Wychwood Players **Snow White**

As I left the performance, I heard mutterings universally extolling "The best panto for years", "Everyone was superb", "I laughed until my sides hurt."



Once again three generations of Hartleys showed their thespian talents; Rose was the wonderfully wicked Snow Queen. Richard was terribly camp as the Dame (who would have

known that ploughing the fields could create such an hour-glass figure and a great pair of legs!), and little Richard burped beautifully. The lovely Snow White (Jill Collins) with Mark Jessey as Muddles (rhymes with cuddles, equerry to the Prince, instead of a huntsman), sang some of the wonderfully music arranged by Richard Sandate. The whole cast was absolutely fantastic, and the audience got into the spirit with plenty of "he's behind you" and boos for the wicked queen.

Talented Dwarfs

John Drew wrote a wonderful script based loosely on the fairy tale of Snow White and the seven dwarfs (we had six bouncy and talented dwarfs, due to cutbacks!) and John was a very fetching picture in his blue outfit as Jack Frost.

Mandyrae Large, whose directing skills are legendary, managed to pull together a cast of 25 adults and children, and created a cohesive and very entertaining evening which also featured some people who had never sung or danced before. The dwarfs and the village children worked so hard, and are the future of our Wychwood Players. They were very good.

A Great Pair of Legs

Special credit goes to the hard working people behind the scenes who worked tirelessly to create the most amazing and professional looking sets, costumes, props, lighting, music, dancing, makeup and wigs. Geoff Collins' sledge was a triumph! The person with the most entries in the programme was the redoubtable David Trollope, who contributed to all the set and prop design, and construction, as well as producing the show, and appearing cloaked in fur as the Polar Bear

Bringing the House Down

The local references brought the house down the most hilarious of which was "Don't knock on the pharmacy window in the doctor's surgery" and the Dame's first costume which made him/her look good in a fur (fir) tree. Lawry Hugill as the Magic Mirror was going home to finish reading the Yorkshire Post, and all he was missing was his hi-vis jacket!

The Christmas tradition of a panto, based

on a fairy tale, and including local issues, and people you know as friends in the village, is terribly successful here in the Wychwoods because we are privileged to enjoy a joyous and convivial village life all year round.

Peggy Walmsley

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