

Fun on the Bristol; Or, A Night on the Sound, was given its world premiere at the Newport Theatre, Rhode Island (USA) in 1879 (ctd. *Table Talk* Aug. 29, 1890). Although not strictly an Australian-written work its author, **George Fawcett** had spent the years 1853-1864 actively involved in the Australian colony's theatre industry. Based on a sketch by John F. Sheridan who also created the key role of the Widow O'Brien, the musical comedy was part of the American female impersonator's repertoire for over 20 years, and easily his most popular work. *Fun on the Bristol* was often produced in Australia (and elsewhere) by other firms and companies during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, often without permission. It was also the subject of several adaptations and burlesques.

JULIUS THE SNOOZER; OR, THE CONSPIRATORS OF SPRING STREET: [burlesque]

Txt Adapt/Mus. [n/e]

Possibly adapted by W. Horace Bent, this production is also believed to have been both a burlesque on Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and a localised version of an American Minstrel play. Characters, a number of whom parodied the Berry Liberal government, included Pearson, O'Loghlen, Patterson, Zox, Lalor, Collard Smith, Service, Woods and Gaunson. The action is set over three scenes: Sc 1. Bourke Street at Night; Sc 2. Interior of the legislative Assembly; and Sc 3. The Home of the Lost Sixpence.

1879: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 27 Sept. - 3 Oct.

S T. G E O R G E ' S H A L L.
Entirely Renovated and Redecorated.
The Free-list Suspended, the Press Excepted.
GREAT SUCCESS, GREAT SUCCESS,
HISCOCKS and HAYMAN'S

MAMMOTH MAMMOTH MAMMOTH	MINSTRELS	MAMMOTH MAMMOTH MAMMOTH
↓ HUNDRED STRONG ↓		
Whose success throughout the colonies has been un- precedented, now firmly established as the BIGGEST and BEST in the WORLD.		
TO-MORROW (SATURDAY) EVENING, 27th SEPTEMBER,		
ENTIRE NEW PROGRAMME.		
EVERY ITEM A GENUINE NOVELTY.	NEW FIRST PART. NEW BALLADS. NEW JOKES. NEW FARCES. NEW SPECIALITIES.	
First production in Melbourne of a new political satire, entitled		
JULIUS THE SNOOZER. JULIUS THE SNOOZER. JULIUS THE SNOOZER. JULIUS THE SNOOZER.		

Argus 26 Sept. (1879), 8.

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and Dave Hayman.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks and Hayman's Mammoth Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent (Julius Berry, the Snoozer - an ambitious politician), B. Brown (Lodius Pearson Brutus - the workingman's friend and British loan agent), J. Newland (Mark O'Loghlen Antony - a judge of perfection and a good judge too), T. Campbell (Shamus Cassius Gaunson - the skeleton lobbyist), Frank Weston (Henderson Pinchback Africanus - an outsider, imported expressly for this piece), E. J. Kennedy (Maceanus Patterson Decius), J. E. Cheevers (Camphorino - the Snoozer's wife and afterwards the goddess of liberty), J. Drayton (Vox Populi Zox), Lou Braham (Suadias Lalor - with a distaste for Exhibitions, except the International one), C. S. Fredericks (Collard Mark Smith - one who spends the major part of his time with minor matters), W. Hawkins (Septuaguinie Service - with one eye on the budget and another on that sixpence), W. Burgia (Johnibus Badrailabus Woodibus - one who knows how to draw the line).
- Other characters incl. roaming senators, chicken thieves, Carlton larrikins, Bourke Street policemen, Richmond tramps and Sandridge loafers.

Editorial. *Age* 29 Sept. (1879), 2.

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

"St George's Hall." *Argus* 29 Sept. (1879), 7.

STRAY LEAVES: [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Charles H.

Taylor; Mus. [n/e]

Described as a "drawing room" entertainment," and written entirely by Charles H. Taylor, *Stray Leaves* comprised a series of sketches and scenes played out by company's four actors, each of whom also sang and danced.

1879: Royal Princess's Theatre, Bendigo (Vic); 15, 16-17 Nov.

- **Mngr.** Charles H. Taylor.
- **Troupe:** Ella Carrington's Stray Leaves Company.
- **Cast:** Ella Carrington, Nellie Mansell, Charles H. Taylor, J. F. Forde.

1879: Temperance Hall, Euchuca (Vic); 22, 25 Nov.

- Cast and productionas for previous Bendigo season.

"Stray Leaves." *Riverina Herald* (Euchuca) 24 Nov. (1879), 3.

Bendigo Advertiser 17 Nov. (1879), 1.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.
Manager, Mr. C. H. TAYLOR.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION of MISS
ELLA CARRINGTON'S
"STRAY LEAVES" COMBINATION,
In their Novelty Entertainment

STRAY LEAVES,

Which was received on Saturday Night with
ROARS of LAUGHTER
And **THUNDERS of APPLAUSE,**
And will be repeated
TO-NIGHT (MONDAY), 17th NOV.
FIVE STAR ARTISTES.
MISS ELLA CARRINGTON,
Burlesque Artists, Song and Dance Performer,
Guitar, and Banjo Soloist,
MISS NELLIE MANSELL,
Sparkling Soubrette and Enchanting Ballad Singer.
MR. C. H. TAYLOR,
Irish, Dutch, Welsh, and Chinese Impersonator.
MR. J. F. FORDE,
Operatic Artists and Comedian.
MR. J. R. DELANY,
Musical Director and Pianoforte Soloist.
LOVELY SCENERY,
Painted expressly by John Hennings, Esq.,
of Theatre Royal, Melbourne).

At 8.30—Grand Snow Storm Scene.
At 9—Downybrook Fair Scene.
At 10—Terrific Avalanche Scene.
At 10.30—Beautiful Mississippi Scene.

Lovely Ladies, Artistic Actors, Frolicking Fun,
Dazzling Dresses, and Mirthful Music.
Box plan at Evans' Music Warehouse, Pall Mall,
where tickets can be obtained. Circle, 3s.; Stalls,
2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, Sixpence.
1532 W. EVANS, Business Manager.

APPOINTMENTS: [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Charles H. Taylor; **Mus.** [n/e]



Ella Carrington
State Library of Victoria

Advertised in the *Argus* as a "novelty entertainment... written by an Australian author [and] illustrated by paintings from the brush of an Australian artist, and performed for 297 nights' (24 Sept. 1880, 8). The characters include a Chinese Lady, a Chinese Irishman, and a New York Hoodlum. The details concerning a premiere production are as yet unknown.

1879: Royal Princess's Theatre, Bendigo (Vic); 19 Nov.

- **Mngr.** Charles H. Taylor.

- **Troupe:** Ella Carrington's Stray Leaves Company.

- **Cast** incl. Ella Carrington, Nellie Mansell, Charles H. Taylor, J. F. Forde.

1880: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 24 Sept. - 1 Oct.

- **Mngr.** Charles Fuller and Charles H. Taylor.

- **Troupe:** Ella Carrington's Stray Leaves Company.

- **Cast** incl. Ella Carrington, Nellie Mansell, Charles H. Taylor, J. F. Forde.

- Presented as part of a benefit programme put on for Ella Carrington

Argus 24 Sept. (1880), 8. **Advert.**

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

HONEST HEARTS: [comedy with music] **Txt.** Harry W. Emmet; **Mus.** [n/e]

Written for Baker and Farron this comic drama, described by the *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critic as having a melodramatic plot, "turns upon the action of a man of gentlemanly appearance who, it seems, however,, is a kind of Captain Moonlight, ready to perpetrate any atrocity to gain his ends. He commits murder and robbery as if to the manor born, but his crimeful career is [eventually] terminated by the honest hearts of Jeremiah Jumble... and Terence Treacle" ("Queen's Theatre," 5). Disinherited heirs and estranged lovers are also restored to their rightful places by the play's end. The critic also indicates that some of the other characters were "evidently borrowed" from *Dundreary*, the *Aminadab Sleek* and *Deacon Skinner* types (ibid, 5).

Played out over three acts, the scenic settings are: Act 1. Gaffer Gawk's Roadside Inn; Act 2. A Garden on the Rivers' Estate; Act 3 Sc 1. A Room in Reginald's House; Sc 2. The Coach Road; Sc 3. Jumble's House.

The musical aspects of the production comprised Anglo-Germanic songs - these being: "The Wonderful Musician" and "The Dutch Policeman" (sung by P. F. Baker), "Terence O'Treacle" and "Would If I Could" (T. J. Farron) and "Little Flirt," "Little Katherina" (a double song and dance) and *Jumble's Courtship* by Baker and Farron.

1879: Queen's Theatre, Sydney; 22-28 Nov.

- **Mngr.** Mr Liddy (business); **Lse.** P. F. Baker and T. J. Farron; **M Arr.** P. F. Baker; **M Dir.** Herr Kopff; **S Art.** W. Kinchela; **S Mngr.** J. N. Thorpe.

- **Cast** incl. P. F. Baker (Jeremiah Jumble), T. J. Farron (Terence O'Treacle/Hilda Lonesome), Lachlan McGowan (William Rivers), J. Thorpe (Reginald Rivers), L. Booth (Arthur Rivers), Mr Mowry (Montmorency Brown), H. Flynn (Captain Growler), Harry Leston (Titus Tupper), H. Haines (Gaffer Gawk), Harry Bennett (Sam), Marion Willis (Fanny Fisher), Julia Featherstone (Lizzie), Mrs Radcliffe (Mary-Ann Gawk), Mrs Thorpe (Mrs Wilson).

- NB: Harry Bennett may be Harry Emmet (with the name mis-spelt).

1880: Queen's Theatre, Sydney; 5 Jan.

- **Mngr.** Mr Liddy; **Lse.** P. F. Baker and T. J. Farron.

- **Cast** incl. P. F. Baker and T. J. Farron.

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

"**Queen's Theatre.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 Nov. (1879), 5. [see also advert. - 22 Nov. 1879, 2]

CINDERELLA; OR HARLEQUIN PRINCE BEAUTEOUS, BUTTERFLY FAIRY, THE GOBLIN SPIDER, AND THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER: [pantomime] **Lib.** Wybert Reeve; **Mus.** [n/e]

1879 (printed by William Marshall)

A pantomime on the Cinderella theme containing topical references to Melbourne scenes and events, and Victorian politics prior to the 1880 Reform Bill election. The *Argus* theatre critic's report of the production indicates that although going smoothly on its opening night the many localisms and hints at current political issues did not elicit much applause. The musical programme is also said to have been less than striking, with the songs being "indifferently received by the audience" - with the exception of a topical song by Cinderella, which was encoed ("Pantomimes," 6).

In this version Cinderella, the stepdaughter to a squatter baron, was played by a male actor. The story begins in the home of the fairy queen, where the queen and her sister fairies confer over the fate of Prince Beauteous who was cursed at birth by a demon to die if not married by the coming of his age. The goblin spider enters and threatens to prevent the marriage being planned by the fairies. The story then proceeds with the prince and Cinderella meeting on a farm during a strike for higher wages. The prince falls in love with the young girl despite her ragged clothes but is not at this stage interested in marriage and after some trouble she manages to escape him. Meanwhile her step-father, baron Blunderbubble is arranging with the goblin spider the marriage of his two daughters. A deal is struck but only on the proviso that Cinderella remains unmarried. From here the narrative more or less follows the traditional tale, with Cinderella attending the prince's ball courtesy of the fairy queen, and leaving minus one of her glass slippers. Despite the attempts of her step-family and the goblin spider Cinderella eventually wins the Prince's hand.

The narrative is set over 10 scenes comprising: Sc 1. Golden Home of the Fairy Queen; Sc 2. Fields of Golden Corn (incl. Old English Morris dance); Sc 3. Haunt of the Goblin Spider; Sc 4. Kitchen in Baron Blunderbubble's Home; Sc 5. Dressing Room of the Misses Blunderbubbles; Sc 6. Fairy Glade of Gold and Silver Ferns; Sc 7. Grand Lace Banqueting Hall and Assembly of All Nations; Sc 8. Home of Queen Bee; Sc 9. A Room in the Baron's House; Sc 10. The Spider's Haunt. The Transformation Scene comprised - 1. The Fern Valley; 2. Golden Bee and Butterfly's Home; 3. Realms of Honeysuckle and Forget-Me-Nots. Following the harlequinade a view was given of the Melbourne Exhibition and grounds both by sunlight and moonlight.

1879: Academy of Music, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1879 - 16 Jan. 1880 [20 pfms]

- **Dir.** Wybert Reeve; **M Arr.** Mr Wright; **S Art.** Charles Massey; **Chor.** Mde. Rosine; **Cost.** Mrs Stafford and J. C. Brown.

- **Cast** incl. Jenny Bryce (Prince Beauteous - a bachelor prince, handsome and young and on the look-out), Oliver "Olly" Deering (Baron Blunderbubble), Fred Thorne (Cinderella), Miss Morrell (Flunkiana), Miss Forrester (Gorgeousness), Miss Egerton (St George), Hans Phillips (Spider), C. Newton (Sambo), Harry Sefton (Farmer Goldstraw), John Dunn (Salprunella Blunderbubble), Mrs Ryan (Blousabella Blunderbubble), Tilly Earl [aka Mrs John Edouin] (Queen Butterfly), Miss E. Vernon (Queen Bee), Miss Fisher (Forget-Me-Not); Harlequinade - Boleno Brown (Clown), Henry Leopold (Harlequin), John Dunn (Pantaloon), Mde. Rosine Columbine, Miss Arrowsmith (skipping rope dancer).

"**Entertainments: The Theatres etc.**" *Australasian* 27 Dec. (1879), 19.

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

"**Pantomimes Etc: Academy of Music - Cinderella, The.**" *Argus* 24 Dec. (1879), 6. Preview

"**Pantomimes: Academy of Music: Cinderella, The.**" *Argus* 25 Dec. (1879), 6. [see also **advert.** - 23 Dec. 1879, 3]

NB: The 25 and 26 December 1879 issues of the *Age* are unavailable.

ROBINSON CRUSOE; OR, FRIDAY AND HIS FUNNY FAMILY: [pantomime]

Lib Adapt. Arthur Patchett Martin; **Mus.** [n/e]

Although described as being a "new and original comic pantomime... altered for this production by Mr A. P. Martin" (*Argus* 23 Dec. 1879, 3) it is possible that it was either adapted from the J. F. McArdle and Frank W. Green pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* produced at Covent Garden in Dec. 1876, or a similarly titled pantomime by an unknown author at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Liverpool (Dec. 1878). The story begins in Hull, and then proceeds through the shipwreck, a raft scene, tropical and snow scenes, Mrs Crusoe's wedding to the Cannibal King, and the island's annexation to Britain "like Fiji and Cyprus." The production included Greek characters, satiric references to the Berry government, and final scenes of Nelson's Trafalgar victory (incl. The Deck of the Victory, A Grand panorama of the battle, The Sailors' Hornpipe, The Drill, Preparing for Battle, The Battle, The Death of Nelson, England Victorious, Rule Britannia).

The harlequinade was set in two scenes - 1. Nos 12 and 13 Fishy Street; 2. View of the Exhibition.

1879: Opera House, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1879 - 4 Feb. 1880 [34 pfms]

- **Dir.** W. S. Lyster; **S Art.** George Gordon and Alexander Habbe; **S Mngr.** R. J. Roberts.

- **Cast** incl. W. Carle (Hurricanes - the demon of the storm), T. Baker (Tornado - an attendant imp), W. Walker (Cyclone - an attendant imp), Gertrude Graham (Crystalline - the fairy of goodness), Georgia Musgrave (Jack Frost), Alma Stanton (Robinson Crusoe - captain of the good ship Nero), R. J. Roberts (Mrs Crusoe - Robinson's mother and a lineal descendent of the O'Kelly's of Ballymulligan), C. F. Coutts (Wullie McAtkins (Robinson's Scottish mate), Shaw Cross (Tim Bobbin - a Lancashire lad), Mr Pollack (Davey Jones - Taffy was a wicked Welshman), R. H. Hall (Hans von Snooze - at sleeping no one can beat him), Clara Lemoire (Alice - Robinson's sweetheart), Maggie Knight (Asbestos - the pirate chief); Pirates - Ethel Adele, Miss St Clair, Emily Vincent, S. Ford, Fanny Barnes, Julia Lockyer; T. Buckley (Friday), D. C. Smith (Pongo), Sidney Read (Redivus), Mr Palmer (King Okojumba - the Boss of the island), Mr Carle (nondescript) Mr Darbyshire (nondescript), J. Whyte (Bayaboin [Okojumba's first cook) Miss Ferrara (Princess tambourine - the belle of the island); Harlequinade - F. Darbyshire (Clown), F. Pollack (Pantaloon), Rosalie Duvalli (Harlequin), Heloise Duvalli (Columbine).

- Other characters incl. Robinson Crusoe's pets, Sailors, Fishwives, Indians, Niggers, Amazons, Guards etc.

"**Entertainments: The Theatres etc.**" *Australasian* 27 Dec. (1879), 19.

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

"**Pantomimes Etc: The Opera House - Robinson Crusoe, The.**" *Argus* 24 Dec. (1879), 6. Preview.

"**Pantomimes: Opera House: Robinson Crusoe, The.**" *Argus* 25 Dec. (1879), 6. [see also **advert.** - 23 Dec. 1879, 3]

NB: The 25 and 26 December 1879 issues of the *Age* are unavailable.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from the John Strachan pantomime, and containing a double harlequinade, this version of the popular pantomime story sees Wicked Uncle Baron Grabell attempting to do away with the two young children. In this quest he is supported by the Baroness and Sheriff, and aided by Black Wednesday, a Zulu cook. They are opposed by Puck, Oberon, and Titania, who enlist the aid of Prince Tantivy and his sister Diana. With the aid of a magic sword the Prince overcomes the dangers of the magic forest and the King of the Monkeys. The Prince takes control of the Baron's castle and representatives of all nations attend a victory ball.

The production contained mechanical and flying effects, a panorama of scenes en route to the Sydney Exhibition, with the views including: Port Phillip Heads (from Portsea), Cape Schanck by sunset, Wilson's Promontory, Cape Howe and Gabo Island, a ship on fire in a stormy sea, the South head entrance to Port Jackson and the Exhibition Building itself. The second act is also

said to have included a grand Congress of nations (which takes place in the ballroom of Brilliance) and included a procession of representatives from all the great powers of Europe and Asia.

The musical programme for the 1879 production comprised songs and dances to operatic and other music. One highlight was apparently a new local ditty "Whoa Emma," sung by Bland Holt. A review in the *Leader* noted that the pantomime contained "localisms pungent without being offensive and political hits not of a nature to wound the most susceptible" ("Amusements," 16). Other musical items included: "Old England Forever" (sung by Maggie Liddle), "Marsellaise," and the "Star-spangled Banner."

In 1885 Harry Rickards staged a burlesque version of the pantomime which Walch devised shortly after having returned to Australia from Madagascar, where he had recovered his health after several years of stress (largely the result of his bankruptcy and overwork).

- 1879:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1879 - 12 Feb. 1880 [36 pfms]
 - **Dir.** J. R. Greville and Alfred Dampier; **M Arr.** Frederick Coppin; **S Art.** John Hennings, Harry Grist, John Little;
Chor. Mons. Massartic and Signora Pasta; **Cost.** Annie Wright and M. Marks.
 - **Cast** incl. Kate Foley (Puck), J. R. Greville (Emma Wilhelmina Wimple), Lena Edwin, Rose and Lily Dampier (the Babes), Jessie Grey, Maggie Liddle (Britannia), Alice Wooldridge, Adelaide Stoneham (Erin), Kate Ramsden, Florence Slater, Signora Pasta, Bland Holt, Frank Harcourt, Harry W. Emmett, J. Caesar, Harry Daniels, Henry Skinner; **Harlequinade** - Bland Holt (Clown), Mons. Massartic (Harlequin), Florence Slater (Harlequina), Signora Pasta (Columbine 1), Kate Ramsden (Columbine 2), Mr Hawley and Mr Buislay (Sprites).
 - **Musician:** Leon Caron.
- 1885:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1885 - 1 Jan. 1886 [burlesque version]
 - **Mngr.** George Rignold, Mr Allison, Buchan Hepburn.
 - **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Ada Juneen, Daisy Simpson [Daisy Cremar], Harry Phillips, Edgar Austin, Harry Cremar, W. Williams.

"Amusements." *Leader* (Melbourne) 3 Jan. (1880), 16.

Argus 27 Dec. (1879), 12. **Advert.** Incl. detailed synopsis.

"Entertainments: The Theatres etc." *Australasian* 27 Dec. (1879), 19.

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

"Pantomimes Etc: Theatre Royal - *The Babes in the Wood, The.*" *Argus* 24 Dec. (1879), 6. Preview.

"Theatre Royal Pantomime." *Age* 27 Dec. (1879), 6.

"Theatre Royal: *The Babes in the Wood.*" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1879), 8.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD; OR WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN: [pantomime]

Lib. W. Edouin and Richmond Thatcher; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by W. Edouin and localised by R. Thatcher, with influences from "Who Killed Cock Robin," this version of the popular pantomime story concerns the attempt by Sir Rowland and Lady Macassa to pay their bills by getting rid of their nephew and niece, Tommy and Sally. The two children are heirs to the estate. Sir Edward Kelly and Lord Stephen Byrne kidnap the children from their schoolroom, but they are eventually restored to their family. The subplot concerns Cock Robin and Jenny Wren. See advertisement (25 Dec. 1879, 2) and review ("Theatre Royal," 5-6) in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for further details of plot.

The production was specially written to incorporate the talents of actors J. C. Williamson and Maggie Moore, who had only recently arrived in Australia, and who (surprisingly) played the two babes. The harlequinade is said to have abounded with the usual stock fun and included free local hits at local issues, events and personalities (ibid, 5-6).

The scenes comprised: **Act 1** Sc 1. The Palace; **Sc 2.** Falcontrina's Home in Bird's nest Grove; **Sc 3.** The Schoolroom; **Sc 4.** Departure of the Babes; **Sc 5.** Arcadian Bower of the Amazons; **Act 2** Sc 1. Ye Banks and Braes (incl. a circus); **Sc 2.** The Babes Lost; **Sc 3.** The Very Bad Man's Haunt; **Sc 4.** Bird's Nest Grove; **Sc 5.** Burial of the Babes; **Sc 6.** Bird's Nest Grove and the Valley of Ferns (incl. The Babes Resuscitated).

The musical programme included: "Remember What You have to Do" (sung by J. A. South, C. Brown, Maggie Oliver and Emma Rogers); "Toothpick and the Crutch" (Constance Deorwyn); "Babes in our Block" (Maggie Moore); "Like His Dad" (South and Rogers); "Hit Him Again, He's Got No Friends" and a song and dance (Maggie Moore); "The Spelling Bee," "Johnny Morgan" and a medley duet (Maggie Moore and J. C. Williamson); "The Stammering Quartette" (Williamson, Brown, Moore and Oliver); "The Doctor's Chorus" (C. Seagrave and chorus); "The Man in the Moon" (Emma Rogers); "Timid Little Maiden" (Alice Deorwyn); and "I Haven't Got Time" (J. A. South).

- 1879:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1879 - 17 Jan. 1880 [21 pfms]
 - **Prod/Lse.** Samuel Lazar; **M Dir.** Walter Rice; **S Art.** W. J. Wilson;
Cost. Mde Croucher; **S Mngr.** B. N. Jones; **Com Sc.** B. Coleman.
 - **Cast** incl. J. C. Williamson (Tommy, one of the babes - a sweet child and heir to the head of the house), Maggie Moore (Sally, his sister, a

Sydney Morning Herald 24 Dec. (1879), 2.

FIRST PRODUCTION
of the
GRAND ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS
PANTOMIME,
the
BABES IN THE WOOD,
or
WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN.

"I said the sparrow,
With my bow and arrow,"
I
KILLED COCK ROBIN.

Written by Mr. W. EDOUN, and localized and adapted by Mr.
RICHARD THATCHER, introducing (for the FIRST TIME IN
AUSTRALIA) in burlesque those popular and distinguished
artists.

MISS MAGGIE MOORE
and
MR. J. C. WILLIAMSON
as
THE BABES
(things of beauty and joys for the whole evening).

SALLY Miss MAGGIE MOORE.
TOMMY... .. Mr. J. C. WILLIAMSON.

N.B.—THIS PANTOMIME will be found to be **UNPRECEDENTED** for **NOVELTY** of **CONSTRUCTION.** The **ORIGINALITY** and **COPIOUSNESS** of its **MUSIC** and **lavish** **introduction** of **ENTIRELY ORIGINAL AIRS, CONCERTED** **PIECES, MARCHES, GROUPINGS, TERPSICHOEBAN** **EFFECTS, and MECHANICAL ILLUSIONS, forming A TOUT** **ENSEMBLE** never **APPROACHED** for **COMPLETENESS** in the **AUSTRALIAS.**

FULL PARTICULARS
of cast of characters and synopsis of scenery and events will be
given in to-morrow's advertisement.

SAMUEL LAZAR,
Lessee and Manager.

sweeter child), James A. South (Sir Rowland Macassa - a baron with a barren treasury but a fertile crop of troubles), Emma Rogers (Lady Macassa - a strong-minded female), Constance Deorwyn (Prince Pot Pourri - a much mixed up noble given to love-making and other extravagances), Docy Mainwairing (Sir Rupert - an attendant on the Prince), Alice Deorwyn (Falcontrina - god-daughter of the fairies but a maid of dairy persuasion and the 'wym yum' order), C. Seagrave (Dr Diddleum, M.D.), W. Seagrave (Physician), Maggie Oliver (A Bad Man - with a predilection for murder, abduction and other crimes which he commits according to schedule), Charles Brown (The Very Bad Man - worse than the above), Lucy Fraser (Patty Cake - a page), Amy Fraser (Baker's Man - a page), Miss M. A. Melville (Mary Ann Jones, the Governess - a poor young thing and much troubled by the babes), Master A. Croucher (Cock Robin), Master F. Wilson (Rook), Master G. Croucher (Thrush), Master A. Lake (Kite), Master E. Lake (Linnet), Master Vincent (Owl), Masters A. Leslie (Crow), Master B. Leslie (Jackdaw), Miss A. Bartolmeotti (Jenny Wren), Miss J. Garrick (Cook Sparrow), Miss L. White (Lark), Miss T. Power (Chanticeer), Mat Riley; Harlequinade - G. Brown (Harlequin), H. Hasker (Pantaloone), Miss Elliot (Columbine), B. Coleman (Clown).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags. "Theatre Royal." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1879), 5-6. [see also advert. - 25 Dec. 1879, 2]

AMPHIBIO, THE RHINE QUEEN; OR, HARLEQUIN SIR RUPERT, THE KNIGHT, THE NAIAD, AND THE LITTLE WATER WAGTAIL: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** [n/e]; **Mus** incl. Mr Broadhurst

Possibly adapted from the *Lurline* pantomime, the *Sydney Morning Herald's* critic writes: "The dialogue throughout this piece is unusually clever, smart and telling; and while it is, of course duly seasoned with local allusions, it has other merits and an effectiveness in no way to be associated with this frequently improperly forced and strained colouring. The situations are all humorous, quaint and very original, and ludicrous and laughable without being childish or nonsensical" ("*Victoria Theatre*," 6).

The *Herald's* main gripe with the opening night performance was with the production itself but the "lower portion" of the audience, who throughout the evening conducted themselves most shamefully. "On no other occasion throughout the year do [they] seem to exercise so much influence," notes the critic. "They employ the greatest freedom in indicating their likes and dislikes and apparently carry everything before them... Frequently their yells and cries prevented the voices of those upon the stage from being heard, and upon one occasions the clamour was so unendurable that Mr Hall had to remonstrate with the noisy mob, and call them to order... Moreover, their behaviour has a most dispiriting influence upon their entertainers, rendering them fatigued, hoarse, and physically incapable of doing their best to amuse" (*ibid*, 6).

The story concerns Amphibio, who with the aide of his henchmen, Larriquin and Shorti, plots to overthrow Sir Rupert (a financially hard up young German) who is under the protection of Lurline, the Nymph of the Rine. When Lurline realises that Rupert loves Una, daughter of Baron Witz, she attempts to entrance him. Despite all this Rupert is able to defeat Calimanco, his rival for Una, and Lurline is forced to relinquish her demands on him. Other characters include: Wilfred, Albert and Rinaldo (three young gentlemen with the strongest objections to manual labour but who gladly turn their hands to anything not belonging to them) and Sir Rupert's steward (still harder-up with very little on his body but a good deal on his mind).

The scenic settings comprised: Act 1 Sc 1. The Dismal cave of the Doleful Dumps (incl. the invocation and arrival of Amphibio, the plot, the plan, the plotters and their evil resolve); Sc 2. The Home of the Good Fairies; Sc 3. Sir Rupert's Dining Hall; Sc 4. The Lurleyburg; Sc 5. The Gnome of Lurleyburg (incl. Grand Fluvial Flareup); Sc 6. The Grotto Beneath the Rhine; Sc 7. A Hall in the Baron's Castle; Act 2 Sc 1, Lurline's Boudoir; Sc 2. The Hall Once Again; Sc 3. Calm Crystal Palace Illuminating Garden in the Home of Tranquil Waters; Transformation Scene - 1. Lurline's Home; 2. Coral Coruscations; 3. Fact and Fancy; and 4. Chromotrope. The *Harlequinade* (arranged by John L. Hall and Joe Tolano) was set in 6 scenes - 1. Introduction; 2. Selfe's Chemist Shop, Oxford Street and Professor Wigzell's Human Hair Emporium; 3. Highland Fling (Columbine); 4. Manly Beach; 5. Parramatta Junction; and 6. The Interior of Perkins Kitchen.

1879: Royal Victoria, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1879 - 30 Jan. 1880 [33 pfms]

- **Dir.** John L. Hall and James H. Rainford; **M Arr.** Mr Broadhurst; **S Art.** Alfred Clint and J. R. Setright;

Cost. Mrs Spence; **Com Sc.** John L. Hall and Joe Tolano; **S Mngr.** James H. Rainford.

- **Cast** incl. Emily Wiseman [Mrs John L Hall] (Sir Rupert the Reckless), John L. Hall (His Seneschal), Laura Wiseman (Lurline), H. Jordan (Amphibio), Beatrice Lyster (Wilfred), Grace Henriques (Albert), A. L. Inglis (Rinaldo), Henry Hodson (Baron Witz), Lydia Howarde (Count Calimanco), O. Fisher (*The Sydney Morning Herald*), Master Harry Hall (The River Monster), Lilly Marsh (Wavelet - Lurline's naiad in waiting), Tilly Lake (Ripple - another naiad), Miss J. Merton (Lady Una), Octavia Lane (Dua), Annie Marsh, (Coralie), Carrie Rollins (Silverfin), Carrie Martin (Kiss me Quick), Sarah Brown (Gentle Pretty Face), Sam Poole (Larriquin), H. St Lawrence (Glitter Scale), Sterling Whyte (Phorti); Harlequinade - R. E. Watson (Harlequin), Miss G. Henriques (Harlequina), Joe Tolano (Pantaloone), Tilly Lake (Columbine), John L. Hall (Clown), S. Ryan (Policeman).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags. "*Victoria Theatre*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1879), 6.

Last updated: 22/10/2014

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

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