



Society : The Richings Players
Production : Robin Hood
Date : 27th January 2011
Venue : Iver Village Hall
Report by : Rita Carpenter

Report

FRONT OF HOUSE AND PROGRAMME

We received a friendly welcome on arrival and I was able to chat to the Director, both before the performance and at the end, **Will Torrence** who was so outstanding last year as the Cheshire Cat in Alice as the Chairman, **Adrian** was backstage preparing for his part in the show. The programme was glossy, well set out with photographs and details of the cast and the group's connection to NODA was prominently displayed.

THE SET

This was cleverly designed and well constructed. The scene changes on the whole were smoothly carried out although there was one rather long pause but I think this was to ensure all the little doves were dressed and ready for their appearance.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

The lighting from **Les Brewer** was effective throughout and the sound on the whole was good but the music at times was too loud for the solo singers and I am not sure whether this was down to **Robin Bishop** on sound or musical director **Anne Torrent**. This is something to note for future musicals. However the band under direction were worthy of note.

COSTUMES

The costumes were gorgeous, especially the apricot flowing dresses of the Hoodettes. Maid Marion had several changes which were all lovely. Some of the younger outlaws looked really smart. I would have liked to have seen Robin dressed in Lincoln Green if only for his wedding. The little doves looked very sweet and **Shelley Faulkner** as Archie Medes looked smart in her white suit complete with wings.

THE CAST

Richard Campbell was a handsome Robin Hood with a fine singing voice and **Sarah Pinkney** was a demure Maid Marion but came to life in the finale with a strong personality. **Pete Gibbs** as Alan A'Dale and **Michael Lucas** as Will Scarlet both gave excellent performances and had first rate singing voices. **Stephanie Dunleavy** as the only female in the outlaw camp was splendid as Holly. **Jessica Howard** as Little John had an appealing stage presence and **Josh Pearson** was the perfect foil as Long John. **Charlotte Hutton** sang beautifully in the part of Guinny **David Bainbridge** brought great humour as Jean and **Howard Gibbs** made a fine

Friar Tuck It was a pleasant change to have as female Sherriff of Nottingham and **Alison Elcoat** threw herself into the role of baddie and gave a first rate solo singing 'Whatever Sherriff Wants' There doesn't seem to be any mention of who wrote the lyrics for the musical numbers but one imagines it was down to the script writers **David Pike, Kathryn Pike** and **Will Torrent** if so they were very well adapted to suit the songs and the script was both witty and topical. One always thinks of Guy of Guisbourne as a very nasty character but **Anthony Salamone** brought a rather camp version to the stage which was impressive in its own way. **Warren Palmer** was an entertaining Prince John a little too nice for the role but his rendition of 'Don't Rain on my Parade' was superb as this is not an easy number to perform and I particularly enjoyed the dancers who accompanied him. Chairman **Adrian Uzzell** was regal as the Town Crier and **Nigel Gravette** played King Richard with an air of royalty.

THE CHORUS

The chorus including guards, archers and people of Nottingham brought considerable enthusiasm to their roles, the singing was melodious, the choreography by **Ley Dobson** was skilful and the younger performers were delightful but it was a pity that in some scenes the Hoodettes were placed in front of some of the very small members of the cast thus masking their performance.

IN CONCLUSION

This was a musical story rather than a pantomime therefore there was no audience participation but judging by the reception at the end the whole performance was very well received. The enthusiasm of the cast rubbed off onto the audience who all appeared to be having a great time. The song and dance routine Men in Tights was a winner. Congratulations to **Will, David** and **Kathryn** for their impressive endeavours.