

An Evening of Enchantment with the Wychwood Saplings Fairy-tale 'Come Dancing'



after her serious illness. Other perky Dwarfs were Laura Chapel, Camilla McCormick and Rebecca Witts. Martha Austin played admirably opposite scene stealer Jake Peniket, whose compelling natural stage presence and infectious grin made Hans and Gretta the big winners!

Intrepid director, Mandyrae Large really said it all in her message to the audience on the back of the programme; "Lots of music, words, dance, emails, meetings, sewing and then costumes, wigs, pictures, giggles and a few 'Yummy Mummies' for the cake stall and raffle. Stir and boil on Saturday evening September 7th at the Milton Village Hall".

Bright Eyes of the Forest

We were met with eight pairs of big, bright, welcoming eyes belonging to the trees and bushes of the fairy-tale forest that set the stage for a glittering parade of familiar characters from 'Hans and Gretta' to the Seven Dwarfs.

Lizzie Large's terrific choreography showed them all to stellar effect, just see the Three Little Pigs' curly tails whirling clockwise on the gyrating little bottoms of Holly Prew, Kathryn Witts and Felicity Jones. Lizzie was also a quick and worthy Wicked Stepmother. The Prews, Witts, Belardos, and Habberleys all had two young thespians in the show. Evie Wessel played two parts, Third Dwarf and Peaches. Fabulous to see her participating



Curls a Bobbing

Cinderella's curls were set a-bobbing by Olivia Whitehouse playing opposite Lucas Melvin's appealing Prince Charming and what can we say about the Ugly Step-sisters' routine, except that their dance routine would have sent most judges (not ours!) into overdrive. Plaudits to Cassia Belardo and Elisha Prew.

Joss Habberley also took two roles, father of Hans and Gretta plus Dominic Donkey, quite the most charming of beasts. Luckily BB Wolf, Elisha Bealardo, behaved herself and did not harm the luminous Little Red Riding Hood, Hannah Jennings, whose silent grace bewitched and beguiled.

Toby Habberley's Jack with Rachel Purvis as his mother were skilled in bringing the Beanstalk business into the mix and Kirsty Plant was a lovely narrator as well as the director's right hand during rehearsals. Tea, cake, lots of raffle prizes and some audience "boosing" of the judges, before the winners were announced, rounded out the evening. Here's to Mandyrae, the Saplings, and a musical in 2014!

Trudy Yates

