

James A. Meade and John F. Sheridan's *Cuckoo*, a comedy with music, was written as a vehicle for John F. Sheridan and staged at St George's Hall, Melbourne between 10 and 21 November. The story follows the escapades of his character as he impersonates a German bird-fancier, rides in a race as a jockey, dresses as a woman, hides with gypsies, and is eventually united with his farm girl beloved after breaking out of gaol. The musical element included dance sequences.

THE TRIP TO MANLY AND THE SOAPBOILERS' PICNIC: [burlesque] Txt. W. Horace Bent; Mus. Nicholas La Feuillade

Also referred to as *Fun on the Brighton; Or, A Trip to Manly* during its 1884 Sydney season, this "local absurdity" capitalised on John F. Sheridan's *Fun on the Bristol*, which was then playing at the Gaiety Theatre. A revised and reworked version was staged in the late 1890s under the title, *The Soapboiler's Picnic*.

The musical element included several songs and dances incorporated into the picnic scenes.

- 1884:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 14 June - 4 July [18 pfms]
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. Miss Melville, W. Horace Bent, Sam Keenan, W. A. Ball, Alf Moynham, Harry Carroll, Lou Braham, Beaumont Read, E. Amery, J. S. Porter.
- 1897:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 5 June - [as *The Soapboilers Picnic*]
 - **Mngr/Lse.** Thomas Delohery, C. Bovis and Sydney Deane;
 - **T Mngr.** Henry Colley.
 - **Troupe:** Elite Burlesque Co.
 - **Cast** incl. Tom Delohery, James Craydon, Ted Holland.
- 1899:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 28 Jan - [as *The Soapboilers Picnic*]
 - **Mngr/Lse.** Thomas Delohery, C. Bovis and Sydney Deane;
 - **T Mngr.** Henry Colley.
 - **Troupe:** Elite Burlesque Co.
 - **Cast** incl. Tom Delohery, James Craydon, Ted Holland.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.
Sydney Morning Herald 14 June (1884), 2. **Advert.**

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
 Lessee and Manager Mr. F. E. Hiscocks.
 The Evening's Fashionable Resort for Mirth and Music.
NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS.
ELEVENTH WEEK. 11th Week. ELEVENTH WEEK.
 Hundreds again turned away on Saturday night, being unable to obtain admission to witness the splendid entertainment of
HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS and SPECIALITY UNION,
 together with the
MARVELLOUS and ASTOUNDING GIRARDS,
 Messrs. Moynham, Keenan, and Miss Melville.
 The new first part received with shouts of enthusiasm,
BENT'S LECTURE (A la Oscar Wilde), WHAT IS ART?
 Carroll's Double-voice Singing.
 Keenan's Eccentric Song and Dance, "KOLORED KRANK."
 The new Sketch, called the PNEUMATIC ERADICATOR.
 The whole causing screams upon screams of laughter, terminating with Bent's New Local Absurdity, entitled
A TRIP TO MANLY and the SOAPBOILERS' PICNIC,
 one of the greatest successes ever placed upon a Sydney stage.
GLORIOUS, UPROARIOUS, and BOISTEROUS FUN.
 The best orchestra (under the conductorship of N. La Feuillade), the best comedians, the best vocalist, the best specialists of any Minstrel Company that has ever visited Australia (vide press opinions), and the neatest and most comfortable hall in Sydney.

Evening News (Syd) 16 June (1884), 1.

A KNIGHT OF THE BUFFS: [burlesque] Txt. Sam Keenan and W. Horace Bent; Mus. [n/e]

Advertised as a "local diabolical musical absurdity," the story concerns Silas Thorndike and Hannibal Smithers, bosom friends and neighbours who want to join the Buffs.

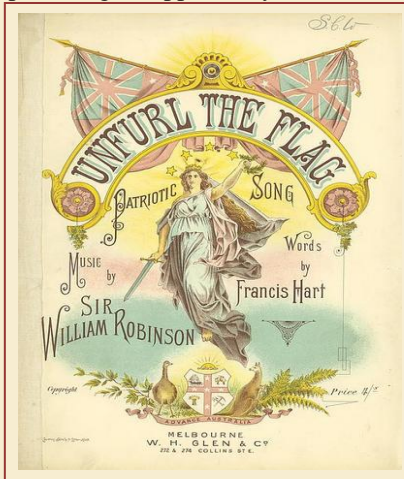
- 1884:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 13-18 Sept.
 - **Prop/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
 - **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent (Hannibal), Sam Keenan (Silas), W. A. Ball (Semantha Smithers, Hannibal's missus), Alf Moynham (Ezra Smithers, son), Johnny Cowan (Joe Smithers, son); **Brother Buffs** - E. Amery (Sir Jamison Geebung, Head Pusher of Torture), W. A. Ball (Boss Mallet Swinger), Beaumont Read (Blue Fire Tommy, Keeper of the Lodge Seal), J. S. Porter (Brimstone Jacob, Keeper of the Gridiron), Lou Braham (Pitchfork Charlie, the Usher of Lodge Poker), Harry Carroll (Sulphur Bill, the Refreshment juggler), Alf Moynham (the "William" Goat of the Buffs).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.
Sydney Morning Herald 13 Sept. (1884), 2. **Advert.**

SINBAD THE SAILOR; OR, THE GENII OF THE DIAMOND VALLEY AND THE NEW GUINEA OF THE FUTURE: [pantomime] Lib. Harry W. Emmet; **Orig Mus** incl. Sir William Robinson; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted and localised by Harry W. Emmet, the *Argus* notes that in many respects he made the work a new version ("Her Majesty's," 7). The story sees Captain Spanker attempt to induce Sinbad into marrying an ancient and unprepossessing connexion of the family named Matilda Jemima. Sinbad rejects the offer and she is foisted upon his attendant, Copperstick. Eventually Sinbad and Copperstick go to sea with the captain on his ship the *Pretty Polly*. Many of the characters introduced at this stage are stowaways, and it is from here, too, that many complications arise - including the vessel becoming shipwrecked on an island of natives ruled by King Choppy. Copperstick is once again forced into marriage (in order to save the others), this time to Princess

Pansy. When the Old Man of the Sea arrives on shore he climbs on Copperstick's back and leads Sinbad to the valley of Diamonds (providing an opportunity for a moving panorama of the coast of the island).



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The production, which included reference to the New Guinea annexation, contained a song that had been composed by the then Governor of South Australia, Sir William Robinson, titled "Unfurl the Flag." The *Argus* theatre critic writes of its inclusion: It "is given with the chorus which belongs to it, and a general hornpipe, which is excrescence. However, those who concoct pantomimes consider themselves to be endowed with more than a poet's license. In this instance, they have certainly taken great liberties with His Excellency's production. The way in which the song was rendered is capable of improvement" (ibid, 7). Other songs incorporated into the pantomime included: "The Dude" (a duet sung by Blanche Lewis and Amy Horton), "I Won't Play Anymore" (Amy Horton), and an untitled "quarrel duet" performed by Charles Taylor and Ella Carrington.

1884: Opera House, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1884 - 13 Feb. 1885 [43 pfms]

- **Dir.** A. L. Isaacson; **Prod/Lse.** George Rignold and James Allison; **M Dir.** Thomas Zeplin; **S Art.** Alexander Habbe and John Little; **Com Sc.** H. Hodson and Joe Tolano.
- **Cast** incl. Blanche Lewis (Sinbad), Harry Power (Copperstick), Charles H. Taylor (Captain Spanker), Ella Carrington (Mrs Spanker), Amy Horton (Polly Primrose, the captain's charming ward), Harry W. Emmet (Matilda Jemima), George Forbes (King Choppy), Frank Lacey (The Old Man of the Sea), J. W. Hazlett, Emily Fitzroy (Princess Pansy), Mabel Tracy, Annie Livingstone, Emma Bronton, Charles Hall; Harlequinade - Nelly Greenless (Columbine), H. Hodson (Clown), Joe Tolano (Pantaloon), Boleno Brown (Harlequin).

"**Her Majesty's Opera House.**" *Argus* 25 Dec. (1884), 7.

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

"**Pantomimes: Her Majesty's Opera House – Sinbad, The**" *Age* 25 Dec. (1884), 5.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD; OR, HARLEQUIN BOY BLUE, THE GOOD FAIRY AND THE NAUGHTY WOLF: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Lance Lenton; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from Frank W. Green's pantomime *Red Riding Hood; Or the Wizard and the Wolf* (1883), this production was localised by Lenton, who also included other nursery-rhyme characters such as Little Boy Blue, Tommy Tucker and Jack Horner.

The scenic settings were: Act 1. Sc 1. The Wolf's Lair; Sc 2. Exterior of Dame Riding Hood's School; Sc 3. Interior of Dame Riding Hood's School; Sc 4. Christmas Holiday; Sc 5. The Village of Happywell; Sc 6. Exterior of the Baron's Hunting Lodge; Sc 7. The Enchanted Lake and Fairy Vinery; Sc 8. Red Riding Hood in the Toils; Sc 9. The Good Fairy at Work (incl. Silver Palm Ballet). Act 2. Sc 1 – Exterior of Dame's Cottage; Sc 2. Interior of Dame's Cottage; Sc 3. Baron's Illuminated Gardens; Sc 4. Downfall of the Baron and Wolf; Transformation Scene – 'The Fairy Dream of the Waratah' (featuring Blue Mountains scenery); and Harlequinade.

1884: Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1884 - 6 Feb. 1885 [37 pfms]

- **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner and George Musgrove; **Lse.** Samuel Lazar; **S Art.** John Hennings; **Chor.** Heloise and Rosalie Duvalli; **S Mngr.** B. N. Jones.
- **Cast** incl. Mortals - Alice Deorwyn (Little Red Riding Hood), Emma Chambers (Boy Blue), James A. South (Baron Browbeato, a bad lot and Little Red Riding Hood's uncle), Charles Brown (Dame Riding Hood), Constance Deowyn (Little Tommy Tucker), Frank Harcourt (Johnny Stout), Lance Lenton (Simple Simon), R. E. Watson (Weeping Willie), Nellie Emerson (Jack Horner), Miss Coleman (Peter Piper), Miss St Clair (Jack Spratt), Edith Pender (Johnny Green), Fanny Liddiard (Lucy Long), Little May Finlay (Little Bo-Peep); Immortals - Pattie Brown (Irradianta, the Good Fairy), W. H. Seagrave (Gorgio, the 'Goblin' wolf), Maud Walton (Mother Shipton, a lady who rides on her broom), Mrs D'Arcy Read (Dame Trot, another witch), James Langon (Mother Hubbard, a witch), T. Fletcher (The Witch of Endor), Hettie Castro (Fat Woman of Brenford, a witch), J. Adams (Mother Redcap, a witch), John Bright (Mother Sheppard), Master Barkeur (Bow-wow); Harlequinade - Theodore Matthews (Clown), George Matthews (Harlequin), Charles Matthews (Pantaloon), Master Carl Matthews (Sprite), Sye Ryan (Policeman), Mde Valeska (Columbine), Heloise and Rosalie Duvalli.

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"**Theatre Royal.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1884), 5. [see also advert. 25 Dec. (1884), 2]

HARLEQUIN BLACK BLUEBEARD; OR, THE MERRY MUSSELMAN'S MOTHER-IN-LAW: [pantomime] **Lib.** W. Horace Bent; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "black pantomime," written expressly for the Federal Minstrels and containing local jokes and references. Some of the highlights are said to have been: the song "Barbe-bleu Brigade," a Turkish Zonave Picture Clog dance, the

transformation scene, and a comic scene entitled "On the Beach at Manly." The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic writes: "The localisms were good on the whole, and frequently drew forth loud demonstrations of applause" ("Academy," 5).

1884: Academy of Music, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1884 - 6 Feb. 1885 [37 pfms]

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.

- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.

- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent, Sam Keenan, W. A. Ball, Alf Moynham, Harry Carroll, Lou Braham, Beaumont Read, E. Amery, J. S. Porter, George Smith, J. Harris, W. Jones, M. Clune, Frank York, James Craydon.

"**Academy of Music.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1884), 5.

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

CINDERELLA, HER SISTERS, HER SORROWS AND HER LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER; OR, THE FAIRY GODMOTHER WHO WOULDN'T LET THE BAD STEP-

FARTHER: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Edmund Finn; **Mus.** W. H. Harrison and Oscar Barnet (Procession)

Williamson, Garner and Musgrove, 1884 (printed by Charles Troedel)

Williamson, Garner and Musgrove, 1885 (printed by John Woods and Co)

Williamson Garner and Musgrove's programs for both the 1884 and 1885 Melbourne and Sydney productions identify English librettist T. F. Doyle as the original author and that Edmund Finn localised and made it up-to-date. However, while newspaper reportage and advertisements in the *Age* and *Argus* during December 1884 further indicate that his libretto was used for the previous year's *Cinderella* pantomime at Drury Lane, *The Entr'acte* (London) records E.L. Blanchard was responsible for that production (29 Dec. 1883, 11b). The earliest *Cinderella* pantomime by Doyle located to date was in 1893.

The highlights of *Cinderella* were said to be the grand procession (purchased from the 1883 Drury Lane production), an opening modelled on *Macbeth*, and scenes of Christmas cards ranging from Bethlehem to England to a fern-tree gully picnic. The Melbourne production alluded to the bootmakers' strike.

NB: . There is also the possibility that the 1885 Sydney production was localised by E. Lewis Scott.

1884: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1884 - 2 Apr. 1885 [84 pfms]

- **Dir.** George Musgrove; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner, George Musgrove and Henry R. Harwood;

M Dir. W. H. Harrison and Oscar Barnet; **M Arr.** W. H. Harrison; **S Art.** George Gordon, Mr Peake, G. Ashton, W. H. Patterson; **Chor.** Mons. Massartic and Augustus Harris; **Cost.** Kennedy and Phillips, August and Cie; Miss Fisher, Messrs Harrison, Miss Yates; **S Mngr.** John Wallace; **Com Sc.** Will Simpson.

- **Cast** incl. Maggie Moore, Nellie, Docy and Maggie Stewart, Aggie Stuart, Tilly Lake, Julia Simmons, Lilly Forde, Sara and Dolly Ford, Effie Bevan, Miss Carlton, Miss Atkinson, Miss N. Grey, Miss B. Duncan, Miss Melrose, Amy and Miss L. Chalmers, Miss Torrence, Miss Austin, Miss Synnot, Miss Love, Miss Kerr, Miss Harris, Miss Robertson, Miss A. Grey, J. R. Greville, Edwin Kelly, Harry Taylor, Will Simpson, Harry Daniels, Mr Gladstone, Harry Benham, John Wallace, E. H. Ryan, Mons. Massartic, M. Anderson.

1885: Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1885 - 12 Feb. 1886 [40 pfms]

- **Dir.** George Musgrove; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner, George Musgrove; **M Dir/Arr.** W. H. Harrison;

Lse. Samuel Lazar; **S Art.** George Gordon and Mr Peake; **Chor.** Augustus Harris; **Cost.** Kennedy and Phillips, August and Cie, Miss Fisher, Messrs Harrison, Miss Yates; **S Mngr.** John Wallace.

- **Cast** incl. Nellie and Docy Stewart, Aggie Kelton, Tilly Lake, Lilly Forde, Sara and Dolly Forde, Effie Bevan, Miss Carlton, Miss Atkinson, Miss N. Grey, Miss B. Duncan, Miss Melrose, Amy and Miss L. Chalmers, Miss Torrence, Miss Austin, Miss Synnot, Miss Love, Miss Kerr, Miss Harris, Miss Robertson, Miss A. Grey, Julia Simmons, J. R. Greville, John Forde, Lance Lenton, Harry Daniels, John Wallace, Mr Francisco, R. E. Watson, N. Rose.

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"**Pantomimes: Theatre Royal - Cinderella, The**" *Age* 25 Dec. (1884), 6. Prev.

"**Popular Stage: Drama in Nineteenth Century England: Series 2: Pantomimes (Author Index)**" *Gale Cengage Learning* [sighted 24/03/2014]

"**Theatre Royal: Cinderella.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1884), 8-9.

"**Theatre Royal: Cinderella.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1884), 10.

"**Theatre Royal.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. (1885), 8.



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