

# Attention Possums!

Watch out Boris - Dame Edna's in town!

The New Wimbledon Theatre has a reputation for scooping megastars for its annual panto, but this year, a true gigastar, the iconic Dame Edna Everage, will be flying in from her Sydney mansion to star in *Dick Whittington*. She's already a chat show host (she has interviewed Cher and Sean Connery!), journalist, children's book illustrator, Broadway and West End star, painter, beauty expert (she gives tips on her website) and fashion guru. She's a true household name.

Over the years, Dame Edna has transformed herself from suburban Australian housewife to flamboyant, glamorous, outspoken force to be reckoned with. She tells it like it is. Call it liberating, call it terrifying - there's no ignoring her. She revels in her superstar lifestyle, but she hasn't forgotten her Aussie roots. Carrying her trademark gladioli, she still greets audiences with that joyous, 'Hello Possums!'

Panto is our oldest form of theatre. Foreigners often don't understand the audience shouting out and the cross-dressing. Buxom Dames are played by men, who are a bit on the grotesque side, plastered with heavy makeup, with a penchant for slapstick humour. The traditional Dame of the panto is Sarah the Cook, played by veteran Eric Potts who is also directing. There will be plenty of time for the Dames to compare notes about frocks, hats and specs.

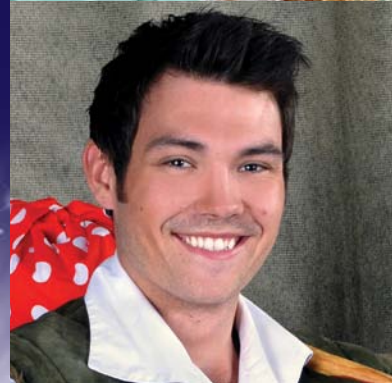
With her celebrity comforts back home in sunny Sydney, what has lured Dame Edna away from a Christmas Barbie on the beach to a shivering season in SW19? 'Being a stranger to pantomime, I am looking forward to all the fun and frolics and meeting all of you lovely little possums of London. But most of all, the thought of guiding Dick Whittington to become Lord Mayor of London thrills me. I did the exact same thing for Boris Johnson not long ago.'

Dame Edna's creator and alter ego, Barry Humphries, played the theatre in 1960, when he starred as Undertaker Mr Sowerberry in the world premiere of *Oliver*.

He is looking forward to meeting his young co-stars.

Anna Williamson, a well-known children's TV presenter, will play pretty Alice (let us hope Dame Edna doesn't suffer from girlie jealousy!) and Dick will be played by Sam Attwater, of *Hollyoaks* and *Eastenders* fame. How safe he'll be from the attentions of the amorous Dame Edna can only be guessed at.

One thing's for sure - there won't be a dull moment. Bring it on, Possums!



Anna Williamson  
Sam Attwater



New Wimbledon Theatre  
**Dick Whittington**

Starring Dame Edna Everage,  
Anna Williamson and  
Sam Attwater  
Box Office 0844 871 7646  
Online booking at  
[AmbassadorTickets.com](http://AmbassadorTickets.com)

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