

A Panto Adventure with Uncle Chris

Connie: Hello adventurers and welcome to another episode of Armchair Adventures.

Music - Armchair Adventures theme tune

Connie: Hope you're all getting in the Christmas spirit adventurers! Have you put your decorations up yet? I love Christmas...the food, the parties, spending time with family and friends, I can't wait!

Anyway, I've set Uncle Chris a very special Christmas task for this episode, Uncle Chris, over to you...

Uncle Chris: Hello adventurers, It's me Uncle Chris here. In this episode, Connie has set me and the children at Arlies Primary School a very important assignment. Say hello gang.

Children: Hello Uncle Chris! Hello adventurers!

Uncle Chris: Connie is going to a pantomime next week with her school and she's never ever been to one before.

Children: Oh yes she has.

Uncle Chris: Oh no she hasn't.

Children: Oh yes she has.

Uncle Chris: Join in adventurer. Ready?!

SFX - Ding

Children: Oh yes she has.

Uncle Chris: Oh no she hasn't! Brilliant, well-done adventurer. Have you been to pantomime before?

SFX - Ding

Child: I've been to see Dick Whittington. It's about a man who travels to London to find his fortune.

SFX - Of London, Big Ben, busy city, market callers.

Child: Aladdin, about a genie and a magical lamp.

SFX - lamp rubbing and a puff as a genie appears.

Child: Cinderella, about glass slipper and a fairy godmother.

SFX - magic twinkling for a spell

Child: Pinocchio, about a puppet whose nose grows everytime he lies.

Uncle Chris: Let's all imagine that our nose keeps growing adventurer. Ready. Go!

SFX - a swanee whistle to describe a nose growing, first a little, then a bit more, then really big. Then a massive sneeze.

Children: Errrrrrr!

Uncle Chris: That's the problem with massive noses; they give you massive sneezes.

Child: I've been to see Jack and Beanstalk.

SFX - beanstalk growing.

Uncle Chris: Let's climb the massive beanstalk adventurer. Ready. Go!

SFX - Ding

SFX - children and Uncle Chris climbing the beanstalk.

Uncle Chris: Watch out for the giant.

SFX - giant "Fee Fi Fo Fum"

Children: Uh...oh...

Child: I've been to see Mother Goose.

SFX - honk

Child: Snow White and seven dwarves.

SFX - the dwarfs marching to work.

Child: Sleeping Beauty.

SFX - gentle snoring.

Uncle Chris: They all sound wonderful. But what Connie really wants to know is what are the ingredients that make up a good pantomime?

Child: Ingredients?

Uncle Chris: Yes, like the ingredients in making a cake, but instead of food, I mean the bits that make a pantomime a pantomime. You know, what sets a pantomime apart from a normal theatre show or story? For example, my favourite bit is audience participation and we've already done that.

Children: Oh no we haven't.

Uncle Chris: Don't start that again. So, guys, what is your favourite ingredient in a pantomime?

SFX - Ding

Child: The sweets.

Children: Mmmmmmm

Child: I like the way the goodies always win.

SFX – Short trumpet fanfare to describe goodie winning!

Children: Hurray!

Child: No, I love the baddies the best.

SFX - low pitch, baddy music.

Child: The panto cow is my favourite.

Child: No way, the dame!

Child: Bad jokes.

SFX - laughing

Child: Custard pies.

SFX - splat

Child A: Booing and hissing.

Child B: No, no, no.

Child A: Oh yes it is.

Child B: Oh no it isn't.

Child A: Is.

Child B: Isn't.

Child: C: Is.

Child D: Isn't.

SFX - All the children start squabbling

Children: Boooo! Hissss!

Uncle Chris: Ok, calm down children! We don't want to argue about it. I think we need some help from some people that are more experienced in these things than us adventurer. Pantomimes aren't really my thing I'm afraid. In fact, I have a secret... Uncle Chris, that's me, doesn't like Christmas!

SFX - Gasp/Intaske of breath - SHOCK!

Uncle Chris: But you'll find out more about that in the next episode of Armchair Adventures. For now though, let's get our local community theatre group on the line. You might recognise them from episode five of series one. And just like me, our local community theatre group love a bit of drama. So let's do this episode's adventure in the style of a showbiz TV show called Top of the Panto Bits!

SFX - phone rings

Music – Armchair Adventures theme tune

SFX - TV studio.

Ensemble: Hello!

Habib: Cameras

Child: Actors

Gary: Clapper Board. Watch your fingers adventurers!

SFX - clapper board snapping shut

Child: Instruments

SFX - guitar

Katie: Microphones. Testing 1 2 3.

Child: Lights

Dan: A director. Studio manager.

Child: Costumes

Child: A stage

Chris: Make up artists.

Uncle Chris: Let's all pretend to be makeup artists adventurer. You can make up someone else or yourself. Ready. Go!

SFX - gang putting make up on.

SFX - ding.

John: All the delicious food from the catering van.

Katie: Cakes.

Gary: Biscuits.

Habib : Sandwiches.

SFX - slurping, chewing etc. to describe eating delicious food.

Uncle Chris: What can you see, hear, or smell in a TV studio adventurer?

SFX - Ding

Uncle Chris: Right, gang on the next ding I need you all to shout lights, camera, action, and you adventurer. Ready, we are going live in... five, four, three, two, one.

SFX - Ding

Children: Lights, camera, action!

SFX - blast of showbiz music.

Uncle Chris: Welcome panto pickers to another fantastic tip-top 'join in at home' episode of Top of the Pantos Bits! In today's show, we take a jam-packed trip through our local community theatre groups top ten ingredients that make up a proper good panto! So let's go straight in at number ten.

John: Hi panto pickers, it's me John here.

Children: Hi John!

John: My favourite is the baddy!

SFX - John does an evil laugh.

SFX - baddy music.

John: Let's all imagine we are a panto baddy adventurer. With a black cloak and a big twirly moustache.

SFX - Ding

Children: Boooo! Hssss!

John: Now, adventurer I want you to do your most vilest baddy laugh with me. Ready, go!

SFX - Ding

SFX - John and the children doing a baddy laugh.

Uncle Chris: That was pretty scary. At nine, down from last year, we have my namesake Chris strutting his stuff on the catwalk as the pantomime dame.

Children: Hi Chris.

SFX - Catwalk music. Photos being taken.

Chris: Christine to you boys and girls! Do you like my dress, I made it myself? Can you tell the adventurers at home what I look like?

John: Colourful bows.

Child: Lots of glitter.

Katie: Big hair.

Gary: Plenty of make up.

Child: A big bristly chin.

Child: Hairy legs.

Chris: Charming! You don't say things like that to a lady!

Uncle Chris: In the top ten panto bits for as long as I can remember panto pickers, at number eight it's a pantomime cow, or horse, or even a camel.

SFX - camel spit with a ting as it hits a pan.

Uncle Chris: Played here by Paul and Gary and directed by Dan.

Children: Hi Paul, Hi Gary, Hello Dan!

Gary: I'm in the front Paul, you're in the back end.

Paul: No chance Gary not with your gassy bum.

Gary: You cheeky monkey! You can go off people you know.

Dan: Will you two get on with it!

Paul & Gary: Sorry Dan!

Dan: And cue the camel. Action!

SFX - musical camel walking. Spits and tings followed by a farting noise.

Paul: Errr Gary.

Gary: Sorry!

Uncle Chris: And now it's number seven, but I can't find number seven. Has anyone seen it?

Children: It's behind you.

Uncle Chris: Is it? Where? Where?

Children: Over there.

Uncle Chris: I can't see it.

Children: No, it's over there.

Uncle Chris: Where?

Children: Over there! It's behind you!

Uncle Chris: Oh yes, so it is. Why didn't you tell me before adventurer, it was there all along, and it's audience participation, my favourite. Now, in the number six slot, it's celebrities. You quite often get a celebrity in a good pantomime.

Katie: I'm Bond. James Bond. Playing Wishy Washy in Droitwich Spa.

Dan: Yoda I am. Playing Buttons in Stockport, I is.

Child: Dolly Parton...Cinderella in Milton Keynes.

Uncle Chris: Can you do an impression of a celebrity adventurer?

SFX - Ding

Uncle Chris: Very good adventurer; it was like they were in the room. Now, halfway there, and charting for the first time in about three years, at five it's giveaways! Hi, what's your name and what have you got to give away?

Katie: Hi, I'm Katie, and I've got buckets and buckets of sweets to throw into the audience.

Children: Hi Katie.

Katie: Get ready, adventurer. I'll throw them and you have to pretend to catch them. Who wants a sweet?

Children: Meeee!

Gary & Paul: Usssss!

SFX - Ding

SFX - Throwing sound. Sound of kids scrambling to get the sweets.

Gary: Get out of the way.

Paul: They're ours!

Katie: Gary! Paul! The sweets are for the children not you!

Gary & Paul: Ooooooh!

Katie: Now we get to eat them.

SFX - Children eating sweets- mmmmm mmmm

Uncle Chris: Delicious! Wait a minute; we have even more giveaways. What's your name and what have you got to give away at the pantomime?

Julia: Hi I'm Julia and I have a T-Shirt Cannon!

Children: Hi Julia.

Uncle Chris: A t-shirt cannon! What's that?

Julia: It fires T-Shirts. Ready?

Uncle Chris: See if you can catch a T-Shirt from Julia's cannon adventures.

SFX - T-Shirt Cannon BANG!

Children: Wooooo

Child: I got one.

Child: I've got one.

Child: And me.

Julia: Oh you all look gorgeous in them.

Chris: (In a high pitched voice) Mine's a little tight. Have you got an extra extra large by any chance Julia?

Julia: I think I need a bigger cannon Chris.

SFX - a massive cannon going off.

Uncle Chris: At four panto pickers were back to Katie who's chosen a bit of romance.

SFX - romantic music.

Children: Hi Katie.

Katie: Hello everyone, I've chosen romance. In a pantomime there's always romance and everyone usually ends up in a couple, even the baddies. This often happens in a big party or wedding right at the end of the show.

SFX - Wedding bells, people cheering etc.

Katie: Ooo I love a bit of romance.

SFX - smooching sounds.

Children: Errrrrr!

Uncle Chris: Well, that's quite enough of that thank you very much. It's enough to put you off your lunch. Now, we are really revving up panto pickers; only three to go. At three we have Dan and Paul with bad jokes.

Children: Hi Dan. Hi Paul.

Dan: Do you know any bad jokes adventurer?

SFX - Ding

Child: What did the painter say to the wall....don't worry I've got you covered!

SFX - Laughs

Child: What do you call a dog that's dressed up as a shark...paws!!

SFX - Laughs

Child: Why does a duck have tail feathers...to cover his bum quack!

SFX - Laughs

Dan: A man goes to the doctor and he says, doctor, doctor, it hurts in three places. And the doctor says, well, don't go to those places then!

SFX - drums and cymbal - diddily bum tush!

Paul: I don't get it.

Dan: Well it's a play on words.

Paul: You what?

Dan: Places. Places on your back or places that you go.

Paul: Well, what's wrong with his back? Perhaps he's got a slipped disk. My aunty had a slipped disk. But why would it hurt in three places?

Dan: Well it doesn't.

Paul: I thought you said that it did.

Dan: Well, it does.

Paul: You what?

Dan: In the joke I mean. I mean the man doesn't actually exist.

Paul: He doesn't exist, and he has a bad back; now that is unfortunate.

Dan: No, no, he exists in the joke. It's just the doctor gets the wrong end of the stick.

Paul: Ah...so the stick did it?

Dan: Did what?

Paul: His back.

Dan: No, it's a joke. The man means places on his back, and the doctor thinks he means places that you go, in a car for example.

Paul: Well, driving in a car for long periods can be bad for your back.

Dan: Oh forget it!

Uncle Chris: Well, Dan's joke is obviously no laughing matter for Paul. So, moving swiftly on to number two.

Paul: Oh! I get it now. The doctor misunderstands what the man means when he said place!

Dan: That's right. That's it!

SFX - Paul laughing first a little and then a lot.

Uncle Chris: Right, is there a doctor in this place? I think Paul needs some gas and air.

Uncle Chris: Let's try again. In at number two it's Habib and Catherine with a happy ending.

Children: Hi Habib, Hi Catherine.

Habib: In a pantomime everything and everyone ends up happy. I love that.

John: Even the baddies?

Catherine: Even the baddies.

Gary: Even the camels?

Catherine: Even the camels.

Catherine: Life's not like that. Life has ups and downs. So going to a pantomime with your friends and family helps you feel warm and fuzzy and safe, and that's lovely.

Katie: You can get swept up in romance.

Dan: Or you can have a good laugh.

Chris: With the pantomime dame.

Katie: Or catching sweets.

Julia: Or T-Shirts.

Paul: Or bad jokes. (Paul laughing). Three places. Get it? Three places!

SFX - Paul laughing.

Catherine: And we all get to experience living happily ever after.

Habib: Even if it's only for a couple hours.

Uncle Chris: And talking about happy endings, it's time for number one. A song. So to wrap it all up, let's hear the community theatre company doing their song with Connie from episode five of series one. It's full of drama and I love drama, and it's called 'This is My Home'.

Song

If you want to find a place,
A space where you can be yourself,
Where friendly faces glare,
And you know you just belong.
It's where you know someone's got your back,
To listen and help when you need.
Take my advice,
Step into the light,
And suddenly then you may feel,
You can be who you want to be.

Yeah! Let's go!
Come on! Let's go guys,
Yeah alright!

It doesn't matter where you find it,
As long as you're happy.
It could be drawing, drama, music or sport,
A place where you do what you love.

Everyone is different,
It matters what is right for you,
Performance is our thing,

And yeah we like to sing,
And we love every moment too.

Look at us now,
Surrounded by bright lights,
Loving our lives,
People shouting our names,
Do what want,
Get whatever we need,
And we have an everlasting Coca-Cola fountain.

This is my home,
This is where I belong,
This is my home,
Whoa!
It's in my DNA,
To show the world's a stage,
Yeah this is my home (this is my home),
This is my home (this is my home),
Whoa!
This is my home!

This is our place,
A space where we can be ourselves.
Now with costumes, agents and amazing hair,
Signing autographs everywhere.
We always work hard,
Rehearse whenever we meet,
And now we can be seen on every magazine in this showbiz reality.

Look at us now,
Surrounded by bright lights,
Loving our lives,
People shouting our names,
Do what want,
Get whatever we need,
And we have an everlasting Coca-Cola fountain.

This is my home,
This is where I belong,
This is my home,
Whoa!
It's in my DNA,
To show the world's a stage,
Yeah this is my home
This is my home,
This is my home,
This is my home,

This is where I belong,
This is my home,
Whoa!
This is my home!

Uncle Chris: And cut! Great show everyone.

SFX - a TV crew packing away.

Uncle Chris: And now it's time to say goodbye.

Children: Bye.

Ensemble: Bye!

Uncle Chris: End. Call. Now

Uncle Chris: Lovely. That was a cracking adventure. And I have all the info I need to tell Connie about all the ingredients that make up a brilliant panto. She can just sit back and concentrate on enjoying them all now.

Children: Oh no she can't.

Uncle Chris: Oh yes she can. I thought you lot had gone. Never mind. See you next time adventurers.

Children: Oh no you won't.

Uncle Chris: Will you lot pack it in!

Music - Armchair Adventures theme tune.