

## **PUSS IN BOOTS – ADULT SHOW**

### **2B Productions**

The Forge Marryatville High School

Review by Simon Slade

An ogre is terrorising the palace and Puss in Boots invents a plan where his master Harry can marry the princess and live in the castle happily ever after. The only problem is that Harry doesn't know the first thing about bravery or Ogre-slaying.

Take a children's panto, stir in some adult humour of the "Carry On" variety, and pour into the superb new Forge Theatre, and you have a recipe for a great night out. The Forge Theatre is like a modern and larger version of the Odeon – flat floor, raked seating, no centre aisle – and seems to be very well equipped. It will be interesting to see who else starts to use this venue!

Adults are often much more shy than children when it comes to audience participation, but performers like Robyn Smith, Simon Holdback, Barry Hill, Rebecca Vallen and Megan Humphries were able to get everyone involved.

The comedy belonged to Megan Humphries, as Nora the cook, and Barry Hill, as the King and the Ogre. Humphries was like a cross between Mrs Lovett, from "Sweeney Todd", and Mme Thenadier, from "Les Miserables." She had the audience in stitches. Her ability to work a crowd and to ad lib to some of the responses she was getting from the audience – no doubt very different from those she had been getting in the children's show – mark her out as a true star. Barry Hill too, was playing the adult aspect for all it was worth – I almost thought he would end up with the leading man.

Smith's title role had all the attitude and grace that a feline requires. Her role is vital as both a narrator and character, and she holds the plot together. Simon Holdback, as Harry was the gormless but true hearted hero. Rebecca Vallen was all sweetness and light as the Princess who wins Harry's heart.

The sets and costumes were good and the quality of the music not too bad either. Perhaps some music over the scene changes would have helped.

So to those who believe that you can not enjoy a pantomime if you are older than nine – "Oh yes you can!"