

## Review

### Sleeping Beauty

By Sheila Telfer

Lyrics and additional material by Andrea Varnavides

Produced by Sheila Telfer and Andrea Varnavides

Production: November 2002

. . . as only St Andrew's could see her!

I have never seen a RoCo Pantomime before, writes Jean Mortimer, and I nearly missed seeing Sleeping Beauty – such was the demand – so many thanks to those who responded to my last minute request for tickets for myself and my two guests. I had warned them in advance that, by way of therapeutic diversion at the end of a busy and stressful week, I might be tempted to "let down my hair" with a vengeance (oops – that's the wrong pantomime!) and our front row seats provided a wonderful opportunity to do this in style! Raoul, my "honorary Grandson", got quite carried away, too, and at one point was hovering on the edge of climbing the steps onto the stage to dance with the fairies. He has asked me to say that he had a lovely time, but that he would have liked to have known in advance that there would be some loud bangs. His Mummy and I, who are great believers in the importance of knowing how to multi-task, were delighted to see that Princess Camellia received this gift! All of us were thoroughly entranced by the music, singing, dancing and costumes, and we two "adults" loved the slapstick comedy, audience participation, contemporary allusions and even the oldest of old chestnuts which occasionally appeared amongst the jokes! The dream sequence was a delight, and I loved the clever and challenging references to our centenary year and to the unknown future which lies before us.

Dogs are not allowed at "Holmwood", and it's a long time since I received a "big sloppy kiss" (oh yes it is!), but I can see what Princess Camellia was getting at when she opted for a faithful, domesticated, canine companion in preference to a more conventional "passing Prince"! "Some day MY prince will come" (oops – wrong pantomime again – that dopey King has a lot to answer for!), but in the meantime I shall have to console myself with a cuddly toy and some very happy memories of my first experience of a RoCo pantomime. If you missed this one, you missed a real treat. I hope that there will be many more, and I can't wait for their next production. Very many thanks to all the production team and cast for giving me and my guests such a wonderful time.

**Jean Mortimer**