



Annual Report 2021/22

In September 2021, and in accord with our well established program, we held auditions for what would be our next panto - Aladdin, which we last performed in 2009. After not being able to perform our panto in 2021 due to Covid, we were all hugely keen to get going with our next production.

We were successful again in drafting in some new faces - adults and children - who all performed beyond expectation given, for some, it was their first venture on stage.

And our new recruits from the previous three shows or so are now very much part of the TYS family, and returned to perform with us again allowing us to cast the actors with the right age and gender of the characters in the story.

Our production of Aladdin was only our third panto in our lovely village hall and this continues to allow TYS to perform to larger audiences with the increased revenues that naturally follow.

The new VH is a delight to use with so much extra space available, which we take full advantage of, and in collaboration with the sports club we offered, again, a bar which proved very successful. We had our usual difficulties during rehearsals and it cannot be understated how close we were to cancelling the show because we were so far behind schedule by Christmas due to that dreaded Covid which was leading to cast sickness and self isolating. But after our all day rehearsal in December we felt we could just about do it. All the cast pulled together and we were so right to carry on because we were able to put on a great show to packed houses each night. It was obvious people were ready to get out to see live entertainment again

We have received marvelous feedback from people about the show, citing the UV flying carpet scene as one of several memorable highlights.

We also had to deal with finding a new home for our stage equipment, scenery and props because Taylor's farm where we had stored our equipment for so long, had been put up for sale and we were given reasonable notice to leave. We were saved by the offer of John Tims and his family, who have a farm near Astwell, who offered us a storage area in of one of their barns. We will be eternally grateful to them for their kind offer and thanks too must go to one of our own - Nick Tarratt - who brokered the whole arrangement for us.

As usual in preparing this TYS report, I will take the opportunity to avail you of one or two facts about our panto productions.

Over the 5 shows we played to approximately 750 people.

TYS income was approx £6,000 over the 5 shows of Aladdin, with ticket sales, drinks and food and the raffle each night, and our expenses and outgoings this year were yet again reduced due to such things as the permanent lighting in the VH and the generosity of our sponsors

The next TYS panto production in February 2023 will be The Wizard of Oz which was last performed by TYS in 2004. Each year we strive, and succeed, in raising the bar on each production and we have gained huge experience allowing us to produce better and better shows and putting Syresham firmly on the map as the village panto production other local amateur and professional theatre companies aspire to

So, I can confidently announce that The Wizard of Oz will be hugely better than the production we delivered 18 years ago. But, on a sad note, it will likely be our esteemed director Keith Watts's last show. He is ready to retire from directing our shows and will be handing the reins to Steph Mitchell, though Keith is happy to continue in a hands-off consulting capacity on future productions. We are already reviewing the script and will be looking, as always, to recruit some new faces again. So if anybody knows someone who would be interested in joining our cast please tell them to get ready for auditions this coming September with posters giving audition dates posted around the village by mid-August

Mike Maund
Chairman
Take Your SEAT
10 May 2022