

Cinderella

'It's behind us!' But was Cinderella a success? 'Oh, yes it WAS'!

The Fairy Godmother worked her spells, waved her wand and Hunton's first-ever pantomime was a huge hit, playing to a packed village hall for three nights.

Cheers and whistles followed outstanding singing; laughter hisses and boos greeted the ugly sisters, and the shouts to Buttons to guard his string of sausages could probably be heard as far away as Yalding!

Behind the magic, there was an enormous amount of work for many months. Chris Norris directed the show with great expertise and more than a few attempts to call us all to order and make us give of our best.



Sue Pinks, Hunton's organiser par excellence, worked so hard behind the scenes that she probably needs a Fairy Godmother (or Ian!) to whisk her away for some fairy-tale holiday! Ruth Porter did the most incredible job producing costumes, Jane and Dai Langdon made a sparkling golden coach and other props, Nick Drewe, Derek Hudson and Alison Moore made the show go with a swing with their outstanding music and Sharon Winter made dancers of us all. Chris Summersgill (Stage Director) greatly supported Chris Norris and was unfailingly ready with a prompt if needed.

And then there was the cast: Cinderella (Daisy Andrews) and Prince Charming (Becky Dolman) brought tears to our eyes with their magnificent duets and Jonny Aucamp and Sam Andrews (Crumpette and Clotilde) were such unforgettable ugly sisters that it will be difficult to meet them in Hunton or Coxheath without imagining them prancing around in their bulging bras and high heels! Buttons (Ali Backshall) had the audience in the palm of his hand – everyone was charmed by his wonderful smile and his banter with his new-found 'friends.' Baron Hardup (Philip Eaton) is obviously hopeless at stealing sausages but wonderful at stealing the stage.



Prince Charming could never have won Cinderella's hand without the help of dapper Dandini (Sarah Aucamp) and Slap and Dash (Astrid Dolman) are probably not as dim as they wanted us to believe! Their seemingly effortless antics and moving of props smoothly linked each scene.



The Prince's Hunt (Eleanor Anscombe, Pheobe Aucamp, Becky Dixon, Emma Dolman, Amelia Farrant, Megan Matthews, Megan Whitmarsh Ali and Georgi Winter) danced superbly and the villagers (David Jones, Fay Joyce, Liz Oliver, Anne Sawtell, Wendy Simmons and Sue Scott) wondered how they were ever coaxed onto the stage but will never forget the experience! And Joy McLoughlin moved mountains to make sure as many people as possible had tickets to see the show.

Thanks must also go to John Ali, Sarah Aucamp and Jenny Boatwright for designing and constructing the superb set, Penny Norris and Helen Ward for the expert make up and Nick Blake for the professional lighting and to all those who sponsored the show.

The Fairy Godmother (Di Martin) sang 'When You Wish Upon a Star' beautifully and waved her wand. The magic worked. And we all had a ball!

