



CANTERBURY FESTIVAL

YOUNG CRITICS 2015

Review of Arabian Nights by Story Pocket Theatre

Spiegeltent, 2pm, 26 October 2015

Written by Rory Hunter (aged 10)

Before the show started one of the actors, Luke Pitman, got everyone into the spirit by going around the audience doing funny noises to make them laugh, and he started massaging my dad! But soon enough he joined the other two actors onstage, and the story began.

It began with the storyteller setting a thrilling scene in Arabia many centuries ago. The play contained four stories from the Arabian Nights, which were told by Scheherazade to her husband, the King, so that he wouldn't execute her. The stories were, in order: Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, the Fisherman and the Genie, the Little Beggar and Aladdin.

The three actors all played multiple characters by changing their hats, costumes, props, movement and voices. They told the stories with clever use of physical comedy and slapstick, puppets, audience participation, singing and dancing. The set was an onion dome that split into three parts. It had lights inside to make it different colours, and the actors moved it around the stage so it became different locations like a cave, a prison and a palace.

My favourite story was Aladdin. It was set in the same cave as in Ali Baba but hundreds of years later. William Forde played the baddie and he was very funny: he kept slapping Aladdin round the face for asking too many questions. Yasmin Goodwin played some of the male characters as well as all the female characters, and her dancing was exceptional.

I really enjoyed this show because of its amazing and hilarious storytelling. I would recommend it to everyone from five to 105.