

# Pond Playhouse performs 21st Pantomime

by Sam Ramsay

The Theatre Arts Guild has been performing pantomime for twenty years now, and for their twenty-first pantomime they wanted to do something special. A pantomime, or “panto”, is a British style of performance including songs, jokes, and plenty of audience interaction. They’re often fairy tales performed around the Christmas season, and include cheering the heroes and booing the villains.

This year’s panto is “The Wizard of... Oz?”. It was written by Adrian Barradell, but the Theatre Arts Guild took some artistic license to include plenty of local references, as well as tributes to, and even characters from, other pantos they’ve performed.

The play is a mash-up of different characters and stories that nevertheless is also The Wizard of Oz. Its cast

of fun and colourful characters engages the audience and is very enjoyable to watch. It’s easy to laugh and cheer along with the heroes, but you may find it difficult to properly “boo” the villain – she’s simply too much fun to watch! The play also features magic tricks, a PSA from a mind-reading duck, and even a few references to Star Trek and Doctor Who for the nerdier audience members (myself included).

The play runs from November 21st to December 7th, and is performed at the Pond Playhouse on Parkhill Rd. If you’re looking for the chance to check out some local theatre, it’s certainly worth your consideration!

*Photos taken by TAG photographer, Bruce Goodick*



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