

Note from Alan Frayn – author of Jack and the Beanstalk

Stage Right Creative - www.stagerightcreative.com/

Thank goodness I left your DVD until last because, after a succession of very mediocre productions, yours was like a breath of fresh air! I absolutely LOVED it and was extremely impressed by every aspect! Overall, I think it's one of the best productions of this script I've seen.

I sat there laughing my head off – obviously, not at the jokes, but the excellent delivery by your talented cast and the reaction of your audience, who you had eating out of the palm of your hands!

What a well-made DVD, James. Quite a project in itself – and I thought it was as good as many I've personally had done professionally at some enormous cost!

With so much involved in a production like this, it's quite an achievement just to bring it all together on schedule. Bravo, Jessica!

But the thing that impressed me most was Stacey's attention to detail and ability to ensure every single line was delivered with clarity and meaning. Time and time again I've seen jokes thrown away due to garbled lines and principals continually putting the emphasis on the wrong word!! You've somehow managed to avoid all this and virtually every gag reached its full potential – the audience reaction speaks for itself!

This is mainly due to good diction and intelligent delivery, but credit must also go to your sound crew. Not a single word was lost, the sound effects were better than the ones we offer (and spot on cue) and it's very rare to hear the giant's voice done with the pitch change I suggest, but still with perfect clarity.

Believe it or not, this is the first time I've seen the entrance business for Buttermilk in the dairy scene done properly. And it worked! Everyone else either can't be bothered to read and understand what I describe, or don't see the importance of trying to get it right!

Someone really has a flair for the costumes – and I particularly liked those worn by Humphrey, Snatchet and Scarper. I also thought the building of the castle SR and the cottage SL in front of the Pros were well worth the effort, not to mention the giant's feet!

The music was well chosen and put together, aided by the choreography and lighting. And I just loved the understated ending of "Money Makes the World Go Around"! I know you had to use backing tracks this time (and there are some advantages to this), but I suspect you used most of them in their original full length, when in actual fact these could have been easily and seamlessly edited down to suit. I've spent half my life doing this and, if you wish, I'd be happy to offer my services (for any future pantomimes using our scripts) to do this for you, free of charge, if you send me the tracks on CD. Up to you!

To sum up, I really do think your outstanding production was among the best I've seen in all respects and I know how much hard work goes into a show of this standard. Congratulations to all involved!

Regards and best wishes, Alan