

COMMENTS

SOCIETY: LEEDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

PRODUCTION: ALICE IN WONDERLAND

ADJUDICATOR: DORINA OVERSON

LIGHTING: Good, effective lighting, especially for the sea cloth.

COSTUMES:

Explicit costumes for each character.
Nice & colourful.

PROPS/SCENERY:

Excellent idea to turn the pages of a book for each scene, indicating the fact this is a story which can be read from a book. The sea cloth looked very realistic. Very effective table & chair growing/shrinking in the opening scene, although Alice didn't appear to be surprised by this!

HAIR /MAKE UP:

All appropriate. The line under Alice's eyes was too low & long which made them look as if she was bruised. Higher up & not so far out would look better (more natural.) Hair in a high bunch under helmets looked deformed! Perhaps ~~was~~ tied at the nape of the neck would hide the long hair better.

SOUND /ORCHESTRA:

Some-times sound effects were slightly muffled but mostly they were fine. Every-one could be heard.

MUSICAL DIRECTION:

PROJECTION:

Very good (as usual), but I couldn't always hear what Sophie was saying. Too much accentuating certain words & dropping the last word/syllable. i.e He TOOK me for his HOUSE maid. FURther.

ACTING:

Some good cameos. Well done Alice for being word perfect in such a demanding role, although you didn't get enough contrast between being cross & your normal self. Again too much stress on certain words (~~which~~ ^{made} a constant rhythm) ^{made} you sound cross too often. Lovely performance from the Turtle. The Duchess, Mad Hatter, 2 Queens & Tweedle - Dee & Dum were strong & clear. ~~So~~ lovely animal interpretations. Every-one remembering their characters all the time.

SINGING:

Very amusing song from the Turtle.
Good sense of comedy timing.

DIRECTION:

Good, strong direction with every-one knowing exactly where they were going & who they were portraying. Good strong pace.

OVERALL PRODUCTION/ ENTERTAINMENT VALUE:

Very entertaining. Very good pace throughout. It held the many children's attention throughout & ~~was~~ may, hopefully, encourage them to read the book. Lovely colourful costumes & scenery. It was a long play & you played it beautifully. Well done Alice for playing such a demanding role

COMMENTS

SOCIETY: LEEDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE
PRODUCTION: ALICE'S ADVENTURES in WONDERLAND and
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS
ADJUDICATOR: EILEEN POSTILL, LGSM, LAMDA (gold medallist)

LIGHTING: The cast was fully lit and Alice fell asleep in front of a pastel shaded sympathetically lit cloth. Light pools were used to show verse speakers like Tweedledum and Tweedledee to best advantage. There was a ripple effect for the Pool of Tears and dimming of lights for the Giant Crow. Cues were on time.

COSTUMES: These were superb with lovely attention to small details like the decoration on the Red and White Queens' slippers.

PROPS/SCENERY: The basic design was good moving the position of the narrow pillars from either side of the book in the first act to centre back in Looking Glass when Corinthian pillars were added and the whole was backed by the chess board. The pages of the book turned by Alice were charmingly painted. There was a lovely array of props that had been prepared with care. I particularly liked the flamingos.

HAIR/MAKE UP: Again there was nice attention of detail in the make up, the headdresses and the animal heads.

SOUND: There was pleasant music to introduce both acts and at the finish of the play. There were sound effects for scenes like the Pool of Tears, the Incident of the Giant Crow and the White Knight's Horse.

PROJECTION: This was sufficient, but there was some forcing of speech and so loss of clarity.

ACTING: Even the youngest members of the cast knew exactly what they should be doing and performed in role as in scenes like the Pool of Tears. A lot of Act I consisted of small groups appearing in very short scenes. It was difficult to make selections but the two Footmen performed pleasantly with a comic touch, the White Rabbit did well as did the Duchess and the Cheshire Cat. The Queen was bossy, but her voice was a little too harsh. Actors appearing in Looking Glass had more opportunity to expand their parts. The Queens did nicely as did the White Knight. The Tweedles performed the Walrus and the Carpenter well. Adult cast members, like the Mad Hatter, introduced another dimension to the production and the Mock Turtle sustained her role charmingly. Alice, who worked really hard and looked just as the character should, intelligently linked all the various scenes together efficiently.

DIRECTION: The Director had brought all the different elements of this production together successfully, whether it was presenting the characters to the audience to best effect or being able to produce such charming settings. It was difficult not to make the first act too static with so many characters to be introduced, but grouping was always pleasant.

Advantage was taken of the script allowing for character development in Looking Glass.

OVERALL PRODUCTION: With more possibility for fluidity of movement in Looking Glass I found this Act more enjoyable. I had been a little worried in Wonderland with some forcing of the speech. The play was always visually pleasing, and stage management was good. It was a nice idea to give out free programmes with so many children coming to see the show, and it did contain all the necessary information and it managed to squeeze in some reproduced photographs.