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PANTO FOR PATHWAY

A totally unique experience is going to be created by an Oxford based comedy company with all the proceeds going to charity.

For three nights in January, Oxford Comedy Deathmatch will create a pantomime on the spot for a live audience. Each night a member of the audience will pull out the name of a panto from an envelope - and the fun will begin!

Oxford Comedy Deathmatch is made up of twelve local actors and comedians brought together by a love of improvised comedy in the style of 'Whose Line is it Anyway?' (Channel 4). Otherwise known as OCD, the comedy group has been creating improvised comedy sketches based entirely on suggestions from the audience for over a year at the Folly Bridge Inn in Oxford - and has built up quite a fanbase.

This will be the first bid fundraising event for the local comedy group. Pathway Workshop stood out as a favourite charity based on its ethical approach. Pathway Workshop is an Oxford charity which offers meaningful employment and training for people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities or mental health issues. Pathway Workshop produces and sells high quality wood products such as garden benches and planters and offers its employees 'a pathway to independence' through its training for both work skills and life skills. The ethical basis of the company means that the staff are able to progress at their own pace and to achieve their maximum potential.

"Our group got the idea to do an alternative panto for Pathway last year," explains Jenny Sugden, a member of Oxford Comedy Deathmatch. "We found out that Pathway doesn't get any subsidy at all from the government so we thought that if we could raise funds by making people laugh it would be really worth it. Pathway is a great charity and we are delighted to be doing something we love and helping to raise money for such a good cause at the same time."

Mike Kyle, director of Pathway Workshop, said, 'We are absolutely delighted that OCD is doing the Impro Panto for Pathway Workshop. Since they are doing the performances out of the goodness of their hearts, the money raised could pay a disadvantaged adult a decent living wage for up to 3 months this year. Pathway wants to give its staff a brighter future and if people buy tickets for the panto this will really help.'

The Impro Panto will be performed at the Moser Theatre, Wadham College, Park Street, Oxford OX1 3PN on Thursday 20th January, Friday 21st January and Saturday 22nd January at 7pm. Tickets are £5 full price and £3 for children under 12. The show is suitable for children aged 8 and above and families are welcome.

To buy tickets online go to www.comedydeathmatch.com or www.facebook.com/oxfordcomedydeathmatch. Tickets can be bought on the door subject to availability. For more information call Pathway Workshop on 01865 714111. To buy any of Pathway Workshop's environmentally friendly wood products, or to make a donation to Pathway Workshop go to www.pathway-workshop.co.uk. The Impro Panto is in association with Oxford University RAG. / END

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