

CINDERS THE TRUE STORY

West Wycombe Village Hall

After the Masque Players panto last year I entered the hall with high expectations and was not disappointed. The atmosphere was set with dramatic music and mist which was broken by the appearance of Stephen Rockell as the brilliant Hairy Godmother dressed in pink tights and a fairy lit tutu causing much laughter which continued throughout the show. Stephen is able to convey his feelings by a look or a raised eyebrow adding to the laughter. Zoe Stratford was a delightful Cinders with a lovely singing voice she was a feisty character better than the usual simpering leading ladies. Sarah Dobson the perfect Prince Charming who looked the part and played it well together with a fine performance from Grace Willis as Dandini delivering her lines to make the best impact. The two ugly sisters were well portrayed by Ewen Haynes and Matt Aspden with gorgeous costumes and very fetching wigs. Vikki Gomm was in fine form as the wicked stepmother that everyone loved to boo and it was good to have her portraying evil with such relish. Martin Stephen played her hapless husband Baron Hardup to just the right effect. A special accolade must go to Justin Clinch as Buttons for his superb timing and comic delivery. This young man has considerable talent and should go a long way if he decides to pursue this as a career. Expert direction from Richard Worrall was evident throughout. He modestly attributed the show's success to the talented cast but in my experience however talented the cast are without firm direction the production can fall flat. An amusing incident occurred with the arrival of a pantomime cow so obviously in the wrong production. The show rolled along at a good pace and the finale with 'Don't stop me now' had the audience clapping along and obviously enjoying themselves as much as the cast.

A great start to the Christmas Season, well done Masque Players you have done it again.

Rita Carpenter.
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