



CHELMSFORD THEATRE 2026/27

YOUNG PANTO COMPANY

AUDITION NOTES for parents/ carers/ auditionees

Important: Please read carefully before the audition and only attend if you are happy with the following notes.

We are inviting young people from Chelmsford and the surrounding areas to audition to join our professional cast on stage for this year's stunning production of **CINDERELLA**. The theatre is well known for its traditional pantomimes, playing to huge audiences across the festive season.

If you love dancing and singing and think that it would be great fun to be in the panto, then come along and audition for us. Previous theatre experience is not essential, but it is useful. Our group audition will take place on Sunday 24 May 2026 where our young auditionees will have an exciting workshop/ dance audition taken by a member of our pantomime creative team.

If selected, auditionees must be in school year groups 5 – 10 on 1 December 2026 and must be available throughout the whole period, from Sunday 1 November 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027, for rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsals for the YOUNG PANTO COMPANY. Rehearsals will be with the choreographer and professional cast and will be held either at weekends or after school between 1 November and 24 November 2026. Everyone will be expected to attend all listed rehearsals unless otherwise agreed with the Producer at the time of the audition.

Performances for the YOUNG PANTO COMPANY. Once the production has opened each team (two teams in all) will perform twice on alternate days from 24 November – 3 January 2027, when the production closes. Everyone will be expected to attend all listed performances unless otherwise agreed with the Producer at the time of the audition.

If selected, auditionees will need permission from school for absence during the run of **CINDERELLA**. Consequently, parents should speak to Head Teachers **before** the audition to ensure that they are willing to allow absence from school should their child be successful. This is especially important if the child is in Year 10 this Christmas, as being absent for mock exams may be an issue for the school.

Each young person will receive a nominal sum towards expenses during the run of the pantomime, plus a ticket to see the other team perform on a date to be confirmed.

LICENSED CHAPERONES

We will be asking parents of **ALL** children taking part in the pantomime to **share equally** the task of chaperoning the children. **If you don't feel that you will be able to commit to being at the theatre for a certain number of performances/rehearsals as a chaperone then, unfortunately, your child won't be able to take part.**

If parents are not already Registered Chaperones, they will need to register as soon as possible after the audition with their local authority. This will involve completing an application form for an Enhanced DBS Certificate in the first instance, followed by an application form to become a Licensed Chaperone and attending a short evening training session. A minimum of two chaperones are needed for rehearsals and one Licensed Chaperone only for performances (there are only 5 children in each team for performances). Each Licensed Chaperone will receive two complimentary tickets for the production.

COSTUMES

All costumes are provided.

LICENSES

All children will need a Performance Licence to take part in a public performance. A full Licence Application Pack will be sent to successful candidates following the audition.

AUDITION

The auditions will take place in Chelmsford Theatre Studio, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1JG on Sunday 24 May 2026 between 11am and 5pm. (Auditionees will be informed nearer the time of their audition slot between 11am and 5pm on that day.)

Unfortunately, parents won't be able to remain in the audition room for the audition.

Please bring drinks (bottled water only please) as the audition room may get hot. There will be a short break in the auditions and snacks may be consumed.

Please wear suitable clothes and shoes for dancing. Again, the audition room may get very hot.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE AUDITION PLEASE COMPLETE AN AUDITION FORM AND RETURN TO THE CHELMSFORD THEATRE BY 20 APRIL 2026.