



Society : Faringdon Dramatic Society.  
 Production : Cinderella.  
 Date : 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012.  
 Venue : Faringdon Junior School.  
 Report by : Gareth Jeremy -- London District 12.

## Report

My thanks to SANDRA KEEN, your secretary for the invitation to review your latest pantomime.

I actually came to see the production for the first time on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2001, -- and your present Director, -- Debbie Lock, took the role of the Chancellor, --- and your Chairman -- Jeni Summerfield, was then a member of the Chorus ( adults ).--- and has risen to the rank of Hysteria, -- ( and all her wealth ) ? There were other members of the valuable back stage members around, including Richard Lock in the orchestra. -- I enjoyed the show then, --- and I enjoyed it just as much this time, perhaps a little more, as I was very impressed with the role taken by the Fairies.

I have said it many times, I am so impressed with the 'Community Spirit', that you seem to be able to maintain over so many years, -- which is not common, unfortunately these days. In other places, -- long may it continue.!

**Director, -- Debbie Lock, ably assisted by Sandra Keen, and Musical Director, -- Harriet Warner, and Choreographer, -- Carolyn Taylor, ( who was Choreographer with Debbie, in 2001 )** -- had put a lot of thought into the production, before it started. --- I liked the variation of Music chosen, music from the shows, and more modern renderings, -- the audience were with you from the opening number, --- ' another opening, another show', --- and the whole cast were giving of their all, with a smile, -- as the curtain opened, --- **did they enjoy it, --- oh yes they did.!!**

I must also mention the Children's Co - ordinator, -- Ian Lee, -- they were all well disciplined, and behaved impeccably.

The show moved with pace, and the costumes were so colourful, ( you are so fortunate to have such a fantastic team to make, and design them. If you had to hire such a set, it would set the Society back some £2,000 pounds or more from costumiers.

**The whole Production Team, gave of their very best, and everything on the night, moved on like a well 'oiled ' machine. Congratulations to you all.**

**The SET of -- Jo Webster,** was once again of high quality, and I particularly liked the back cloth of the Palace Ballroom, -- it gave the vision of a much wider stage, and obviously good use was made of the extra stage., which is so vital when you have a large cast, -- and the use that was made of it, with the young fairies.

**The dressing tables for Nausea and Hernia looked good, and were well constructed. -- and not flimsy, as one sometime finds.**

**The Musicians made a pleasant sound, and were together, occasionally they were a little too loud for some of the soloists, but it must be difficult to strike a happy balance, when some of the singers were in front of you, on the extended stage.**

**Cast in order of appearance.**

**Cinderella. ---- Jo Garrard.**

Fitted the character well, good diction, sweet singing voice, and you reacted well to the 'sisters' on the whole.



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At the wedding you looked radiant in your wedding gown, **but you did not smile enough**, --- ‘your dream had come true’, --- where as I noticed that **Buttons did not have a very happy expression on his face.** --- you must remember what the story is about throughout the whole play.--- just a small point, -- but you did very well.

### **The Baron. ---- Peter Webster.**

Good clear diction, and you were in control of your character, despite the problems with your so called ‘rich sister.’

### **Buttons. ---- Seb Allum.**

Another first class performance, always in control of his character, and was able to ‘milk his affection’ from the audience, especially with some of his facial expressions. – his timing is so professional for one so young. I believe you enjoyed playing the role, --- and even when the final curtain was closing – you were still living every moment of being on stage.

### **Fairy Godmother. ---- Verity Roberts.**

It was a pleasure to hear you relate the story with such charm, and the entire audience hung on to every word you uttered with such clarity of diction, and the way all the fairies reacted to your words of wisdom.

An excellent performance.

### **King ---- Gary Field.**

Looked good, excellent costume, -- understood your characterisation as the slightly timid, down trodden King., diction was fine.

### **Queen. ----- Jo Webster.**

Superb wig, and head dress, -- this set the tone for the character, and you maintained it throughout. Facial movements, and diction were good  
Well done.

### **Prince Charming. ----- Suzanna Carter.**

Looked the part, excellent costumes, nice legs, seemed a little tentative when one did the ‘leg slapping’.

Good diction, and sang her songs to the audience, and worked well with ‘Cinders’. Perhaps could have showed more joy, when the slipper fitted Cinders. --- and more ‘cutting’ in her rejection of the sisters, at any cost.

You looked as if you had enjoyed playing the part. Well done.

### **Chancellor, ----- Fiona Merrick.**

### **Foreign Secretary., ----- Katie Dyet.**

Worked well as a pair, -- ( ‘ Little and Large ‘ ) --- sorry. --- clear diction, and good facial expressions once again.



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For me the 'slap stick' did not work, -- this has to be so slick, --- it was fairly predictable what was going to happen next, --- timing is so important. In other aspects you worked hard to get your 'princess' --- without the reward you were looking for.!

### **Boot, ---- Josh Ascroft.**

You did well, not an easy part to play. Very obedient cat, good make up, and costume.

### **Hysteria, ----- Jeni Summerfield.**

Superb performance, -- ( I'm sure you have not been the same to your members, as Chairman ), --- excellent costumes and head dress, and excellent facial expressions throughout. Good clear diction, --- and your poor brother was not at all pleased with your appearance, especially with two such provocative daughters, who were enough to put anyone off.

Your forceful character certainly came through to the audience with conviction. I think you enjoyed the role.?

### **Nausea. ----- Rob Thorpe.**

### **Hernia. ----- Duncan Sinclair.**

Worked well as a pair, excellent costumes once again, and neither had any problems with 'dressing as women.' --- sometimes this can be obvious in some productions. -- they understood their characters, and played to their strengths.

I liked the facial expressions behind the dressing tables, **but that is when I would liked them to have put on, ---- 'false eye lashes'.** --- that would have added from then on, much more to their characters, ( just a personal thought ) !!

Played to your audience, as one would expect, and did a 'manful job.'

### **Chorus.**

Everyone did their very best, and sang with gusto, all the numbers, and they made a very pleasant sound. --I liked the words to '**After the Ball**' !

As mentioned earlier the **dancers** did their routines with precision, and seemed to have enjoyed every moment on stage.

The final number with everyone, --- ' Reach for the stars, ----- and all your dreams will come true. Etc. ---- was a very appropriate ending.

Obviously from the applause at the end, --- everyone had enjoyed themselves, and had been thoroughly entertained, and that is what Pantomime is all about.

Good luck with your next production, -- and every success when you go to Canada next May / June.

*Gareth Jeremy, ----- London District 12.*