

THE UPWOOD PANTO SOCIETY: TREASURE ISLAND

Producer: Doug McLeod

Director: Martin Muir

Musical Directors: Martin Muir and Neville Palmer

Choreographers: April Glasby, Jen Hickman and Pauline McLeod

Performed at Upwood Village Hall on 23rd January, 2011

This is a small Village Society performing in a very small Village Hall but the enthusiasm, commitment and sheer ingenuity of the whole company always makes this a Pantomime to remember.

As usual the general design and technical work was excellent with some effective lighting and original ideas. I particularly liked the wonderful UV underwater scene and the haunted caverns sequence but the real climax of the evening was the mayhem in the Ship's Galley which involved an elusive rat, a train chase and a small plane flying across the audience into spectacular oblivion. Sheer magic!

The cast of all ages were well drilled and energetic and the end result was an unusual, but very enjoyable, version of the familiar classic story. There were strong performances from Dee Smith as an outrageous Ma Hawkins, Stuart Jackson as Squire Trelawney and Chris Richter as a truly villainous Long John Silver. Chris was particularly well supported by his four henchmen, played by Jack Vaughan, Harry Butson, Daniel Vaughan and Jack Day who brought a lot of fun to the proceedings. The surprising introduction of Robinson Crusoe and his Monday to Friday girls into the story gave an opportunity for Martin Muir to lead some splendid musical numbers while April Glasby as the Beardseller, Jill Aylin as the Parrot, Carole Spibey as the cross-dressing Captain and Charlotte Field as the upwardly mobile fairy, all added to the fun. Jen Hickman and Hannah Butson made an attractive and tuneful Principal Boy and Girl and it was easy to be drawn in to their story. However, the real stars of the evening were Doug McLeod and Geoff Dudley whose consistently funny double act of Brass and Knuckle was, as usual, superb.

This was a show that managed to both shiver your timbers and yet send you home on the crest of a wave!

Michael G Williamson

NODA Regional Representative

District 1