



Society : Beaufort Players
Production : Dungerella
Date : 3rd December 2011
Venue : Church of the Ascension Hall, Ealing
Report by : Jill Haistead District 10

I felt that Christmas was approaching rapidly when I came to do my first pantomime review of the season.

I was made to feel very welcome by Chairman ROGER DISHLEY and after the performance it was good to have a chat with Secretary ELAINE O'SULLIVAN.

It was a pity that one of the cast members was late arriving delaying the start of the performance by approximately 20 minutes, but we were kept informed of the situation which was good.

Writer and Director ALAN ROBINSON did a great job with the staging of the production using every inch of the available space. As the author he had the advantage of knowing exactly what he wanted to achieve.

Voice Coach JAYNE BOWMAN had done a good job with all the cast as there was very little problem hearing the dialogue.

Minstrel THOMAS COBB ably assisted by MR SQUEAKS acted as story teller and kept the proceedings flowing with his dialogue and vocals. He was very good at encouraging audience participation.

ELAINE COBB played her brief role as the White Queen with confidence.

MATTHEW TYLIANAKIS made an excellent Dame Doo Doo playing the role with plenty of humour. Her daughter Dungerella was confidently played by GEMMA BREAKWELL. Her acting and dancing were good but her vocals were not so strong.

The dragon Windypops was brilliantly played by VICKY PRIOR and MIMI ROUGHANI. They must have spent hours practicing as they were completely in unison the whole way through. I did feel that there was a little too much wind at times!!

Another excellent performance was that of JANE QUILL as Queen Mean. She was a nasty piece of work invoking plenty of audience participation. She treated her husband King Dim well played by CHRIS BURNS. All he wanted was to find a husband for his daughter and to play his games.

KATE MARTIN gave an exceptional performance as Queen Mean's mischievous fairy servant Grimwand. She is a great character actress and her facial expressions were brilliant.

Crumbelina, the King's daughter, was confidently played by JUNE BURGESS. She desperately wanted to be like a real princess and find true love.

Charming was played in true principal boy style by SARAH PETTIT who gave an energetic performance.

The Cronos played by ELAINE O'SULLIVAN and DIANA DISHLEY seemed very comfortable in their roles!! They were very funny and their timing was good. They have the makings a good double act.

Another brilliant performance was given by PAUL MIGLENTSIS as the Troll. He really got into the character and kept his dialogue the same throughout. His make-up was very good.

The outrageously camp Lord Foppington was played by MATTHEW CARPENTER. He brought humour to the role with his body language as well as the dialogue.

KITTY MARTIN played the 'modern day' Queen Mother with regal serenity although some of her dialogue was rather quiet which was a pity.

The Villagers ANGELA NORTH and MIMI ROUGHANI carried out the tasks of their supporting roles with confidence.

The set was designed by ALAN ROBINSON and very well constructed by members of the company.

KRYSTYNA KOBIAK had done a marvelous job with so many costumes. They were well designed and looked very professional.

The sound and lighting were well designed and operated by ROGER DISHLEY and PETER BALLS respectively. There were some excellent sound effects!!

The programme had been well designed and produced by RUSSELL GILLMAN, ESTHER HOLT and ROGER DISHLEY and was full of interesting information.

I thought that this was great family entertainment with loads of audience participation and topical humour.

Well done to everybody who helped in any way to make this production such a success.

Jill Haistead