

Faringdon Dramatic Society

The Scarlet Pumpernickel

by Elaine Simpson

How nice to have a live band introducing the pantomime and accompanying all the singers! It makes the whole show seem so much more polished and professional. And they didn't drown the singers either- very well done. We loved Chauvelin (Adrian Wells) especially as he terrorised the audience during his song. Mimi (Verity Roberts) was also full of energy and life- a very good performance. We also enjoyed Alphie (Seb Allum) who had a good rapport with the audience and Gaston the mayor who warmed up considerably after a slow start. He has the makings of quite a good stand-up!

There was very good singing by the chorus, although we thought they were rather static at times. Quite often, they were left in straight lines on the stage while the principals acted in front of them. They could have been given more to do in terms of "business". The costumes were good and the makeup on the Fops was amusing. We thought the fops were fine, but perhaps could have been a bit more aristocratic. The sets were good- principally the cafe and the haunted house.

We enjoyed the skeleton dance, but perhaps they could have used the handheld lights to more effect. The slapstick scenes and the feeding Chauvelin scene had potential but were perhaps a bit slow on the night we saw it. There were few children in the audience (probably all waiting for the Saturday matinee) and perhaps we were not as responsive as we could have been.

The show stopper was the song "It's always a good time", led by Alphie initially and then reprised for the finale. This was excellent - clearly well rehearsed and choreographed and sung with gusto by the cast. We all wanted to join in, and some of us did! Overall, very entertaining.

Oenone Grant & Mike Lacey

Extract from the Oxfordshire Drama Network February 2014 newsletter, page 7:

www.oxfordshiredramanetwork.org/files/ODN-NEWS-WEB-Feb2014.pdf

OXFORDSHIRE DRAMA NETWORK PANTO COMPETITION

Group **Faringdon Dramatic Society**

Date 2014

Pantomime **The Scarlet Pumpernickel**

Venue **Faringdon School**

Judging Panel **Oenone Grant & Mike Lacey**

Comments

<p>STAGE PRESENTATION:</p> <p>Scenery and Furnishing</p> <p>Costume and Make Up</p> <p>Sound, Special Effects & Lighting</p>	<p>Well painted backcloth; clever 'doorway' of wide, painted strips in the effective cafe. Great haunted house Excellent</p> <p>very good UV skeleton scene</p>
<p>Score (Out of 25)</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>PRODUCTION or DIRECTION:</p> <p>Directing</p> <p>Choreography</p> <p>Use of Stage</p>	<p>nice use of hall, & front cloth. some straight lines Good, well rehearsed</p> <p>big cast used stage well</p>
<p>Score (Out of 25)</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>ACTING:</p> <p>Singing and Dance</p> <p>Acting Main Characters</p> <p>Acting Chorus</p>	<p>Good singing, if a little static at times</p> <p>Chauvelin, Mimi, Alphonse and Gaston very good Fops could have had more foppish dance movements. Youngsters were given time to display their talents</p>
<p>Score (Out of 25)</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>Originality & Dramatic Achievement</p> <p>Audience participation</p> <p>Overall impression</p>	<p>A very different pantomime with very good ghost scene 'Alouette' good choice as it is a well known song. Fab costumes, lots of well-drilled youngsters; good story</p>
<p>Score (Out of 25)</p>	<p>19</p>

TOTAL (OUT OF 100)

75

Special Moment :- professional rendition of 'Eggs in the Morning' and Chauvelin's song