



PANTONI PANTOMIMES

A night of stars

Jack & The Beanstalk:
Octagon Theatre, Yeovil

THIS is a truly epic production which will lift your spirits.

Mike Newman Jnr, who plays Jack, is so bouncy you would think he was on springs.

He has the audience joining in with the show really early on, helping him sing Hey Baby, and comes down among the audience.

He is just brilliant at getting an audience warmed up, no-one could resist him.

Gabrielle Bradshaw, who is a famously wicked villainess in pantomime at Yeovil, is a splendid Malevola - spooky and devious behind her smile.

The giant is amazing - my granddaughter Leah and I still can't work out how he moves, whether he is a robot or has people inside him. The Dame, Glen McCreedy was good too, and Kerrie Calladine, who plays Princess Marigold has a beautiful voice.

There is something for everyone: jokes, hilarious ad-libbing, great songs - and fine dancing from the Rita Proctor dancers, aided by local girls including the Helen Laxton dance school.

There is a wonderful Reach of the Stars number, when a haze drifts over the stage and the roof is lit by stars, and I heard one little girl say: "I would love this in my bedroom."

One of the most impressive parts is when Jack eats a Change Your Voice Cake. The number and range of voices he produces is fantastic.

There were people aged from two to 70 plus in the audience and I think they all enjoyed it. I had the time of my life.

CLARE BYRNE

LEAH BYRNE, aged 13, writes: I don't normally enjoy pantomime but this was really good. It was really fun throughout.

I thought the giant was amazing and I can't think how they made him work.

He was sitting down when we first saw him, and I thought that would be it, but he stood and walked across the stage.

Jack was brilliant when it came to eating the voice cake and producing different voices, and I liked the dancing too. It is definitely something I would recommend my friends to see.

■ Jack & the Beanstalk continues until Saturday January 5.

Good spelling: Fairy Beansprout, played by Helen Watson

