

# IRCHESTER PLAYERS

## ROBIN HOOD

### SHOW REPORT

"Whilst it's fair to say this was not a 'traditional' pantomime in many respects, the principal boy being...well a boy to start with and not having a 'traditional' Dame, however, I must take my hat off to the writing team for adapting with skill a script that seemed to effortlessly bridge Robin Hood 'Men in Tights', Spamalot and the Carry On films, resulting in an evening of great entertainment, some terrific character work and good old British seaside humour.

Without exception all principals performed well but several shone and were worthy of a special mention. Daniel Wainright and Alex Wheeler were both hilarious as Will Scarlett and Phillipe Fallop as was Clive Minor who made a wonderful inebriated Friar Tuck. Nick Gough as the dastardly Sheriff of Nottingham encouraged plenty of hissing and booing from the children (and a few adults) in the audience and Chris Thirlwell in the title role and Ashleigh Dodson as Maid Marion were ideally cast as the love interests but the scene stealer without a shadow of doubt was young Tom Spencer as Falafel – comic timing from one so young that could teach many comedians a thing or two.

Enthusiastic audience participation – lots of it from the cubs and scouts the night we were in was testament to the work put in by the actors and production team. Several generations left the theatre with big smiles on their faces.

Junior chorus, adult chorus, Mice and Ninja's, not forgetting The Blues Brothers all added to the entertainment factor and were all 'acting' throughout the performance – smiling and clearly enjoying themselves. There is nothing worse than seeing chorus members given little to do looking lost and disinterested. Here there was plenty to do and sing and they did it very well.

Set design was excellent as was the costume design and back stage work was slick and appeared trouble free. Sound and lighting balance was well managed and the band under the direction of Dinah Stevenson was excellent.

Many congratulations to you for skilfully directing a clever script so well.

Luke, please be so kind as to pass on my congratulations to the cast and crew and The Players committee for a thoroughly entertaining evening. I look forward to your next production.

Kindest regards

**Neil Richardson** - Regional Representative  
NODA East Midlands