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Peter Pan, the Pantomime

Published Monday 17 December 2012 at 13:05 by Nicola Curtis

The light show opener to Peter Pan, this year's festive offering at Rickmansworth's Watersmeet, is vibrant, colourful and contemporary, contrasting well with the pretty Edwardian scene disclosed as the curtain rises.

London in pantoland is pastel, with perfect houses and flawless residents. How lovely it is to be temporarily removed from reality.

Alas, the first song does little to maintain the magic. Hook's hapless right-hand man Mr Smee has instant audience rapport and a powerful voice, but the number itself is pretty tuneless.

Some sparkle does return when a very likeable Peter Pan swoops over the London rooftops with the Darling children on their journey to Neverland. Craig Daniel Adams, who plays the lead role, deserves praise for his singing, dancing and acrobatic skills, as well as his aerial antics.

Peter John, as Dame Able Mabel, shines too. Popping up all over the place in fabulous frocks, the panto veteran has immaculate comic timing and a great voice. TV hard man Chris Ellison is a dastardly Captain Hook and even manages to turn Mr Darling into a wide boy. And the dancers, young and younger, are excellent.

But despite an impressive beginning and plenty of good audience interaction, the production does lack some

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depth and that crucial pathos. The adventure on this occasion is just not quite big enough.

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Production information

Watersmeet, Rickmansworth, December 7-31

Author: Adrian Jeckells, Lee Waddingham

Director: Adrian Jeckells

Producer: Paul Holman Associates Ltd

Cast includes: Chris Ellison, Peter John, Adam Kelly, Craig Daniel Adams, Clare Kennedy, Cara

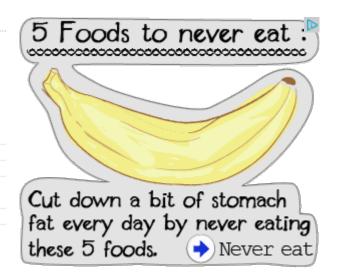
Dudgeon

Running time: 2hrs 30mins

Production information can change over the run of the show.

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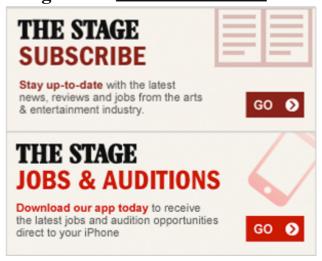
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