

It's blast off for a space age Santa

IT'S pantomime time, a sure sign that Christmas is not far away, and first on the launching pad are the Plympton Wranglers with "Santa in Space".

Although not one of the traditional titles, I am assured that all the usual characters are there, principal boy and girl, and what pantomime would be complete without a Dame?

Not to give too much of the plot away, the story concerns a village toymaker, Professor Atnas, who is kidnapped by some very strange space people, much to the concern of the villagers, who desperately try to get him back in time to get the children's toys ready for Christmas.

Known to the adults, but not to the children, Professor Atnas is actually Santa in disguise. The journey into

AMATEUR STAGE Lorna Griggs



Liz Whitelock

space is full of strange encounters with weird space people. Naturally Santa is rescued in time for Christmas with the usual happy climax.

Followers of the Plympton Wranglers would expect to see Jim Chenery as the Dame and they will not be disappointed. Jim has been

cast in this role for quite a few of the Wranglers' pantomimes.

This year is no exception. I understand that he is involved in some very funny sequences and many outlandish changes of costume.

The principal boy (The Captain) is once again Paula Palmer, but a newcomer to the Wranglers, Liz Whitelock, has been cast as the principal girl, Crystal (not Carrington, but equally as charming). Another debut, too, for Martin Cole who plays a truly wicked Vileum the Vile.

The two funny men are spacemen called Null and Void played by Steve Coath and Gordon Coulton, and cast as Santa is John

Marshall-Taylor with Ron Trevains as the Monster and Diane and Phil Ball as Astra and Prince Paragon.

Well, there certainly seems to be a very varied selection of characters in this unusual panto, but it's sure to appeal to our space-age children for whom, let's face it, the pantomime is designed.

Choreographed by Wendy Holmes, who has devised some very interesting space routines as well as traditional dances for her energetic chorus of young dancers, the whole show is directed by Marie Gullet, herself a long-standing member of the society with 28 years experience on the amateur stage.

The production opens at the Athenaeum Theatre on Tuesday, December 2, and runs until Saturday, December 6.

NEWSPAPER CUTTING FROM "THE WESTERN EVENING HERALD" (PLYMOUTH) FRIDAY NOVEMBER 28TH 1986

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