

The Sleeping Beauty

A pantomime by David Cregan
Performed in Jan 1987

Panto is a real beauty

ALTHOUGH entitled Sleeping Beauty, the pantomime presented at Faringdon Community Centre last week was certainly anything but sleeping although it was a beauty.

The show by the Faringdon and District Community Centre provided traditional pantomime entertainment and was a fine team effort.

A simple, but effective set, was extremely convincing for scenes ranging from the Royal Throne Room to the Magic Rose Forest.

The costumes organised by Carole White were excellent, not only for the principals but all the way through to the smallest parts - roses, vines and courtiers.

The proceedings were ably lit to capture the moods well with interesting use of strobe lighting and the "sparks" department also came up with timely and effective bangs, flashes and puffs of smoke.

These usually coincided with the arrival or departure of Maltash the Witch, played by

Carole White, who made everyone jump as she snarled, screeched and spat her role - an excellent performance enhanced by good make-up.

Mike Durham played the part of Nurse Hallowpenny, the bearded nanny, who raised and protected Rose, the Sleeping Beauty played by Emma Woodyer.

Mike's gargantuan performance kept everyone well entertained as he lived the part 100 per cent.

The Fairy Godmothers, Roxy, Blanche and Glynis played by Sally Durham, Carole Tappenden and Gail Mander sang, danced and giggled delightfully - well done!

There was also plenty of audience participation with the opportunity to sing and join in with a game of Grand mother's Footsteps on the stage, provided for children and adults alike.

Finally, well done to Susan Deane, whose name was omitted from the programme.

DAVID KEELING