**Cast announced for new Cumbernauld panto *Baltic***

* **Alex Robertson,** **Lauren O’Hare**, **Kathleen McClenaghan**, **Milly Sweeney**, **Jerry Taylor** **and Abbie Watson** **will star in the heartwarming panto this winter**
* **The lineup includes two talented graduates of the local New College Lanarkshire, making their panto debuts on the Cumbernauld stage**
* **At Lanternhouse from Saturday 22 November to Sunday 24 December**



Baltic cast – Alex Robertson, Lauren O’Hare, Kathleen McClenaghan, Milly Sweeney, Jerry Taylor, Abbie Warson

Today Ginger and Jester Productions announces the cast for its upcoming panto at Cumbernauld Theatre, [Baltic](https://lanternhousearts.org/events/baltic/), written by **Jerry Taylor**.

Brave young Elsbeth, with magical powers still to be unleashed, lives in the snowy village of Glenfrost. When her brother Kai is kidnapped by the wicked Snow Queen Chillblane and her slippery sidekick Jack Frost, she sets off on a daring rescue mission.

She’s joined by her hilariously cheeky pal Sammy the Slush, her snow-stopping mammy Dame Agnes Avalunch, and a whole host of frosty new friends, including a talking snowman called Nolaff who’s lost his carrot and his sense of smell.Along the way, they face chaotic trolls, a ravenous seven-foot Yeti, and a snowstorm or two as Elsbeth discovers what she’s really capable of.

Packed with cool tunes, snowballing laughs and plenty of chances to shout out, Baltic is a heartwarming festive adventure for the whole family. Full of friendship, fun and a little sprinkle of panto magic.

This heartwarming festive adventure will be brought to life by **Alex Robertson** (Still Game) as Dame Agnes Avalunch and **Lauren O’Hare** (Winds of Change – Tram Direct; Beauty and the Beast – Fizzgig Theatre) as Elspeth. They’re joined by two talented graduates of the local New College Lanarkshire, who will be making their panto debuts on the Cumbernauld stage: **Kathleen McClenaghan** as Nolaff and **Milly Sweeney** as Jack Frost. Also appearing are **Jerry Taylor**, who has penned this year’s panto, as Sammy the Slush, and **Abbie Watson**, who doubles up as choreographer and musical director, as Chilblain, the Snow Queen.

**Writer and performer Jerry Taylor said**: *‘My mission this Christmas is to bring belly laughs and chaos to Cumbernauld, and I am relishing the challenge. For me, it’s all about entertainment and sending everyone home smiling and buzzing for Christmas. Panto is for laughing, singing and dancing and we will bring you it all in abundance.’*

Cumbernauld Theatre Trust is thrilled to welcome Ginger and Jester Productions to Lanternhouse with their panto for the first time this year. With in-house producing work currently on-pause due to ongoing funding challenges, this special collaboration ensures that audiences of all ages will be able to enjoy a memorable festive production in the venue and continue to enjoy one of the most magical theatre-going times of the year.

***Baltic*** will run at Lanternhouse Main Auditorium from Sat 22 November to Wed 24 December, with an opening press performance on **Fri 28 November at 7pm.**

**ENDS/**

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**Cast images and biogs can be found** [**here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13gcZ9Os7AmAEZ_9CZDuU1Ps1AS8Vwngz?usp=drive_link)**.**

**For more information, contact:**

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**Production info**

***Baltic***Written and Directed by Jerry Talor
Choreography and musical direction by Abbie Watson

Presented by Ginger and Jester Productions

Cast:

**Alex Robertson** – Dame Agnes Avalunch
**Lauren O’Hare** – Elsbeth
**Kathleen McClenaghan** – Nolaff
**Milly Sweeney** – Jack Frost
**Jerry Taylor** – Sammy the Slush
**Abbie Watson** – Chilblain the Snow Queen

Creative Team:

Writer & Director – **Jerry Taylor**

Choreographer & Musical Director – **Abbie Watson**

Listings info

Saturday 22 November – Wednesday 24 December:

Press Performance on Fri 28 December at 7pm.

Accessible Performances to be confirmed.

For tickets and full listings information call the box office on 01236 732887 or visit <https://lanternhousearts.org>

**Biographies**

**Alex Robertson***Dame Agnes Avalunch*

**Alex** has been acting since the age of 9, joining PACE Theatre Company as a founding member in 1988. He trained at Reid Kerr College before continuing his studies at the RSAMD in Glasgow.

His love of theatre has taken him across the country, performing in a wide range of productions. He was also one half of the comedy double act Roy and Jack.

A passionate pantomime performer, Alex has appeared in many pantos across Scotland. Notably, he played Baron Pollock in the King’s Theatre Glasgow’s hit, sell-out production of Cinderella, alongside Gregor Fisher and Tony Roper.

On television, Alex has appeared in many well-known series including Rab C. Nesbitt, Dear Green Place, Crimewatch, and Taggart. He is best known for his role as Jackie, the housing officer, in Scotland’s top comedy series Still Game.

Alex has worked extensively with BBC, STV, PACE Theatre Company, and the BBC Comedy Unit. He also directed the touring show Shakespearience, written by BBC comedy writer Paul Powell.

Recent theatre credits include Eddy in From the Calton to Catalonia, Phil in The Lions of Lisbon, Robbie in Girls’ Night Out, and Ray in Breathing Corpses.

Alex also guest-starred in the web series Demonologist for Hire, winning the Best Guest Star Award at the British Web Awards 2000.

He is delighted to be performing at Cumbernauld Theatre this year for Ginger & Jester Productions.

**Lauren O’Hare***Elspeth*

**Lauren O’Hare is a Glasgow-based actor and recent graduate from the University of Glasgow, where she earned a degree in English Literature and Film & Television. Alongside her academic studies, Lauren has built a strong foundation in professional performance, balancing both screen and stage work.**

**In 2024, she played Sarah in Tram Direct’s play, Winds of Change, which toured across the central belt. That same year, she took on the role of Beauty in Fizzgig Theatre’s festive production of Beauty and the Beast at Mugdock Theatre. On screen, Lauren starred as Leonor in Displaced, a powerful short film that was shortlisted at the 2025 Glasgow Short Film Festival.**

**Lauren is absolutely thrilled to be joining the cast of Baltic. Bursting with heart, humour, and brilliant energy, Baltic marks her debut on the Cumbernauld stage.**

**Kathleen McClenaghan**
*Nolaff*

Kathleen began performing as a teenager with UKTS and recently completed her BA in Musical Theatre at New College Lanarkshire. She regularly co-hosts musical brunches at the Corset Club in Glasgow and performs at events in her hometown of Stranraer.

Her professional credits include Panch in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Impact Arts, 2025), Paulette in *Legally Blonde* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, 2024), and understudy for Billy in *Singin’ I’m No a Billy, She’s a Tim* (Pavilion Theatre, 2023). She also appeared in the ensemble for SLLC’s pantomimes at Hamilton Town House and Rutherglen Town Hall (2018/2019).

Hailing from a small rural town where, as she puts it, “we still watch telly in black and white,” Kathleen doesn’t take opportunities like this for granted. She’s thrilled to be bringing some Christmas spirit to Cumbernauld this year – even if it means dressing up as a wee fat snowman… oh yes she is!

**Milly Sweeney**
*Jack Frost*

Milly Sweeney (she/her) is from Glasgow and graduated with a BA Honours in Acting and Creative Enterprise in 2024 from New College Lanarkshire.

Her acting credits include *Log Off, Loser* (Flower Punk Films,) *The Little Iceberg* (Anam Alba Creatives,) *Macbeth* (New College Lanarkshire,) and *The Caravel* (Cuttin’ Aboot Theatre Co.)

Milly is super buzzin’ to be involved in Panto this year at Cumbernauld!

**Jerry Taylor**
*Sammy the Slush
Writer & Director*

Jerry has been touring the country for the past decade with many shows, most notably as Tim in *Singin’ Im No A Billy He's a Tim*, and the hilarious and hapless Mark in the five-star tour of *Blame it on the Bucky*.

Jerry has produced and written many plays and pantomimes over the last 10 years and is mostly known for his high energy and absolutely chaotic sense of humour.

**Abbie Watson**
*Chilblain, the Snow Queen
Choreographer and Musical Director*

Abbie was born in Ayr and has over 15 years of professional experience. Leaving home at age 11 for vocational training, she found a love for Musical Theatre. She trained 5 years at The Hammond Schools, Chester, then moved to London aged 16 to train for two years at Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Arts Educational School, and then a year at The Urdang Academy.

Abbie’s Theatre Credits include: Co-Producer / ‘Fairy Godmother’ in G&J Production of Cinderella; Co-producer / ‘Lysander’ in G&J Production of A Midsummer Nights Dream; Producer of Ayr Young Farmers 2023 & 2024; Featured Vocalist with Merrill Osmond (70’s The Osmond Brothers) for 3 years performing in Las Vegas and Uk Tours; 4 years as Singer-Dancer with P&O Australia through Grayboy Entertainment; Featured Singer with Michael Courtney Productions in Mad About the Musicals Tour, Love Changes Everything UK Tour, and Ayr Gaiety Whirl 2013; Principle girl ‘Belle’ in Alhambra Theatre Panto 2022; 4 years in Ayr Gaiety Panto as Dance Captain/Principle Girl; Choreographer / Musical Director for numerous Professional & Amateur Productions.

Film Credits: Dancer in Sunshine On Leith Feature Film. Founder and Director of Studio893 & Sing with Abbie; Co-Producer & Co-Founder for Ayrshire Youth Theatre & Ginger & Jester Productions.

Abbie is absolutely delighted to be performing at Cumbernauld Theatre as well co-producing it alongside her partner in crime. Everyone at Cumbernauld has been an absolute dream and pleasure to work with, which makes it all that more magical. It’s so much fun being the Villian/Snow Queen. Abbie hopes everyone has a fun and mischievous time!