

Noda South-West Magazine Spring 2010  
District 2 – East Cornwall – Kathy West

***National Operatic & Dramatic  
Association  
South West Amateur Theatre  
Magazine***

**“Open a New Window”**

**SPRING 2010**

**. REVIEWS . STAGE MUSICALS . OPERETTAS . SCENERY .  
. COSTUMES . LIGHTING . VOCAL SCORES . INSURANCE .  
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. PANTOMIMES . OPERAS . PLAYS .  
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## KATHY WEST reports on District 2

Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates	Kidz R Us
Aladdin	St. Blazey Amateur Operatic Society
Aladdin	Penpont Players
Robin Hood	Lostwithiel Players

### **ROBINSON CRUSOE AND THE PIRATES**

**Kidz R Us**

**St. Ives Theatre**

*Director: Lesley Hibbs*      *Choreographer: Rhona Cleland*

*Musical Assistants: Sarah Hall and Katrina Geraghty*

*20<sup>th</sup> December 2009*

This pantomime (Alan Frayn) was fast-moving, slick and colourful. Whilst there were some fine individual performances, this was, primarily, a company show. Every member of the ensemble created an individual character, and played these parts with total conviction and energy, radiating their enthusiasm to the audience. The large chorus numbers were well managed, with tidy choreography, and the two-tiered stage was used to good effect. The principal parts were played with confidence, and when interaction with the audience was required, it was handled well. All maintained their characters constantly, even when the action was elsewhere on stage. Diction was generally excellent whilst speaking, but this was not always maintained during the songs. However, the standard of singing was high. Costumes were colourful and well made; props were convincing and scenery appropriate. Unfortunately, some scene changes were noisy, which was distracting. The technical aspects of the show were excellent, with good use of pyrotechnics. The under water scene, in which beautiful costumes and puppets were used under U-V light deserves a special mention. It was an absolute delight. It was a pleasure to witness such a well-drilled, enthusiastic and disciplined company, whose enjoyment at being on stage was obvious throughout

### **NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & AWARD CEREMONY**

**Palace Hotel, Torquay**

***Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.***

*Your attendance is expected  
on the occasion of the inauguration of*

*our very own Gerry Branton as National President*

**ALADDIN [Alan P. Frayn]**

**St. Blazey Amateur Operatic Society**

*Director & Choreographer: Trevor Hitchings      Musical Director: Malcolm Burley      29<sup>th</sup> January 2010*

This traditional pantomime grabbed the audience from the first lively, colourful chorus number, and the breathtaking pace never let up. How lovely it is to see such a young and enthusiastic ensemble. They performed their numbers with gusto, and stayed in character throughout their time on stage, including their entrances and exits, (when concentration often slips). The attention to detail was such that each ensemble member wore a matching wig, adding a really professional touch to their costumes. Combining a young ensemble with experienced Principals is a wonderful way for younger members to learn their craft, and they certainly would have learned a lot from the Principals here. Whilst each shone individually, they worked together as a team, particularly in the excellent percussion scene in 'I've Got Rhythm', and the (rather risqué) laundry scene. All the Principals seemed totally at ease, whether on-script or ad-libbing, and the audience participation song was particularly well handled. Choreography was lively and well-executed, and the production was complemented by an excellent band. Occasionally more volume from the ensemble singing was needed. Lighting and sound, including pyrotechnics, worked well, and good props, scenery and costume all contributed to this excellent production.

**Noda Summer School, Loughborough University**

1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010 a week's concentrated study with expert tuition

Places still available: contact [antonia@noda.org.uk](mailto:antonia@noda.org.uk)

**ALADDIN**

**Penpont Players**

**Village Hall, Altarnum**

*Written & Directed by: Alex Bailey Music: Trudy Bailey*

*19<sup>th</sup> February 2010*

How lovely to see a young company performing an original script, and with such enthusiasm. This Panto was scripted so that everybody, even the youngest cast members, had a named and speaking part, and the writer is to be commended for this. The result was a wonderful team spirit amongst the cast. Whilst maintaining the traditional Aladdin story, the script was modern, with many local references, teenage princesses with attitude, a Bollywood dance routine, and even a street-dancing Sultan. The mix of taped and live music worked well, and songs were performed confidently, particularly the rousing finale number. Other highlights included the colourful costumes, Humphree the Camel (adapted with ingenuity from a horse), and the magic carpet flying scene using a hydraulic lift. Both Abanazer and the Genie used magic tricks to good effect. The lighting and sound were good, especially considering the small size of the venue, but the mechanism for pulling the curtains was very slow, and this occasionally affected the pace. With such a competent lighting crew, perhaps lighting could be used more often for scene changes, to save an over-reliance on the curtains? I enjoyed my first visit to Penpont Players, and look forward to seeing you again.

18<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**SOUTH-WEST REGIONAL AGM & AWARD CEREMONY**

**Holiday Inn, Taunton 10:45 a.m.**

**Special Guest: Mrs. Margaret Coltman, President of Noda.**

*Lunch also available at £12 a head.*

*Order in advance: send a cheque to Denis Branton made payable to Noda South-West.*

*“Holly Woods” 89 Stone Lane, Winterbourne Down, South Gloucestershire BS36 1DH*

**ROBIN HOOD**

**Lostwithiel Players**

**Church Rooms. Lostwithiel**

*Author: Julian Davis    Director: Liz Plunkett*

*20<sup>th</sup> February 2010*

This production embodied the true spirit of pantomime. Performed in a packed hall with makeshift stage, curtains pulled by hand, a corny script and plenty of audience participation. It succeeded because it never took itself too seriously. The programme notes were very entertaining and set the tone for the evening. We were guided through the story by a narrator who, along with the rest of the cast, kept his tongue firmly in his cheek throughout. He kept us entertained during scene changes, ensuring that the pace never dropped, and his sarcastic and knowing delivery highlighted some truly awful rhymes, making them very funny indeed. The script was given a local twist with the action taking place in Restormel Forest instead of Sherwood, with plenty of local jokes and ‘digs’ at the neighbouring villages. The musical numbers were delivered with great enthusiasm, and comedy timing was excellent. Costumes were colourful and well made, in particular the tree and the horse. The ‘Merrie Men’ worked well together, each giving us their own take on the well-known characters. Unfortunately, at times, there was so much laughter from the audience that lines were lost. Thank you to Lostwithiel Players for a first class evening’s entertainment.

**Don't Forget**

You can *only* be nominated for one of the South-West Region's prestigious awards if you invite your Regional Representative and/or the Councillor to attend your show.

Contact your Representative as early as you can.

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As volunteers to the Association they have other lives away from Noda.

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