Andy Gray — panto legend — has died

Andy Gray a legendary part of the King's Theatre pantomime trio has died, aged 61.

The star of panto was an integral part of Scottish entertainment, starring in City Lights, River City and Naked Radio over his long career.

I most recently spoke to him along with Grant Stott, Allan Stewart and Jordan Young in a hilarious Zoom call when he had us all in stitches as usual.

Gray had taken some time out the pantomime before last when he was ill, but he recovered sufficiently to be available for the planned 2020 pantomime. Sadly it did not take place due to the pandemic.

This is the announcement from the BBC

We are sending love to family, friends and his colleagues here at BBC Scotland following the death of comedy actor Andy Gray. https://t.co/cI9SHbxVYi pic.twitter.com/br3VMa96em

- BBC Scotland Comms (@BBCScotComms) January 18, 2021

It is with enormous sadness that we have heard of the passing of our dear colleague and panto star, Andy Gray. We are still reeling from the news and are all absolutely devastated.

- Capital Theatres, Edinburgh (@captheatres) <u>January 18, 2021</u>

STV interviewed Andy's colleague and great friend Allan Stewart:

'I can't quite believe that he's gone.'

Friend and fellow panto star Allan Stewart has paid tribute to much-loved Scottish actor and comedy writer Andy Gray following his death aged 61. https://t.co/uCuG2dM4N7 pic.twitter.com/JsckxbF0U4

- STV News (@STVNews) January 18, 2021

Allan Stewart and Grant Stott pay tribute to Andy Gray.

@AllanMayStewart @GrantStottOnAir pic.twitter.com/b5zGcvM5nv

- Capital Theatres, Edinburgh (@captheatres) January 18, 2021

Donald Wilson Convener of Culture and Communities said: "Like so many I have very fond memories of Andy particularly alongside Allan Stewart and Grant Stott in the Panto for so many years. His energy and timing were magical and he brought so much joy to so many people. As Lord Provost I acknowledged the contribution all three had made to the wellbeing of Edinburgh citizens and beyond. It is more than entertainment and we own Andy a great debt of the contribution he has made to our lives and our city. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time."

Amy McNeese-Mechan the Vice-Convener of Culture and Communities said: "I am just gutted over the loss of our national treasure Andy Gray. We were fortunate to attend what we now know was his last ever Edinburgh Christmas panto, and the wave of love flooding towards Andy from the audience was palpable. He was a gem, and will be sorely missed."

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The panto trio in 2017 along with the then Rt Hon Lord Provost

Donald Wilson at a celebration he held at the City Chambers. Andy is on the right. PHOTO $\ensuremath{\text{\odot}}$ The Edinburgh Reporter