

## PANTO LIKE THIS WILL NEVER DIE

CIRCUS, farce and pantomime are time-hallowed elements of British entertainment.

Most people these days, though, are beginning to feel an urge when watching the circus to set the beasts free and encage their keepers, while farce, in my opinion, died some time ago and should be given a decent burial. But pantomime – well, I reckon this brand of entertainment will survive as long as the British, and the performance of "Red Riding Hood" by the young people of the Parish of Bramley reinforces my opinion.

The play's "maid" Henrietta is taken ably by Graham Thorne, Graham has a loud, clear voice which is taxed to its utmost many times during an evening's performance.

Margaret Spencer portrays an admirable Sir Rupert Pendragon, son of the former village squire and principal boy of the pantomime. Appearing opposite Margaret is Jennifer Holdsworth as Angela, the squire's pretty daughter.

Joan Speight and Wendy Barrens are well-matched as Brian, the village storekeeper, and Molly, a pretty milkmaid.

Edward Turner is cast as the new squire, R. U. Forster-Stand, who made his fortune from fish-and-chip shops and tripe stalls. Billy Higgins, the, village idiot, is played by David Walton and Jennifer Kaye is well-cast as the village school-teacher.

David Hydes takes a triple role as Boris Ratoff, the local villain, a school inspector and the Wolf.

The "leading" role, allotted to Margaret Moore, is a comparatively small one. In fact the original tale of "Little Red Riding Hood" takes up little more than one of a total of eight scenes. But that's pantomime, I suppose.

### Pleasing

Jennifer Booth has, according to the programme, been demoted from her; usual role of Fairy Queen to that of Fairy, but her portrayal is, if anything, better than her previous roles, despite her recent recovery from an illness.

Richard Turner and Peter Dickinson provide pleasing humour as Knutty and Knotty, the squire's Woodmen. Keith Walton plays Mrs. Allbright, Red Riding Hood's Grandmother.

Musical interludes from Heather and Christopher Richardson (accordion) and Peter Dickinson (trumpet), with "speciality" dances by Andrea Seed give stage-manager A. Walton the chance to change some first class scenery and sets.

The two halves of a convincing Horse are Stephen Buckle and Jim Spencer.

Others taking part were: J. Broadbent, J. Brockhouse, J. Brigham, P. Clough, J. Clough, H. Davidson, M. Gibson, J. Holdsworth, S. Howson, A. McDonald, H. Marsden, C. Mandy, D. Nicholson, S. Smales, H. Sykes, S. Shaw, H. Poppy, C. Walker and D. Ward. (Senior Chorus); E. Beck, L. Carter, S. Handley, G. Mason, J. McBean, L. Richardson, L. Thorne, A. Tepper, J. Tepper and S. Wright, (Sunbeams); J. Armitage, J. Charlesworth, E. Corney, D. Carbutt, A. Flaxington, S. Galvin, K. Gillespie, K. Metcalfe, A. Priestley, W. Richardson, C. Reevley, L. Langton, J. Stackhouse, L. Speight and M. Speight, (Tinies).

### **Capable**

Mr. P. F. R. Armitage leads a capable production team which includes Mr. N. Moreton (electrician), Mrs. L. Dickinson (costumes, music and dances), Mrs. B. Moreton (piano) and Mr. H. Grant (drums).

A professional musician and music master at a Leeds high school commented at Saturday's opening night: "From a musician's viewpoint the production is of a high standard. The complete performance is exceptionally good."

"The young people of Bramley are such an enterprising lot," he added.

I can add nothing except that found the colour of the countless costumes to be as bright as the script and as dazzling as the acting.

The pantomime was presented on Saturday, Monday, and yesterday and continues tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday in St. Margaret's' Church Hall. A.R.B