

3D Techno Panto at the Swan

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Pantomime has moved into the 21st century at Wycombe Swan with a fantastic 3D version of Aladdin. Cheeky chappie Shane Richie is the star of the show, but it's the 3D effects which has the kids screaming in delight as they try to dodge or catch flying bats, rocks or sweets as they hurtle towards the audience from within Aladdin's cave. The cast interacted very cleverly with the cartoon Genie of the Lamp who floated above the audience (once we donned our specially provided glasses of course). The 3D magic carpet ride is a blast.

It's a very clever show, packed to the rafters with good old traditional jokes, dames and loveable idiots, but with some great new elements added. Shane - who always gives his shows 100% and is loved by all ages - is ably assisted throughout by his two real life chip-off-the-old-block sons, Shane Jnr and Jake as Wishee and Washee who have clearly inherited a good mix of their parents' singing and acting talents. Chook Sibtain is excellent as baddie Abanazar and commands the stage whenever he appears. Impressionist Peter Piper is brilliant as PC Pong, the Emperor, and a host of other characters (including Basil Fawlty and Ali G).

Aladdin, Widow Twanky, Wishee and Washee at the Wycombe Swan

I thought one woman in the audience was going to explode with laughter when he appeared "trapped" in a cage and carried by a seven foot gorilla while giving a David Attenborough commentary. Of course the little legs dangling from the cage were fake and Peter's lower half was in the gorilla suit - but the effect was hilarious.

The Gambat Troup of incredible circus artistes deserve a special mention. They appeared as background characters throughout then came centre stage three times in the show to amaze and thrill with their acrobatics. It's a great pantomime. Probably the best I've ever seen, and believe me, I have seen a lot (oh yes I have).

* Don't forget that Forum Players present their pantomime Snow White at the Community Centre from January 20. See Target for more details or call the box office on 01628 523291.