

Beverley Musical Theatre : Dick Whittington

Producer Ian Thompson

M D Martin Cox

Choreographer Joan Jenkinson

Pantomimes are meant to be fun and this production had it in abundance. It was laughter all the way, interspersed with the mandatory booing of course. Ruth Sadler (Dick Whittington) gave a very good performance as did Sophie Thomas (Alice Fitzwarren) whose portrayal was equally as accomplished. Ian Thompson (Sarah the Cook) was terrific, sporting an array of fabulous costumes and Andy Collinson (Tommy Twiddle) worked hard throughout. I enjoyed very much the performance of Mandy Pearson (Fairy of the Bells), with comedy aplenty from Ian Latham (Bosun Butch). Graeme Bone (King Rat) was suitably evil, and all other well cast principals gave 110%. Musical numbers from principals and chorus were excellent. Super cast with colourful costumes and scenery ensured a very enjoyable panto.

Bridlington A O D S : Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

Director / Choreographer Pat Hughes

Musical Director Mark Howley

BAODS pantomimes are always excellent but I think this production seemed to have the edge over some of its predecessors. Mike Sheldon (Mabel, the Queen's cook) never fails, a natural panto dame, and he was more than competently aided and abetted by Lloyd Robinson (Muddles) who gave 110% throughout. Evil was supplied by Valerie Fairhurst (The Wicked Queen) with a performance worthy of all the boos and hisses. Chris Booker and Ryan Wilson (The Henchmen) deserve congratulations for their performances as indeed does every other principal. The dwarfs were super, but regrettably space doesn't allow me to list all your names. Terrific costumes, especially Mike's, great scenery, exceptional musical accompaniment, and an enthusiastic chorus second to none ensured that everyone went home very happy indeed.

Bridlington A O D S : We Need a Little Christmas

Producer & Choreographer Rebecca Prescott

Musical Director Mark Cowley

This Christmas concert set the tone for the festive season ahead. A program of almost 40 items, including many traditional Christmas songs and carols, interspersed with an element of comedy, was superbly compiled. The staging was perfect as numbers were linked together with ease, and the musical accompaniment, as one would expect from Mark, was excellent. All numbers were performed with competence, and congratulations especially go to those members who would not normally take leading roles but who took this opportunity to show what they can do. I was not going to name names on this occasion, but I have to say how much I enjoyed Pauline Pope's daily account of The Twelve Days of Christmas. All in all, an evening of superb entertainment.

Hornsea Amateur Theatre Society : Aladdin

Producer Russell Fallon

M D Martin Cox

Choreographer Julie Long

The Society's summer pantomime was full of joyous merriment, and as usual good triumphed over evil. Tim Drage (Abanaza) did his best (or should it be worst) to come out on top but a commendable interpretation earned boos in abundance ensuring his downfall. Alex Holroyd (Aladdin) and Amy Smith (Jasmine) both gave very nice performances. The experience of Jon Parker (Widow Twanky) and Russell Fallon (Wishee Washee) was evident throughout, with Terry Herfield (Slave of the Lamp) and Becky King (Genie of the Ring) also giving creditable portrayals. All the principals were well cast establishing their characters with ease, and a very competent chorus ensured first class musical support. The expected colourful costumes and scenery completed the picture and everyone went home having enjoyed themselves.

Hull Musical Theatre : The Likes Of Us

Director Steve Aylmer

Musical Director Gillian Barker

This Society proudly staged the first production in the area of this first collaboration between Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber and a commendable production it was. It was an excellent choice which showed what a wealth of musical talent the Society does have. Andy Collinson (Barnado) was perfect in the part, as was Karen Shepherd (Syrie) whose portrayal was also very creditable. First class performances were given by Russell Fallon (Johnny), Chloe Ashbridge (Jenny), and Jane Bradley (Rose) all in fine voice. Unfortunately continuity suffered from lengthy scene changes, which even Jonathan Parker (Narrator) with all his experience was unable to cover totally. With the backing of the accomplished orchestra, super costumes and effective scenery, this Society and its excellent cast deserved success. Congratulations!!