

**Floral  
Pavilion  
Theatre**  
**NEW BRIGHTON**

# PANTONI PANTOMIMES

## Bread star earns his corn in a panto that's just a ball

**THEATRE**

**Cinderella**

**Floral Pavilion, New Brighton**

**J**UST when you're getting jaded with panto, along comes New Brighton's Cinderella to lift the spirits.

It's a show which, for a change, has had a little thought put into it rather than worn-out routines and jokes.

The gags are genuinely funny (although there's still some of the old ones in there), the story moves along at a cracking pace and there's even a spot of theatrical spectacle with lights, ponies and a glittering coach.

Above all, there is a cast which not only has energy but talent too, be it for comedy, singing or dance.

And in headliner Jonathon Morris playing Buttons it has all three. You read that correctly, Jonathon Morris, the bloke who played mild-mannered Adrian Boswell in Bread.

On stage he is a revelation, a high-octane comic who dances like a wild man and sings a pretty mean ballad as well. He never stops, whether it be acting the dunc, singing love ballads with Cinderella or getting into a dance routine with the Rita Proctor Teensteppers.

It's a clueless act which appeals both to the kiddies and to the grown-ups for whom he offers a couple of pieces of harmless innuendo.

Matching him in personality is Eithne Browne's evil Baroness, dressed all in



**CRACKING:** Panto stars Jonathon Morris and Joanne Birchall

black, carrying a big stick and revving in the boos she not only solicits but collects in good measure.

Karl Lornie gives a local accent and sense of humour to Dandini while Liverpool's Joanne Birchall - one of TV's Pop Idol finalists - is an attractive Cinderella. Adrian Bell and Michael James of the Ugly Sisters zip and visual comedy.

The dances are imaginatively choreographed and - unlike some pantos - feature live musicians in the pit.

**Philip Key**

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