

TRADITIONAL PANTO ROMP A HUGE SUCCESS FOR NEW YOUTH COMPANY

ALADDIN

Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre
REVIEW by OSCAR MORSE

A COLOURFUL epic with almost a cast of thousands, the new Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre tickled packed houses as they romped through *Aladdin* last week in the Town Hall.

A very traditional panto, with plenty of local references, dance routines and songs, the young company, aided by the odd grown-up, performed as if they were seasoned troopers in what was for many their first outing on the stage.

Script writer John Vincent and director Penny Vernall gave everyone the opportunity to have their moment in the spotlight. There were 31 actors all told, including a dragon, a cow and a Fowey pong.

Emily Hawken was a very convincing Aladdin, falling for sweet princess Becky Gill while trying to escape the evil spell of her bad uncle Abanazar, played with gusto by local rocker and pub stalwart Tosh.

Other leads included John Vincent, camping it up as Widow Twanky, a thoroughly simple Steve Morley as Wishy Washy, and Andy McCartney as Parcel Pang, an actor fast making a reputation for himself as a man of many parts.

The cast was aided by excellent stage design, sharp lighting and sound effects, and the opening choreographed routine in particular set the scene for an expertly-performed panto with everyone, particularly the youngsters, taking the panto in their stride.

As the programme notes pointed out, the talent and enthusiasm shown by young people from the area during the auditions was astounding, prompting the birth of the Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre. After *Aladdin*, the company is looking at making pantomime an annual event, and is planning another production for next year.

No doubt the new group will tackle other theatrical themes, and after their success last week, are sure to make a proper job of it. "Oh Yes They Will!"

Cast: Emily Hawken (Aladdin); John Vincent (Widow Twanky); Steve Morley (Wishy Washy); Tosh (Abanazar); Cece Treffry (Chow Mein); Maddy Powell (Emperor How High); Becky Gill (Princess Lotus Blossom); Angie Galleas (Madam Wong); Mark English (Captain Chang); Ben Pearce (Genie of the Lamp); Rose Hall (Genie of the Ring); Andy McCartney (Parcel Pang); Anna-Louise Powell (Sauce Pot); Ross Venning (Professor Pot); Bevil Luck (Dr Po); Ryan Chapman (Ming); Jodie Chester (Ching); Luke Chapman (Hokey); Lyes Moali (Kokey); Kerry and Laura McCartney (Peasants); Jessica English, Charlotte Kelly (Pandas); Sam Powell (Town Quay Pong); Peter Gleed (Priest); Micayla McDermot, Kat Hill, Jennifer Kelly (Dragon); Keith Bawden, Dan Greer (Cow); Morwenna Burgess (South West Water).

Crew: Lesley McCartney (Producer); Penny Vernell (Director); Tessa Skola, Gill Butler (Stage Managers); Marlene Bowden (Music); Tessa Skola (Choreography); Martin Varnell (Lights); Ken Jones (Sound); Eileen Chessington (Prompt); Wendy Jennings (Props); Lesley McCartney (Costumes); Gill Butler (Scenery); Andy McCartney, Martin Vernell (Set Build); John Eardley (Equipment, Special Effects); Val Stephens (Make-up); Sue. (Curtains).



The enthusiastic young cast of Fowey Funnybone Theatre's production of *Aladdin*.

Picture: Jonathan Barke