

A PLUCKY YOUTH; OR THE LITES O' SYDNEY: [burlesque] Txt. W. Horace Bent; Mus. [n/e]

Described as a "new minstrel burlesque sensational play," *A Plucky Youth* satirises several Drury Lane sensational dramas - G.R. Sims's *Lights O' London*, (1881), and two Augustus Harris works, *Youth* (1881 with P. J. Meritt and H. Pettit) and *Pluck* (1882 with H. Pettit). *Pluck* was then being staged by Bland Holt at Sydney's Theatre Royal (produced by Williamson, Garner and Musgrove, and starring Alfred Dampier), while George Rignold had been presenting *Youth* in Australia since January 1882.

Bent's burlesque is presented in a series of seven tableaux - 1. The Mud-Banker's Manor; 2. Unknown; 3. Streets O' Sydney; 4. As Before; 5. Railway Disaster; 6. Once More; and 7. Wrecked In The Ocean.

The advertisements placed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* for the 1883 season include a satirical poem:

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| The way was long and dreary, But gallantly they strode, The bucolic lad and lassie, Along the country road. | And close behind the farmer's boy, Trills forth his simple tunes, And slips behind the maiden coy, And splits his pantaloons. | Oh, the gleaming lights O' Sydney, Some electric and some gas, 'Tis plain the author of these lines, Is a stupid silly ass. |
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A similarly titled production *The Streets of Sydney; Or, The Plucky Youth*, was staged by F. E. Smith at Sydney's Alhambra Music Hall from 24 October 1891. Described as "a blood-thirsty, thrilling and sensational absurdity" the authorship is unclear. It is possible, however, that this production is founded on Bent's 1883/84 versions. One reason for this is the fact that Johnny Cowan is known to have appeared in both the 1884 Academy of Music (Sydney) and 1891 productions, and may well have been instrumental in the latter's staging. Other cast members in 1891 were Charlie Fanning, Johnny Gilmore and the Leslie Brothers.

- 1883:** Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 13-19 Oct.
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir/Cond.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. Alf Lawton (Harold Vermifuge), W. Horace Bent (Moses Aaron Levis Marks), E. J. Kennedy (Griffin Greatmouth), George Turner (Stephen Stokes), Charles McCarthy (Flo Stokes), J. S. Whitworth (Mrs Stokes), Lou Braham (The Major), E. Amery (The Colonel). Other characters include a policeman, a small boy, firemen and soldiers.

- 1884:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 20-26 Sept.
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan (Harold Vermifuge), W. Horace Bent (Moses Aaron Levis Marks), W. A. Ball (Griffin Greatmouth), Johnny Cowan (Stephen Stokes), Alf Moynham (Flo Stokes), Beaumont Read (Mrs Stokes), Lou Braham (The Major), E. Amery (The Colonel).

- 1885:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 12 Oct. -
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan, W. Horace Bent, W. A. Ball, Beaumont Read, Harry Carroll, J. S. Porter, J. S. Whitworth, E. C. Dunbar.

- 1886:** Academy of Music, Brisbane; 20-22 May
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent, W. A. Ball, George Turner, Alf Moynham, Beaumont Reade, Lou Braham, E. Amery, J. S. Porter.

Sydney Morning Herald 13 Oct. (1883), 2. [Advert.](#)

Sydney Morning Herald 20 Sept. (1884), 2. [Advert.](#)

G A I E T Y T H E A T R E,
Castlereagh-street.

Lessee and Manager ... Mr. F. E. Hiscocks
ANOTHER GREAT TRIUMPH ACHIEVED.
 A success thoroughly established.
 House crowded from floor 'o ceiling to witness
HISCOCKS'S FEDERAL MINSTRELS,
 and Specialty Union in their
NEW PROGRAMME,
 which caused whirlwinds of laughter from beginning to end
 Great Success of the New First Part.
 Immense Success of ALF LAWTON, in his
 New Specialities.
 Instantaneous Success of W. H. BENT'S
 New Sensational and Musical Burlesque, entitled
A PLUCKY YOUTH, or THE LITES O' SYDNEY.
 The audience kept in a constant state of merriment.
EVERY EVENING, at 8,
 the best, most refined, and varied entertainment in Sydney.
 Admission—Orchestra chairs 4s, stalls 3s, circle 2s, pit 1s.
 Carriages at 10.20.
 Box plan at Paling's Music Warehouse, George-street.
 C. A. MADDICK, Secretary.
 In active preparation, "NOAH'S ARK," written expressly for the Federal Minstrels by Harry W. Emmett.

Evening News (Sydney) 17 Oct. (1883), 1.

ROBINSON CRUSOE AND HIS MAN FRIDAY: [burlesque] Txt. Georgie Smithson; Mus. [n/e]

Described as a "petite burlesque," this satirical and musical version of the well-known Daniel Defoe story was arranged by Miss Georgie Smithson for a benefit in aid of Australian champion oarsman, Elias Laycock.

- 1883:** Victorian regional tour; ca. Mar.
 - **Cast** incl. Georgie Smithson, James Holloway, J. Frame, F. Grantley, Miss A. Shore, Minnie Campion.
 - Itinerary incl. Euchua (Temp Hall; 10, 12 Mar.) • Bendigo (St James' Hall; 14 Mar.)
- 1883:** New South Wales regional tour; ca. Sept.
 - **Cast** incl. Georgie Smithson, James Holloway.
 - Itinerary incl.

Riverine Herald (Eucha) 3 Mar. (1883), 1.

TEMPERANCE HALL, ECHUCA.
TWO NIGHTS ONLY!
 Commencing
SATURDAY 10th & MONDAY, MARCH 12th.

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| GEORGIE | { The } SMITHSON | |
| GEORGIE | { Female } SMITHSON | |
| GEORGIE | { Maccabe. } SMITHSON | |

In her Monologue Entertainment entitled,
 "KALIESCOTERICOSMOGRAPH."
 In which she sustains the following characters with appropriate Songs, rapid change of Costume, Character, Voice, and Dialect:—The Rough Diamond (from Lancashire); The Duchess of Devonshire (a living likeness of the celebrated painting by Gainsborough); Aesthetic Lady one of the "too utterly utter"; Bob Sacks (brother to Jim Baggs, one of the lower order); Sir Foppington Vane (one of the upper ten); The Standard Bearer (of the past); The Opera Dancer (of the present). To conclude with the Burlesque of ROBINSON CRUSOE and his Man FRIDAY. She will be supported by the following Artists:—Messrs. Holloway, J. Frame, F. Grantley, and Misses A. Shore and Minnie Campion. Prices—1s., 2s. and 3s. Commencing at 8 o'clock. 648

- 1883:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 24 Nov.
 - **Dir.** John Wallace; **Mngr.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner and George Musgrove; **B Mngr.** H. R. Harwood;
Lse. Samuel Lazar.
 - **Cast** incl. Georgie Smithson, James Holloway.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.
Sydney Morning Herald 23 Nov. (1883), 2. **Advert.**

CHERRY AND FAIRSTAR; OR, THE FAIRIES OF THE DANCING WATERS:

[pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** C. A. Tyrell; **Mus.** [n/e]

A pantomime, adapted from Frank W. Green, in which Fairstar, her brothers, and cousin Cherry, have been stolen from their father by his brother and given to Conrad the Corsair. Conrad, in turn, has been wrecked on an island run by the witch Garotte, and whom he has been forced to marry. The children and Conrad, with the aid of Papilo, a clipped-winged sprite, endeavour to escape the island. Prince Brilliant falls for Fairstar, but Cherry kills him in a duel. The witch then shuts Fairstar in a dragon's cave. She is rescued by Cherry with the aid of a magic feather from the wing of Green Bird.

The libretto mentions numerous local references, including the Salvation Army, Kanakas, Captain Armit, Chiarini's Circus.

- 1883:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 26 Dec. 1883 - 5, 12-14 Jan. 1884 [13 pfms]
 - **Mngr.** J. E. Scantlebury; **M Dir.** J. Delany, **S Art.** Edward L. Williams, **Cost.** Signor Bartolomeotti; **S Mngr.** John Wallace.
 - **Cast** incl. Annie Leaf, Miss A. E. Lambert, Nellie Fernleigh, Beatrice Lorne, Lily and Amy Towers, Miss Lester, C. A. Tyrell, John Wallace, Charles Harding, C. H. Templeton, Frank Towers, Norman Rose, Percy Smart.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.
 "**Evening Amusements: Theatre Royal.**" *Brisbane Courier* 27 Dec. (1883), 5.

HARLEQUIN ALADDIN; BEING A NEW VERSION OF AN OLD LAMP: [pantomime]

Lib Adapt. Edmund Finn; **Orig Mus.** Meyer Lutz; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

A pantomime localised and adapted by Edmund Finn from Robert Reece's burlesque *Aladdin* (1881). The story begins with the magician, Abanazer, Aladdin's supposed uncle, who attempts to foil the plans of the slaves of the lamp and ring by stealing them and using Aladdin to gain wealth. Princess Balroubadour rejects Prince Ho Fo for Aladdin. Aladdin eventually regains the lamp, and is then able to impress the Emperor of the Sun with his wealth. He defeats Abanazer in the end.

The *Age* theatre critic notes that "the story on which the pantomime is based has long ago been worn threadbare, and though the present pantomime is announced a new version, it differs only very slightly in its main incidents from previous productions." The same critic goes on to record: "A variety of local jokes are introduced, in some of which a fair degree of humor is displayed by the adapter, but in the majority of instances last night the audience was slow to perceive the points - a circumstance which may perhaps be to some extent attributable to the inconveniences which had to be suffered from the crush in all parts of the house" ("Theatre Royal," 6).

Much of the original music was composed by Meyer Lutz, previously from the Gaiety Theatre, London.

- 1883:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1883 - 5, 11, 13-14 Feb. 1884 [45 pfms]
 - **Dir.** George Leitch; **M Dir.** Herr Whilimoff [or Whillmoff] and Harcourt Lee; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner, George Musgrove; **B Mngr.** Henry R. Harwood; **S Art.** George Gordon and Mr Peake; **Chor.** Mons. Massartic and Mde. Velaska; **Cost.** Mde. Nathan, Mde. Bima and Sue Ling Long; **Com Sc.** Theo. Matthews.
 - **Cast** incl. Maggie Moore, Pattie Brown, Ida Osborne, Docy Stewart, Miss C. Milne, Tilly Lake, Miss E. Dawson, Miss Henriques, Mde. Velaska, Marion Dunn [Mrs Marcus Clarke], Harry Leston, Phillip Day, George Leitch, Edwin Lester, J. Devereaux, Master Carl Matthews, Mons. Massartic, Theo. Charles and William Matthews, R. H. Bernard.

"**Amusements: The Pantomimes Etc.**" *Leader* 29 Dec. (1883), 26.

"**Boxing Night at the Theatres: Theatre Royal.**" *Argus* 25 Dec. (1883), 6.

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

"**Pantomimes: Aladdin at the Theatre Royal, The.**" *Age* 22 Dec. (1883), 10.

"**Theatre Royal: Aladdin.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1883), 6.

T H E A T R E R O Y A L

Under the Management of
 Messrs. Williamson, Garner, and Musgrove.
 Stage Manager—Mr. George Leitch.
 Treasurer—Jas. E. Moore.

**A MERRY XMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL,
 BOXING NIGHT (DECEMBER 26, 1883),
 And EVERY EVENING.**

The curtain will rise precisely at a quarter to 8 o'clock
 on the Great Annual
CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME,
 In three acts and numberless tableaux, entitled
HARLEQUIN ALADDIN,
 Being a
NEW VERSION OF AN OLD LAMP,
 Written by ROBERT REECE, Esq.
 Locally Adapted by Edmund Finn.

The entire New Scenery throughout the Pantomime
 Designed and Executed by
Mr. GEORGE GORDON.

New and Magnificent Costumes specially imported
 from England and China, for this production, and
 executed by Messames Nathan, Bima, and Assistants,
 and Sue Hing Long.

The Music, by Herr Meyer Lutz (Gaiety Theatre,
 London). Conductor, Herr Whillmoff.

The Choristers instructed by Mr. Harcourt Lee.

The Machinery and Mechanical Effects by Mr. H. Scott
 and Assistants.

The Magnificent Properties, Jewels, Masks, and Ap-
 pointments by Mr. J. Thomas and Assistants.

The Ballets and Marches by Mons. Massartic, and
 Madame Velaska, of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane.

The Comic Scenes arranged by Mr. T. Matthews, of
 the Celebrated Matthews Brothers, who will appear
 at each performance in their Extraordinary Enter-
 tainment.

The Gas, Limelight, and Chromatic Effects by Prof.
 H. Smith.

The Whole Produced under the Direction and Stage
 Management of Mr. GEORGE LEITCH.
 Special Engagement of Miss MAGGIE MOORE,
 Her first Appearance in Burlesque in Melbourne.

Argus 24 Dec. (1883), 8.

THEATRE ROYAL

Lessee.....Messrs WILLIAMSON, GARNER, and MUSGROVE

:O:

An Entirely New Version of the Old Eastern Story, written by ROBERT REECE, Esq.

ALADDIN

| | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------|
| ALADDIN | { A Pekin Urchin—a young Cad to boot ; But quite a Card at urchin of his suit. } | Miss MAGGIE MOORE |
| Emperor Hang Yu | { A fine Imperial face—than it none finer And known in Pekin as the Mug of China } | Mr. H. Leston |
| Ho-Fi | { A Pekin Dude that ever "on the bill" is— A masher, irresistible as Gillies. } | Miss Pattie Browne |
| Abanazar | { A black'art vot'ry, up to ev'ry antic, } Mysterious, dark and negro-mantic. } | ... Mr. Philip Day |
| Wee-ping | { Aladdin's Ma ; an old dame who's considered Not only husband-less but werry widdered. } | Mr. George Leitch |
| Badroulbador | { A pert princess—none prettier nor smarter Aladdin's dart as well as Hang Yu's darter } | Miss I. Osborne |
| So-sli | { Slave of the Ring—a Trappist, too, perhaps, } Because he often is a-monk-st the traps. } | Mr. E. Lester |
| Shi-ning | { Slave of the Lamp—obedient to its rays, Few slaves there are like this slave now-a-days } | Miss Docy Stewart |
| Hi-see-yu | { A peeler (Chinese), safeguard of the laws } Who's an a peeler now for your applause. } | Mr. J. Devereaux |
| Ly-Chee | { Gay Butterflies of Courtiers trim and sprightly, } | Miss C. Milne |
| Hi-Son | { Light-headed things who flutter on poll-lightly. } | Miss Tilly Lake |
| Nu-moon | { A Duffer, one who's called the Emp'ror's Minion, A small, yet big man in Hang Yu's dough-minion. } | Miss E. Dawson |
| Sou-Chong | { Couplet for bill, a pretty china mug, the girls all sigh } For one bright glance of his soft s-pekin eye. } | Miss Henriques |
| Wee-Wee-Wee | { Specially engaged Celestial acrobats, you'll not be grumblers See through you glasses— They are first glass tumblers. } | Little Carl |
| Hi-Fling-hi | | Mons. Massartic |
| Sun-Kum-along-hi | | Mr. T. Matthews |
| Hi-Jump-hi | | Mr. C. Matthews |
| Sum-ah-salt-ee | | Mr. W. Matthews |

HARLEQUINADE:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Clown... | Mr. Theodore Matthews | Sprite ... | Master Carl Matthews |
| Pantaloon .. | Mr. Chas. Matthews | Columbine | Mdme. Marie Valeska |
| Harlequin | ... Mr. W. Matthews | Lost Policeman... | Mr. R. H. Bernard |

NEW SCENERY designed and Executed by Mr. GEORGE GORDON.

J. E. MOORE, Treasurer.

General Business Manager, H. R. HARWOOD.

Lorgnette (Melbounre) 27 Dec. (1883), 1.