

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK

Pantomime Review 2010

FARINGDON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

ALADDIN

The Faringdon front of house team were efficient and friendly as they organised the raffle, drinks and tickets in the Primary school they take over for the week. The Front of House announcements were clear and precise.

The scene was set and the overture and first number were pacey and the scenery and lighting nice and bright. I thought the soloists could have been a little louder but they were probably nervous for the first night and I am sure they grew in confidence and volume as the week went on.

The scenery was very good throughout and settings equally so. The cave in the curtain was lovely and the special effect with the light curtain was great. Loved the washing machine too. There was very good use of the whole stage area and showed good Direction. The Lighting was just right in all scenes and really nice effect in the cave. Sound was fine and apart from one tiny blip during "Diamonds" which I am sure did not happen again. Make up was very good and everyone looked authentic and natural. Some of the wigs needed attention as they were a bit shabby. (watch hair in eyes of Aladdin!) The costumes were fantastic and (I am going to be really picky here as they were overall so good) it would have been nice to see the dress change before Scene 3, head dresses for Abanaza, Lotus and Aladdin would have finished the costumes off nicely, hats over eyes – be careful cannot see the eyes, why no change of costume for Lotus and Aladdin for the finale (if there was no time then a cloak and head dress would have been quick) and we could see Aladdin's white feet under fishnets – did she have leggings on aswell? On the other hand - wonderful to see you all had the appropriate black footwear. Really shows attention to detail.

The Director had a brilliant use of the stage and the groupings were very skilful. The story was portrayed convincingly and the whole piece was well shaped and showed good understanding of theatrical dynamics.

Wishy Washy(Allan Dover) grew in confidence throughout the show after a slow start. Widow Twanky ((Gary Thompson) looked great and although seemed a little nervous worked the part quite well. Aladdin (Andrea Smith) worked really hard and is a great find for the future. Lotus (Verity Roberts) looked and sounded lovely. Abanaza (Daniel Lander) had quite a quiet singing voice but made up for that in characterisation and presence. I loved his dying scene. One long Pong (Seb Allum) was very confident, great presence on stage and I loved the "one short pong bit!" Minnie and Winnie (Meg Porter and Verity Green) worked really well together and it will be good to see them and some of the other young talent, like the Potion Seller, grow into accomplished performers over the next few years. The Genie and the Slave (Luke Gerry and Katie Dyet) looked very much the part and communicated with the audience well.

Some very nice routines in this show especially, "Little bit of luck," "Another one bites the dust," "Thriller" and "What a picture" Well done everyone for the obvious hard work to make these routines so slick especially when so many people were on stage. One of the best things was everyone I looked at during the songs knew their words.

This was a very polished performance and it was a delight to go home feeling so elated and humming the songs. That is how a good Pantomime should make one feel and I congratulate you Faringdon on another job well done.