

Pantomime's dame knows his shortcomings in this year's show

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Cinderella hits the stage at Christ Church Anglican in a way that will leave you amazed, laughing, standing up in your seat and wondering who on earth would wear a dress like that?

The 'who' is Stouffville resident Wayne Feasby, who has played the important role of the dame in the annual English pantomime for the past five years.

The dress, which will probably bring the meaning of 'tacky' to a new high, is kept under wraps, mainly so the paparazzi don't come around, Mr. Feasby said, tongue firmly in cheek.

This year he is Daisy, one of Cinderella's Ugly Stepsisters.

The other Ugly Stepsister, Buttercup, is a dual role, portrayed by two teenage boys:

Nicholas Ormrod and Brian Hadaway.

The church's 15th annual pantomime was written by local resident Charlie Parker. He was the original dame, before handing the role down to Mr. Feasby.

STOUFFVILLE WRITER

Mr. Parker wrote all 10 of the pantomimes that are currently in Christ Church Anglican's repertoire.

Cinderella interweaves comments on local politicians, people and happenings

And "there is always an Uxbridge line in there," said director Denise Pettitt.

Cinderella is portrayed by Elizabeth Shields, while Jenna Goldsmith portrays the charming Prince.

The evil Baron Hardup is played by Ryan Sweeney and Christopher Ormrod, while

Sam Kovach makes Baroness Hardup come alive.

The two evil parents and the evil stepsisters are roundly booed, while Cinderella and the Prince are cheered on at every opportunity during the pantomime. Especially when the sign carriers walk on stage with their Boo or Cheer signs for a little friendly prompting.

And of course, there's got to be a Fairy Godmother, played by one of the younger actors, 11-year-old Tori

Hutchinson.

There's already a second generation involved in the pantomime: Charlie Parker's daughter, 25-year-old Amanda Parker, who is the dance choreographer.

The action takes place in a few places, including Hardup Hall, the ancestral home of Cinderella's family.

They are truly hard up. People come in to try to repossess their furniture as the story unfolds.

There is usually a lot of

ad-libbing, "because I can't remember my lines," Mr. Feasby said modestly.

He praises the singing and dancing talents of the cast, most of whom are members of the Christ Church youth group.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

"We have some fairly talented singers," he said. "I am not one of them."

Mr. Feasby is looking forward to performing with his Ugly Stepsister 'sidekicks' as

he calls them. He's also looking forward to a good audience.

"There are a lot of demands on the audience," Mr. Feasby said, "but nothing that most people can't handle."

The pantomime will be presented at the church, 254 Sunset Blvd. in Stouffville, on Feb. 29 at 7:30 p.m. and March 1 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and \$8 available from Stouffville Florist and from the church at 905-1461.

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