ALICE IN WONDERLAND, THE MUSICAL

A very strange tea party

Lewis Carroll’s unforgettable story of Alice in Wonderland has become a musical, and will be performed in Tenerife by the Clasco theatre company at the beginning of January.

The story begins when Alice doesn’t particularly like the jam which her sisters prepared for their afternoon picnic by the riverside. Bored as her elder sister reads a book, Alice became drowsy. Then she noticed a fully clothed, talking White Rabbit with a pocket watch, which ran past her, looking her in the eye as she did so. She followed this strange creature down a rabbit hole, and fortunately or unfortunately, as the case may be, she fell a long way down and landed in a curious hall with several locked doors of all sizes.

She found a key to a door which was far too small for her to fit through, but on opening it she could see a very attractive garden. Alice discovered a bottle on a table next to the door, which was labelled ‘Drink Me’, and she did. The result of this magic potion was that she drank so much she became too small to reach the key on the table. So she ate a cake with ‘Eat Me’ written on it – with very strange consequences.

Eventually, she entered Wonderland, and had some very odd encounters with other crazy characters such as the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, the Duchess, the March Hare, the Mock Turtle, the Queen of Hearts and many more.

Always a riveting and thought-provoking story, the musical adaptation promises to be an enchanting fantasy show for children, as well as for adults, especially those who read the story in their childhood (and have maybe forgotten the ending). Alice in Wonderland, The Musical, will be at the Teatro Guimerá in Santa Cruz on January 2 at 6pm, and on January 3 at 12pm and 6pm. Tickets are priced at €8 and €10, and are available from the theatre box office, or online from www.tomaticket.es. The story is in Spanish. See www.teatroguimera.es for more information.

FLAMENCO RETURNS TO LOS CRISTIANOS

Southerly breeze

Flamenco is a traditional music and dance genre which originates from the southern regions of Spain, especially Andalusia, Extremadura and Murcia.

Flamenco includes singing, guitar playing, dance, rhythmic hand clapping and finger snapping. The flamenco dance is known for its emotional intensity, pride, expressive use of the arms, and rhythmic stamping of the feet in a manner akin to tap dancing.

The art of flamenco is closely associated with the gitanos, or gypsies, and pure flamenco remains close to its gypsy influences. Several different styles have developed from this over the course of time, but classical flamenco is the style most often used by Spanish dance companies, with the women performers wearing beautiful long, frilled dresses. New flamenco, as its name suggests, is a more recent style in which the costumes are toned down and the men often dance bare chested, while the women wear plain jersey dresses.

The style we can see in the Viento del Sur show is traditional, classical flamenco at its very best. With this, the dancer and choreographer, Yolanda G. Sobrado, is continuing the process she began with her show Collage, which reflects her energy and mature form of creativity.

In Viento del Sur, Sobrado will be accompanied by Rodrigo Alonso on guitar, vocals and percussion. Her show returns to the Infanta Leonor Auditorium in Los Cristianos, on December 28 at 8pm. Tickets, which cost €10, are available from the Cultural Centre in Los Cristianos, Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 2pm, or on the day of the show from two hours before the performance onwards, at the auditorium box office. See: www.arona.org.

KINGS AND THEIR CAMELS

The big day

Have you ever thought how difficult it is for the Three Kings to get into your home to deliver children’s presents on Three Kings’ Day?

The legendary Three Kings of the East have been delivering presents since well before any of us were even born. They were used to visiting old country houses, which were low and open, easy to creep in and out of, surrounded by gardens, or with rivers or fountains.

Nowadays, modern construction design has made it really difficult for the Kings and their tired old camels laden with gifts to get in. They are faced with lots of stairs, lifts they can’t squeeze into, and masses of railings and grilles. The buildings are too high and their chimneys, if they have them at all, are far too slim, windows are closed, and there are security systems, not to mention all the traffic on the roads and motorways.

It’s a conundrum, and one that the family show Sin camels no hay Reyes Magos (Without camels, there would be no Three Kings) performed by the Teatrapa Company, explores this interesting theory via characters which are tender and emotive puppets. There will be some amusing conversations and sweet songs created especially for the show, which closes with an unexpected musical ending! You can see it at the Infanta Leonor Auditorium in Los Cristianos on January 3 at 12pm. Tickets cost €7, and are available from the Cultural Centre in Los Cristianos, Monday to Friday from 9am to 2pm; or on the day of the show at the box office; or from: www.arona.org. Prams and pushchairs are not allowed in the auditorium.

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS...

Free OST Christmas concert

The Tenerife Symphony Orchestra is again offering its traditional Christmas Day Concert organised by the Port Authority of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

The free open air musical extravaganza on December 25 takes place in the Dársena de Los Llanos in the city’s port area, and will be directed this year by Michal Nestorowicz. Now in its 22nd year, the concert attracts up to 20,000 spectators annually. The music fest starts at 9pm – all you have to do is turn up and be merry! See: http://sinfonicadetenerife.es for more information.

Prunes for Breakfast

My father’s WW2 story told partly through his letters home, between 1940-1945, via Normandy & a German POW camp. Available from Amazon NOW

Dog Days in The Fortunate Islands

The adventures of a family & their dog as they move to a new life in Tenerife. Laugh out loud at tales of doggy derring-do!

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