

December 2023 BIGLITTLE Alumni News Roundup

There was another wave of happy alumni news during December 2023—thank you to all of those that got in touch to share their adventures!



We wished **Jess Ruby** well as she headed off to the magical sights of Lapland to work as a Ranger and to entertain guests and sent our congratulations and BLAST best wishes to **Georgie Pilling** who married Ian Warrington at Abbot's Court.



We spotted a few of our Alumni helping others—**Charlotte Clitherow** was out singing carols in Canary Wharf to raise funds for Crisis UK, and **Sam Trotman** was busy making hundreds of Christingles. We also watched with immense pride when **Megan Shaw** took to our TV screens to explain her journey battling anorexia and her fear of food, and how she is using her recovery to inspire others to find the strength and courage to reclaim their lives and dreams from this



With the festive season in full swing it was a

busy month for those alumni partaking in Christmas productions. After weeks of rehearsals we saw **Georgie McGaskill**, **Ed Brennen** and **Bella Kane** burst into action at the Christmas Spectacular at Christchurch's Regent Centre alongside two current students and **Jessica Fossey** a BIGLITTLE staff member, with lots of familiar faces in the audience.

White Christmas opened at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre starring **Ryan Gover**, **Sleeping Beauty Felt a Little Prick** (Adult panto) opened at the Guildford Fringe starring **Finan McKinney**, **Beth Dawson** starred in a very festive production in Sunbury on Thames, and **Kat Douglas** was busy touring all over the South in a Robin Hood panto with Bumblefly Theatre Company. Elsewhere, we were also delighted to see **Sophia Handscomb** back behind a microphone with her lovely vocals entertaining in local venues and **Marky Dawson** taking requests in Covent Garden.



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Sky Arts was showing the 2019 stage recording of 42nd Street and **Ryan Gover** who was in the West End cast at that time, could be seen tapping all over our TV screens.



Harrison McDonald-Taylor made his professional debut in The Three Billy Goats Gruff at Chichester Festival Theatre **Maddie McKinnon-Wardell**, who is currently studying at Exeter University, started rehearsals for a production of Singing in the Rain with the Footlights at Exeter's Northcott Theatre.



The 'Sound of Music' opened in Cape Town, starring **Alida Sheepers** making her professional debut in Musical Theatre. Having seen her hugely successful performances with Cape Town Opera throughout 2023, it was hard to believe that she had never been in a professional musical theatre production before!!



Connor Jones and **James Hilton Foster** continued touring with Madagascar and found themselves in Hong Kong having an experience of a lifetime. We are waiting patiently for them to head to Southampton in August 2024 so that the BIGLITTLE family can see them in action!

As we head into 2024, we thank all the alumni who have shared their journeys with us over the last year, and invite everyone who has been part of the BIGLITTLE family to keep in touch. Our wonderful ambassador **Michelle Guy** summed it up in her New Year Facebook post!

Happy New Year to all our wonderful Big Little Alumni. Where ever you are in the world, please be sure to stay in touch and share your 2024, special moments with us. Everyone loves to hear from you.



Happy New Year everyone!

Wishing every member of the BIGLITTLE family a very happy and healthy 2024...



May there be a bit of sparkle in everyones year!