

22. Attending a subsequent assignment, perhaps (2,1,5,4)
Down

1. Have a really ripping time, no doubt (4,2,6)
2. Container set up for writer (3)
3. Cultivated it in extremity of Earth (6)
4. Belie want of drink with meal (5,4)
5. Rigorous former spouse to take the stage (5)
6. What one wants deep down is sheer trade reform (6,6)
7. One who makes a commotion in a boat-race? (5)
10. Considerable amount involved in big business transaction (5,4)
13. Knot causes temporary stoppage (5)
14. Real clinger allowed mischievous child in (6)
16. Attack 50 inside, and feast eyes in triumph (5)
20. Sailor picks up deserter (3)

Solution -see page 34

TAODS is the fairest pantomime of them all

by **GABBY PRIOR**

MIRROR mirror, on the wall, which is the best panto of them all? It has to be TAODS production of Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs, of course!

Director David George, and fellow writer John Roberts, brought an eclectic mix of witty Totnes-isms and tradi-

tional panto satire to the stage of the Totnes Civic Hall last week with their annual festive pantomime.

From the offset the cast captured the audience with an abundance of songs, present and past accompanied by the expressive and up-beat four-piece band led by John Budden on the piano. Faye Butler choreographed the dancing, which resulted in some well-timed and fitting routines for all scenes and cast members. The performance embodied all the quips Totnes locals would come to expect in a pantomime, including the odd remark about Costa Coffee.

Chlöe Harris was centre stage as the ever graceful Snow White, enchanting her audience with her melodic voice and air of innocence. While Emelya Robinson was charming in her portrayal of Prince Hal, with every



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Snow White by Chloe Harris and Clementina Collywobble by Andy Gould

thigh slap her smile could be seen parading out across the hall, as she gave an energetic and impressive performance of the dashing Prince.

Andy Gould played Clementina Collywobble to perfection. With Clementina's flouncy dresses and array of eccentric wigs, Gould brought the stage to life and the audience to laughter, especially in

his scenes with the Lord Chancellor played by Richard Boys. The dynamic duo bounced off each other with their wit and innuendos providing giggles from even the more serious members of the audience.

Nicola Whitby gave a powerful personification of the evil Queen, revelling in the audience's boos and hisses as she broke into her

first number, 'Killer Queen' by Queen, appropriately chosen given the storyline. While her trusty sidekick Igor, played by John Parker, provided the audience with many a laugh, with Parker embodying every shake and twitch of the dishevelled character perfectly.

In a contemporary twist, the Queen's tell all mirror on the wall was a projector screen

at the back of the stage, with the three Spirits of the Mirror seemingly coming to life up on the big screen. This ingenious idea added a futuristic spin to the traditional story.

The seven dwarfs each portrayed their unique personality namesakes with an air of cheeky comic value, and no, these ones were not painted blue and provided by China Blue.

Stage managers Lee Thomas and Phil Spicer and their crew led the whole show fluently with efficient costume changes and incredibly detailed scenery. Emma Harris and Helly Widdicombe were in charge of make-up and did an amazing job at transforming Andy Gould into a so-called beautiful young woman, while the costume team produced a fantastic array of outfits.

All in all it was an exhilarating experience for everyone involved. So, until next year it's Hi Ho Hi Ho, and off TAODS go!



Christopher Wilson

Lord Chancellor by Richard Boys and Clementina Collywobble by Andy Gould