

and rendering of a catchy song 'I want a Man with Some Money' (words and music by the ship's lead musician and panto producer, Harry Taylor).

"From the opening curtain the show moved smoothly with audience and actors enjoying themselves. Mike Mears, purser, showed that if necessary he would make an excellent children's hostess when he and a number of child passengers sang 'Doh a Deer' from *The Sound of Music*. Encouraged by their example, the audience joined in a chorus.

"The highlight of the evening was a solo spot by Miss Agnes Marais, hostess, who entertained during a major scene shift with her delightful singing. Her solo ended to resounding applause and cries of 'encore'.

"Ricky Flint, chief officer—playing Giant Snuffle-Gobbler but looking more like the Hunchback of Notty Ash—stopped the show with his sleight-of-hand production of a gold egg from the magic chicken. Poor bird: the egg was half its size, and that is magic. Even the giant had to laugh.

"Space prohibits my mentioning every member of the cast and helpers who did a magnificent job. But the efforts of the electricians directed by David Thorpe, chief electrician (who provided such excellent lighting for the show on a stage designed for cinema performances rather than pantos); the ship's guitarist Peter Robinson who painted the backdrops; the duet between Tony Ackerrill children's hostess and Mike Mears below a bower as a scene was being changed, and the various costumes made by Aggie Marais must not escape mention.

"The accolade for this panto was that even old sea dogs, who have seen it all, went to the show and enjoyed every minute—well deserved praise for a hard working team."



■ A really dire moment for Mike Warner (Mr. Egg), Colin Dawkins (Widow) and Mike Mears (Chip) in the SA Vaal panto Jack and the Beanstalk.



■ The panto had its quieter moments: at right, Aggie Marais (Jill) gets together with Angus Donald (Jack).

■ Below: the whole cast of the SA Vaal panto on stage in the vessel's cinema with their producer, Harry Taylor. The show played three performances. Pictures: M. Bartlett, Transocean Photographic.

