



Introduction

Jack and the Beanstalk

Welcome to this introduction to the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith **Jack and the Beanstalk**, with the book and lyrics written by Leo Butler and the original music and lyrics by Robert Hyman. It's directed by Eva Sampson.

The audio-described performance is on Saturday 17th December at 6 pm. The show lasts for 2 hours and 20 minutes, including an interval of 20 minutes. There will be a touch tour at 4.30pm. This introduction will be repeated live in the theatre 15 minutes before the show, at 5.45pm, to let you know of any last minute changes and so that you can check that your headset is working. The live audio-description will be given by Alison Clarke and Ruth James.

Please be aware that this show contains loud bangs, smoke and haze. There are also flashing lights, bright lights that flash into the audience, pyrotechnics, confetti canons and mild peril! At times the sound effects and music are very loud and we'll try to avoid speaking then, but you may need to turn up the volume of the description in your headset.

If you've never been to a pantomime before, here's **what to expect**. Unlike some other plays where people sit and listen quietly, at pantomimes you're allowed to shout out and sing along, boo the baddies and cheer the goodies.

There are various rapidly changing locations which slide, turn and drop into position. All the characters are larger than life story-book characters who dance, sing and bounce about with great energy. They are played by nine actors, with the four ensemble players, two black men and two white women, playing multiple roles, switching quickly from one to another.

When we take our seats, the stage is hidden behind a screen with the words Jack and the Beanstalk written across it in large letters. On either side the tendrils and leaves

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of a large sparkling plant stretch up on one side and down on the other some of the leaves among the green are gold. The floor of the stage is striped. The stripes run from the front of the stage and disappear under the cloth. The stripes are orange, pink and blue and vary in width.

Above the screen, in the centre, is a series of three concentric circles: orange, black and red. This remains during the performance. In the centre of the circle angled across it is a milk bottle against a turquoise background. This is the logo from the milk bar which stands in the centre below, named Trotts World of Milk. The name is edged in pink and white lights and is curved above the doors in the back wall, which are pink and sparkle. The walls surrounding the milk bar are of neat pale green bricks with the addition of an occasional orange brick. Advertising posters are displayed on the walls.

High above the stage is a gallery screened by a transparent black cloth. Here the musicians sit, a light on them when they play: keys, drums and percussion, bass guitar and lead guitar.

Once the performance begins, we move quickly from the outside of The World of Milk to the next location. Below the Jack and the Beanstalk frontcloth, in another smaller frame, is a lopsided, handmade sign, with the words 'Simon Show' in large letters. This appears frequently during the show. From here the location moves again to another location, with the word Market, panels of vertical stripes and an arrow pointing to the right, directing us there.

During the performance there are also scene changes created by the use of electronic images and we'll tell you about these as they happen.

Before setting off on the journey, we visit the milking parlour where Simon is testing his latest invention. This is an enormous milking machine: the cow is inside a huge transparent, pink framed box. A pair of huge cut-out udders protrude from the top. A large control panel stands to one side facing us and Simon, as the inventor stands



beside it. On the front of the panel is a very large stop sign with below it a row of six pink and blue round buttons.

We leave Hammersmith and all of this behind when an enormous beanstalk about 8 feet wide appears. The top disappears from view and we find ourselves following Jack as he climbs into more adventures.

There are nearly 40 costumes worn during the show – all extravagant and colourful, with lots of glitter and sparkle. It isn't possible to describe them all here, so we'll add some in during the show. Dame Trott herself, who is played by a man, has seven costumes, all fabulously glamorous, along with different ridiculous wigs and hats! Some characters will ask you to greet them or help them with warnings.

We first meet four NQFs - Newly Qualified Fairygodparents – three of whom are in white ballet tutus with white wands, tiny white wings and red L-plates and the fourth seems completely out of place in street clothes. We discover that this one is **Fairy Jill**, who is a young white person in their late teens, with short, straight dark brown hair, held back from their pale, heart-shaped face with lots of star-shaped clips, all the colours of the rainbow. Jill has big dark brown eyes that sparkle with kindness and their cheeks sparkle with glitter! Their baggy purple trousers are covered in silvery metallic crescent moons and stars, surrounded with fairy dust, and are short enough to reveal their glittering white trainers, while on top is a knitted green tank top over a puffy-sleeved white shirt covered with big sequins. The tank top has glittering decals of three-leaved radishes and bees.

Jill wants to be godmother to their best friend **Jack**. Jack is 15, nearly the same age as Jill, with most of her shoulder-length black curly hair scraped up from her dark-skinned face into a high ponytail, held in a pink scrunchie. She wears pink tartan trousers with big shiny pink patch pockets and red and white trainers. Over a navy t-shirt with a glittery pink pacman-like patch, she has a shiny green bomber jacket with

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lots of many-coloured square patches and pink collar and cuffs. Jack is full of energy, and seems carefree, but has a strong inner core of strength.

The people of Hammersmith wear multi-coloured dungarees, also covered with glittering and shiny square patches, each with t-shirts that match their trainers. One always has a satin do-rag over his hair, that matches every outfit, while the two women have tied their long hair into tight knots, and the remaining man has short dark hair. They're of mixed heritages and are always happy and helpful.

Simon, Jack's brother, is next to appear, a tall, slim boy, about 12 years old, with short, black, wavy hair, with a sparkly green streak through the front. He's also wearing patched dungarees, but his are shiny and worn over an orange t-shirt. Simon's tousled dark hair has a green stripe of glitter, and tumbles over his cheeky pale face. He has a wide smile – always craving attention and trying to put on his Simon Show.

Their Mother is **Dame Lottie Trott**, a larger than life figure, both tall and curvaceous, who makes her first appearance looking like a searingly bright pink, silver and white giant Icecream Sundae, with black and white cow-patterned boots emerging from the bottom. She's wearing pink and white striped leggings and short dress, under a flowing cape with enormous white satin shoulderpads, with a pink and white straw sticking out of them. Her hair is also pink and white, with bouncing cardboard curls, under a huge hat of a glittering pink cherry and green leaf. Her make up is over the top: glittering pink lips with white eye shadow, spread out and contrasting with her chocolate brown skin and very black, neatly trimmed beard.

Everytime Dame Trott appears, she is sporting another outrageous outfit from her extensive wardrobe, always matched with co-ordinated sparkly boots and with different coloured hair – purple, ginger or fushia pink. Her second dress is short - a metallic bright blue, with pink and purple net petticoats and a wide pink wet-look belt and large round buttons, with an orange plastic mobcap over her hair.

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Next we meet the evil Baddie – **Fleshcreep**. Fleshcreep is played by a gender non-conforming female actor, with platinum blonde bobbed hair and a purple musketeer moustache with curling-up twirled ends and matching purple soulpatch beard.

Fleshcreep is dressed like a cowboy, in shiny purple and turquoise, with glittery purple trousers under sequined and fringed chaps, tucked into metallic, purple cowboy boots. The jacket is mainly turquoise, with purple fringes and a red and purple curved collar. Fleshcreep often carries a large turquoise remote controller, covered with buttons and when he appears, lightning flashes. Despite their small stature, Fleshcreep is a despot and frightens everyone – except Dame Trott...

Four Work Experience Robots work for Fleshcreep, and are dressed in outfits that resemble Fleshcreeps', although made out of cheaper materials, with deep purple cotton jumpsuits, turquoise chevron stripes and purple boots. Sometimes they wear silvery rainbow eyemasks, but otherwise, they have death stares of indifference and no enthusiasm for their work. When not working, they stand frozen to the spot, until a tall yellow lever is pulled, or Fleshcreep calls.

Dame Trott owns a shiny brown velvety Cow called **Daisy**, with huge brown eyes. Daisy is tall, her white horns at least six feet above the ground and a long thin tail. She has shiny dark brown hooves and a rainbow collar, with a golden bell hanging from it.

Lastly, we meet the Magic Goose – a fluffy white puppet, with long, dangling, bright yellow legs and a big yellow beak.

As always we have the songsheet – and are invited to sing along with:

*Glory glory Hammersmith!
Glory glory Hammersmith!
Glory glory Hammersmith,
And your turn's coming round!*



CAST

Dame Trott
Jill
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Fleshcreep
Simon
Jack
Ensemble

Emmanuel Akwafa
Maddison Bulleyment
Norma Butikofer
Anna Davey
Jamal Franklin
Jodie Jacobs
Finlay McGuigan
Leah St Luce
Toyan Thomas-Browne

CREATIVES

Writers
Director
Set and Costume Designer
Choreographer
Lighting Designer
Composer & Arranger
Sound Designer
Musical Director

Jude Christian & Sonia Jalaly
Nicholai La Barrie
Good Teeth
Arielle Smith
Elliot Griggs
Corin Buckeridge
Nick Manning
Adam Gerber

Company Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

Claire Bryan
Caroline Meer
Sarah Back