

In for a treat from the Funnybone Theatre

By JONATHAN BARKER

FROM the outset the audience knew they were in for a treat at the Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre's latest production, when the curtains drew back to reveal the whole cast performing a slickly choreographed song and dance number *Another Opening of Another Show*.

The Magic Boots was written especially for the group by local thespian John Vincent, who is a stalwart of many Troy Players' productions and has played Dame for the Funnybones over the past few years.

A steaming cauldron reveals the footwear of the title which are put into a bag by a couple of Del Boys, Claude and Clarence (Charlotte Knight and Chloe Mavriano), which, further into the plot, gets switched with an identical bag containing some old shoes.

Meanwhile Crispin (Josh Tully), dumped at the orphanage door as a baby, is walking in the wood and meets the King (Aston Shaw) with a nice line in unscripted ad-libs to the audience, and his daughter Eleanor the princess (Sophie Bartlett), and they promptly fall in love.

The evil Zolteron, a particularly menacing performance from Jade Lewsey, with a couple of imp helpers in large witch hats, kidnap the princess, distressing the King who even offered 'a parking space in Fowey to get his daughter back'!

Our hero Crispin, after a visit to the cobbler in Polruan,



■ The happy cast of Fowey Funnybone Youth Theatre's latest production *The Magic Boots*.

Pictures: Jonathan Barker

manages to don the magic boots which take him to Zolteron's cave where he rescues Eleanor, and takes away the wizard's evil powers.

The class gap of a princess marrying an orphan is soon resolved when a pendant around Crispin's neck reveals pictures of his parents King David and Queen Victoria, so he is also of royal blood, and any obstacles to the marriage are removed.

The final scene of the whole cast, with the audience encouraged to join in, sing and dance to the *Town Quay Walk* to the tune of *Lambeth Walk* rounds off a very satisfying evening.

Andy McCartney, now cornering the market in drag characters, played Molly Coddle, in charge of the orphanage, whilst Emma Cross and Emma Covus impressed as a pair of fairies, Thistle and Bumble, flitting around in many scenes with

their zany logic driving the story along.

Recent college leaver Adrian Parnell directed with zest, ably assisted by Marlene Bowden and Barbara Shaw who undertook the music and choreography, and special mention should be made for the technical team Martin Vernal and Ken Jones who were on the button with the many lighting and sound effects used in the production.



■ Some of the orphanage children, Hope Gardener, Nina Worth and Alicia Jefferies-Jones, with owner Molly Coddle (Andy McCartney).

