

Cinderella

By Leanne

After buying panto tickets back at the end of May, the day finally arrived! Knowing that this was a big deal in panto land, I was very much looking forward to seeing this show at the Palladium.

Outside, the lights shone bright from the posters of the cast and a buzz was coming from the crowds gathering outside and in the foyer. Taking our seats, I felt so excited that this show was about to start! I think the child inside of us all comes out at some point before/during a panto.



[Photo tweeted by: @DianeWarren5]

Now the memories of the show itself are a bit hazy in places but I can assure you that you're in for a treat if you're yet to visit.

I'm also conscious that I don't want to fill this with spoilers, so here are some highlights:

Staging-

Staging is something that I absolutely love when it comes to live events, especially theatre. I may have gone into this with higher expectations than necessary and whilst I have nit-picked at a couple of things since, there were some fantastic pieces of staging! One moment that I was in amazement at was Cinderella's carriage (or even more so, the horses) that took her to the ball.

Fantastic! And magical!

There's one part of a scene that involves a pumpkin that I'm still trying to figure out how is done... I'll take a closer look on my next visit this week.

Other great elements include the fairy godmother at the opening scene, Dandini on his motorcycle and Baroness Hardup's entrance.

I also liked the way that the story incorporated the Palladium and the area of Soho.. enter a very catchy panto song..

Cast-

As we all know, this year's panto has been cast spectacularly. From seeing a handful of these people in panto over the last couple of years, I knew we'd be in for a real treat. I was actually quite looking forward to seeing Paul O'Grady. Knowing what his sense of humour is like, I was intrigued to see him do panto. Needless to say, he didn't let me, or the rest of the audience, down. He was met with rapturous applause and had the whole theatre laughing (and booing) throughout the show.

Paul Zerdin also got us laughing a lot! I have seen him perform in his own ventriloquist show earlier this year which I found hilarious. It's funny how you can end up watching a puppet, believing that he's the one that's created these jokes and innuendos!

Yes, innuendos. Now this is something that plays a great part of any panto and they certainly weren't missing from this one. A certain Julian Clary is definitely the one leading the way here and amidst his glorious and perhaps slightly distracting outfits, his comedic value shines once again, pointing out that this isn't just a show for the kids.

The whole cast did an amazing job and they all work so well together.

And Lee-

Ok, I know he counts as 'cast' but he deserves his own section right?! ;)

Our favourite leading man, Lee is just superb as Prince Charming. He looks the part and absolutely sounds the part! His voice is flawless when it's his time to sing and his performances were always met with a round of applause and cheering from the audience.

His sparkly outfits were a treat and made him look like the perfect prince. Singing aside, he fits into the show and alongside this cast very well. I'm sure that a few of them have built up a good relationship over the years but the quips still keep rolling.. "nice hair".. "you'll never get away from this song" etc etc.

There was a slight repeat of a scene from other pantos but nonetheless, it was cleverly put together and Lee had the audience laughing along with him and the others. It's always nice seeing him do something different, and panto is just that!