

Cameron Price  
Playwright and Director

Treasure Island is being put on by the Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Cubs of Flackwell Heath. It is written and directed by Cameron Price, a young man of 15 who will be doing his GCSEs next May. This is not his first production. Last year he produced Scrooge but that was a small production using only Scouts and was in the Scout Hut. This year he is in the Community Centre with a cast of 12 character actors, 10 chorus, David Horseman as Stage Manager with 5 backstage operators and set builder Doug Hay, 3 front of house staff and as Director of Music, none other than the great Queenie Creswick.

Roles were allocated at auditions in mid-September and they have rehearsed every Saturday afternoon, even in half term. Managing, guiding and encouraging some 35 people is pretty impressive – particularly if you are trying to direct a panto at the same time. Cameron is supported by several adult leaders who take turns to come to rehearsals – one has even managed to get a cameo role.

The script that Cameron wrote begins and ends in the same places as Robert Louis Stevenson's book but the middle..... Long Jane Silver is played by Stefanie Preston, Principal Boy Jim Hawkins is played by Laura Nourse and Michael Horseman is the Dame, Mrs Hawkins. Michael was in Scrooge and Cameron says that for him to be asked to play the Dame is like being in the New Year's honours list. Tom Griffiths is the Captain.

It took Cameron three months to write the script but he is very much in the Mike Leigh mode – the actors are expected to add to it; fleshing it out to add colour and depth. They bring to the character their own skills and quirks so that future productions will always be different. Even by mid-November they were so immersed that Cameron has taken to calling them by their character names. Some of them had been in Scrooge and Cameron is impressed how much they have been able to take on totally new personas for Treasure Island.

Cameron has been in school plays at Juniper Hill and John Hampden Grammar School. He recently joined the Tarrystone Players in Cookham where he played in A Midsummer Night's Dream. I suggest, dear reader, that you buy a programme when you go to see Treasure Island and get the young Writer and Director to sign it. In 30 year's time you may be able to sell it on eBay for more than the price of your ticket!

Treasure Island is on at the Community Centre on Saturday 16 December at 3pm and 7pm. Tickets in advance £3 from Unit 4 newsagents or £4 on the door

Tim Kendall