

Oxfordshire Drama Network

ODN Review - Snow White

Winners of the ODN Panto Festival 2005



Described to us as "Snow White with a difference", this was certainly the case. The script by John Beeteson was very good. Forget the traditional Snow White with the dwarves and poor little Snow White being lured into the woods and falling foul of her wicked stepmother, only to be woken with a kiss from her Prince.

Yes Snow White was a Princess and yes there was a Prince Boldligo (say it slowly) but he makes his first appearance as a baby who is kidnapped (for his own good) and ends up as a clown in a circus. The dwarves were "little people" all very young actors with one larger one. They were depicted in business suits and

were named "Dow, Footsie, Nikkei, Nasdaq, Hang Seng, Dot Com, Euro Bond and, guess what? the large one being named "Inflation". Brilliant.

The baddie was, of course, stepmother Queen Wormelda, played by Sarah Varnom. From hair, costume and nails she was super. What fun we had booing and hissing her.

The mirror had the king trapped in it by her wicked spell and she was able to "bottle" people as well - in the style of a genie.

The actors and chorus were all very strong. Nurse Desirée was well played by Simon Wisbey but the star was Tiggles the Tiger (Lindsay Kendrick) - who had a lovely voice, terrific stage presence and could sing very well. That is not to detract from Billy Biggles (Grace Logan) who was a sort of "Buttons" character, Snow White (Kathryn Whiffen) and Prince Boldligo (Lauren Anderson). The last really was a wonderful buccaneer character and confidently played.

This was a show packed to the limits with actors (lots of lovely, disciplined children), action and songs. There were robbers - six of them - who provided the comedy and a good dance routine.

There were the village dancers, who were well choreographed and confident, acrobats, plate spinners, jugglers (complete with a Wimbledon-type ball girl), stilt walkers, clowns, circus horses, a tightrope walker, a strong man and a sword swallower - we do hope we've mentioned everybody.

The only others to mention are the ringmaster, Allyoop, played by Rob Thorpe, and his able assistant Pepe Mint, played by Sophie Russell. Both were very good.

So, a script to be recommended if you have a large cast and very talented circus folk.

The orchestra were excellent. Aply led by MD Chier Chang they were a very talented bunch.

Well done to Karen Whiffen, Director; Paul Mountford-Lister, Assistant Director and choreographer Becca Lock.

Finally, the team was complete with the set design, props, make-up and costumes all having done a fantastic job.