

Happily Ever After...

By Helen Thrower & Verity Roberts

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The authors conceived this panto by wondering what might happen to well-known fairy-tale characters if their story endings were changed. Thus an original panto was written which could incorporate all the panto favourites with lots of small parts which enabled Faringdon to use all eager, and sometimes very new, thespians.

I thought 'Hushaby Mountain' on the front-cloth was a bit slow for the first song I realise it was to start the dream 'what if' sequence, but audiences especially at Faringdon expect a loud, filled stage to get us in the mood.

Clever sets as we expect from Jo Webster with a lovely Gingerbread House with a roof of liquorice allsorts. Many good characterizations - wicked witch, evil queen, Wolf (in sharp suit) Ugly sisters, Dame, Red Riding Hood, Rose Red and three good pigs. The magic mirror and the Fairy Godmother. The Genie rap song and dance was fun but in a cast of 45 plus 13 children it is probably unfair to single out anyone.

Brilliant lighting (turning green trees to purple, so effective) Wardrobe terrific with great attention to detail. Make-up excellent - ethereal fairies and great rats, sinister shiny wolf. 5 piece orchestra, sympathetically led by Debra Warner. Good use of front-cloth and centre aisle - although I did feel the pace dropped occasionally - but again a very entertaining pantomime from FDS

Deidre