Notes from Christmas Panto meeting, 18/7/2010

- **Script and Story Matters**
  - Ivo hates pirates
  - **Target audience**
    - may need to revise target audience age to something a little lower than 10-12. 12 year olds are too cool for school (and possibly pantos). Maybe 6-10?
    - When we say target audience we just mean minimum age at which the show is accessible. Just to be clear.
    - Obviously, there’ll still be a few joke for the adults
  - Story must be well known and easy to follow. Classic fairytale, etc.

- **Length of show**
  - ~1 hour
  - no interval

- No elaborate scene changes. Takes too long for younger audience.

- **Narrators**
  - should include two “narrators”, who are on stage most of time.
  - It is their job to keep the show going under difficult circumstances, eg crying children (hopefully not necessary, but we should plan for it), and also to narrate (duh)
  - Having two ensures that one can leave stage and attend to problems while other continues show
  - improv ability essential for whoever does this

- **Characters**
  - Aim for a more traditional panto set - ie principal, dame, villain, etc

- **Venue**
  - Concern raised that proscenium type theatre with high stage (ie Dolphin) may not be most appropriate choice of venue. Distances audience from play.
  - However, need to balance appropriateness of venue with practical considerations - we are familiar with Dolphin, and it is cheap to hire.
  - Particularly as this is the first time we are running this type of show, familiarity is a strong argument. Will use the dolphin.
  - To counteract audience isolation, will have plenty of characters sitting in audience, entrances from green room, etc. Will also leave the house lights up.

- **Story ideas: brainstorm**
  - Beauty and the Beast
  - Cinderella
  - Sleeping Beauty
  - Rapunzel
  - Snow White
  - Ali Baba
  - Aladdin
  - Christmas Carol
  - Little Red Riding Hood
  - Hunchback of Notre Dame
  - Hansel and Gretel

- Stories that do not meet above requirements easily are eliminated. Discussion of remaining options until consensus is reached.
  - And the winner is...
• Cinderella!!

• Organisational Fun
  • Theatre booking
    • Currently have a pencil booking in the Dolphin from 13th (Monday, Bump in) to 21st (Tuesday, Bump Out) December.
    • There is another event in the Dolphin on the Friday. Dress rehearsal can be held on Thursday, and we will have to tidy up. Everyone gets a day off for Friday.
    • Performances will be Saturday/Sunday/Monday
    • Currently have a matinee performance booked in on Saturday, and evening performances on Saturday, Sunday, Monday. This may change, I am considering making the Monday show a matinee (it’s the first day of school holidays)
    • Evening shows are currently booked to start at 6:30pm. Don’t want to start late if there are young children, but need to give people coming from work time to get to theatre.
    • Times are subject to change, particularly if people are working. Will know better once we know who wants to take part in show/casting is complete.

• Advertising
  • New audience, different advertising. Possibly try school newsletters, etc, or even see if any vacation care centres are interested in group bookings for matinee performances
  • Will still advertise to our “normal” audiences, a lot of them would be happy to come, particularly to the evening shows.

• Jobs
  • The consensus approach worked well today, but we will eventually have to allocate roles/jobs to people to make sure all the work gets done. Following roles identified:
    • Creative Roles
      • Director
      • Head Writer
      • Set Design and Construction
      • Props Master/(Mistress? What the hell is the gender neutral term?)
      • Costumes
      • Sound
      • Lighting
      • Stage Manager
      • Musical Director/Musician?
    • Organisational Roles
      • Most of these are vaguely analogous to current committee/production committee positions
      • Production Manager: Responsible for overall oversight of project.
      • Treasurer: To be filled by Panto treasurer
      • Advertising (x2, at least).
      • Community Liaison: Responsible for managing relations with external organisations, in particular any charities we support. Will work closely with advertising people
    • Roles that must be filled soonish: Production manager, Head Writer, Community Liaison. Possibly also Advertising and Director.
• Rob will act as production manager. Expressions of interest are sought for other positions (those who expressed interest at meetings, it is noted, you know who you are)
• Some posts will need to be filled before second semester BGM, so a vote will be difficult. In such cases appointments will be made following discussion with Panto’s committee. If we do this next year, we may be more organized.
• Copyright and IP
  • This is here just for the benefit of Jo. See, I’m considering it.
  • No scene changes => no scene change music, which is about the only dubious thing we tend to do. Our scripts are fine. I assume our SFX are fine, they’re usually royalty free. If there are any songs in the show, that would require looking at. Overall, though, this show should be less risky from an ip point of view than normal.