



SLEEPING BEAUTY

A Rollicking Romp of a Panto

Rowntree Players | Joseph Rowntree Theatre, York

Saturday 5th – Saturday 12th December 2026

AUDITION PACK 2026

Welcome

Thanks for downloading the 2026 panto audition pack! You'll find everything you need to know about auditions, rehearsals, and show dates — plus what we're looking for in our cast.

If you have any questions at all, just drop us an email:

info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk

Please read the pack carefully then use the link on the last page to register to audition!

About Rowntree Players

We're a friendly and welcoming community theatre group based in York. Rowntree Players is an inclusive company and we mean it. We actively welcome performers of all backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, genders, and abilities. If there are any barriers to you participating — accessibility, financial difficulty, disability or anything else — please contact us in confidence at info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk

Before You Audition...

⚠ Please read this section carefully before registering.

Being in a panto is a **big** commitment — we rehearse for around 14 weeks and we need you there for the majority of that time, especially as we build towards show week.

We know you have a life! Other shows, holidays, family commitments — we get it, and we're not expecting perfection. What we are asking for is honesty. When you register, please declare all known conflicts upfront. We'd rather know about a clash with another production now than discover it mid-rehearsal. We'll do our best to work around declared commitments — but we can't work around surprises.

A note for principal auditionees in particular:

We will be running the show off-book from the start of November. That means two months of rehearsals to learn your lines — and we need to be able to rehearse at pace from that point. Please be honest with yourself before you audition. If you know you won't have the time to learn the script alongside everything else in your life right now, please step back and let someone who can make that commitment have their chance.

If you're not sure — have a think, be realistic, and then decide.

We want a happy, committed company — and so do you!

Key Dates

Audition Day 1	Sunday 5th July 2026
Audition Day 2	Sunday 12th July 2026
Rehearsal period	Fridays and Sunday afternoons, plus a few selected Thursdays in October/November for runs — full schedule provided after casting and availabilities are looked at.
Get In	Sunday 29th November 2026 (adults to assist)
Technical rehearsals	Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd December 2026 (no juniors required)
Dress rehearsals	Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th December 2026 (all cast)
Show week	Saturday 5th – Saturday 12th December 2026 (all cast)
Get Out	Saturday 12th December after show (all adult cast to assist)

Fees & Membership

If you're cast in the show, you'll need to become a member of Rowntree Players. There's also a £30 show fee to help cover costumes, insurance etc.

After Auditions

Once both audition days are complete, we'll email out a full cast list. We won't send individual emails — so keep an eye on your inbox!

Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons for all cast, with a few additional Thursday evening rehearsals through October and November for principals to run the show. You'll receive a full rehearsal schedule on casting, and any changes will be communicated via our Facebook page and email.

Please note: principals will be expected to be off-book from the start of November.

Audition Info

Auditions are over 2 days. Chorus need only attend the first, those going for principal roles will also need to attend a singing slot on the second date.

Auditions take place at:

The Door 84 Youth and Community Centre, 84 Lowther Street, York, YO31 7LX

Sunday 5th July 2026 — All Auditionees

All auditionees — whether you're going for a principal role or chorus — attend on this day. Please note that attendance at both audition days is required for all principal roles.

Time	Who	What
1:15pm	All auditionees	Arrival — please be ready to start promptly at 1:30pm
1:30 – 2:45pm	All auditionees	Dance call — choreography taught on the day, no preparation needed
3:00 – 4:00pm	All auditionees	Group vocals
4:00pm	Chorus auditionees	Released — thank you!
4:00 – 5:30pm	Principal auditionees	Script reading

Sunday 12th July 2026 — Principal Singing Slots

Principal auditionees will be allocated a 10-minute individual singing slot between 1:15pm and 5:30pm. You will be emailed your allocated time in advance — please arrive promptly for your slot.

Chorus Auditions (Age 8+)

The dance call and group vocals on 5th July are open to all chorus auditionees. No preparation is needed for the dance call — this will be taught on the day. For the group vocals, please familiarise yourself with the opening market number — a link will be shared with all registered auditionees in advance.

Audition song: “Opening Up” from ‘Waitress’

Can't Make the Audition Dates?

If you're unable to attend in person, we will accept taped submissions. Please record your dance call, vocal, and any relevant script reading and submit via the registration form. However, please be aware that priority in casting will be given to those who audition in the room — if you can make it, we strongly encourage you to do so.

Principal Roles

This year's show is packed with comedy, magic, and big characters. We're looking for performers with strong voices, great comic timing, and real stage presence.

Rowntree Players is an inclusive company and we mean it. We actively welcome performers of all backgrounds, ages, ethnicities, genders, and abilities. Casting is based on what you bring to the role.

Please read the character descriptions carefully and think about which roles best suit you. Please prepare your audition song before the day — time is tight and you will be expected to know the song you are singing.

Script pages for each character will be shared with registered auditionees in advance of the reading on 5th July.

Fairy Celestine

Our good fairy and narrator — the heart and moral compass of the show. Celestine opens the story, guides the action, and is present throughout. She's warm and wise but not without exasperation, particularly when Magnolia and Ivor are involved. Needs a strong, versatile singing voice, real stage authority, and the ability to hold the audience's trust across the whole show. A triple threat role.

Audition song: "What it sounds like" — K-pop Demon Hunters

Strong vocal range and the ability to shift from warmth to authority essential.

Marigold Malificent

Our villain — and what a villain. Marigold is bitter, brilliant, and genuinely scary, but the script gives her real depth: she was wronged, and the audience should feel that even as they boo her. Big stage presence, powerhouse voice, and the ability to switch between menace and dark comedy. One of the meatier roles in the show.

Audition song: "Sweet Dreams" — TBC

Powerhouse voice and commanding stage presence essential.

Magnolia Manglethorpe

Our dame — the comic engine of the show. Magnolia is loud, chaotic, deluded about her psychic abilities, and absolutely beloved. She's in almost every scene, drives huge amounts of the comedy, and has real emotional warmth underneath the chaos. Requires massive energy, strong comic timing, audience interaction skills, and solid vocal ability. A very large role — not for the faint-hearted!

Audition song: "Nicest Kids In Town" from 'Hairspray'

Comic delivery and strong vocal presence essential.

Ivor Manglethorpe

Magnolia's long-suffering son and comic sidekick. Ivor is the straight man who isn't quite straight enough — he's daft, loveable, and gets some of the best gags. Strong chemistry

with the dame is essential. Good singer, competent dancer, great physical comedian. A favourite with younger audiences.

Audition song: "Nicest Kids In Town" from 'Hairspray'

Strong voice and warm stage presence essential.

Princess Aurora

Our princess plays three distinct ages across the show — as a baby (played for laughs), as a child, and as a teenager on the verge of her 18th birthday. Aurora needs charm, comic ability, and a strong singing voice. She's funny and self-aware — not your average fairy tale princess. The role requires real range, both dramatically and vocally.

Audition song: "I Know It's Today" — Shrek the Musical & "River Deep Mountain High"

Strong vocal range and comic timing essential.

Prints Pete

The romantic lead — good-hearted, slightly bewildered, and very much not a prince (despite Aurora's hopes). Pete is warm, funny, and needs real chemistry with Aurora. Good singer and performer; dance ability a bonus.

Audition song: "River Deep Mountain High"

Strong voice and warm stage presence essential.

The King

The bumbling, well-meaning royal father. Largely a comic role with some lovely moments of genuine warmth. Strong comic timing essential; singing and dance ability useful.

Audition song: Opening Verses of 'Comedy Tonight' from a Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum plus 'Opening Up'

The Queen

Overly dramatic, fiercely devoted to Aurora, and very funny. A strong comic role with real stage presence. Solid singing voice required.

Audition song: Opening Verses of 'Comedy Tonight' from a Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum plus 'Opening Up'

The Page

A key supporting role — the palace's flustered master of ceremonies. Some lovely comic moments, good stage presence, and solid vocal ability needed.

Audition song: Opening Verses of 'Comedy Tonight' from a Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum plus 'Opening Up'

The Spirits

Malificent's ensemble of spirit followers open her story in one of the show's most dramatic numbers. Strong singers with presence and physicality — these roles will be

drawn from the wider company but we're looking for performers who can really own the moment.

Audition song: “Alexander Hamilton” from ‘Hamilton’

Powerful ensemble voices with real presence and commitment essential.

Market Stall Holders / Featured Chorus

An ensemble of featured roles woven throughout the show — from the bustling opening market scene through to the palace and beyond. These performers take on a variety of named characters across both acts and are very much part of the storytelling, not just the background. Strong singers with good stage presence and a willingness to throw themselves into whatever the scene demands. These roles will be drawn from the wider company but we're looking for performers who want to do more than just chorus.

Audition song: “Opening Up” from ‘Waitress’

Energy, character, and a strong ensemble voice essential.

[Audition Registration Link](#)
[Click here to register!](#)

We look forward to meeting you at auditions!

The Rowntree Players Panto Team

info@rowntreeplayers.co.uk | www.rowntreeplayers.co.uk