

## **Extract from the critique**

### **Aladdin Rotherfield, February 2012**

On a cold, snowy, February night, a good dose of pantomime is just what we need. “Aladdin”, as performed by Rotherfield Players, had all the necessary ingredients: laughter, bright colours, groanworthy lines delivered by larger-than-life characters.

Everything about the show was as polished and professional as we’ve come to expect. The dancers were flawless, the musical numbers well delivered, and the cast looked to be thoroughly enjoying themselves, a must for a good panto.

The performances were superb, with everybody giving their all. Adam Hardy was an excellent baddie, and Alan Powell was born to be a Dame. His outrageous flirting and over the top joie-de-vivre could not have been bettered. Becky Syms was everything a Principal Boy should be, and she partnered beautifully with Jes Lunn as Princess Mandarin. As for Barry Shyvers in the role of Genie of the Lamp, he should have been arrested for Grand Theft Panto. He lifted every scene he was in, as did the Real Men, who showed you don’t need to have reams of dialogue to make your mark. Gussie Penny and Kate Awcock were wonderful as the bungling policemen, and it would have been great to have seen more of them.

The sets were fabulous. The cave scene especially, deserves a mention in dispatches. It was magical and creepy, and very real. It drew us in, making us more than spectators. We were there.

As Wishy Washy, Lynn Lunn was vastly underused, and audience participation could have been greater. The audience certainly thought so, spontaneously calling out, “It’s behind you!” and other panto greetings.

The show was entertaining, vibrant, and a great night out. People left smiling and uplifted, and that, in the end, is what counts. We enjoyed it, and we will be back for more next year.