

## Cinderella Trophy

- Reviews

# A showcase of life and colour: Sleeping Beauty at the Strode Theatre

January 2 2020, Cinderella Trophy Reviews

A warm welcome is what we all desire at this time of year and no welcome could have been warmer than the ones I received from front of house staff in Street, most recently at Strode Theatre.

My visit on New Year's Eve was to watch Glastonbury and Street Musical Comedy Society performing Sleeping Beauty written by Alan P. Frayn. I knew immediately that under the direction of Brian Epps we were to witness a showcase of life and colour. I was not to be disappointed.

The skilful direction faithfully brought the script alive. There was pace throughout and the rhythm was never lost. All principals, Senior Dancers, Junior Chorus and Rainbow Fairies held the show together with panache and all movements indicated assurance. The script did not allow for a slapstick scene nor an 'it's behind you' routine which was a tad disappointing. Nonetheless, gentle humour was provided in the traditional way from Christian Lockyer's energetic Muddles along with Matty Wilson's and Glynn Webster's Fetch and Carry.

If you were looking for a brasher character, then Dave Titchener's Dame Hettie was just the ticket. I loved your character Dave. My goodness you have certainly improved over the years. Great banter, comic timing and you handled all your props with ease. Perhaps another couple of costume changes would have highlighted your character even more.

Cherry Lewis's Witch Hazel and Becky Cook's Good Fairy Lilac gave commanding performances, both having strong vocal projection and excellent singing voices.

Without doubt it was the well disciplined dancers who were the highlight of this show. The enthusiasm was very impressive indeed and many congratulations must be conveyed to your Choreographer Shelley Smith on her faultless coaching techniques.

This was an exhilarating production that I enjoyed from beginning to end. What a start to 2020!

Thank you Glastonbury and Street for inviting me.

**Nigel Ford**

Moderator

