

Spotlight on Peter Panto

From tucking the three Darling children into their cosy bed it was just one step through the window to the magical Never Land of Peter Pan, the lost boys and Captain Hook with his pirate band. And we must not forget the hilariously quirky Tinkerbell.

It was a joy to see that so many of the cast were youngsters from the Wychwood Saplings, along with new adult faces and one or two of the well known members of the Wychwood Players. Every one of the children tackled their roles with immense enthusiasm and talent. Well done to you all.

The scenery and props were beautiful and credit must go to the backstage workers who carried out some tricky scene changes without a hitch. We were whisked from a bedroom to Neverland, with the next stop the mermaids' lagoon, then into a treehouse before the climax on the pirate ship and back through that window and home. All effected in two hours, with the help of Tink and her magic dust. The costumes were beautiful and with a cast of more than 20, it was no mean feat to dress pirates, mermaids, butterflies, the children and lost boys, a pink fairy with matching hair, (Peter just as you always imagined him) and that wicked Captain Hook.

Peter Webster's script under the direction of Mandyrae Jessey provided the traditional pantomime story with some unusual twists along with many touches that we come to expect from this important feature of the pre-Christmas calendar. We had John and Michael Darling resplendent in their stripy pyjamas giving us a song and dance routine, reminiscent of the Commuters of earlier village productions. Hook had us all guessing when he came on to the strains of Sylvia's Mother until the stage manager appeared and put him (and us) right – not Dr. Hook but Captain! The adult audience joined in with "Oh no it isn't", "Oh yes it is", "He's behind you" and the children enjoyed the sweets as they were thrown. They even managed to fit in the custard pie routine to everyone's joy.

The entire cast clearly enjoyed every minute – the same could be said about the audience – and we congratulate them and praise them for their talent and commitment in providing such an excellent evening's entertainment. The acting, singing and dancing were all first class, and we look forward to future performances and following the theatrical careers of young, new and well-established members of the Wychwood Saplings and Players.

Oh! I nearly forgot the wonderful costume worn by Nana and, not one but TWO, scary crocodiles. All the excitement was almost too much.

Chanticleer

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