

Rapunzel ??

When I first heard that the Holy Cross Players Christmas panto was to be Rapunzel, I had to dig deep to remember the actual story. Everyone knows the line 'Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your hair', in much the same way as everyone knows the line 'mirror mirror, on the wall' from Snow White, or 'Cinders, you shall go to the ball', from Cinderella, and everyone knows those stories inside out, but I just could not remember the story.



However, I think I've now worked out the reason why. It's because we are all familiar with the book versions of stories by the Brothers Grimm, Hans Christian Anderson and others. We have all either had them read to us by our parents when we were small or have read them to our own children. But here's the thing! There hasn't been a Disney full length animated film of Rapunzel ! Robin Hood, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan and Pinocchio...yes. Rapunzel....no. Until now. Disney are bringing out a full length animation of Rapunzel in November this year. Of course it won't be anywhere as good as the Holy Cross Players excellent (as usual) production performed this year at Oldfield Primary School in January.



On the last night a sell-out crowd braved the icy conditions to be entertained at a venue smaller than in the past but nonetheless atmospheric. As the show was about to start there was definitely a buzz about the place, an air of expectancy, as if the 'he's behind you' and 'oh no he's not, oh yes he is' are going to be especially good. No-one was going to be disappointed and no-one was. From the minute the curtain went up the rapport between the audience and the stage was set. We were hooked. Oh yes we were!



The feeling of family fun was created by a combination of predictable and expected punchlines with some dangerously risqué humour which probably went unnoticed in certain elements of the audience, although was very cleverly done.



What next then, 'Carry on Rapunzelling'? Praise must be heaped on every member of the cast, from the youngest to the most 'seasoned pro'. We always laugh most heartily at these events and this was no exception. You've probably noticed that I have not mentioned anyone by name. For a cast and technical credits list you can buy a souvenir program for £1.50. Everyone is in it. Here however, is the exception. It was brought to our attention that it was the end of an era when Jim Hunter announced during the finale that he is standing down after 30 years of association with this project. Quite an achievement I'm sure you will agree. An affectionate and richly deserved round of applause was to follow.

I hope that there were some Disney/Pixar executives in the audience gathering ideas from the superb script (to be expected), acting (naturally), music (especially), lighting, set construction, choreography and sound, not forgetting the ad-libbing and the traditional custard pie in the face of a local dignitary who is always up for it.

Note. Bad planning guys. The refreshments ran out of chocolates at the interval! Hmmm. Maybe it was planned! Hmmm. Could this mean that next year it might be Charlie and the Chocolate factory does panto?

Gary Marsh

RAPUNZEL

The Holy Cross Players

This pantomime is dedicated to the memories of

Violet Alexander, Carolyn Bennison and Carl Smiter

