

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN: [play with music] **Txt Adapt/Orig Lyr.** Alfred Dampier and John F. Sheridan; **Orig Mus. 1886:** Herbert Percy [aka H. Percy Kehoe] (incl. overture) and Professor Miller; **Add Mus.** [n/e] • **Orig Mus. 1890:** J. A. Robertson; **Add Mus/Lyr.** [n/e]

According to the *Brisbane Courier* theatre critic in 1890, this version of Harriet Beecher Stowe's "moral and religious drama," was "widely different from the orthodox rendering." Indeed, the advertising, which calls attention to "the songs, the dances, the lovely melodies, the sparkling humour, the light and brightness, the happy tout ensemble of this entire production," suggests that it was more in line with minstrel entertainment than with the sentiments traditionally associated with story's dramatic retelling. In this respect the *Courier* notes that "in Mr Sheridan's version the sentimental defects of the original drama have to a great extent been rectified, and [that] the possibilities of the plot for scenic display have been more largely availed of:"

Instead of aiming to make his audience weep Mr Sheridan has sought to amuse them, and though he may have taken liberties with the accepted idea of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the end has certainly justified the means. The drama has lost some of its painful original characteristics, and has taken on itself lighter, brighter and more healthy qualities. Advantage has been taken of the plantation scenes to introduce songs and dances which, while giving a realistic effect, open up quite a fund of amusement. The music was rendered by a choir which sang the negro melodies with expression. The dances, such as would be seen at a minstrel entertainment, harmonised well with the surroundings of the plantation (6).

Reports from newspapers in 1886 and 1890 also indicate that the productions staged in 1890 took the variety theatre aspects to a much higher level. In addition to members of the Bristol Musical Comedy Company, which supplemented the "dramatic" endeavours of the Williamson, Garner and Musgrove's Royal Dramatic Company, were a number of high profile minstrels - namely Charlie Pope, Walsh and Kennedy, specialist banjo musician Hosa Easton (Melbourne) and Harry Crawford and the Bovis Brothers (Brisbane).

The 1890 production incorporated the following scenes. Act 1 Sc 1. The Old Kentucky House; Sc 2. The Interior of Shelby's House; Sc 3. Uncle Tom's Cabin; Sc 4. "The Birthday Festival" - introducing "Children Come Along" (chorus), "Down Where the Sugar Cane Grows (song and dance by Messrs Bovis, Crawford and Bovis), "Billy's Dream" (Charles Pope), Duet and sand dance (Walsh and Kennedy), "Roll Jordan Roll" (Easton and Company), "Tell Us What De're Gwine to Do"(Messrs Fredericks, Easton and company), "My Lord Deliver Daniel" (Easton and company); Act 2 Sc 1. Tavern on the Ohio River Banks; Sc 2. Wood Sc 3. The Frozen River, The Great Ice Scene, Escape of Eliza; Act 3. Deck of Mississippi Steamer; Act 4 Sc 1. St Clare's Cotton Plantation - Happy Southern Life scenes and "Eva's Birthday" - incl. "Who's Dat a Callin'" (Gracie Whiteford), banjo solo and orchestral accompaniment by Hosea Easton; clog dances by Bovis Bros, Maher Bros and Watts and Swift; banjo quintette and dance by Messrs Easton, Marion and Misses Bell, Whiteford and Arline; musical sketches by Minnie Bell and Dace Marion; "De Trumpet in de Cornfield" by Charles Pope; double quartette song and dance by Messrs Crawford, Bovis Bros, Maher Bros, Marion, and Watts and Swift; Sc 2. Room in St Clare's House; Sc 3. Exterior of St Clare's House and "Death of Eva"; Act 5 Sc 1. Slave Sale; Sc 2. Rocky Pass; Sc 3. Legree's Slave Quarters; Death of Uncle Tom, Bowie Knife Fight between Legree and George Harris.

NB: Although recorded as having been adapted by Dampier and Sheridan from the Harriet Beecher Stowe novel, this version may also bear some relationship to the production Dampier first staged in Australia in 1879.

- 1886:** Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 13 Feb. - 12 Mar. [24 pfms]
 - **Mngr.** B. N. Jones and Fred Gunther; **Lse.** John Solomon; **M Arr.** Professor Miller; **M Dir.** Herbert Percy; **S Art.** William Kinchela.
 - **Troupe:** Alfred Dampier Company.
 - **Cast** incl. May Livingstone, Myra Kemble, Hetty Sherwood, Julia Merton, Alfred Dampier, John F. Sheridan, C. H. Lewis, Harry Leston, Harry Stoneham, Alfred Boothman, Sarah Washington and the Hampton Students (jubilee singers), The Big 8 (dancers), The Old Dominion Quartette (singers).
 - **Musicians:** Gaiety Orchestra.
- 1890:** Opera House, Melbourne; 1 Feb. -
 - **Dir.** John F. Sheridan; **Prod.** MacMahon Bros; **M Dir/Cond.** J. A. Robertson; **Orch Ldr.** Mr Lindsell; **S Art.** George Gordon.
 - **Troupes:** Williamson, Garner and Musgrove's Royal Dramatic Co and the Bristol Musical Comedy Co.
 - **Cast:** John F. Sheridan (Jurisprudence Marks), Royal Dramatic Co - incl. Edith Blande, J. H. Clyndes, A. Bucklaw, Wilmot Eyre, W. Calvert, W. F. Clitherow; Bristol Co - incl. Gracie Whitford, Lena Salinger, Nellie Arline, Fanny Wiseman, Minnie Bell, Alice Austin, Alfred James, Wilfrid Carr, Harry Crawford, Charles Bovis, Billy Bovis, H. Marion, S. Allen.

OPERA HOUSE.
 Lessee Mr. J. B. HURRIE.
 Under the Management of Messrs. MACMAHON.
EASTER ATTRACTION EXTRAORDINARY.
THE FAMOUS COMEDIAN,
MR. JOHN F. SHERIDAN,
 Season Commencing
EASTER MONDAY, 7th APRIL.
MESSRS. MACMAHON
 Have made arrangements as above with
MR. JOHN F. SHERIDAN,
 Who will appear in the original character creation
 with which his name is associated far and near,
 although not hitherto presented by him in Brisbane.

A Powerful Combination of
TWO COMPANIES
 Will combine their forces, assisted by an enormous
 number of Auxiliaries.

OUR SPECIALTY ARTISTS.

Miss Gracie Whiteford, Miss Lena Salinger, Miss Minnie Bell, Mr. Charles Bovis, Mr. Harry Crawford, Mr. Alfred James, Mr. C. S. Fredericks, Mr. F. Maher.	Miss Nellie Arline, Miss Fanny Wiseman, Miss May Melville, Mr. William Bovis, Mr. David Marion, Mr. Hosea Easton, Mr. Charles Swift, Mr. C. Maher.
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OUR DRAMATIC ARTISTS.

Miss Rosa Towers, Miss Clara Edmonds, Miss Lillie Ellis, Miss Kittie Fraser, Mr. B. Royal, Mr. Wilfrid Carr, Mr. C. Clitheroe.	Miss Alice Austin, Miss Julie Williams, Mrs. Katie Whiteford, Miss Clara Robertson, Mr. Alfred James, Mr. F. J. Montague, Mr. Julius Erickson.
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Mr. J. A. ROBERTSON, Musical Conductor,
 and
 Mr. JOHN F. SHERIDAN,
 The whole forming a Combination of Extraordinary
 Excellence.

GRAND PRODUCTION
 Of the great Moral and Religious Drama,
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.

Brisbane Courier 5 Apr. (1890), 2.

- Special engagements: Kate Douglas, Marian Medway, Mabel Russell, Charles Pope, James R. Walsh, T. A. Kennedy, Watts and Swift, Maher Bros, Hosia Easton (banjo).

1890: Opera House, Brisbane; 5-15 Apr.

- **Dir.** John F. Sheridan; **Prod.** MacMahon Bros; **M Dir/Cond.** J. A. Robertson; **Orch Ldr.** Mr Lindsell; **S Art.** George Gordon.
- **Cast** incl. John F. Sheridan (Jurisprudence Marks), Alfred James (Simon Legree), Fanny Wiseman (Topsy), Gracie Whiteford (Eva), Hosea Easton (Uncle Tom), Rosa Towers (Eliza Harris), Lena Salinger (Miss Ophelia), Bert Royle, Clara Edmonds, F. J. Montague, Julius Erickson, Julius Erickson, Lillie Ellis, Kittie Fraser, Wilfred Carr, C. Clitheroe, Alice Austin, Julie Williams, Katie Whiteford, Clara Robertson, Harry Crawford, C. S. Fredericks P. Maher, Nellie Arlins, May Melville, William Bovis, David Marion, Charles Swift, C. Maher.

"**Evening Amusements: The Opera House.**" *Brisbane Courier* 8 Apr. (1890), 6. [see also advert. - 5, 12 Apr. 1890, 2]

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

"**Opera House: Uncle Tom's Cabin.**" *Age* 3 Feb. (1890), 5.

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN RE-PAINTED: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** Lance Lenton; **Mus.** [n/e]

In this burlesque version of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Legree is an asthmatic, and is also beaten up by Uncle Tom. Lenton's production was undertaken in response to the Dampier and Sheridan version then running at the Gaiety Theatre.

1886: Academy of Music, Sydney; 27 Feb. - 12 Mar. [12 pfms]

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
- **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan, W. A. Ball, W. Horace Bent, George Turner, E. Amery, Beaumont Read, Lou Braham.

"**Academy of Music.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Mar. (1886), 8.

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

ALL BLACK: [burlesque] **Txt.** Lance Lenton; **Mus.** incl. Nicholas La Feuillade

A burlesque on Hugh Conway and Comyn Carr's psychological romance, *Called Back*, and "written expressly for the Federals by Lance Lenton... in One Act and Four Tableaux" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 13 Mar. 1886, 2), *All Black* was presented as the concluding section of the Federal Minstrels' program. The action is presented in the following order: Sc 1. Tableaux "A Sydney Hash Palace," The Blind (drunk) Witness; Sc 2. Tableaux "A Street in Woolloomooloo," The Vanished (right) Past; Sc 3. Tableaux "Darlinghurst Gaol," A Black (burnt-cork) Lie; Sc 4. Tableaux "Tracked to Darlinghurst," Hauled Back, More Dinner. The chorus provided the additional roles of "Prisoners from the Land of the Free."

A *Sydney Morning Herald* review makes the following comments: "The Italians are made to speak with the broadest Irish accents, and the secret with which the villain of the piece dies, instead of being the history of a terrible crime, is the much more harmless mystery concerning the manufacture of ice creams" ("Academy," 5).

ental score by Nicholas La Feuillade, several songs and dances. The incident in Darlinghurst," and "the scene in Darlinghurst realised from a *orning Herald* 13 Mar. 1886, 2).

1886: Academy of Music, Sydney; 13-19 Mar.

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
- **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan (Dr Ceneri, an Italian musician), W. A. Ball (Pauline March), W. Horace Bent (Paolo Macari, an Italian musician), George Turner (Gilbert Vaughan), Lou Braham (Gaoler), Alf Moynham (Anthony March).

"**Academy of Music, The.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 Mar. (1886), 5.

Sydney Morning Herald 13 Mar. (1886), 2. Advert.

Terminating with the Burlesque on "Called Back," written expressly for the Federals by Lance Lenton, entitled

ALL BLACK,
In One Act and Four Tableaux.

Cast of Characters:

Paolo Macari	} Italian Musicians ...	W. Horace Bent
Dr. Ceneri		Sam Keenan
Gilbert Vaughan ("Oh, Vaughan See!")	...	Geo. Turner
Anthony March (not a Pri-liant Young Man)	...	Alf. Moynham
Gaoler (a Darling cursed by Fate)	...	L. Braham
Pauline March (Mad as a March hare, Oin ma chere	...	W. Ball
Prisoners from the Land of the Free.		

Act 1—Tableaux 1—A Sydney Hash Palace. The Blind (drunk) Witness. Act 2.—A Street in Woolloomooloo. The Vanished (right) Past. Act 3—Darlinghurst Gaol. A Black (burnt-cork) Lie—Tracked to Darlinghurst. Act 3—Hauled Back. More Dinner. The incidental music arranged by N. La Feuillade. Costumes from designs furnished by a resident in Darlinghurst. The scene in Darlinghurst realised from a trumpy picture, by a French-Polish-er painter.

Sydney Morning Herald 13 Mar. (1886), 2.

LITTLE DON GIOVANNI; OR, THE MAID, THE MASHER AND THE MARBLE

MAN: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** F. W. Hume, John L. Hall and Frank St Clare; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted expressly by Hall and St Clare, and localised by Fergus Hume, from H. J. Byron's burlesque *Little Don Giovanni; Or, Leporello and the Stone Statue* (1865). The *Argus* theatre critic, who was not overly impressed with the production writes: "The manner in which the performance opened was promising, but the unmistakable indications afterwards given of insufficient rehearsal were disappointing, while the tone of the dialogue and action is susceptible of improvement (19 Apr. 1886, 6).

The relationship between this production of *Little Don Giovanni* and that staged by Harry Leston in 1892 for Dan Tracey's season at the Sydney School of Arts is unclear, and are thus treated separately [see 1892 entry for details].

- 1886:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 17 Apr. - 4 May
- **Dir.** John L. Hall; **Mngr/Lse.** Frank St Clare; **S Art.** Harry Whaite.
 - **Troupe:** Amy Horton Burlesque Co.
 - **Cast** incl. Amy Horton, John L. Hall, Mons. Loredon, C. B. Dobson, A. Thornton, Blanche Lewis, Nita Franks, Carrie Bilton, Maud Cameron, Idrene Thornton, Miss G. Warbuton, Nellie Lovell, Constance Percival, Gracie Denville, Louisa Malvoise.

Argus 17 Apr. (1886), 16. **Advert.**

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

"**St George's Hall.**" *Argus* 19 Apr. (1886), 6.

DOCTOR FAUSTUS; OR, THE DEMON, THE DAME, THE DOCTOR AND THE DAMSEL: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** F. W. Hume, John L. Hall and Frank St Clare; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted expressly by Hall and St Clare, and localised by Furgus Hume, from B. L. Farjeon's *Faust* burlesque (first produced at the Princess Theatre, Dunedin in 1865).

- 1886:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 5-14 May
- **Dir.** John L. Hall; **Mngr.** Frank St Clare and Buchan Hepburn; **Lse.** Frank St Clare; **S Art.** Harry Whaite.
 - **Troupe:** Amy Horton's Burlesque Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Amy Horton (Faust), John L. Hall (Mephistopheles), Blanche Lewis (Siebel), Harry Hall (Dame Martha), Nita Franks (Marguerita), Carrie Bilton (Annette), Mons Loredon (Valentine), Maud Cameron (Katrine), Nellie Lovell (Hans), Master J. Hall (Mephistopheles fils), Irene Thornton (Rudolph), Georgina Warburton (Fritz), Louise Malvoise (Carl), Constance Percival (Franz), Lillie Mayfield (Adolph), Bertha Nicks (Wilhelm), C. B. Dobson (First Soldier), A. Thornton (Second Soldier), J. Irving (Third Soldier).

Argus 5 May (1886), 8. **Advert.**

Editorial. *Argus* 6 May (1886), 5.

"**Entertainments; The Theatres etc.**" *Australasian* 8 May (1886), 27.

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

ACIS AND GALATEA; THE NIMBLE NYMPH AND THE TERRIBLE TROGLODYTE: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** John L. Hall and Frank St Clare; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted and localised by Hall and St Clare from F.C. Burnand's extravaganza of the same name (1863), it has Acis the Sicilian shepherd and the giant Polyphemus compete for the love of the sea-nymph Galatea. The production also included the eruption of Vesuvius spectacular and a tableaux of imperial federation.

- 1886:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 15-28 May [12 pfms]
- **Dir/S Mngr.** John L. Hall; **Mngr.** Frank St Clare and Buchan Hepburn; **Lse.** Frank St Clare; **S Art.** Harry Whaite.
 - **Troupe:** Amy Horton's Burlesque Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Amy Horton, Blanche Lewis, Nita Franks, Carrie Bilton, Maud Cameron, Nellie Lovell, Irene Thornton, Clarice Claremont, Annie James, Alma Stanley, Rose Brooklyn, Louise Malvoise, Lillie Mayfield, Bertha Nicks, Julia Percy, Frances Harris, Minnie Basto, John L. Hall, Mons. Loredan, Harry Hall, Master J. Hall, C. B. Dobson, A. Thornton, W. James.
- 1886:** Academy of Music, Brisbane; 2-8 July
- **Dir.** John L. Hall; **Mngr.** Mr and Mrs Frank St Clare, Buchan Hepburn; **Lse.** Fred Duvall, J. Smith and Mr and Mrs Frank St Clare (sub-lessees).
 - **Troupe:** Amy Horton's Burlesque Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Amy Horton, Nita Franks, Amie Brookes, Carrie Bilton, Maud Cameron, Nellie Lovell, Irene Thornton, Clarice Claremont, Lillie Mayfield, Bertha Nicks, Annie Freeman, John L. Hall, Harry Hall, Master J. Hall, C. B. Dobson.

"**Academy of Music: Acis and Galatea.**" *Brisbane Courier* 3 July (1886), 5.

Editorial. *Argus* 17 May (1886), 5.

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

THE JAPANESE DISTRICT: [burlesque] **Txt.** [n/e]; **Mus.** incl. Nicholas La Feuillade

A loosely plotted theatrical/musical burlesque on the *Japanese Village* exhibition which was being presented by Permber-ton W. Willard at the Exhibition Building in Sydney (24 Apr. - 10 July), *The Japanese District* was first staged by F. E. Hiscocks as

the exhibition season drew to a close. He revived it later in the year during the Federal Minstrels Melbourne season. The *Japanese Village* exhibition had also transferred to the Victorian capital by that time.

Advertising for the initial production notes that the Federal Minstrels' program, "strengthened by the addition of ... Hiscocks' troupe of Japanese Villagers... is "to conclude with a Burlesque entitled *The Japanese District*, introducing a tribe of Japanese unheard of in this or any other country" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 June 1886, 2). Characters include a razor swallower to the Court of Yung Fum; the Japanese Man Monkey; The Wizard of Riley Street, Yokohama; a sword and tightrope walker, the Ariel King (to be fired from a cannon), and a Japanese quartette ("whose voices range from latchkey to whiskey). The production is advertised as being accompanied by "a full and efficient Japanese Orchestra, late of St James Hall, Piccadilly.

[NB 1: It is possible that the Sydney season of *The Japanese District* was presented earlier than 3 July. If so the dates are yet to be confirmed]

[NB 2: The Melbourne Japanese Village exhibition was held at the corner of Lonsdale and Exhibition Streets, ca.Oct/Nov.]

- 1886:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 3-10, 14 July
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and A Litherland; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillarde.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
- 1886:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 30 Oct. -
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and A. Litherland; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillarde.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.

Age 30 Oct. (1886), 12. **Advert.**

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

"**Other Places of Amusement.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 5 July (1886), 5.

Sydney Morning Herald 24 Apr. (1886), 2. **Advert.** [re: Japanese Village exhibition]

Sydney Morning Herald 26 June (1886), 2. **Advert.**

STRUCK "CASTOR" OIL: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

A musical spoof on the famous *Struck Oil* drama (then being revived by J. C. Williamson at the Theatre Royal), it was written expressly for Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels. The settings were: Act 1. The Boot-Breaker's Shop; Act 2. The Unlicensed Hotel; Act 3. The Bear Cage in Darlinghurst; Act 4. The Castor Oil Town; and Act 5. The Friendly Dishcover.

- 1886:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 10-16 July
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent (Jack Stowful), Sam Keenan (Mrs Stowful), W. A. Ball (Sneakon Fatter), Alf Moynham (Sgt. Whitcher), J. S. Porter (Corp. Whater), E. Amery (Corn Doctor), Alf Lawton (Lizzie Stowful). Additional roles included larrikins and policemen.

Sydney Morning Herald 10 July (1886), 2. **Advert.**

FUN IN A FOG; OR, THE PIRATES OF NEW GUINEA: [musical farce] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as "an entirely new, musical, and aquatic farce," written expressly for Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels. The supporting characters included pirates, sailors and fishermen.

[NB: It is unclear as to whether or not this piece is related to similarly titled farce which presented as an afterpiece for a complimentary benefit for Colonel Ike Austin at the Theatre Royal (Brisbane) on 23 Oct 1885. That production of *Fun In A Fog* (without the sub-title) was also advertised as "entirely new" (*Brisbane Courier* 23 Oct. 1885, 1). It included among its cast Mr and Mrs T. Empson, J. T. Gordon, Signor Bianchi, Jenny Nye and Tilly Lake. Likewise there does not seem to be any relationship between this production and a similarly titled musical comedy *In A Fog* (written by Fred Davys), which was first staged by Harry Rickards in 1890.]

- 1886:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 14 Aug. -
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **Mngr.** A. L. Cunard; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. George Turner (Duikey), Alf Lawton (P. T. W. S. Smith), T. Gall (Quiet Angler), W. A. Ball (Major Bluster), Alf Moynham (Mr Shindah), J. S. Porter (Mr Clinker), W. Horace Bent (Miss Jennie), Sam Keenan (Miss Fannie).

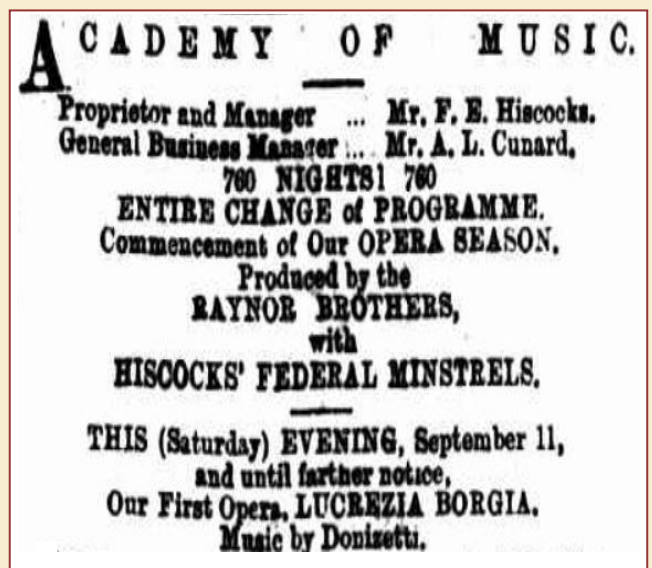
Sydney Morning Herald 14 Aug. (1886), 2. **Advert.**

LUCREZIA BORGIA: [burlesque] **Txt.** Charles and Harry Raynor; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described in advertising as a "Burlesque Opera Italiano" the production spoofed Gaetano Donizetti's 1833 opera.

- 1886:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 11- ca. 26 Sept.
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.

Evening News (Syd) 11 Sept. (1886), 1.



ACADEMY OF MUSIC.
Proprietor and Manager ... Mr. F. E. Hiscocks.
General Business Manager ... Mr. A. L. Cunard,
700 NIGHTS! 700
ENTIRE CHANGE of PROGRAMME.
Commencement of Our OPERA SEASON.
Produced by the
RAYNOR BROTHERS,
with
HISCOCKS' FEDERAL MINSTRELS.
THIS (Saturday) EVENING, September 11,
and until farther notice,
Our First Opera, LUCREZIA BORGIA.
Music by Donizetti.

- **Cast** incl. Charles Raynor (Jeremiah Mosquito), Harry Raynor (Kanib Kanniblee), Anetta Scasi (Lucrezia), Tom Gall (Gumbetta), George Turner (Il Negressa), J. S. Porter (Rhustifello), Harry Carroll (Maffio Orsini), Lou Braham (Genarro), E. Amery (Duke Alphonso).

1886: New South Wales Regional tour; 4-15 Oct.

- Production and cast likely the same as for the Sydney season
- Tour itinerary incl. Newcastle (4-9 Oct.) • Goulburn (11-12 Oct.) • Wagga Wagga (13 Oct.) • Albury (14-15 Oct.)
- *Lucrezia Borgia* is recorded as being performed in Newcastle (4 Oct.), Goulburn (11 Oct.), and Wagga Wagga (12 Oct.)

1886: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 16-22 Oct.

- Cast and production as for previous Sydney season.
- *Lucrezia Borgia* was presented as the opening production of Hiscock's Melbourne season.

Age 16 Oct. (1886), 12. **Advert.**

Editorial. *Argus* 18 Oct. (1886), 6.

Sydney Morning Herald 25 Sept. (1886), 2. **Advert.**

MARITANA: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque on Wallace's opera, it was possibly written and arranged by W. Horace Bent. The *Argus* theatre critic writes of his performance: "Mr W. H. Bent supplied the main element of the amusement to the manifest satisfaction of the audience" (Editorial, 5).

1886: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 23-29 Oct.

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. Anetta Scasi (Maritana), George Turner (Impressario), J. S. Porter (Captain of the Guard), Lou Braham (Don Kaiser de Bassoon), E. Amery (Don Nose), W. Horace Bent (Joshia, afterwards King of Spain).

Age 23 Oct. (1886), 12. **Advert.**

Editorial. *Argus* 25 Oct. (1886), 5.

CLOTILDE; OR, THE CRUSHED HEART: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "new burlesque on the society drama, *Clotilde*, this Federal Minstrels production was possibly adapted and localised by W. Horace Bent.

1886: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 6-12 Nov.

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Burlesque Opera Troupe.
- **Cast** incl. George Turner (Clotilde), Sam Keenan (Victor), W. Horace Bent (Herbert), J. S. Porter (Sir Michael), Alf Moynham (Roger), Lou Braham (Monicalm), Harry Carroll (Beatrice), Tom Gall.

Age 6 Nov. (1886), 12. **Advert.**

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT, A PANTOMIME WITH PURR-PUSS:

[pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Lance Lenton; **Orig Mus.** Herbert Percy [aka H. Percy Kehoe]; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by Lance Lenton from the popular pantomime story, the libretto is said to have contained local jokes and topical hits. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reviewer was quite critical of the production, however, suggesting that it had "an almost total absence of plot" ("*Royal Standard*," 3).

ROYAL STANDARD THEATRE.

Lencee ... Mr. Frank Smith.
 Manager for Mr. F. Smith ... Mr. J. Grant.

Under the Management of Mr. DAMPIER.

*** A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
 TO ALL.***

THE ROYAL STANDARD CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME.

PRICES OF ADMISSION.
 Dress circle and orchestra chairs, 3s; stalls, 2s; pit, 1s.

Mr. DAMPIER
 has much pleasure in announcing that on
BOXING NIGHT
 and **EVERY EVENING**
 will be presented,
 for the first time in Sydney,
DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT,
 a **PANTOMIME** with a **PURR—PUSS!**
 Re-written and locally adapted by **LANCE LENTON.**

Illustrated with magnificent scenery by Kinchela.

Aided by startling mechanical effects by Renno.

Footised by new and charming music selected by the author and
 composed and arranged by Herbert Percy.

Beautified by gorgeous costumes from the firms of
 Amiti and Co., London and Paris,
 and Mark Foy, Sydney.

The 1895 revival, staged under the auspices of Frank York and George A. Jones, is attributed to Lenton by the *Brisbane Courier* theatre critic, and is therefore likely to have been similar in respect of storyline. It would nevertheless have included new comic material along with up-to-date songs and new local hits and allusions.

1886: Royal Standard Theatre, Sydney; 27 Dec. 1886 - 22 Jan. 1887 [24 pfms]

- **Dir.** Alfred Dampier and Lance Lenton; **Prod.** J. Grant and Alfred Dampier; **Lse.** Frank Smith; **M Dir/Arr.** Herbert Percy; **S Art.** William Kinchela; **Cost.** Amiti and Co and Mark Foy; **S Mngr.** J. B. Marsh; **Com Sc.** Walter Cottier.
- **Cast** incl. Sophie Harris, Alice Wooldridge, Mr and Mrs Harry Leston, Miss Courtland, Blossie Bellwood, Tottie Coote, Miss Prior, Ada Lucas, Miss E. Fitzgerald, Fanny Wiseman [aka Mrs South], Blanche Grace, Jennie Horan, Ada De Courcy, Lena Merrick, Charles Bovis, Julius Caesar, W. E. Baker, Alf James, Mr North, Mr Hardiman, Master Murray, Walter, Harry and Ernest Cottier, Master Harry Quealy, J. Thorpe, Harry Stoneham, Alberto De Voy, Mr Rosier, Mr Butler, Frank York, Mr Stephenson.

Sydney Morning Herald 27 Dec. (1886), 2.

- 1895:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 5 Jan. -
- **Prod/Mngr/Lse.** Frank H. York and George A. Jones; **Dir.** George A. Jones and Mr Coutts-Duvalli; **B Mngr.** Lance Lenton.
- **Troupe:** York and Jones' Empire Company.
- **Cast** incl. Annetta Bodin, Millie Herberte, John Williams, Edith Moore, Frank York (Baron de Wolf), Jake Friedman, George A. Jones, Aggie Gray, Annie Gray, Lorrie St George, Harry Gilbert, Gus Franks, Frank Wyatt, Sam Keenan, Miss J. Bartella, Little Ivy Scott.

"**Amusements: The Pantomime.**" *Brisbane Courier* 7 Jan. (1895), 5.

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

"**Royal Standard: Dick Whittington and His Cat.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. (1886), 3.

WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Walter S. Craven; **Mus** incl. Frank Fowler
Fairy Queen and Mischief preside over the fortunes of Whittington, who falls in love with Alice Fitzwarren. They are wrecked on the island of King Jumbo. Cat cleans up the plague of rats, bringing about the marriage of Dick and Alice.
The pantomime contains local jokes and references.

- 1886:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 27 Dec. 1886 - 15 Jan. 1887 [18 pfms]
- **Prod.** Charles MacMahon and George Leitch; **Lse.** J. B. Hickie; **M Dir/Arr.** Frank Fowler; **S Art.** George Campbell; **S Mngr.** Charles Seagrave.
- **Cast** incl. Addie Capper, Jessie Gray, Nellie Greenless, Florry Russell, Miss Leighford, Miss Clairmont, Thomas H. Rainford, J. P. O'Neill, Edward Palmer, Charles Seagrave, Alf Lawton, Mr Montgomery, A. L. Inglis, Fred Garnett, Mr Ryan, Mr Lyndon, Mr Sorrell.

"**Evening Amusements: The Pantomime.**" *Brisbane Courier* 28 Dec. (1886), 5.

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

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY; OR, HARLEQUIN MOTHER GOOSE AND THE SEVEN CHAMPIONS: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Alfred Maltby; **Mus.** [n/e]

Especially adapted and localised for Williamson, Garner and Musgrove by Alfred Maltby, "the London comedian and litterateur," the *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critic proposes that although containing the traditional harlequinade (invented and performed by the Faust Family), *Sleeping Beauty* was more a burlesque than pantomime. "It is not exactly the kind of pantomime which is best suited to children," writes the critic, even though "there is no trace of vulgarity in it. Maltby has written a very bright piece, full of puns and smart sayings and comical conceits... [and] for a modern pantomime [it] is a remarkably good one, and should fill the Theatre Royal for many weeks to come" ("Theatre Royal," 3).

Characters include Prince Austral (the Champion of Federation) and his fairy godmothers, the seven sisters of Australasia.

One of the hits of the production is said to have been "I'm a Marquis, You Know," sung by six-year old Daisy Faust.

- 1886:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 27 Dec. 1886 - 4 Feb. 1887 [41 pfms]
- **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner and George Musgrove; **Lse.** Samuel Lazar; **S Art.** George Gordon.
- **Cast** incl. Emma Chambers (Prince Austral), Amy Horton (Princess Beauty), Pattie Brown (Fairy Progressa), Ella Fortesque (Queen Amora), R. Watson (Maligna, the Wicked Fairy), Samuel Nelson (Apple Sauce), J. R. Greville, George Leopold, Fred Dark, Miss Fredericks, Mde. Pasta Moore, Mary Weir, Ethel Gray, Carrie Davy, Miss Sinclair, Miss Tennyson, Miss Barry, Little Edith, Miss Moore, Gertrude Powys, Miss Mortyne, Miss Denville, Miss Tennyson, Miss Morgan, Miss Davey, Miss Brooke, Amy and Nellie Vaughan, Lena Saunders, Mlle. Bulter, Mlle. Zeplin, Miss I. Moore, Misses Eugene and Louise Faust, Mr Bartlett, Mr Stanford, Herr Von der Mehden (leader of the Royal Zylephontians), Charles and Harry Raynor, Fred, Robert and E. Faust, Arthur Farley.

"**Theatre Royal.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. (1886), 3.

ROBINSON CRUSOE: [pantomime] **Lib.** Alfred Maltby;
Orig Mus. Alfred Cellier; **Add Mus.** [n/e].

In reviewing the opening night production the *Argus* critic writes: 'Mr Alfred Maltby has made the old familiar story the groundwork of a smartly-written burlesque, containing as many puns, good, bad and indifferent, as could well be compressed within the same amount of space, and his stage experience has enabled him to devise scenes, situations, and incidents affording the freest scope for pictorial illustration, as well as for the introduction of glittering processions, variegated ballets, and a whole menagerie of wild and domesticated animals, to say nothing of the most realistic storm at sea that has yet been seen upon the Melbourne boards' ("Theatre Royal," 6).

The pantomime begins "with the time-honoured chorus of invisible demons" attempting to create mayhem within the world of mortals. In this instance they plan to strew the English coast with wrecks. The setting then changes to Hull, where Mrs Crusoe keeps a school of some 40 to 50 children, and where Crusoe and Will Atkins are rivals for Polly. When Crusoe enters he declares his intention to go to sea and make his fortune, but not before marrying Polly. He is overheard by Atkins, however, and soon afterwards finds himself kidnapped by a band of pirates (on the orders of Atkins) and carried off to sea. The act ends with some fairy business in the Valley of the Sweet waters, followed by the storm and subsequent wrecking of Crusoe's ship on the island of Juan Fernandez. The following act sees Crusoe discovered by Friday and Tuesday Afternoon, while the Atkins brothers, Polly, Ms

Crusoe and a donkey (to which the dame is very attached) also find themselves shipwrecked on the island. All the new arrivals are watched by the island's natives, led by King Cockatoo and his son and daughter. The son, prince Koko also falls in love with Polly and this leads to all sorts of trouble as Crusoe and Atkins find themselves competing against each other and the prince for the young lady. Further complications arise, too, when Tuesday Afternoon makes advances on Mrs Crusoe, "much to that lady's indignation." The act ends with a Procession of Princes. In the last act the ship-wrecked Europeans are brought before the King at his palace gate while a festival is underway. The scene is said to have been resplendent with kangaroos, alligators (?), emus, and a miscellaneous collection of wild beats, along with a scantily but splendidly attired corps de ballet. The King orders that all the strangers be cooked for the royal feast, and in the next scene the royal ovens are seen to be fiercely heated. The first to be placed in an oven is Will Atkins, but just as he begins to brown a demon appears and thrusts the King himself into an oven. "Happily, he is rescued, like the rest of the characters, by the opportune arrival of Fairy Swansdown." The production then saw a comic medley played out between Julie Simmons, Harry Cogill, Augustus Glover, William Elton and Alice Johns, prior to the transformation scene and closing harlequinade.

The transformation scene is described in the *Argus* as a scene "of remarkable beauty, as poetical in its inception as it is brilliant in its execution, opening with a view of the broad ocean, illuminated by the glow of the setting sun, and bearing on its tranquil breast a freight of tuneful children who seem to be on their way to 'The Fortunate Isles' where yellow birds sing... and changing to the depths of the mysterious main, with its 'sand-strewn caverns, cool and deep'" (ibid, 6).

NB: Alfred Maltby reworked the pantomime with H. H. Vincent for a season at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, beginning 26 December 1887. [See 1887 entry]

1886: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 27 Dec. 1886 - 4 Feb. 1887 [34 pfms]

- **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner and George Musgrove; **M Dir.** Herr Winthius; **M Arr.** Alfred Cellier; **S Art.** John Hennings and John Brunton; **Chor.** Signor Borzoni; **Cost.** Miss Nathan and Alfred Maltby (designer); **S Mngr.** John Wallace.
- **Cast** incl. Alice Johns (Robinson Crusoe), Augustus Glover (Will Atkins), Ada Lee (Polly Perkins), William Elton (Mrs Crusoe), John Wallace (Tommy Atkins), Richard Stewart (King Cockatoo), Docy Stewart (his son, Prince Koko), Sarah Ford (his daughter, Princess Chicoree), Harry Daniels (Lord Durtiwork), Arthur Lessant (Demon King), Julie Simmons (Fairy Swansdown), Charles W. Cogill (Friday), Harry P. Cogill (Tuesday Afternoon), Miss Franks, Mathews Brothers (monkeys). - **Harlequinade** - Boleno Brown (Harlequin), Tilly Lake [aka Mrs John Edouin] (Columbine), Charles Matthews (Pantaloon), Theodore Matthews (Clown), George Lee (Policeman), Master Carl Matthew (Spider Policeman).

"**Entertainments: The Theatres etc.**" *Australasian* 1 Jan. (1886), 27.

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

"**Robinson Crusoe at the Theatre Royal.**" *Age* 28 Dec. (1886), 6.

"**Theatre Royal: Robinson Crusoe.**" *Argus* 28 Dec. (1886), 6. [see also **advert.** - 25 Dec. 1886, 12]

A TRIP TO THE MOON; OR, HARLEQUIN THE WITTY-UN AND THE KATS, AND THE SLEEPLESS BEAUTIES: [pantomime] Lib Adapt/Mus. [n/e]

"Derived from the French and adapted expressly for the Federals," this "Black Pantomime" was described as "entirely different from any former production of the kind, and impossible to any similar organisation" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Dec. 1886, 2). A similarly titled burlesque, with Lionel Rignold in the role of King Cosmos, is known to have been staged at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, ca.1883/4.

The first act is set on "The House Tops," where burglars disturb a royal astronomer and "sleeping beauties making love by moonlight." A strange lunar phenomenon is discovered in the Witty-un and the Kats. Act Two "In the Moon," contains episodes such as Dr Lynseed cutting a man to pieces and a vanishing lady, and scenes such as "The Chinese Must Go," "The Nimrod Fishing Club," "The Devil among the Tailors," and "Out of the Moon into Infinite Space."

1886: Academy of Music, Sydney; 27 Dec. 1886 - 14 Jan. 1887

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **Mngr.** W. T. Smythe.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan (Plato), Alf Moynham (Caesar), W. Horace Bent (Copernicus Podgers, the Witty-un), J. S. Porter (Lothario), George Turner (Matron Dobbs), Harry Carroll (Venus), Lou Braham and T. Gall (the Sleepless Beauties), Woodward Brothers (The Kats).

Sydney Morning Herald 25 Dec. (1886), 2. **Advert.**

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.			
Proprietor and Manager			F. E. Hiscocks.
Treasurer			W. T. Smythe.
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.			
TO-NIGHT, CHRISTMAS EVE,			
HISCOCKS'S FEDERAL MINSTRELS			
AND SPECIALITY UNION,			
In their Ever Popular Entertainment with			
NEW-FACES and NEW NOVELTIES.			
Now performing to Crowded Houses nightly, causing screams			
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Mrs. Harrison's, Castlereagh-street, near Academy: Carriages			
10.15.			
NOTICE.—MONDAY NEXT, BOXING NIGHT,			
Will be produced the funniest of all			
PANTOMIMES,			
entitled			
A TRIP TO THE MOON;			
or Harlequin the Witty-un, and the Kats, and			
THE SLEEPLESS BEAUTIES,			
written especially for the Federals.			

Evening News 24 Dec. (1886), 1.

Last updated: 17/09/2016

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

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