Prospero in *The Tempest* (both performances earning him a CATS Award nomination for Outstanding Performance), Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night* and roles in *Medea*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *Coriolanus* and *Love's Labours Lost*, as well as reprising the role of Falstaff last summer in *The Merry Wives of Wishaw*. He has been the Dame for multiple Christmas seasons at the Byre Theatre in St Andrews. Alan's other theatre credits include several seasons at Pitlochry Festival Theatre with appearances in, amongst others, Rona Munro's *The Last Witch*, *Travesties*, *Europe* and *Good Things* (Leon Sinden Award); Peter Arnott's *Unspotted Snow* (Mull Theatre Scottish tour); the title role in *Dracula* (Courtyard, Hereford); the one man show *Backstage at the Pussycat Club* (The Arches, Glasgow); *A Taste of Honey* and *The Crucible* (Tag / NTS). He has toured the Highlands and Islands in many shows including *The Weir* and *The Lonesome West* and played the title role in *Macbeth* with Mull Theatre. He played Gil Martin, the devil, in a highly acclaimed production of *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (Rowan Tree) and on BBC Radio 4. His TV credits include the title role of John Knox in the BBC's *The Sword and The Cross*.

Meet our Creative Team

Stephen Arden
Choreographer

Stephen trained at RSAMD (now Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). He created movement for Bard in the Botanics' *Doctor Faustus*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Merry Wives of Wishaw*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2023). His work for the Byre Theatre pantomimes includes *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Mother Goose* and *Sleeping Beauty*. Other credits include *Is That You Santa?* (Macrobert Arts Centre – Puppet Direction and Choreography), *A New Life* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint – Òran Mór and Traverse Theatre), and movement/puppet direction for *Hamlet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bard in the Botanics). He was Associate Director for Jewish Hollywood (Aria Entertainment), Associate Director for the 2017 UK tour of *Spamalot*, and Resident Director for *Snow White* (Eastwood Park Theatre). Additional work includes staging for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in concert, concept collaboration for Bard on Broadway, and contributions to *Clinton the Musical* (The King's Head, London).

Gordon Barr
Director and Writer

Gordon has been Artistic Director of Bard in the Botanics for over two decades, directing and producing more than 100 productions in that time. His own directing credits for the company include *Hedda Gabler* (CATS Award for Best Production, CATS nomination for Best Director), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Medea* (CATS Award for Best Production; CATS nomination for Best Director) and more than 20 of Shakespeare's plays including, most recently, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Wishaw*, *Henry IV*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It* and *Hamlet*. He has written and directed the Byre Theatre/Bard in the Botanics panto for the past decade, with recent titles including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Mother Goose*. He has taught Shakespeare extensively, including a number of productions for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and has worked on projects for a variety of companies across Scotland including NTS, Macrobert, Cumbernauld Theatre, TAG and 7:84.

Benny Goodman

Lighting Designer

Benny Goodman is a freelance lighting designer based in Glasgow and London. He has worked in theatres across the UK and Europe in a variety of projects and productions, and is a creative collaborator with theatre company, Wonder Fools.

Selected credits include: *The MountainTop* (The Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); *Gods Of Salford* (Not Too Tame/Lowry Theatre); *When Prophecy Fails* (Groupwork); *Treasure Island* (Scottish Theatre Producers); *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare North); *Aganeeza Scrooge* (Tron Theatre); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella* and *Snow White* (Bard In The Botanics/Byre Theatre); *Four Walls* (Derby Theatre); *La Performance* (Tron Theatre/Paris IVT); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Hamlet* (Saint Stephen's Theatre); *Hang* (Tron Theatre); *Sense Of Centre* (Dance Base Edinburgh); *Julius Caesar* (Company Of Wolves Scottish Tour); *Palace Of Varieties* (Derby Theatre); *Learning From The Future* (OGR Torino); *The Tempest* (Tron Theatre); *Meet Jan Black* (Ayr Gaiety); *Maim* (Tron Theatre); *I Can Go Anywhere* (Traverse Theatre); *The Drift* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Afflicted* (Summerhall); *Country Music* (Omnibus Theatre); *549: Scots of the Spanish Civil War* (UK Tour); *The Mistress Contract* (Tron Theatre); *Daddy Drag* (Assembly Roxy); *Where We Are: The Mosque* (Arcola Theatre, London); *Sorella Mia* (The Place, London); *Disarming Reverberations* (St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh); *Heroines* (Theatre Gu Leor, Stornoway); *Humbug* (Tramway, Glasgow); *Snow Queen* (Associate – Dundee Rep Theatre); *Like Animals* (Tron Theatre); *Ayanfe Opera* (Bridewell Theatre, London); *Lampedusa* (Citizens Theatre); *Circle of Fifths* (Tron Theatre/Cockpit Theatre London).

For more on his work www.bennygoodman.co

Carys Hobbs

Designer

Carys is delighted to be back at the Byre this Christmas and very excited to show you the new world of our Aladdin. Carys trained in Design at QMU in Edinburgh and is the Head of Design for Bard in the Botanics with designs including this year's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry IV*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Measure for Measure*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Coriolanus*, *Dr Faustus*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Merchant of Venice*. Some of her other recent designs include *Moorcroft* (Tron Theatre and NTS tour), *Walking Tall Tales* (Tron Theatre Education) and *The Dutch Courtesan* (RCS). She also acted as Design Mentor for CATS Best Production Winners *Hedda Gabler* and *Medea* (Bard in the Botanics). Carys also leads the placement scheme allowing costume students to get professional experience throughout the year. Her other credits include *Bingo!* (Stellar Quines and Grid Iron), *Coriolanus Vanishes* (Fire Exit), *Last Tango in Partick* (NTS), *CRUDE* with (Grid Iron) and *GlasGlow* (Itison). At the Tron Theatre she has designed *Shall Roger Casement Hang?*, *Colquhoun and Macbryde*, *Happy Days* and *Brothers Karamazov*. She is currently designing the up-coming tour of *Medea* for Bard in the Botanics which will be visiting the Byre in Spring 2026.

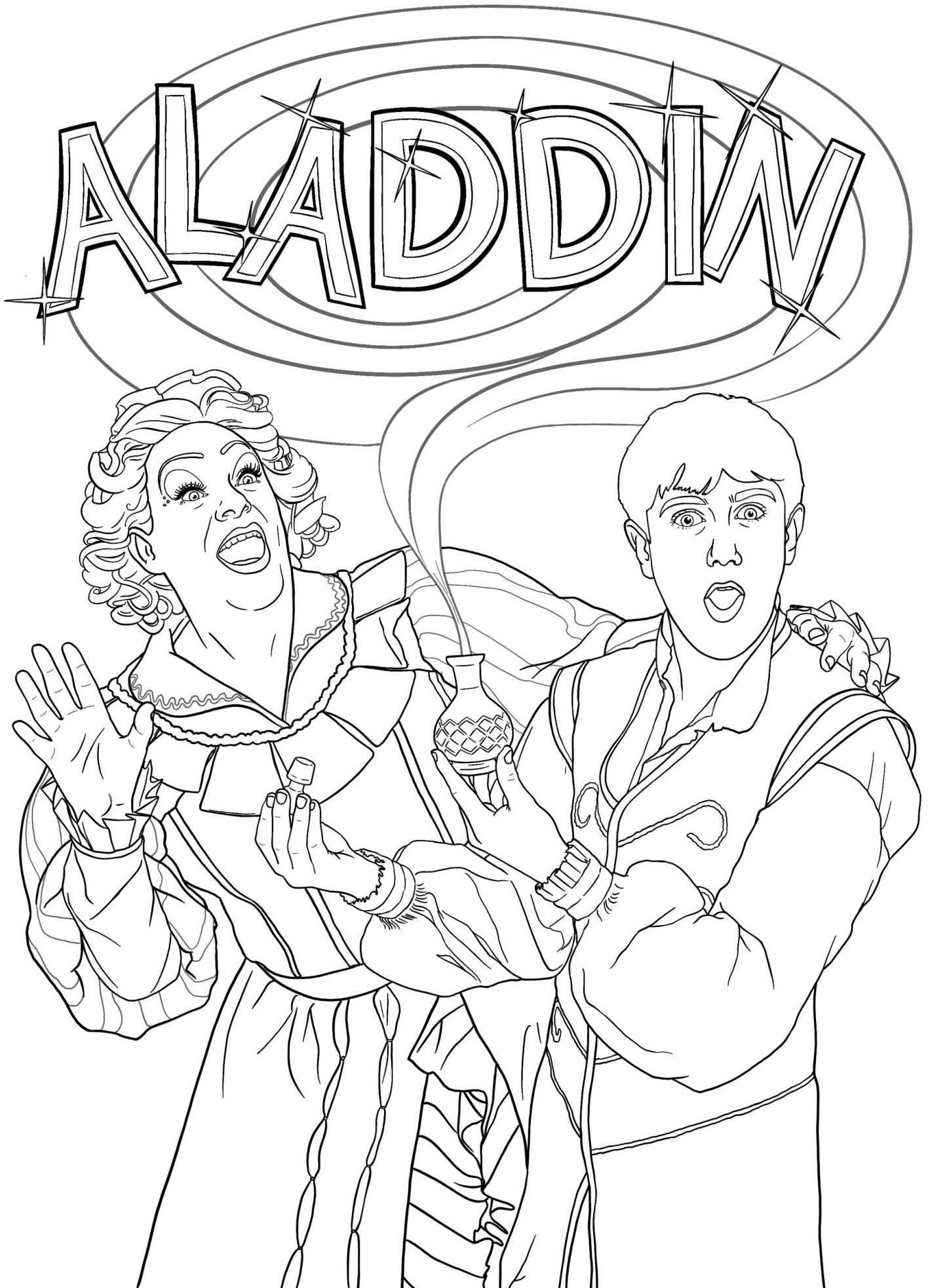
Samuel Macdonald

Musical Director

Samuel Macdonald is a musical director, pianist, and composer/lyricist based in Glasgow. Most recently, they were arranger and on-stage musician for *The Glasgow Poisoner*, by Tom Cooper and Jen McGregor produced by A Play, A Pie and A Pint for Òran Mór and venues across the West of Scotland. They are music supervisor and arranger for new musicals across the UK, including workshops for *Wildfire Season* and *Polly*, and the 2024 Edinburgh Festival Fringe production of *Savoy! Everybody's Doing It*, for which they also contributed music and lyrics. They are a co-founder of Matchstick Productions, a company dedicated to producing new original musicals in Scotland.



Print this page out to colour in Aladdin and Maudie McSwankey!



These puzzles will keep you as busy as Aladdin and the McSwankeys on a quest to the Misty Mountains! Print them out to complete.

Can you find these words trapped in the magical potion bottle?

SALAZAR

FANTASIA

ALADDIN

JEANNIE

CHRISTMAS

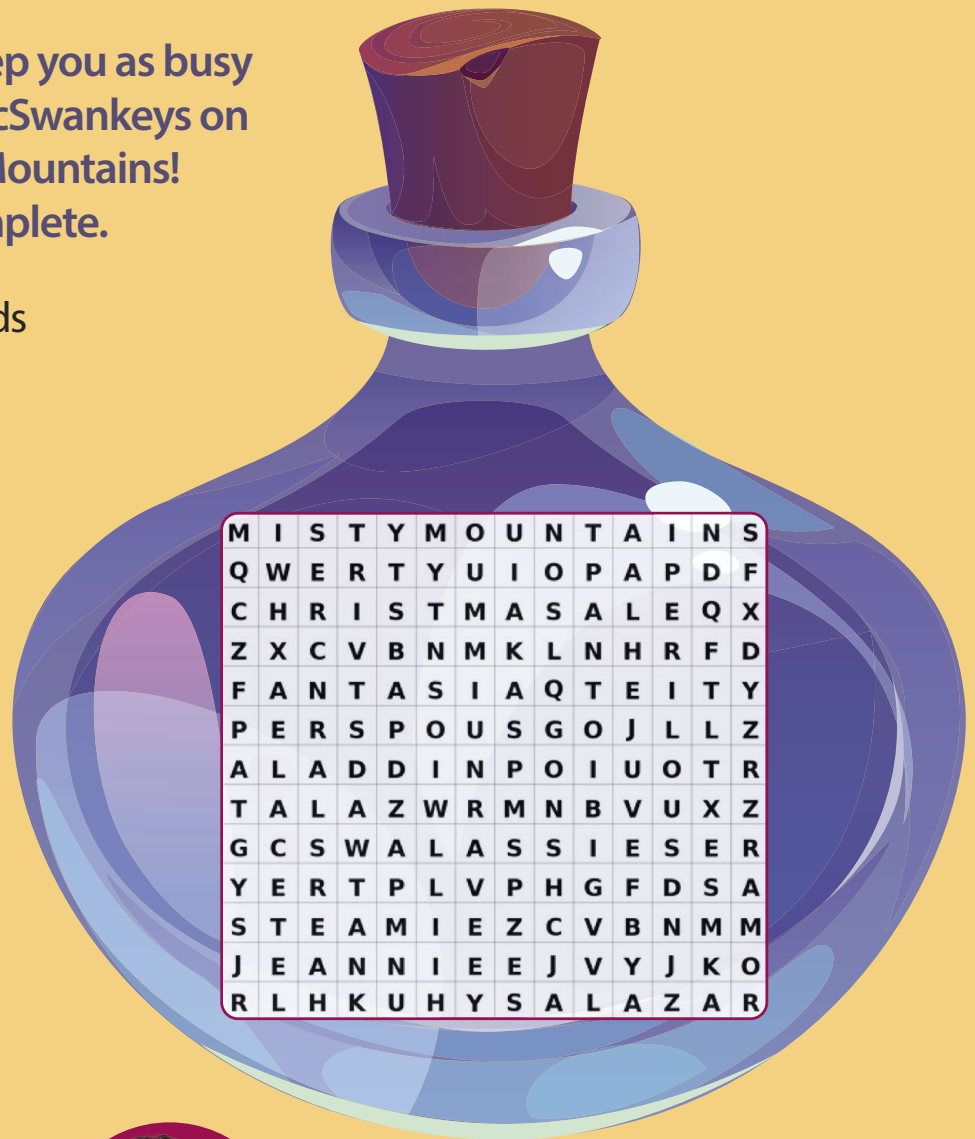
MISTY MOUNTAINS

PERILOUS

PANTO

LASSIE

STEAMIE



Help Aladdin find his way through the Fiefdom to find the magical bottle.



Welcome to the Byre



Byre
Theatre

Refreshments at the Byre

The Byre Kiosk on Level 2 is open for preshow and interval hot and cold drinks, snacks, and of course, delicious ice cream. In addition, you'll also find drinks being served by our pals at St Andrews BrewCo at the bar on Level 1, before the show and during the interval.

Box Office opening hours for the festive season

The Byre Box Office is open 10.00am – 4.30pm, Monday to Saturday, and on evenings when there is a performance it remains open until after the show begins. On Sundays, the Box Office opens two hours before the performance. During the festive season, the Box Office remains open throughout, closing only on Sunday 21 December, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The Byre Box Office is open throughout the festive season, only taking Sunday 21 December, Christmas Day and New Years Day off.

Opening hours for January 2026

There are no events, and the building, box office, and phone lines are closed Monday 5 – Wednesday 7 January. Phone lines open and counter sales begin again on Thursday 8 January, 10.00am – 4.30pm Monday – Saturday. The Byre building, including foyers, reopens on Monday 26 January 2026

For full details of festive opening hours please visit byretheatre.com.

You can always find information on what's happening and book at byretheatre.com. If you have any questions or queries, please email byreboxoffice@st-andrews.ac.uk and we will respond to you as soon as we can during opening hours.

In the meantime, everyone at the Byre wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Byre Theatre
Abbey Street, St Andrews
Fife KY16 9LA
01334 475000

Find us at byretheatre.com and on social media:



facebook.com/byretheatre



instagram.com/byretheatre

Here are the answers
to the puzzles inside.
Don't peek!

