

**THE
ROSE
BOWL
AWARDS**
FOR AMATEUR
DRAMA & MUSIC

Hanham Players

“Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”

By

Alan P. Frayn

**Hanham Folk Centre
January 5th 2008**

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THE GREATER BRISTOL TRUST IS HOLDING THE HAWKINS AND COE FUND ON BEHALF OF THE ROSE BOWL AWARD

OVERALL PRODUCTION

A happy family atmosphere pervaded the Hanham Folk Centre as we took our seats for your final night. I really enjoyed reading the script of 'Snow White' and thought everything had been put together very well, incorporating all the traditional ingredients. I was not disappointed as the Panto got off to a good start with your lively Band and glittering fairy, the amazing wands (one of which I bought to take back to my grandchildren) and your baddie in the elegant persona of Queen Avarice. The plot unfolded with the added charm of having children in the role of the dwarfs, an engaging line up of Principals with your popular Dame as ever in good form, supported by an excellent set with great costumes and choreography. All this gave us an entertaining evening and was enjoyed by all.

I must mention the front of house team whom all looked very smart and were very organized and attentive.

MUSICAL DIRECTION AND SINGING

The cast projected their songs with confidence and the selected music was fun and up tempo with the keyboard, bass and percussion. I enjoyed 'Me And My Girl', the recurring Phantom theme, 'The Teddy Bears Picnic', 'With A Smile And A Song', the forest ballet, 'Hushabye Mountain', 'Whistle As You Work', 'Me And My Shadow', 'See You In My Dreams' and 'Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again' which was very successful. The audience participation song needed the words, having got through the first few we all rather petered out, I was surprised you didn't pull down the usual song sheet. The number 'Let It Shine' gave a pleasing sparkle to the Finale. The taped music used now and again for suspense and to instill excitement in the audience worked well. A sympathetic accompaniment was given to the solos, duets and ensemble numbers.

CHOREOGRAPHY

The standard of dance was high, slick and well rehearsed with a contrast of styles. I was impressed by the ballet sequence with the senior dancers and of course with those lively dwarfs. The movement of the Principals was in keeping with their characters and had a sense of unity. I would have loved to have seen a tap number, but this seems sadly rare these days, even in the professional Panto sector.

COSTUMES

These were an outstanding feature, the Fairy Queen's glittering peach dress was a lovely foil to Queen Avarice's black and gold. The chorus in purple and black for Act I looked very fetching for the medieval palace courtyard opening. The dwarfs in striped t shirts and leather belts with pixie hats were just right. The Prince in lilac was most romantic. The dame's costumes were superlative as always and much looked forward to, a special feature of Hanham's annual Panto! Chuckles and his jester outfit, Merlin, Slurp, Justice Quill and Scribbles were all carefully thought out but the show stealer for me was 'Snow White', her famous Walt Disney prototype dress was lovely to see again, for those of us

brought up on the film! The Monkey and the Queen's minions, not forgetting peacocks were splendid. The Finale was a tour de force with the happy couple in cream and gold.

SET DESIGN

The backcloths were in story book tradition, the mine, forest and Dwarf's cottage particularly, the diamond shrine and Queen's dressing room were very atmospheric, the mirror was convincing and very cleverly designed. An artistic team had clearly been behind all these visual treats.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

As always an essential ingredient of Panto, creating the desired magical moments, the sound effects were excellent and all those flashes for the fairy and Queen Avarice. The flash of lightening, thunder and smoke for the latter was enthralling for the children in the audience. The business with the rope and smashing plates were supported well by the technical team.