**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**

By C.S Lewis

Thursday 24th February 2022

Audio description notes for Act Two.

Welcome back to Act two of the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. I am Veryan your describer for the second half of the show.

The basic set remains much the same as before, there are however, a few new scenes and some new characters including the all-important King of beasts, the Lion, ASLAN, 'King of the wood and Son of the Great Emperor Beyond the Sea.' as C S Lewis said. But, before I tell you about him I will introduce the other new characters in the order in which we will meet them as the story continues to unfold.

When the lights come up on Act two, we find the Narnian animals including Mauve Mole, Red Squirrel and the Beavers slowly emerging from the darkness with the children. Edmund, Susan, Peter and Lucy are carrying glowing lanterns as they a sing a song about a prophecy.

We then meet a very jolly and rotund Father Christmas who arrives followed by a group of Reindeer bringing presents.

Father Christmas looks to be almost round in a floating, all-encompassing outfit made from multiple strands of red fabric and wearing a towering scarlet cone-shaped hat. He has black boots and a bushy white beard

The engaging and sprightly Reindeer dance and cavort around Father Christmas pawing the ground and tossing their sparkly antlers. They wear Austrian style grey leather knee-length shorts with braces, known as lederhosen, with white shirts, knee-length red striped socks and boots. They have small furry tails and their wonderful antlers covered in frosty snow, glint in the moonlight.

As the story progresses Jadis or the White Witch clothes lose their pristine whiteness and gradually change to depict her true nature. Her snowy fur coat disappears leaving her in black trousers and a shimmering black top with just a small white fur cape around her shoulders, but soon even that disappears leaving her in her true colours of darkness. With a wolf skin covering the shoulders of her now semi-transparent black cloak, she strides menacingly around threatening all in her way with her magic wand.

We then encounter an old white Mouse. He is bent with age and his old white fur coat is worse for wear. He has a long tail small ears and his head and shoulders are wrapped in a grey hood. He is a Sharman and carries a staff.

A splendid Phoenix and Gryphon are the next to appear - these exotic and mystical birds both have long wings, their feathers in the most beautiful jewel colours with similar plumage crests on their heads. They fly through the air above the stage to herald the arrival of the King of Narnia, Aslan, as does the Satyr, who being a cloven hoofed creature with horns on his head, remains on the ground beating a drum.

Aslan, a mighty lion and King of Narnia is a puppet, a huge larger than life sized Lion animated by a puppeteer hidden inside him. His sandy coloured head has a fixed expression, the mouth closed and roar-less, whilst his huge, rough mane fans out from behind his small ears and over the top of his muscular shoulders. His powerful front legs end with great paws complete with sharp claws. His body consists of only the front end, his smooth coated back ending in a long tail that he swings back and forth in good cat-like form.

The puppet Aslan has a human counterpart, his spirit, who speaks for him, a man called ..... He is large with a serious but kindly face. He has a beard and a mass of sandy-gold hair, very like a Lions mane, which flows out around him. He wears red-ish brown breeches tucked into long tan-coloured boots, a sandy coloured shirt over which he has an enormous and flowing floor-length fur coat. The coat is made up of many overlapping layers of golden-brown fur with a wide collar of a rougher fur that stands up behind his head - all very lion like.

For the scene when Aslan is confronted by Jadis, the white witch and her Evils, the stage becomes very dark as a huge heavily carved stone table reminiscent of a sacrificial altar, is dragged on by the evils with thick ropes.

The Evils live up to their name and are very unpleasant looking things that serve the white witch during her reign over Narnia, are present at the stone table and fight in the witch's army at the battle of Beruna. They are really horrible to look at, dressed in tattered grey cloaks made from rags with animal and human skeleton heads shaking and twitching on the end of long poles, as if their heads are detached from their bodies.

Towards the end of the story, there will be the final battle between good and evil. We hear the sound of a war drum as the animals, most carrying musical instruments, gather in a circle. The pendulum between good and evil is then reflected between instruments. Smoke, drums and the sound of distant sirens and explosions will be heard.

After the battle, there are celebrations and a coronation for which the children will all be given long white robes and crowns to wear.

Finally, a mystical White Stag will appear in the overhead portal.