**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.**

**Theatre Royal Christmas Panto 2024.**

**Audio described notes for Act 1. W.S.**

Welcome to the Theatre Royal Plymouth for this year’s “ fairest panto in the land” brought to you by Crossroads Pantomimes.

My name is Wendy and I shall audio describe Act 1 for you, which runs for approximately an hour. Halfway through the 20 minute Interval, my colleague Pauline will describe Act 2.

 This show has something for everyone- lots of daft and naughty jokes, catchy songs, lively dance routines, some audience participation plus silly slapstick and verbal routines. Add in a series of stunning, hand-painted sets, many fabulous, outrageous costumes straight from the London Palladium then throw in a train, a magic mirror, a black cab and there’s plenty to entertain us ! I must warn you that the show also contains flashing lights, explosions, fireworks, very loud music and some adult humour- but is deemed suitable for all ages.

The wicked **Queen Dragonella,** played with gusto by **Lesley Joseph** is distraught when she finds out, via her truth- telling magic mirror, that she has a rival in the innocent, kind and beautiful Snow White. True to the original **Grimm’s fairytale** the Queen plans to get rid of her after her birthday ball, but Snow White has many friends who come to her aid. These friends include Muddles the rather dim court jester, Lady Samantha her governess, her ardent suitor Prince William of West Hoe and of course the Magnificent Seven dwarfs. Keeping an eye on everybody is the Man in the Mirror.

In **Act 1 there are 9 scenes** and we are introduced rapidly to the main characters who often talk directly to us. Before the show starts we see a beautiful turquoise curtain spattered with snow crystals, many large shimmering snowflakes and subtle purple, blue and white mini lights. This design continues across the proscenium arch –its 3 sided inner edge has many light bulbs regularly spaced around it and a neon strip- these all change colour throughout the show, depending on the scene and the atmosphere required. Meanwhile many large moving projected snowflakes whirl around the curtain and a row of six point stars with central lights runs across the raised edge of the stage, above the orchestra pit. Even larger snowflakes are projected around the auditorium. A variety of well-known, cheesy Christmas tunes play and add to the atmosphere. The full title ofd the show appears in large white gothic script with an apple above.

 The show begins with the **Magnificent Seven** arriving with their pickaxes at the **Diamond Mine** where they work, aboard a steam train. The small bright green engine driven by **Snoozy** pulls two open carriages and we meet **Prof, Cheery, Cranky, Sniffy,** **Nervy and Silly** as they alight ready for work. The dwarfs all wear soft boots, baggy pantaloons, a jacket with a short fur trimmed cape and a large pie-like beret. They are colour-themed (all in red, maroon or pale green etc ) and the fabrics sparkle and shimmer.

The dwarfs fill in the background to the story- **Dragonella** is cruel and has ruled the land for the last 20 years – she has a magic mirror that flies in and shows monochrome pictures and film. The mirror is like a slim arched window- the glass is rather crazed and two teal coloured dragons sit one either side of the curved top.

We now move to the centre of the **Royal Kingdom of Plymouth**- the gothic-style buildings are made from yellowish stone embellished with cupids, steps and cut-out panels. There are lots of pillars and arched, lit windows running down the left and right sides leading to a detailed backdrop of a turreted palace or church across the centre with a large, painted Christmas tree. Many lanterns hang from the intertwined bare tree branches that arch overhead and there is a light dusting of snow. We meet some of the local citizens all dressed in their finery, dancing in colour-co-ordinated pairs. They welcome young Snow White- she is excited about her birthday party when she will meet her intended husband Prince William for the first time. Snow White has short, jet black, bobbed hair- she wears silver shoes, a flounced yellow silk skirt with many white petticoats, a tightly laced purple satin bodice and a white blouse with short, puffed sleeves with pale pink slashes. **Snow White** is played by **Briana Craig** who last appeared here in “The Artist”. **Prince William**, played by **Scott Maurice**, arrives- he’s a tall, strapping chap with short dark hair- he cuts a dash in red velvet breeches tucked into knee-high gold leather boots and a red silky shirt under a matching jerkin covered in gold frogging.

**Lady Samantha, Snow White’s governess** enters- she is played by local boy **Samuel Holmes**. Lady Sam is tall and imposing with blonde bouffant hair- she wears many outrageous feathered and sparkly outfits throughout the show. Her **first outfit** is a brown sequinned or alternate fur panelled fishtail long skirt with matching swing back coat and an orange sparkly neck bow. Her **second outfit** is a fitted midnight blue and gold floor-length dress with a huge skirt. The neck, wrists and hem are a mass of navy feathers. Her **third outfit** is an emerald and black sequinned full gown with a half cape all edged in black feathers- she usually wears black gloves and matching jewellery. **Muddles the court jester**, played by local comic **Andy Ford** is late so he arrivesin a small black taxi, dressed in a red, blue and white vertically striped jerkin and knee breeches, both with a zig-zagged hem with white bobbles attached. He has a matching zig-zagged white collar, long blue socks and soft white shoes. Muddles has short brown hair, very expressive eyebrows and a cheeky smile- he speaks slowly with a distinct local accent.

 Dragonella makes a dramatic entry in a sleigh propelled by two tall, handsome guardsmen dressed in pale turquoise and silver military outfits with matching short capes and plumed helmets. **Dragonella** is a tiny bundle of malevolent energy in a full-length medieval style A line green velvet frock and golden girdle. The sleeves are very wide at the wrist and decorated in ornate golden appliqué. ( Later, she wears a similar gown in red velvet. ) She has a mass of black, shoulder-length curls and a sparkly crown and necklace.

The final main character we meet is **the Man in the Mirror, played by Rob Rinder.** He is dressed from neck to long boots in very glittery silver and white fabric. He wears breeches and a swirly panelled spaceman-style jerkin with rolled neck and shoulder edges. The Man in the Mirror tells the truth and holds everyone to account.

Some action takes place in **a palace corridor**- this is a painted symmetrical backdrop with many ornate gothic arches, cupids, navy swags and rainbow coloured stained glass windows.

 **An outdoor Winter Festival** is conveyed by painted handcarts selling punch and sweets etc on either side leading to fir trees and snowy mountains in the far distance. Beautifully dressed ice skating couples whizz around- the ensemble actors are constantly changing costume ! A later scene sees them apparently “riding” on tap-dancing bears’ shoulders- all white fur, huge Cossack hats and pale turquoise, glittery outfits !

The other major set is the **Magnificent Seven’s rambling cottage** deep in the woods. It’s a tumbledown wonky yellow house with purple timber framing and multi-coloured arched windows. It has its own little watermill on the right, a low, arched central door and three pitched roofs. Life-size puppets of a rabbit, an owl and a horse move and wave to us amongst the snowy fir trees.

The action in this show is fast and furious with lots of silly stuff thrown in -it’s a feast for the senses and hopefully lots of fun ! We really hope you enjoy this well-known story...... with all of its modern twists and surprises........

Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer may even put in an appearance.......

 So...... back to the beginning of the story.......we’re off to the Diamond Mines out in the snowy mountains...........

Theatre Royal Plymouth

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves Act 2

Audio described performances

Sat Dec 28th @7p.m.  Thurs Jan 2nd 2025@  2.30p.m.

 Thurs Jan 9th 2025 @12.30p.m. (Relaxed)

Pauline Raw audio describer

Welcome back everyone  to Act 2 of the Crossroads pantomimes production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

There are 9  colourful scenes within this Act and my name is Pauline and I  will describe them without, hopefully, distracting from the action.

 **There will be pyrotechnics,  flashing lights , smoke and flames with some  mild adult humour.**

The  sea blue  gauze  is down displaying  a myriad of  moving  silver  snowflakes  on and around the gauze.White stars  with blue central lights line the edge of the stage.

We left Muddles racing back to the Palace aboard Santa’s sleigh to reunite Snow White with her Prince, and we join the story in the   red, yellow and gold Palace Grand Hall where the courtiers dressed in harlequin inspired costumes in red, purple and blue with plumed headdresses are dancing joyfully to celebrate Snow White’s birthday under a huge birthday banner. The younger group are in matching pink outfits with glittery inset panels and cone headdresses. Lady Sam joins them in a pale mauve   full frilly shift with a matching full length skirt. Flashing lights are on the arches with cherubs on either side.Two sets of stairs flank a central throne and  four  tall candle sconces stand either side of the arches. A griffin on a central shield is centrally  mounted high above  the arch.

Muddles is still  in a red and blue wide striped tunic with  jagged edges  to his collar with matching pantaloons;all points are trimmed with small white pom poms.

The man in the Mirror is in his space man style  silver ensemble and Queen Dragonella is in a black fitted lurex dress with wide fringed sleeves. The Prince is wearing a pink and multi coloured tunic, gold velvet tights and matching boots and a short red cape.

 Lady Sam reappears in a glamorous yellow frilled coat, short tunic ,  over  knicker bockers trimmed with black and pink.

An elaborate  Palace corridor  in yellow and pink provides the backdrop for  a rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas but not as you may know it!

We join Queen Dragonella  in her laboratory with  her evil assistants, in their dark reptile like costumes and horned and winged helmets. It is dark and evil, in green and red , leaning  shelves on either side, house lotions and potions and a  massive green leering face hangs over the huge central  cauldron decorated with chains. Here she casts a spell to kill Snow White.

The road to the forbidden Forest is  snow covered fir trees stretching   to  a view of the Palace in the distance. The Magnificent Seven and Snow White are making their way  back to the dwarves many roofed cottage.

 Snow White is left alone  here and meets an old woman in a hooded cloak carrying a basket of apples. She  is not all she appears to be and bad magic is cast.

Sam and Muddles take a moment to teach Muddles how to woo a lady but not successfully.

Back in the Palace Grand Hall and  the  now  unconscious Prince is lying on   an ornate couch surrounded by four guards in red with roman style plumed helmets.  Two large shields  stand either side of the Hall.Snow White, Sam and Muddles  face the triumphant  Queen but The Man in the Mirror  appears in his judicial gown, carrying a gavel to pass sentence on the Queen.

In the Palace Corridor and Muddles entertains everyone with a sing song.

The Finale  has a pink , gold,  and silver   theme with lavish costumes for all, starting with the children,  in miniature crinolines and coned hats, the lady courtiers, in huge crinolines and  the men in toning pantaloons and tunics. The Magnificent Seven wear gold shorts over tights with brightly coloured tops  and Snow White follows in a huge crinoline  escorted by  the Prince  in pantalons and tunic with a short silver cape. They  precede  Lady Sam,in a glorious long silver and pink  dress with silver hair. Muddles  is in silver with pink stripes  and the, Man in the Mirror,  in gold and pink. Finally,  Queen Dragonella is escorted down the stairs in another magnificent  pink and gold glittery costume, where she addresses the audience and leads the cast in a bow as well as paying homage to the musical director and band.

The relaxed performance on Jan.9th @12.30 will be  audio described and BSL signed and the lights will be up, the doors open and there will be no flashes or smoke.

The next Audio described performance will be the musical  Pride and Prejudice on Sat. Feb 1st 2025 @ 2.30 p.m.with a touch Tour at 1.30p.m.

Other performances can be found on the website.

Please make sure  when you book to let the Box  Office know you want the Audio described performance and they will advise the best place  to  sit for  a good reception.