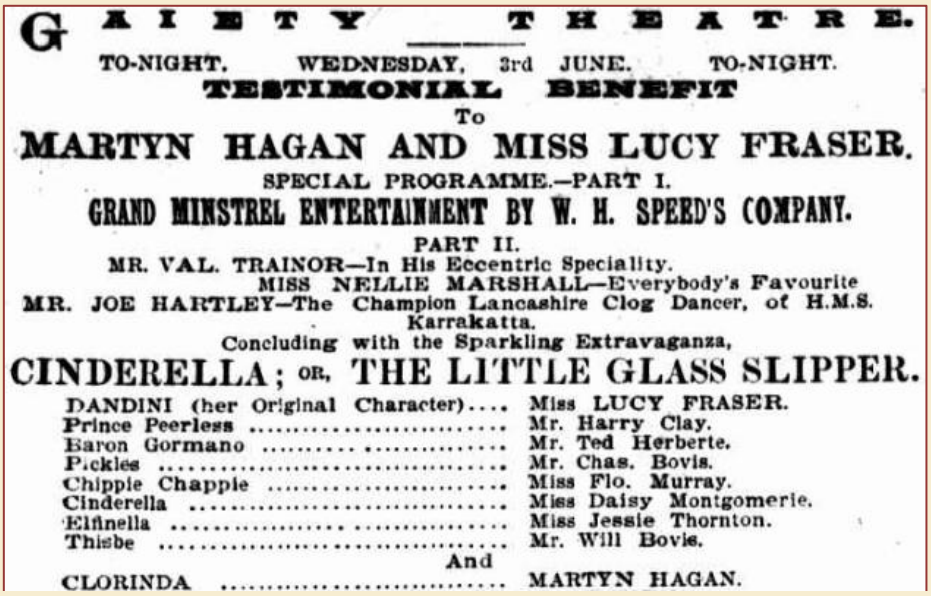
FLORENCE (FLO) MURRAY

Flo Murray began appearing on the stage in the late 1870s with her two sisters, Blanche and Ida. Later as a solo artist she appeared on bills for such organisations as the Cottier's and Billy Speed. She later teamed up with (and married) English comedian Ernest Pitcher (aka Sam Wilson), and were members of Harry Clay's first Queensland tour (1901). Murray is believed to have retired from the stage in the early 1900s to raise their family.

The daughter of playwright Archibald Murray, Flo Murray began appearing on the stage in the late 1870s with her two sisters, Blanche and Ida. One of their first known engagements was in a production of their father's play, *The Scarlet Letter* (Theatre Royal, Syd) in 1878. As "Little Flo Murray" she also appeared in an 1880 production of *Macbeth* at the Victoria Theatre, (Syd) Sydney and in December that year she and Ida were also accorded a benefit at the School of Arts.

Although mostly known as a serio-comic (who specialised in comic songs), Murray nevertheless made occasional appearances in more legitimate productions, including those by John Solomon's English and Comic Opera Co. An acquaintance of the well-known theatrical family the Permans, Murray was a close friend of Bella Perman, and the two are known to have performed in Sydney and Melbourne together. As a solo artist she is known to have appeared on bills for numerous entrepreneurs and firms during the 1880s and 1890s, including the Cottier's Minstrels and People's Popular Concerts (Syd), Coogee Palace Aquarium (Syd), Billy Speed's World Novelty Company (Bris).

Sometime around 1900 Murray met and married English comedian Ernest Pitcher (then working under the name Sam Wilson). The couple were members of Harry Clay's debut Queensland touring company in 1901. Murray is believed to have retired from the stage after this, however. She died in Sydney in 1935.



GAIETY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT. WEDNESDAY, 3rd JUNE. TO-NIGHT.

TESTIMONIAL BENEFIT

To

MARTYN HAGAN AND MISS LUCY FRASER.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME.—PART I.

GRAND MINSTREL ENTERTAINMENT BY W. H. SPEED'S COMPANY.

PART II.

MR. VAL. TRAINOR—In His Eccentric Speciality.
MISS NELLIE MARSHALL—Everybody's Favourite
MR. JOE HARTLEY—The Champion Lancashire Clog Dancer, of H.M.S. Karrakatta.

Concluding with the Sparkling Extravaganza,

CINDERELLA; OR, THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

DANDINI (her Original Character)....	Miss LUCY FRASER.
Prince Peerless	Mr. Harry Clay.
Baron Gormano	Mr. Ted Herberte.
Pickles	Mr. Chas. Bovis.
Chippie Chappie	Miss Flo. Murray.
Cinderella	Miss Daisy Montgomerie.
Elfinella	Miss Jessie Thornton.
Thisbe	Mr. Will Bovis.
And	
CLORINDA	MARTYN HAGAN.

Brisbane Courier 3 June (1896), 2.

SEE ALSO

- Arch Murray
- Ernest Pitcher
- Blanche Murray

This entry has been sourced from research undertaken by Lloyd Pitcher (grandson).

First published: 21/09/2012
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