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PANTO FOR PATHWAY

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

For four nights in December, Oxford Comedy Deathmatch will create a pantomime on the spot based on audience suggestions. 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 fourteen 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 company has been creating improvised comedy sketches based entirely on suggestions from the audience for two years at the Folly Bridge Inn in Oxford - and has built up quite a fanbase.

Oxford Comedy Deathmatch love raising money for charity by making people laugh and last year Pathway Workshop's ethical approach caught the group's eye and they suggested to the Charity's Director Mike Kyle that they raise money by putting on a series of improvised pantomimes. The venture was such a success (raising over £1,500) and so much fun that OCD is very excited to announce that it will once again be bringing audiences its unique blend of the traditional panto experience and improvised comedy.

Once again funds raised will go to Pathway workshop whose fantastic work inspired the comedy group so much last year. 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 high quality wood products such as garden benches and planters and offers its employees 'a pathway to independence'. The ethical basis of the company means that the staff are able to progress at their own pace and to achieve their potential.

'We love making people laugh with our improvised comedy shows' says group member Jen Sugden, 'everyone enjoys a good panto at Christmas and so we thought it would be fun to mash the two together. Last year's pantos were a huge success and the audiences really enjoyed being able to influence the traditional panto stories through their suggestions and see the ensuing mayhem. We are thrilled to be doing the same this year, and all for a great cause!'

'We are absolutely delighted that OCD is doing the Impro Panto again for Pathway Workshop. Since the group is doing this out of the goodness of their hearts, this 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,' said Mike Kyle, director of Pathway.

The Impro Panto is live at The Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk/Thames Street, Abingdon, on Wednesday 14th December, Thursday 15th December, Friday 16th December and Saturday 17th December at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 full price and £6 for concessions. The show is suitable for children aged 8 and above and families are welcome.

To buy tickets online go to www.octimprov.com or call Pathway Workshop on 01865 714111 or email enquiries@pathway-workshop.co.uk. 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. Tickets can be bought on the door subject to availability.

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Contacts

Pathway Workshop - Mike Kyle on 01865 714111

OCD –Jenny Sugden on 0779 688 4723