

**Group: Starburst**  
**Show: Aladdin**  
**Venue: Samuel Cody School, Farnborough**  
**Date: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013fd**  
**Director: Kim Phillips**  
**Producer: Pete Woodford & Shaun Garrett**  
**Choreographer: Liz Woodford**  
**Musical Director: Paul Darrah**



**Aladdin** - Starburst's pantomime contribution to the Christmas season was sourced through NODA.. The traditional story was encapsulated in a traditional pantomime format with script updates.

**Front of House:** The well-organised team welcomes the audience and directs them to the auditorium. Facilities for refreshments are efficiently run.

**Theatre Ambience:** The traditional layout of seating is well spaced. The atmosphere of expectancy amongst the children was palpable.

**The Programme:** The stunning 24 page glossy programme very clearly presents all the information about the cast, the crew and the details of the production. The programme is bright and inviting and clear to read.

**Scenery/Set/Props:**

Every one of the scenes was most successfully created. From Wishy Washey's Laundry to Aladdins Cave through all the Imperial Palaces the audience were truly transported. The scenery and props were well constructed and worked very effectively.

**Lighting & Sound:** The use of special lighting effects enhanced the production and the TV screen worked very effectively. The team added that extra ingredient to every scene for example the lights on the hands during the blackout.

**Wardrobe & Make-Up:** The costumes were awesome - most commendable was the final scene of gold and claret which was just thrilling. Every scene was so well thought through.

**Music:** The musical arrangements were sympathetic to the performers and the three-piece band was well balanced.

**The Production:** Watching Starburst in their production of Aladdin is like receiving an injection of enthusiasm for the stage. From beginning to end the production was alive and maintained its momentum throughout. . From Wishy Washey's Laundry to Aladdins Cave through all the Imperial Palaces the audience were utterly engrossed in the action indeed some of the audience were so involved they were answering before the questions were asked. All the principals maintained their individual roles superbly well whilst working well as a team. The quality of the dancing was excellent. The well drilled cast performed the groups and individual dances with clarity and style. Frequently the standard of singing in pantomimes is not as high as the acting skills however with this cast all aspects were of a very high standard. The performers were very well supported by the crew - all of whom contributed a great deal to this very rounded performance. This production of Aladdin was thrilling for its freshness and clarity.

A short review will appear in due course in the South-east section of the NODA website.

**Kay Rowan - District 14 Regional Representative**