

THE STREETS OF MELBOURNE: [burlesque]

Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Described by the *Argus* theatre critic as a burlesque containing a view of Burke Street by gaslight, the narrative is said to have concerned a rustic's adventures in Melbourne (Editorial, 5). It also included a "great fire scene."

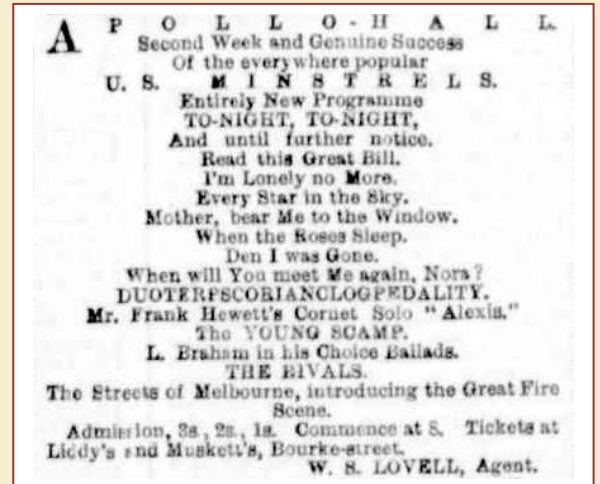
1877: Apollo Hall, Melbourne; 10-23 Mar. [12 pfms]

- **S Art.** Mr Kenny.
- **Troupe:** US Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. Lou Braham, Holly and Buckley, E. Amery, Mr Rockefeller, Mr Campbell.

Editorial. *Argus* 14 Mar. (1877), 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

Argus 10 Mar. 1877, 12.



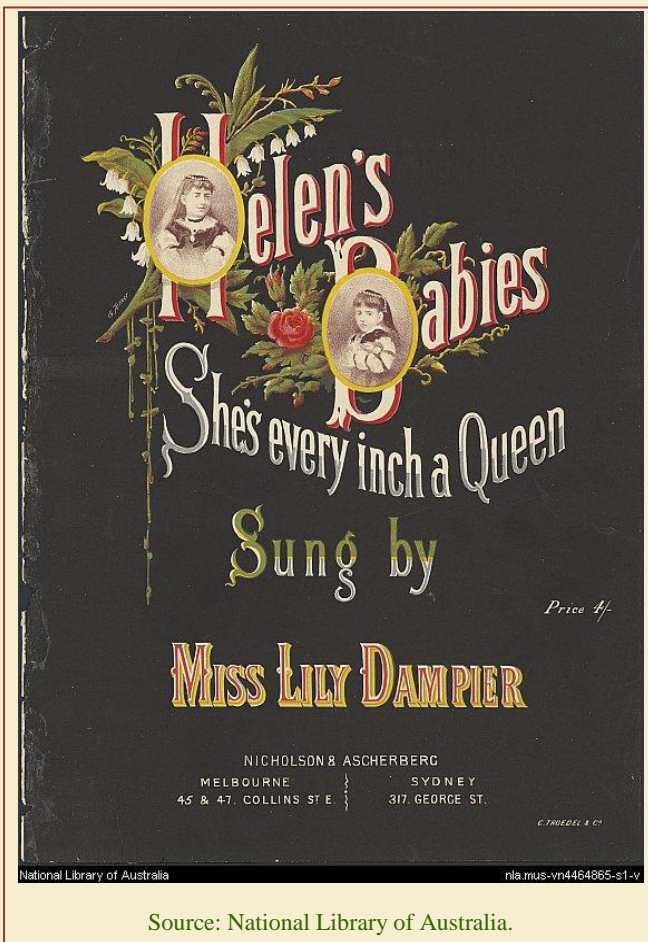
HELEN'S BABIES; OR, THE BEST CHILDREN IN THE WORLD: [comedy with music]

Txt Adapt. Garnett Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by Walch from J. Habberton's best-selling novellette, this one act play with music tells the story of the famous babies Budge and Toddie. Helen and her husband leave her babies in the care of their uncle (Harry Burton), a literary man, after promising that they are the "best children in the world." After one day Uncle Harry is driven to distraction. According to the *Age*, "the best and most racy portions of the book were given *verbatim*" while the work as a whole had to be boiled down in order to "bring the work within the compass of an hour's performance" ("*Helen's Babies*," 4).

In the December 1977 issue of *Theatre Australia*, Eric Irvin writes that Alfred, Lily and Rose "acted, sang, danced and recited" their way through the production (8-9). A review of the 1877 Sydney season also notes in this regard: "Mr Walch's dramatization... retains the chief features of the tale so far as they concern the children themselves, without touching the older persons more than is necessary to display the characteristics of the young ones. In short it is intended purely for Mr Dampier's children and for him, so far as he acts as a foil to them. The two little girls... are extraordinarily good as those terrible youngsters... Little Lily sings sweetly and both of them dance prettily ("Queen's Theatre," 5).

- 1877:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 20-27 July
 - **Dir.** Garnet Walch; **Prod/Lse.** Henry R. Harwood, John Hennings Richard Stewart; **B Mngr.** John Bryan
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast:** Lily and Rose Dampier (Budge and Toddie), Alfred Dampier (Harry Burton), Charles H. Taylor (Col. Lawrence), Stuart O'Brian (General Mayton), Maggie Stewart (Helen Lawrence), Nellie Stewart (Alice Mayton), Constance Deorwyn (Susan).
- 1877:** Queen's Theatre, Sydney; 13-19 Sept.
 - **Lse/Mngr.** L. M. Bayless; **M Arr.** Charles Austin;
 - **S Art.** William Kinchela; **S Mngr.** Lachlan McGowan.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Lily and Rose Dampier, Alfred Dampier, Lizzie Bushe (Alice), Rose Willis (Helen), Maggie Knight (Susan), Lancelot Booth (Colonel Lawrence), Lachlan McGowan (General Mayton), W. Andrews (Mike).
- 1877:** California Theatre, San Francisco (California, USA); ca. Nov.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Dramatic Company.
- 1878:** Broadway Theatre, New York City (New York, USA); 4 Feb. -
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
- 1878:** Gaiety Theatre, London (England); ca. Sept.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
- 1878:** Birmingham (England); ca. Aug.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Dramatic Company.



Source: National Library of Australia.

- 1879:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 18 Apr. [benefit]
 - **Lse.** George Coppin, John Hennings and J. R. Greville.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Lily, Rose and Alfred Dampier.
- 1879:** Queen's Theatre, Sydney; 30 May [benefit]
 - **Lse.** M. Hegarty; **S Art.** William Kinchela.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Lily, Rose and Alfred Dampier, Beatrice Lister, Marian Willis, Kate Douglas, Mr Inglis, Lachlan McGowan, Harry Leston.
- 1880:** Queensland Theatre, Brisbane; 28-30 July
 - **Lse.** Mr Shepperson and Mr Howard.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Lily, Rose and Alfred Dampier.

"**Dampiers, The.**" *Argus* 16 Nov. (1878), 12 [press notices]

Age 20 July (1877), 4. **Advert.**

"**Helen's Babies Dramatised.**" *Mercury* (Hobart) 25 July (1877), 2.

"**Music and the Drama.**" *Australian Town and Country Journal* 22 Sept. (1877), 460.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 29 July (1880), 3.

"**Queen's Theatre.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 Sept. (1877), 5.

"**Theatre Royal.**" *South Australian Register* 21 Aug. (1877), 4.

"**Theatre Royal: Helen's Babies.**" *Argus* 21 July (1877), 5.

"**Theatre Royal: Helen's Babies and Our Em'ly.**" *South Australian Advertiser* 21 Aug. (1877), 5.

Walch, Garnet. "**To the Editor of the Argus.**" *Argus* 3 June (1893), 10.

LOW-END GRIN: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

A musical burlesque based on Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*. It uncertain as to whether or not this production was the Australian premiere.

1877: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 10-15 Sept.

- **Lse.** R. J. de Lias; **Mngr.** Thomas Kennedy.

- **Troupe:** Original Georgia Minstrels.

- **Cast** incl. Billy Sanders, Charles B. Hicks, Billy Wilson, Charles A. Crusoe, Taylor Brown, Jimmy Mills, Sam Keenan, W. J. Morton, Mr Brown, Mr Mills, David A. Bowman, Walter Mills, Johnny Matlock, Joseph Thomas, Andrew Jackson, H. Ellis, Joseph Anderson, Thomas Easton, Kaston Hoskea [aka Hosea Easton].

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

HUMPTY-DUMPTY (WHO SAT ON A WALL); OR HARLEQUIN KING ARTHUR, HIS THREE SONS, THE PRINCESS ROSELEAF, THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE AND THE FAIRIES OF THE FERNY FERNS: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Samuel Lazar, 1877 (printed by Henry Solomon)

Anonymously adapted from John Strachan's (1838-1918) *Humpty Dumpty* pantomime, the narrative sees Fern Fairy foil the plans of Flambeau the Fire King and his ally Humpty Dumpty who wishes to wed Princess Roseleaf. Prince Prettyboy overcomes obstacles to win her. The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic, although suggesting that the production was too long, nevertheless wrote: "No one can complain of the want of fun and amusement in it... Of course there is a mere thread of a story to hold the introductory part together, but there is an abundance of local allusions and the usual supply of excruciating puns to keep the amusement alive ("Theatre Royal," 5). In addition to the traditional transformation scene the production also included as double harlequinade, comprising both adult and juvenile performers.

The production contained songs adapted from operatic and other music, and made numerous references to the Sydney scene, politics, theatre, and J. C. Williamson's production of *Struck Oil*.

The program containing the libretto indicates that Strachan was the pantomime's original inventor.

1877: Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1877 - 25 Jan. 1878 [30 pfms]

- **Dir/Prod/Lse.** Samuel Lazar; **M Arr/Cond.** W. J. Rice; **S Art.** W. J. Wilson.

- **Cast** incl. George P. Carey (Humpty Dumpty), J. J. Welsh (Flambeau the Fire King), Charles Brown (King Arthur), Rose Stella (Princess Roseleaf), Emma Rogers (Will o' the Wisp), Marion Leslie (the Fern Fairy), Dolly Carey (Maidenhair, attendant to the Fern Fairy), Lilly Holmes (Larkspur, attendant to the Fern Fairy), Maggie Oliver (Prince Pretty Boy), May Vivian (Prince Toi De Roi), James A. South (Prince Borbee), H. Florence (Minister for Mines), James Hasker (Physician), A. Elliott (Twelfth Knight), Harry Leston (Queen Graimair), Mary Melville (Lady of the Chamber), Fanny McLean, Sammy McLean, Master Perman, Mr Levey, Frank Wilson, Nelly Lake, Lilly Compton, Kitty Crucher, Kitty Clay, Fanny Lane (domestics).

"**Amusements: Queensland Theatre.**" *Queenslander* 12 Jan. (1878), 15.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"**Music and the Drama.**" *Australian Town and Country Journal* 5 Jan. (1878), 12.

"Our Sydney Letter." *Brisbane Courier* 8 Jan. (1878), 3.

"Pantomime at the Theatre Royal." *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Dec. (1877), 4.

"Theatre Royal." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1877), 5.

HARLEQUIN AND THE FORTY THIEVES: [pantomime] Lib. Frank Edwards; Mus. [n/e]

Described in advertising as having been "faithfully translated from the original Arabic manuscript by E. L. Blanchard, Esq., with annotations local, vocal and jokal and Moke-al by Mr Frank Edwards, author of "Der Schwartz Eggsbexperiences" (*Argus* 24 Dec. 1877, 8), the original pantomime (simply titled *The Forty Thieves*) had been staged in London the previous year. The *Argus* theatre critic was largely unimpressed by the Melbourne production overall, writing that there was not much to say about the acting and that the transformation scene had "only a qualified claim to approval. "The panorama of the Russo Turkish War [included in the first act], however, is in Mr Hennings' best manner, and is quite worthy of his reputation. It consists of 11 views... [which] are illustrative of the present war, and although they are apparently all taken from engravings with which we have been made familiar, they fully merit the distinction of originality on the score of colour effect. They are all excellent, but that which will probably impress itself most strongly upon the attention is "The Mouth of the Blue Danube at Sunrise. It is full of poetry." With regard to the storyline, the same critic suggests that although "dramatically represented in every conceivable fashion... it serves little else than to furnish an excuse for scenery and groupings. In respect of the dialogue it has not much to boast of, even in its original form, and the local matter which has been interpolated has but a small claim to be considered wit. It consists chiefly of allusions to the majority in the Legislative Assembly and the Berry Government, both of which people are by this time tolerably well tired of" ("Pantomimes," 7).

The synopsis of scenery, as published in the *Argus* is: Act 1. Market Place in Bagdad; The Date Grove; Enchanted Cavern in the Depths of the Forrest; The Divan of the Genii; Act 2. Ali Baba's House in the City of Bagdad; The Courtyard, by Moonlight with distant view of the City, on the banks of the Tigris; Grand Reception-room in Ali Baba's house; Grand Transformation Scene "The Four Seasons;" Harlequinade and "Gorgeous Last Scene."

The first act also included "Henning's Royal Map of the Turco-Russian WAR" [sic], comprising: First View - The Black Sea, Dirty Weather; Turkish Fleet on the Alert. Second View - Mouth of the Blue Danube (Sunrise). Third View - First Turkish Disaster, Total Destruction of the Lufti D'Jill, Turkish Monitor. Fourth View - Famous Passage of the Danube by the Russians, 27th June 1877. Fifth View - A Russian Boat Struck by a Turkish Shell. Sixth View - Left on the Road, Food for the Vulture's Maw. Seventh View - Night Camp in the Balkans. Eighth View - The Schipka Pass. Ninth View - Battle of Pievna. Tenth View - After the Battle. Last View - Bombardment of Nicopolis.

1877: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1877 - 1 Feb. 1878
[31 pfms]

- **Dir.** J. R. Greville; **Prod/Lse.** Henry R. Harwood, Richard Stewart, John Hennings and George Coppin; **M Arr.** Frederick Coppin; **S Art.** John Hennings and John Little; **Chor.** Mons. Massartic; **Cost.** Mrs Jager; **Com Sc.** Bland Holt.

- **Troupe:** Royal Burlesque Company.

- **Cast** incl. J. R. Greville (Ali Baba), Ella Carrington (Ganem), Lottie Graham (Morgiana), Florence Neville (Abdallah), Sterling Whyte (Cassim), Jenny Bryce (Eureka), Jenny Watt, John Owens (Hassarac), Charles H. Taylor (Cogia), Bland Holt; Harlequinade - Mons. Massartic (Harlequin), Joe Tolano (Pantaloen), Mdlle Rosina (Columbine), J. Caesar (The Bobby).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"Pantomimes: Theatre Royal, The." *Age* 22 Dec. (1877), 8.

"Pantomimes: Theatre Royal, The." *Argus* 22 Dec. (1877), 8. [see also [advert.](#) - 24 Dec. 1877, 8]

"Pantomimes: Theatre Royal, The." *Argus* 25 Dec. (1877), 7.

T H E A T R E R O Y A L
Lessons—Messrs. Coppin, Hennings, and Greville.
"ECCE NOS BURBUS."
FIRST APPEARANCE in VICTORIA
Of the celebrated
COMEDIAN and CLOWN,
Mr. **E L A N D H O L T,**
Supported by his pantaloen,
J O E T O L A N O.
Reappearance of the talented and favourite
Danseuse,
Mdlle. **ROSIKE.**
All specially engaged, regardless of expense, for the
R O Y A L P A N T O M I M E,
MONDAY, 24th DECEMBER,
BOXING NIGHT, and
Every Evening until Further Notice,
The New Grand Comic Christmas Annual,
Illustrating (for the first time on this stage) the most
popular of Eastern legends, with unprecedented regard
to strict accuracy of Oriental manners and customs,
and entitled
HARLEQUIN,
And the 40 THIEVES.
Characters by Misses Ella Carrington, Lottie Graham,
Florence Neville, Jenny Brice, Jenny Watt, and Messrs.
Sterling Whyte, John Owen, C. H. Taylor, J. R. Greville,
and the entire strength of the Royal Burlesque Com-
pany. The scenery and effects entirely new, by
Mr. JOHN HENNING,
Assisted by Mr. Little.

Argus 22 Dec. (1877), 12.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY; OR, THE CHARMING PRINCE WHO RESCUED THE PRINCESS: [pantomime] Lib Adapt. [n/e]; Mus incl. Frank Maeder and Thomas Zeplin

A burlesque pantomime which retains the outline of the classic fairytale with the addition of local allusions and hits at topical issues, along with "songs, dances, fun and frolic." In the *Argus* theatre critic's opinion the localisms could have been improved upon. "Instead of the light wit which shoots folly as it flies," he or she writes, "we are given direct blows, which in some cases might cause offence" ("Pantomimes," 7). The principle roles for the 1877 Melbourne Opera production were taken by N. Salsbury's Troubadour troupe, and under producer W. S. Lyster's management the pantomime was lavishly staged - "an outlay which will no doubt be amply recouped before the end of the season" proposed the *Argus* critic (*ibid.*, 7).

The story concerns Princess Rosabel, daughter of the King of Ultimathule (a monarch given to invidious distinctions) is cast into a sleep of a hundred years by Hagridosa, a wicked old witch. The princess is loved by both her loyal (but saucy) page,

Florimond, and his rival (and "superior in appetite") Lackadaisy. Florimond eventually proves himself a prince, however, by awakening her with the help of seven fairy godmothers and the magic of love.

The synopsis of scenery and incidents as published in the *Argus* indicates the following: Act 1. Sc 1. The Haunt of the Ugly Hag; Sc 2. Corridor of the Royal Palace; Sc 3. The Royal Nursery; Sc 4. Haunt of the Hag; Sc 6. The Royal Nursery Gardens (incl. Royal Asiatic Cavalcade); Sc 6. A Bulbush Brake; Sc 7. The Royal School; Sc 8. Turrents of the Castle; Act 2. Sc 1. Tangled Glade in the Phantom Wood; Sc 2. Great Hall of the Palace; (incl. Grand Oriental Ballet); Sc 3. Gardens of the Palace; Grand Transformation Scene - "Love's Haven of Rest"; Harlequinade [for a detailed synopsis of incidents see the *Argus* 24 Dec. 1877, 7].

The songs presented in the pantomime were: "Grand Demon Chorus" (Hagrimosa and Imps), "Chorus of Cooks" (Chief cook and bottle washers), "Hungry Song" (Lackadaisy), Mrs McSorley's Twins (Mrs O'Gamp), Chorus of Courtiers" (Royal Glee Club), "Don't Make a Noise" (Lackadaisy and Courtiers), "Dolls" (Florimond), "Christening Chorus" (Sponsors and Attendants), "My Hand Upon It" (Hagrimosa and Imps), "Sing the Merry Song" (Courtiers and Attendants), ""Drink, Drink" (everyone), "Chorus of Consternation (everyone), "Driving Through the Park" (Hagrimosa), "Fairy Chorus (Amanda and Attendants), "With the Book and Slate" (Inspectors), " "Where Art Thou Now, My Beloved" (Rosabel), "My Simple Heart" (Rosabel and Florimond), "Lullaby" (original adaptation - Rosabel and chorus), ""Oh Fair Rosabel" (Florimond and chorus), "Promissory Notes" (Florimond), Original Medley (composed of Italisn, Scotch, Spanish, Irish, German, American, Neapolitan, French and English airs - Rosabel), "Love, Love" (Lackadaisy), "Topical Song" (Rosabel, Florimond, King, Lackadaisy and Mrs O'Gamp). "At Least I Shall Marry" (Rosabel, Florimond and chorus).

O P E R A - H O U S E .

Director—W. Saurin Lyster.

—

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1877,

And

Until Further Notice,

GRAND PRODUCTION,

After Months of Careful Preparation,

OF

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME,

Entitled

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY;

Or,

THE CHARMING PRINCE WHO RESCUED THE PRINCESS,

For the perfect representation of which a Special Engagement has been made by Mr. Lyster with

SALSBURY'S

TROUBADOURS,

Who will appear in company with a Corps of Artists whose well-known abilities will ensure the Absolute Perfection of the

GRANDEST SPECTACLE

Ever seen in the colonies, combining

Magnificence, grandeur, and art,

Employed to render this the crowning effort of the management to supply popular amusement

For the Holidays.

Argus 22 Dec. (1877), 12.

1877: Opera House, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1877 - 2 Feb. 1878

- **Dir.** N. Salsbury; **Prod.** W. S. Lyster; **M Arr.** Frank Maeder (songs and dances) and Thomas Zeplin (overture, transformation scene and ballets); **S Art.** Alex Habbe; **Cost.** Mr Ford; **Chor.** Henry Leopold; **Dir of Harlequinade** Tom Wieland.

- **Troupe:** Salsbury's Troubadours.

- **Cast** incl. The Royal Household - John Webster (King of Ultimathule), Blanche Corelli (Rosabel, his daughter), Nellie McHenry (Florimond), John Gourlay (Lackadaisy), N. Salsbury (Mrs Sairey O'Gamp, head nurse to the royal baby), George Johnson (Lord Fussifumble, controller of everyone and everything but himself), James Hogan (Dr Birchbroom, tutor to the royal family), J. H. Fox (the Queen of Ultimathule, the rather more than better half of the king), Kate Ramsden (Lady Salprunella, a lady- in-waiting for a husband), Blanche Leopold (Amaryllis, favourite playmate of the princess), Sara Ford (Jesmond, a page); Assistant Nurses - Miss Kingston (Mrs Harris), Miss Fricotin (Mrs Grundy), Miss Wilton (Mrs Podgers), Miss Langden (Mrs Snodgrass); School Inspectors - Arthur Farley (Mr Reading), Mr Hutchens (Mr Riding), W. Johnson (Mr Rithmetic), H. Trevorah (Mr Jography); John Dunn (Ben, a woodcutter), A. Gordon (Wully, a woodcutter); The Disloyal Household - John Ford (Hagrimosa (an old hag who proves to be a revengeful spinster); Her Imps: R. Heartwell (Uglimugli), J. Gray (Hankipanki), Mr Risley (Winkiwuski), Mr Pedo (Hokipoki), Master Albert Leopold (The Green Dragon); The Seven Good Fairy Godmothers - Gertrude Graham (Amanda the Sweet Fairy of Love), Mabel Smith

(Bellisima, the Sweet Fairy of Beauty), Blanche Leopold (Elegantia, the Sweet Fairy of Grace), Violet Childs (Specioca, the Sweet Fairy of Virtue), Carry King (Jecunda, the Sweet Fairy of Wit), Nellie Colson (Chrysolia, the Sweet Fairy of Wisdom), Polly Angus (Sapientia, the Sweet Fairy of Wisdom); Harlequinade - Henry Leopold (Harlequin), Boleno Brown (Pantaloon), Tom Wieland (Clown), Kate Ramsden (Columbine), Thomas Zeplin (Conductor).

- Other characters include: Attendants, Royal Guards, Fairy Snowflakes, Courtiers, Pages, Royal Revellers.
- The cast was also supported by a chorus of one hundred singers.

"Pantomimes: Opera House, The." *Age* 22 Dec. (1877), 8.

"Pantomimes: Opera House, The." *Argus* 25 Dec. (1877), 7. [see also [advert.](#) - 24 Dec. 1877, 8]

ROBINSON CRUSOE; OR, HARLEQUIN MAN FRIDAY: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Possibly adapted by Mr and Mrs G. B. W. Lewis from the London production that starred Lydia Thompson and which played for over 200 nights, "and is now a tremendous success in America" (*Argus* 24 Dec. 1877, 8), this version is said to have borne but a remote and grotesque resemblance to the tale of De Foe. The *Argus* critic notes, too, that it abounded in local allusions ("some of them well told") and contained an "Australian Harlequinade" ("Pantomimes," 7).

Concerning the adaptation the *Argus* critic writes: "The story, as developed in the introduction. Of course bears but a remote and grotesque resemblance to the tale of De Foe. The scene opens with a view of the jetty at Hull, where Crusoe and his friend Jem Cocks, a tragedian out of luck, are about entering upon a voyage to recruit [sic] their shattered fortunes, and are taking a tearful farewell of their lovers, Polly Hopkins and Angelica, who bear the separation with becoming calmness. The next scene is the sacred

grove of the Indians on the island on which Crusoe and Cocks have been wrecked. The sisters Grey, as a couple of picturesque savages, introduced a double song and dance very effectively; and Miss Minnie Fischer and Miss Maud Walton as Angelica and Polly Hopkins, who have mysteriously reached the same island, sang a pretty duet which elicited a hearty encore. On the discovery of Cocks by the Indians he is at once made their king, with some remarkable ceremonies. A ballet by the imps of the desert, represented by children from four to seven years of age, is then introduced.... Cocks for a long time supposes that his companion Crusoe is drowned, but eventually the two have a joyful meeting and Crusoe presents to his friend his man Friday, a coloured person who knows much of the Magna Charta and the rights of British subjects. Meanwhile Polly and Angelica are abducted by a band of pirates, and the second act shows their lair in the Bay of Palms. Crusoe and his party have tracked the pirates, and they are tried for abduction, Cocks being the judge, Friday the Jury, and Crusoe advocate for the prosecution. The trial is made an amusing travesty, and in the end of it all it is that Crusoe and Cocks are united to their several lovers." The transformation scene represented a forest of fairy ferns, which the same describes as being "like a dream of tropical scenery" (ibid, 7).

Songs known to have been incorporated into the production (2nd edition) were: "I Haven't the Slightest Idea" (sung by Fred Thorne), "I Heard a Voice in the Tranquil Night" (Minna Fischer and Maud Walton), "Silvery Stars" (Ruth and Jessie Gray), "Recollections of the Past," "The Pigs Begin to Fly," "Correspondents of the Papers" and "Comme from Hong Kongee."

- 1977:** Academy of Music, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1877 - 8 Feb. 1878 [return season: 24 May 1878 - one night only]
 - **Dir.** Mr G. B. W. Lewis; **Prod/Lse.** Mr and Mrs G. B. W. Lewis; **M Dir/Arr.** Mr Wright; **Com Sc.** Walter Carle;
Chor. Mrs G. B. W. Lewis; **Cost.** Mrs Stafford.
 - **Cast** incl. Mrs G. B. W. Lewis (Robinson Crusoe), Fred Thorne (Man Friday), Harry Daniels (Jem Cocks), H. Douglas (Will Atkins), Maud Walton (Polly Hopkins), Hans Phillips (Wai-ho), Minna Fischer (Angelica), Jessie Gray (Yiang Yiang), Mr Forbes (Sheriff), Mr Inglis (Citizen), Mr Marshall (1st Pirate), Lizzie Dixon (Gig), Ruth Grey (Oppoponax); Australian Harlequinade - J. H. Flexmore (The Australian Harlequin), Lizzie Dixon (The Australian Columbine), Jessie Gray (The Australian Harlequina), Dave Gardner (The Australian Pantaloon), Walter Carle (The Australian Clown).
 - The second edition was staged from 12 January 1878.
 - The 1 February show was staged as part of a benefit night for Fred Thorne.

"Pantomimes: Academy of Music, The." *Age* 22 Dec. (1877), 8.

"Pantomimes: The Academy of Music, The." *Argus* 22 Dec. (1877), 8.

"Pantomimes: The Academy of Music, The." *Argus* 25 Dec. (1877), 7. [see also [advert.](#) - 24 Dec. 1877, 8]

JACK THE GIANT SLAYER: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

- 1877:** Royal Colosseum Varieties, Melbourne; 24 Dec. -
 - **Cast** incl. Johnny Cowan, G. Conlan, Duvalli Bros.

R OYAL COLOSSEUM VARIETIES.
 Double Company for Christmas Holidays.
COWAN, JOHNNY COWAN,
 As the Virginian Mummy, and New Local Songs.
DUVALLI BROTHERS,
 Daring Acrobats, from Wilson's Circus.
Mr. G. CONLAN,
 Champion High Pedestal Dancer.
 Lady and Gentlemen Minstrels.
 Laughable burlesque,
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER.
 Other Novelties. Admission, 6d. and 1s.

Argus 28 Dec. (1878), 8.

RAINBOW REVELS; OR, A MEDLEY OF MIRTH, MUSIC, MISCHIEF AND MIMICRY: [musical entertainment] Txt. Garnet Walch; Mus. [n/e]

Written for the Stewart family this potpourri musical entertainment contained a plot that enabled the cast to take on multiple characters. The story essentially concerns a retired actor who amuses his three nieces by appearing before them in numerous costumes and impersonations. The girls decide to do the same. Advertising in the *Brisbane Courier* records that the production involved: "Elegant dresses, English and Irish medleys, operatic scenas and quartettes [sic], German songs and duets, guitar solos, imitations of actors, terpsichorean duets etc" (30 July 1878, 1).

Nellie Stewart recalls, in her autobiography *My Life's Story*, that "in 1877 Mr Garnet suggested that he should write an entertainment for us on lines broadly similar to that in which the Vokes Family in England had won such success, and that we should tour Australia with it. My father liked the idea, and Mr Walch wrote *Rainbow Revels*. From its inception [the work] was so successful that [he] wrote another medley called *If*. Father, Docie, Maggie and I were the entertainment, with brother Dick in front of house... I was enabled for once to sing and dance my fill, playing seven parts - school girl, Dutch girl, Irish girl, pantomime boy and so forth" (39-40). Indeed, the success of *Rainbow Revels* alone enabled the Stewarts to finance a tour of India and, after that, of America.

- 1877:** Mechanic's Institute, Launceston (Tas); 26 Dec. -
 - **B Mngr.** Richard Stewart.

- **Cast** incl. Richard Stewart (Actors - including Kean and Brooke/Deaf Gardener/ Frenchman/German/Irishman), Docy Stewart (Opera Singer/Irish Girl/Yorkshire Girl), Maggie Stewart (Scotch and Dutch girls), Nellie Stewart ("Australian belle," Tasma Darlington, Irish girl, Dutch girl, Pantomime Boy, School Girl etc).

- 1878:** Victorian regional tour; ca. Mar.
 - **B Mngr.** H. P. Lyons.
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
 - Itinerary incl. (Gippsland region); Sale (Mechanics' Institute; 12 Mar.)
- 1878:** Prahan Town Hall, Melbourne; 22 - 23 Mar.
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** Town Hall, Hobart; 22-26 Apr.
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** Mechanic's Institute, Launceston (Tas); ca. 9-10 May
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** White's Rooms, Adelaide; 28 May -
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** School of Arts, Sydney; 1-19 July
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** Queensland Theatre, Brisbane; 29 July - 9 Aug. [10 pfms]
 - **Lse.** James Thynne and Gerald Dillon; **B Mngr.** H. P. Lyons.
 - Cast as for previous Launceston season.
 - **Musician:** Lee Harcourt (piano).
- 1878:** School of Arts, West Maitland (NSW); 27 Aug. -
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1878:** School of Arts (Syd); 2-7 Sept. [return season]
 - Cast and production as for previous Launceston season.
- 1879:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 17-30 May [12 pfms]
 - **Lse.** Richard Stewart; **M Dir.** Harcourt Lee; **B Mngr.** H. P. Lyons.
 - Cast as for previous Launceston season.
 - **Musician:** Lee Harcourt (piano).
- 1879:** Regional Victorian tour; ca. June-Aug.
 - Cast as for previous Launceston season.
 - Established performances are: Hamilton (Town Hall; ca. 22 July) • Geelong (Mechanics; Institute; 5 July)



Nellie Stewart as Pantomime Boy in *Rainbow Revels*
 From Nellie Stewart's *My Life's Story* (1923), 40.

M ECHANICS' INSTITUTE,
 LAUNCESTON.

BOXING NIGHT,
 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH,
 1877,

For a limited number of nights.

Mr Richard Stewart
 (Lately Lessee of the Theatre Royal,
 Melbourne),

Accompanied by his daughters the
**Misses Docy, Maggie, and
 Nellie Stewart,**

Will have the honor of appearing for the
 first time before a Tasmanian audience,
 in their great entertainment written by
 the well-known Tasmanian author, Garnet
 Walch, entitled

"Rainbow Revels,"
 A Medley of Mirth, Music, Mischief, and
 Mimicry.

- Editorial.** *Brisbane Courier* 30 July (1878), 3. [see also advert. - 30 July 1878, 1]
- Editorial.** *Geelong Advertiser* 6 Mar. (1877), 3.
- Fotheringham, Richard. *Companion to Theatre in Australia* (1995), 267.
- Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags
- Launceston Examiner* 25 Dec. (1877), 4. **Advert.**
- "**Mechanic's Institute: The Stewart Family and *Rainbow Revels*."** *Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) 28 Dec. (1877), 3.
- "**Music and the Drama.**" *Australian Town and Country Journal* 21 Sept. (1878), 554.
- "***Rainbow Revels*."** *Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) 21 Dec. (1877), 2.
- "***Rainbow Revels*."** *Launceston Examiner* 28 Dec. (1877), 2.
- "**Socialities.**" *Mercury* (Hobart) 27 Apr. (1878), 3.
- Stewart, Nellie. *My Life's Story.* (1923), 39-40.
- "**Stewart Family, The.**" *South Australian Register* 21 May (1878), 5.
- "**Stewarts, The.**" *South Australian Register* 28 May (1878), 5.
- "**St George's Hall.**" *Argus* 19 May (1879), 3.
- "**Town Hall.**" *Mercury* (Hobart) 30 Apr. (1878), 2.
- Launceston Examiner* 22 Dec. (1877), 5.

Last updated: 27/05/2016

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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