



Metro Theatre
1370 SW Marine Drive
Vancouver, BC V6P 5Z9
www.metrotheatre.com
@metrotheatre

Metro's *Jack and the Beanstalk* is theatrical fun for the whole family!

Create a new family tradition this year with Metro Theatre's annual pantomime

(November 26, 2013) Each year around Christmastime, Metro Theatre is swarming with excitement as local actors, crew members and other volunteers get ready to make magic happen on stage for the huge crowds that come to see their annual pantomime. And tickets are now on sale for this year's show – *Jack and the Beanstalk*, running December 13 through January 4.

Director Johnny Duncan, who also happened to write *Jack and the Beanstalk*, has been involved in Metro's pantomimes for years, and is thrilled whenever he learns that multiple generations keep coming back to experience the magic. When asked what's so special about Metro's pantomimes, Johnny says, "The best part is seeing the kids' faces light up, and hearing their laughter. Pantos are so much fun."

Pantomimes are an English theatre tradition that combines kid-friendly fairy tales with over-the-top characters and silly song-and-dance numbers – perfect entertainment for the whole family. And Metro Theatre has been producing an annual pantomime for nearly 30 years.

Metro pantomimes a family tradition

Pantomimes are known for their (optional) audience participation – kids of all ages get to cheer on the heroes, boo the villains, and sing along with the cast. Returning audience members are treated to Metro's recurring characters and cast members, like Trent Glukler playing the villain, Demon Distastely. Trent has been part of the Metro panto for 10 years and says, "It's been a real family affair for me. My daughter Kieryn was the Fairy Apprentice when she was little, and both she and my other daughter Caela were in the ensemble for a couple years." This season, the tradition continues as Trent's 9-year-old son Thomas joins the cast as Demon-in-Training. Thomas is quick to point out that he's seen the panto every year, and he's thrilled to finally be on stage with his dad.

When asked why pantomimes are so popular, Trent says, "Pantos are really difficult to explain – they are kind of like vaudeville and melo-drama thrown together, with a little bit of cartoon in the mix. You can take any kid to a pantomime and they're basically guaranteed to love it." But not only the kids, Trent admits: "I love getting to be a jerk, and I'm loved for being the jerk!"

***Jack and the Beanstalk* full of local talent**

Written and directed by Johnny Duncan, *Jack and the Beanstalk* is choreographed by Dawn Ewen, musically directed by David Rogers, and stage managed by Wade Hawkworth. It's got a cast of 20 talented actors, dancers and singers of all ages, including Trent and Thomas Glukler, Roger Kettlys as the Dame, Tony Bordignon as the King, and Katie Purych as Jack.

Jack and the Beanstalk opens December 13 and runs through January 4, with evening shows and several afternoon matinees. Metro's pantomimes often sell out, so get your tickets soon.

Metro Theatre collects for the Vancouver Food Bank

A part of the Marpole community for 50 years, Metro Theatre will be a drop-off site for donations for the Vancouver Food Bank throughout the holiday season. So when you come to see *Jack and the Beanstalk*, you're encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for donation, and put it under the Christmas tree in the lobby. They'll be accepting donations from December 1 through January 4, during box office hours.

Details of the run:

- *Jack and the Beanstalk* runs December 13 – January 4 as follows:
 - Evenings at 7pm** on Dec. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, Jan. 2, 3 and 4
 - Matinees at 2pm** on Dec. 14, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29, Jan. 1 and 4
- Tickets are \$15 for kids under 10, and \$25 for all others.
- Tickets are available through Metro's box office at 604-266-7191 or [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca).
- Metro Theatre is located at 1370 SW Marine Drive in Vancouver.

Links:

[Eventbrite site](#) to purchase tickets

Jack and the Beanstalk [Facebook event](#)

Metro's website – [Jack and the Beanstalk post](#)

Metro's website – [homepage](#)

[Metro Theatre's location on Google Maps](#)

Metro's website – [reviews of our shows](#)

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ABOUT METRO THEATRE

Metro Theatre (The Metropolitan Cooperative Theatre Society) is a registered non-profit cooperative society, and is fuelled by volunteers. Its mission is to promote and develop theatre arts on a non-professional level.

Metro Theatre was created in 1962, and has produced more than 475 shows, including nearly 50 musicals, over the past 50 years. Sometimes referred to as the "humble little theatre," Metro ironically has over 300 seats and puts on eight shows a year, more than all other non-professional theatre companies in North America and many professional ones.

Metro Theatre is wheelchair-accessible and provides assisted-listening devices upon request. It offers season subscriptions as well as individual reservations online and at the door.

Metro is located at 1370 SW Marine Drive, at the base of the Arthur Laing Bridge in Vancouver. It's accessible by transit, and has free and paid parking nearby.

Metro Theatre

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Box office phone: 604-266-7191

Website: metrotheatre.com

Twitter: @metrotheatre

Facebook: Metro Theatre Vancouver

Contact for more information, publicity photos, arrangements for interviews and press tickets:

Heather Evens

Publicist, Metro Theatre

Email: publicity@metrotheatre.com

Twitter: @metrotheatre

Cell: 604-440-8563