

## NODA REVIEW BY CHRIS HIGGINS

Bispham Castaways is a small inclusive theatre group producing drama, comedies, murder mysteries and pantomimes throughout the year. Their chosen pantomime this year was Cinderella. This show started with thigh slapping comedy and audience participation right from the outset. Susan Hope as Buttons came with audience participation in mind and she worked really hard to get as many audience members as possible to get involved with the performance. The audience was small but very appreciative of the comedy with the script written by Ben Crocker. The scenery was simple but effective and worked well on the small stage. There was some great comedy moments from larger than life Dames, Beryl and Cheryl Hardup played by Dominic Bradley and David McChrystal respectively. Their performances were fun and very energetic and were one of the reasons that the story kept running and they did well to keep the rhythm of the pantomime going. Lady Devilia Hardup, the wicked step mother of Cinderella, was played very well by Sharon Sinclair. Her character was strong and projection was strong throughout. Well done to Emma Jelley as Prince Charming and Nicky Alladice as Dandini who's performances were energetic and held well throughout. Hayley Price as the Fairy Godmother gave a sparkly and glittery performance which the younger audience members loved. Colin Sinclair as Baron Hardup as the down trodden father of Cinderella showed a confident delivery of his character and completing the lead roles was of course Cinderella played by Tara Stott, who gave an assured performance as the title character with some lovely vocals in her solo songs. I can't finish this review without mentioning Bispham Bronco! Adam Smithson spent the whole night on hands and knees to perform as Bispham Bronco the pantomime horse. Well done for your stamina in keeping going and your characterisation throughout!

Well done Bispham Castaways for this fun pantomime that kept the audience laughing and singing along.