

SNOW WHITE and the SIX AND A HALF DWARVES

To CODS

Thank you so much for inviting David and myself to Snow White and the Six and a Half Dwarves. The evening was so much fun and a really heartwarming experience. Well done Andy, the script was great. Fast moving, funny, and a very original take on Snow White and Cinderella. The direction was nice and speedy too with no drop in pace or energy from the actors. There were none of those moments of "empty stage". A lot of thought must have gone into planning the scenery too because, despite the restrictions of space, scene changes were slick.

Presenting the audience with boxes of fudge and caramels was a lovely touch and set the mood for the evening, as did arranging for Father Christmas to stop by during the interval. Going up on stage for the community song can be scary for a child and giving them musical instruments to play was such a good idea. This, in so many ways, was a very generous production. It was all about the audience, and in particular the children, having a fabulous evening that they would long remember.

I love to see the teamwork that a good society puts into staging a production. You are fortunate to have good actors who work together well. A special mention of Ben who played both the Mirror and Buttons who I understand had come late to the rehearsal period and Andy's wife who stood in at the last moment, making her stage debut as a dwarf. Snow White looked both pretty and vulnerable and interacted so well with the Dwarves and the audience.

It is good to follow the old traditions and have a principal boy as Prince Charming who together with Snow White made a charming young couple. A Fairy Godmother is a must for a Panto and yours looked charming and magical. The Evil Queen and her two daughters were most effectively costumed. The Evil Queen was suitably dramatic and totally convincing. Playing the evil character in a Panto is so much fun and Tasha played the part with relish. The interaction between the two daughters was such that you could easily believe they were (not very nice!) sisters.

I loved the discreet version of the birds and bees given by the Good King and Good Queen. Older children and adults found this very funny and it

would have passed over the heads of the little ones, just as it should with a family panto. The contrast between the narrator who was so elegant and polite with the total mayhem that was the Dwarves added to the humour. Again there was contrast between the six Dwarves, all dainty ladies, and the half dwarf , Mike, which was so funny. On came the huntsman looking very dashing and you thought for a moment that this might be the love interest, but no, true to tradition there was a Prince Charming to awaken Snow White. Children love to see an animal in a pantomime and this time it was the huntsman's horse Bingo He was great fun, but how did you manage to get him up those stairs ? Costumes were excellent. I loved the zany ones for the Dwarves, especially Dopey !

You transformed your rehearsal rooms into a 'theatre' . There was no curtain, no wings, entrances and exits were to say the least limited. Scenery had to be constructed in such a way that you could use it again and again. Despite the restrictions of the room the lighting, sound and special effects were just right, giving the Panto the magic that is so important.

This was all done, you tell me, in a preparation time of just six weeks ! I would imagine the majority of societies would consider staging a Panto in such difficult circumstances impossible, but you made it work superbly. This Panto was inspirational.

You tell me that in 2018 CODS is otherwise committed and will not be able to stage a Panto. There will be some very disappointed people in Crediton. I hope you can persuade Andy to write another for 2019.

Kind Regards
Joyce Pomeroy
Noda Rep, District 5

