

NORTH ESSEX THEATRE GUILD SHOWCASE FESTIVAL 2017-18

Wickham Bishops Drama Club
“Sleeping Beauty” directed by James Milne
Adjudicated by Anne Sexton accompanied by Jane Rayner
6/1/18

F.O.H.

There was a good friendly and efficient welcome from the F.O.H. team, and an expectant buzz of excitement from the Rainbows and Brownies who filled half the hall. The programme was artistically designed and contained all the information we needed.

SETTING

The sets, including backcloths were very colourful and imaginative, suitable for all the specified locations in the story! The cobwebs perhaps needed thinning out, as they got caught on the Princesses shoes, but this was a minor point in an otherwise good, effective set.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

The lighting plot was very varied with good use of colour and the passing of time clearly conveyed. There were innovative effects with lighting and sound to create a magical atmosphere including the entrances of the Fairies and Witch, the casting of spells and the “Tardis” effect. Microphones were used, seemingly without problems. Well done to all involved in the technical aspects of the show!

COSTUMES

What a gorgeous array of costumes, rich in colour and style and appropriate for all the characters. Accessories were well themed with the outfits; for example The Lilac Fairy’s mauve wig matching her attractive dress, the colour Fairies sweetly adorned in their tutus, contrasted with the black tutus of the Witches minions! The “Royal” outfits were indeed majestic to look at too! Overall, a very attractive, colourful and well-fitted collection of costumes, well done to the team!

MUSIC

Having live music is always a plus to any pantomime and Musical Director, James Harragan, along with his band, supported the singers very well indeed. There was a pleasing mix of modern and traditional songs, and scene changes were covered well. There was some pre-recorded music for added atmosphere. Well done!

CHOREOGRAPHY

Well done to Pauline Roast for her imaginative dances which were attuned to the talents of the cast. There was balletic grace and beauty in the movements of the fairies, intrigue and a touch of darkness for the minions plus a well-drilled chorus who added much to the production!

CAST

KING CACTUS: This was a very “posh” royal! Charlie Willet’s body language and facial expressions were very good and although he played the King as bumbling and ineffectual, he was also loveable!

QUEEN MARIGOLD: This was a good and very animated performance from Moira Monti. The queen was very snooty with her nose in the air! Very enjoyable to watch!

YOUNG PRINCESS ROSE: Caitlin O’Sullivan gave us one of the highlights of the show with her rendition of “When I Grow Up” which gave Jane goosebumps! This was a very confident performance!

GROWN UP PRINCESS ROSE: Here was an attractive Princess, with a sweet smile but a defiant streak too! Anna Galbraith fulfilled this role perfectly!

NURSE DOTTY DETTOL: Nurse Dotty was a lovely, traditional Dame. Graham Pipe built up a great rapport with the audience, he was very funny and got away with some slightly risqué jokes! A very loveable character, well done!

MUDDLES: James Bacon was a beautifully dopey and gormless Muddles! This was a very enthusiastic performance which reminded us of a tall, gangly, jolly leprechaun!

PRINCE ALEXIS/ALEXANDER: What a handsome Prince Paul Galbraith made! He was very confident with a nice singing voice and good clear dialogue. Well done!

FETCH & CARRIE: Jack Williams and Linda Burgess worked very well together; they had good comic timing and lots of animation. We particularly enjoyed the very amusing “post” scene! Well done!

GOOD FAIRY LILAC: Catherine Stott was everything that one imagines a pantomime fairy to be! With great posture and a good, clear speaking voice, she was quite magical!

THE RAINBOW FAIRIES: Played by Claudia Wheeler, Mae McTaggart, Saski Madden & Lola Webb, all the fairies were sweet and quite confident. They were graceful in their movement and although the smaller two needed a little more volume, these fairies were a joy that melted a few hearts!

BAD WITCH HAZEL: Thoroughly nasty, Jordan Shynn had good body language and an ear-splitting cackle! She obviously enjoyed playing a very good baddie!!

WITCHES MINIONS: What a well-co-ordinated team, very effective in their evil doings with Bad Witch Hazel! Making “Trouble” with her was a highlight!

ADULT CHORUS & JUNIOR WORKSHOP: These two teams worked hard to make this production a treat for the audience, they were a very important part of the pantomime, demonstrating good teamwork! Well done!

SUMMARY

We were both impressed with this production. It had a good pace, plenty of action and some lovely, magical moments. The casting was good and the characters were nicely drawn. The script was well interpreted, particularly the comedy!
The audience loved it and so did we, thank you!

Best wishes
Anne Sexton Adjudicator