

Pantomime Review

Sleeping Beauty and the Beast

A child's eye view

This year's pantomime was a huge success; it is one of the best ever to be shown at the New Beaconsfield Hall. All the characters were over the top, just how a good panto should be. I particularly liked the Good Fairy and the Bad Fairy

(such complete opposites in every possible way!) The costumes were excellent and so were the scenery and the script. All in all it was a really enjoyable afternoon.

Michael Cradock, age 10

From a grown-up

Pantomimes are an essential part of Christmas and for some 15 years this tradition has grown stronger and stronger within the Wychwoods. This year John Drew wrote and produced "Sleeping Beauty and the Beast"; a delightful mix of two fairy stories into which John wove a multitude of local jokes, some funnier than others, but all rib-tickling. As the show progressed it became clear that the performers all enjoyed their participation.

Star Performers

John Trevers, as the charming Good Fairy, compered the show with eloquence, to the delight of one and all. Gill Thompson's Bad Fairy brought forth loud "boos" and "hisses" – a must in any panto. The Fairy ballet set the scene with their dance and after their 50 year sleep the mature dancers gave a polished performance. The regal presence of King Ham and Queen Sybil, attended by Pages 1 and 2, were the centrepiece around which the story unfolded. The Princess and her maid provided the feminine glamour and the

pursuit of the Princess's hand in marriage gave us the essential theme of the plot. Lord Elpus, Dudley Thompson (who 'elped direct the performance) was the dithering aristocrat. His twin sons (hero and villain), were both played by Dave Robson; causing endless confusion with

their various wiles to win the Princess. The Beast frustrated the evil schemes of the bad son and ensured that true love won the day. Of course there were many other delightful characters in support, all so important to the production.

Back stage support

The actors cannot perform without support from back stage. Space prevents us mentioning all

who contributed, but their efforts made the production the success that it undoubtedly was.

This pantomime must rate as one of the most enjoyable we have seen; we all look forward to the next pantomime. **Oh Yes we do!**

Hamish Harvey, age more than 10



Emily Lewis as Beauty and Mark Jessey as The Beast