



Society : HARINGEY & SOUTHGATE DISTRICT SCOUTS
Production : PUSS IN BOOTS
Date : 09/12/2004
Venue : INTIMATE THEATRE
Report by : PAUL M HOLGATE

Report

This was a traditional presentation with a good deal of wit and physical comedy. The plot was faithful to the original story until the second act when things got a little confused. There seemed little point in the Ogre transforming himself into a mouse if he was to survive the experiment

Music under the direction of Steve Jones was well played. Balance between the pit and the stage was generally good.

Musical numbers were performed competently. A good selection although the end of the piece required to a little more upbeat. 'As...' is a difficult number and was rather dreary.

Scenery and Costumes were well selected. Some of the ladies chorus dresses were too busy and made lines look untidy.

There was a black area to the right of the stage that chorus and principals occasionally wandered into. Cheshire cat was a good effect but also needed better lighting.

Lighting cues were well observed with follow spots well controlled and there were some good special effects - notable the cat's transformation, which was excellently done.

Direction from the two Chris's was sound. Crowd scenes worked well with a good standard of singing and dancing by an enthusiastic chorus. Choreography was evenly controlled with nobody pulling focus.

A good performance by Ian as the Dame and an astonishing impression of Justin Hawkins!
David made a convincing villain and very nearly stole the show.

Comedy was provided mainly by Steven and Andy as Cedric and Fredric who both had good comic timing. A nicely comic turn from Chris as the Chancellor too, it's a shame that he didn't have a little more to do.

An outstanding characterisation by Wendy as Tom the Cat. The cat's chorus was also neatly choreographed. A lot of attention to body language - well done!

We also enjoyed Chris's performance of Dillon the Donkey, who displayed considerable stage presence and expertly handled audience participation during 'We Will Rock You',

Kathryn and Gina were well-matched and showed good performing skills. The fall into the river was quite convincing. A good performance, too from Sam as the princess who looked suitably regal.

Of the minor characters, we thought that Jessica, as the Queen and Michael and Daniel as Lord Hearwell and Baron Henry Hoorah were especially commendable.

The programme was clear and informative but contained no NODA credit. There was a good FOH display of photographs.

This was a fun show, which didn't outstay its welcome and was enthusiastically and competently performed. We thank you for your kind invitation to attend and look forward to seeing future presentations from your company.