

PRINCE CASPIAN: Children's Workshops with Opera Brava

After the success of the Centenary workshops we were all excited for Opera Brava to return to St Andrew's and stage Prince Caspian. The Chronicles of Narnia continue with Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy returning to Narnia 2000 years after their first visit to find Cair Paravel in ruins and the throne occupied by the evil King Miraz.



John Dawson



John Dawson

In total 47 children joined in the workshop experience starting with the nerve wracking auditions on the Monday morning. By that afternoon with roles assigned, vocal rehearsals were in full swing. On Tuesday and Wednesday there was a mixture of prop making and vocal rehearsals for the soloists and the chorus. Each morning began with vocal warm ups led by the Opera Brava team which often ended up with us breathless and laughing a lot. By Thursday everything was coming together, with songs and dialogue almost memorised and stage directions in place.

The dress rehearsal and the very first time everything was put together happened on Friday afternoon. The adrenalin was running high for everyone and it was watched in anticipation by a number of St Andrew's members. All the children played their parts to the full.

The performances on Friday evening and Sunday morning, (instead of the usual service) were the culmination of great enthusiasm, hard work, exemplary behaviour and a lot of fun and prayer.



Melvyn Walmsley



Tim Wilson

The cast included 21 members of St Andrew's groups including kidZone, ViE* Andy's, Friday Club and the uniformed organisations but was also a fantastic outreach to the community as a whole.

Over 500 people came to see the performances. The pivotal point in the story was when Lucy recognised Aslan and said that she believed in him and encouraged the others to believe in him too. This triggers a chain of events which results in the reawakening of the creatures of Old Narnia to help the children to defeat King Miraz and crown Prince Caspian as the rightful king.

Stuart Dean pointed out that this reminds us that Aslan/God exists in all creation and it is right that you should believe and follow him.



Melvyn Walmsley

The whole week was a great success, friendships were renewed, new friendships were made and we felt that the whole experience had God's blessing. Bronek's final comment was that he felt that it had been an 'anointed week'.

Our thanks goes to the PCC, St Andrew's Trust, our sponsors: Mid Sussex South County Local Committee and Mid Sussex District Council, Robert Monroe for publicity, the Staff Team, the team of St Andrew's members who helped throughout the week and performances, Jan from All Saint's Lindfield, David a trustee from Opera Brava and not forgetting the Opera Brava team of Bronek, Mandy, Jeremy, Daniel, Geoff, Dave and Carrie.

Sarah Wilson and Sue Gumbrell