

Faringdon Dramatic Society

**Dick Whittington** by Peter Webster - January 2018

The opening of this pantomime set the standard for the rest of the show and we weren't disappointed. The costumes were good and varied. The chorus sang, moved, engaged and related well to the main action.

Dick (*Jack Metcalf*) was confident; he sang and acted well. Dick's cat, Calico (*Lauren Elvidge-Tappenden*) was very convincing with her haughty expression and extremely good cat-like actions. Alice (*Millie Long*) was positive and managed her song well even when her microphone wasn't working. Fitzwarren (*Adrian Wells*) was strong and commanding throughout. The rats were exceptional, particularly Snitch (*Verity Roberts*) who was superb and had very good stage presence. The Rats 'Bad' routine was something to behold. Phobia Fitzwarren (*Katie Dyet*) was suitably evil in her scheming to steal the cat and swindle the King of Barbary out of a fortune. Dripping, the Cook (*Joan Lee*) could have been a little stronger but came into her own as the show progressed. The slapstick, cake scene was a little slow, nevertheless effective.

The pirates were effectively chaotic, lead by a very strong Black Berry (*Helen Thrower*) who had very powerful stage presence and audience inter-action.

There were good links between scenes in front of the curtain and effective use was made of the auditorium for chases and entrances.

The finale routine, reprise of songs and audience participation was well organised, particularly with one of the rats pushing one of the cats out of the way to take his bow!

The live band were particularly good, managing not to drown out the singers. Sound and lighting were very effective and the scenes well portrayed.

All round, this was a brilliant show, reflecting the hard work of all involved. Congratulations.

Nigel James