

## Babes in the Wood NWTAC

The staging and changes in set looked fabulous with great lighting and super sound effects (played often for the comedy value which worked brilliantly). There were lovely cloths as backdrops, great projections and super costumes and props.

Everyone of the ensemble smiled and acted their parts well in each scene with great dance moves and lovely harmonies. The dances were well drilled and suited the numbers so a huge well done to Katie Gough and Dance Captain Eva Carty who both had roles on stage too.

The script allowed the confident actors to ad lib which added to the fun. The direction allowed the scenes to flow and the changes of set were worked into the script and never interrupted the action. The choice of songs had current pop and film numbers plus wonderful older numbers all executed brilliantly. The musical direction had been drilled and the harmonies were fabulous.

The Merry Men were all terrific and it is so awesome to see the growth of skills from these young people who I have been watching regularly for a while now. Annabelle Cook as Little John, Szymon Tomczyk as Alan Adale, Harry Gardner as Much the Millers Son worked really hard and came across with lots of stage presence. The two who stood out for me were Eva Carty as Friar Tuck and Reece Challinor as Will Scarlett as they were always in character and delivered without an ounce of embarrassment which is so important in most roles but particularly in panto.

Jonny Molyneux was wonderful as the Dame Nurse Bedpan. His sense of fun and comic timing with super delivery was excellent in this role. Jonny has a fabulous singing voice too so his numbers were spot on.

Katie Gough was wonderful as Simple Simon with a great connection to the audience, brilliant delivery of lines with clear diction and fabulous singing and dance moves. The choreography which Katie devised worked well for all members of the cast and therefore looked very effective.

Robin Hood was beautifully played by Jasmine Nisic. Looking every inch the Principal Boy her vocals were fabulous and her acting was perfect for the role which requires a certain delivery of overacting in pantomime form.

Jade Hamer was lovely as Maid Marion and how both Jade and Jasmine kept straight faces in their number with Trump and Pump doing actions next to them was great. Jade also has lovely vocals and looks great in her dance moves too.

Liam Watson was perfect as The Sheriff of Nottingham with prompts to boo from the audience not taking long to happen every time he walked on stage. His delivery of dialogue was clear and perfectly projected.

Emily Cavanah and Holly Norbury were fantastic as Pump and Trump. Both had their own characters with Holly being the slightly brighter of the two. Great comedy timing, loved the mimed number next to Marion and Robin and they even stayed in

character when they got entangled with Emily's hair caught in Holly's button. Lovely, funny performances from both of you who worked really well together.

The Forest Fairy was brilliant in her delivery of rhyming prose by Lois Ormerod. This young lady has great stage presence, lovely dance moves and a beautiful singing voice to match.

On the night I was in Poppy Evans and Gabrielle Adebajo played the Babes, Jenny and Penny. They both gave lovely performances with clear diction, good comic timing and nice dance moves.

Every member of the company, both onstage and off should be very proud of their achievements. This was a first rate pantomime, the best I have seen this season. Well done to you all on another great show with many memorable performances

Sharon Drummond

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