



DOPSCOL – JANUARY 2012

"Robin Hood" was a highly successful and entertaining pantomime which audiences and critics loved - a fittingly festive Christmas production with an excellent "A" team at the centre. Lovely performances from Amanda, Des, Ed, Gill, Imogen and Ian - thank you. There was excellent back-up from the whole company and the revised approach to the musical numbers worked superbly. Thanks to all involved - on stage and behind the scenes - especially to Stephen for another excellent direction. The "Man of the Match" award, though, has to go to Wendy Morris for her amazing and wonderful sets which provoked so much admiration and praise from everyone who saw them - so beautifully detailed and painstakingly created. Wendy actually worked on her designs at the theatre for something like 4 months, almost seeming to live on the stage at times. Thank you.

Other recent productions have been "Blitz" which, I gather, was a very entertaining evening, well penned by Peter James, well directed by Geoff Bennett., well-acted by all and well-received by a large audience. "An Evening with Auntie Rosemary" offered a fresh approach to the traditional Xmas Anthology - again a Talisman-penned piece (this time written by Matthew Salisbury - what a lot of writing talent we seem to have...). It was a delight to watch - refreshingly different and with lovely performances from adult and junior actors alike, getting us into the festive spirit with verve.

Having just mentioned two excellent Studio Saturday Night evenings, I should like to remind audiences for these, that these events do cost the Talisman a fair bit of money to put on. Even, if no performance rights are payable, the theatre still has to be lit and heated and there are always some production expenses. It is suggested (quite strongly, by quite a lot of people involved) that the contribution made for your evening's entertainment should be at least £3 each, if we are to be able to keep staging these important events.

Well into rehearsal now is Chris Ward's production of Patrick Hamilton's gripping psychological thriller "Rope" - will two students get away with their experiment in murder? This production involves Talisman regulars Graham Underhill, Nigel Sharp and Sandy Robertson, Linda Lewis and Emma Searles. It also introduces three new and interesting young actors to our stage - not to be missed!

Chris C.