

LITTLE MISS
MUFFET
1995

An evening of innocence

THERE was a delightful new slant on the production of *Little Miss Muffet* performed by the Teddington Theatre Company at the Hampton Court Theatre for the Christmas season.

In Paul Reakes's version, Little Miss Muffet sits on no tuffet and Catherine Early's endearing spider - an example of the imaginative costumery - is in reality a princess. She has been transformed by the wicked witch Morac played by Freda Hammerton in a truly riveting personification of evil which had the entire audience hissing and booing.

Dame John Roth, meanwhile, gathered everyone to her ample bosom and carried all before her in a fever of expectation and gratification while Joe Early and Sally Graves kept everyone entertained as knockabout comics Slap and Tickle.

There was never a dull moment as enormous pace and energy carried the story along. In true pantomime style, Little Miss Muffet (Carolyn Williams) and Captain Jack Dauntless (Mandy Stenhouse) were united in love and triumphed over the wicked witch.

Peter Slater and Clive Stott were responsible for direction and music, which, like the scenery, costumes and lighting, were of the highest standard. Special mention must be made of Iris Humber's playing on the piano.

This was an evening of innocence when one became a child again and all problems were easy to solve. We eagerly await their production next year.

Audrey Gabriel