

Dick Whittington
Masque Players of West Wycombe

Always a popular favourite, Dick Whittington was brought to riotous life by The Masque Players last Friday night.

Following the adventures of penniless Dick, as he arrives in London Town to make his fortune and ending up as Mayor, the panto is full of colourful characters and madcap plot lines..... typical English fun filled lunacy!

Essential to any successful panto is a really wicked, evil villain. I understand Ewan Haynes is a school teacher, his class must be the best behaved in the country because he frightened the life out of me playing King Rat....strike one for the baddies!
I don't think I've ever seen a punk Fairy but Mandi McDermot's Fairy Bow Bells made a refreshing change from the usual self righteous, sugar sweet type; she really made the most of it.

Link man Steve Rockell playing Idle Jack certainly kept the audience on the go (even if they were hard work at times) whilst Richard Worrall's Sarah the Cook met all the criteria for a successful Dame.

Daft Captain Port was played with alacrity by Rhydian Hill although he was somewhat overshadowed by the antics of Justin Clinche's First Mate Starboard who bounced around the stage like some demented rubber ball much to the amusement of the audience.
The main qualification for principle "boy" (Whittington himself in this case) in panto seems to be a pair of eye catching legs. Alison Rogers has these in spades along with the ability to "slap her thigh" sexily at the drop of a hat.

The bumbling Alderman Fitzwarren (Peter Taylor) and his sweet, demure daughter Alice (Hannah Greenlee) were the perfect foils for the madcap antics of the rest of the cast.
Masque Players always make the most of a somewhat limited stage space and the dances and village scenes never look too crowded or too bare. Director Ann Hill must take a good deal of credit for this and for the way the panto sped along.

I must mention Alice Cook. I have never seen a cat played with such wonderful feline characteristics, she was outstanding.

Archie Wilson