Enter a world of magic and fantasy as Disney’s classic movie Bedknobs and Broomsticks makes its world premiere as an exciting new stage musical. With the original songs by the Sherman Brothers and new music and lyrics by Neil Bartram and book by Brian Hill; Bedknobs and Broomsticks is brought to life by award-winning theatre-makers Candice Edmunds and Jamie Harrison.

## Characters and Costumes

The three children are Charlie, Carrie and Paul Rawlins.

Charlie is the oldest. He’s the tallest, with short, sandy coloured hair worn combed back. He wears grey suit trousers, a blue shirt and a knitted vest. He has a heavy tartan jacket over that, with green velvet lapels.

Carrie is the middle child. She has her hair in long plaits and sometimes wears a beret style hat at first. She wears a grey checked pinafore dress, a purple shirt and matching tights.

Paul is the youngest. He has thick sandy hair and wears grey shorts and long grey socks. On top he wears a blue shirt and tie and a knitted vest top.

Miss Eglantine Price is an attractive lady, with her auburn hair in neat waves and pinned back at her neck in the style of the day. She wears a small purple hat with gold trim on the brim and a jaunty gold feather and gold leather gloves. Her purple coat has a black lace trim and belt, and a cape that covers her shoulders. Underneath the coat she wears a gold-coloured blouse with a bow at the neck and a calf-length purple, tweed skirt. When riding her motorbike, she wears a pair of airman’s goggles. In the Beautiful Briny Ballroom Miss Price wears a silvery blue skirt suit. At the end of the show she wears a neat green jacket with a belt, a knee-length green tartan skirt and a matching little green hat.

Emelius Brown is a slim, middle aged man with blonde hair and a pencil moustache. When we first meet him performing magic tricks he wears a purple and gold top hat and a big wide coat with a shoulder cape, faded and old. When he takes that off after meeting Miss Price, he is wearing a purple three-piece suit underneath. He has purple trousers, a white shirt, a purple tie and waistcoat and a purple jacket with a velvet collar and cuffs. Outdoors he wears a long tartan coat and a small trilby hat. During the dancing competition he wears a silvery blue suit. At the end of the show, his suit is a more conservative brown colour.

Mrs Hobday is the post mistress, museum curator and head of the Pepperinge Eye Children’s Evacuation Committee. She is an older lady with greying hair and spectacles. She wears a pink dress with a long green cardigan and carries a clipboard.

Mrs Mason is a severe woman of sturdy farm stock. She wears a smock with a dirty apron over the top, sensible boots and has a small straw hat perched on her head.

There are often on stage an ensemble cast of other characters. The ensemble play:

* The people who rescue the children at the start - in tin hats, army fatigues, overcoats and trilbys
* The passers-by who watch Emilius Brown’s magic tricks – ladies in skirt suits and neat little hats and suits for the men
* The vendors of Portobello Road – in flouncy, mismatched and gaudy clothes, showy and extravagant
* And the shadow soldiers – in long black trench coats, black boots and gloves, black tin helmets and gas masks, so we can’t see any of their features.

The ensemble cast members also move around the sets and scenery, sing and provide sound effects like magical gasps and breaths, they hold the dancing magical lights that appear when a spell is starting to work, and they skillfully operate the puppet characters.

The first puppet to appear is a rabbit. He is a small white bunny with long ears that wiggle, big rabbit feet and he wears a blue waistcoat.

On the island of Nopeepo we meet Norton, a fish. Norton is a large fish puppet with a pink back, tail and fins and a yellow face and belly. He has big, boggly eyes and a giant mount full of white teeth. He wears a silver bow tie. Norton is the MC of the Beautiful Briny Ballroom where other fish puppets take part in a dancing competition. They are each smaller fish that light up a bright yellow colour. The ensemble cast wear shiny, silvery blue dresses and suits when they operate the fish puppets.

Sherman, is a brown bear. He is about two foot tall and has a worried look on his face all the time. Sherman wears a blue shirt and brown trousers held up with braces. Three cast members operate the Sherman puppet, wearing green shirts and trousers with fringes.

Angela is a bird. She has long legs and a long neck, with white feathers and a blue, hooked beak. She has a spiky crest that shoots up when she is shocked. Two cast members in green operate the Angela puppet.

King Leonidas is a lion. He is the full height of a man with big teeth and long claws on his furry feet and paws. The king wears a regal outfit of blue and red with gold fleur-de-lis. He has a fitted jerkin, half length pantaloons and a gold crown on his head, as well as the large, gold Star of Astaroth medallion round his neck. Three green clad cast members operate the puppet of the king.

## Set and props

The show opens in the Rawlins children’s bedroom, in a house in London. This is a small room set in the centre of the stage, surrounded by darkness. It is warm and homely, with toys and books and one, large brass bed.

Outside, on the war-torn streets of London, we glimpse the outline of St Paul’s Cathedral in the background. There are tall, jagged columns, like the walls of houses that have been torn apart by bombs. There is smoke and torch light, and a huge red moon hangs over everything.

The Pepperinge Eye Museum has a large arched entrance, with two heave wooden doors. Inside, there are crates with military uniforms and weapons stored away, a suit of armour under a blanket and bright pennants hang from the roof.

Miss Price’s motorbike and sidecar is racing green. Members of the cast make it appear to move by spinning the wheels, turning it around corners and bouncing it up and down over bumps.

Miss Price’s house has dressers full of books and ornaments, and a portrait of a fierce looking black cat with yellow eyes. Upstairs the children’s bedroom has a window with blue curtains and one brass bed.

It is polished brass with four big bedknobs. It has a pink cover and a gold blanket, and is just big enough for five people to cram on to. The bed will be magically made to fly. Through out the show the bed lifts up and sails through the night sky and there is no way to tell how (except by magic).

Emelius Brown’s house is messy, with a washing line strung across it with his long johns and socks pegged on, and lots of clothes and books and boxes.

Portobello Road is a busy London market. Vendors have wheeled carts crammed with brick-a-brack, knick-knacks and lots of books. There are long alleys full of booksellers. St Paul’s Cathedral presides over it all.

The Beautiful Briny Ballroom on the Island of Nopeepo has grey outlines of long wavy tufts of seaweed. The name is spelled out in yellow and orange bulbs overhead and Norton stands on a round dias to preside over the dancing competition.