

1889

The Leslie Brothers, Fred and Will, were a popular act on the Australian stage for many years, specialising in routines or sketches based on or around musical instrument performances. While some of these pieces are known to have incorporated a structured plot, most are believed to have been presented more along the lines of the vaudeville turn. The musical sketches known to have been staged by the pair during 1889, but which may not fall within the parameters of this survey include: *Wagner Outdone* (Gaiety Theatre, Sydney, 20 Apr.).

HAPPY NEW SOUTH WALES: [entertainment] Txt Adapt/Mus. [n/e]

An "Entirely New Musical Extravaganza" which made reference to several prominent politicians, and included characters from William Schwenk Gilbert and Gilbert A'Beckett's burlesque *The Happy Land*. The story is set in "fairylane over a cloud... somewhere near Sydney... [on] January 1, 1889" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Jan. 1889, 2).

- 1889:** Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; 28 Jan. - 16 Feb. [18 pfms]
- **Prod.** Frank Smith; **S Mngr.** Harry Barrington.
- **Cast** incl. Male Fairies - Alf. M. Hazlewood (Lutin), Paddy Maher (Phyllon), Harry Cottier (Ethais); Female Fairies - Marie Mackay (Selene) Amy Blackie (Zayda), Bertha Fanning (Darine), Florence Neville (Nevdie), Lorrie St George (Loerine), Connie Jones (Leila), Miss F. Jackson (Cynisca), Ruby Jones (Pandora), Miss F. Fanning (Alethea); Mortals - Alf James (Gladstone), Walter C. Cottier (Salsibury), Frank Walton (Bright).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pages.
Sydney Morning Herald 28 Jan. (1889), 2. **Advert.**

MARBLE-'OUSE SMELL-BURN: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

A burlesque on Alfred Dampier's production *Marvellous Melbourne*, then playing at the Alexandra Theatre (Melbourne). The scenes in this burlesque included "The Plot Arranged," "In the Yarra," "The Nobbling of Flashlight," "Falls Bridge," "The Chinese Den" and "He Must Not Win the Newmarket."

- 1889:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 16 Feb. - ca. 1 Mar.
- **Prod/Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill; **B Mngr.** Fred Duvall.
- **Troupe:** Cogill Brothers Minstrel and Burlesque Company.
- **Cast** incl. Charles W. Cogill, Harry P. Cogill, Millie Herbert, Pollie Robertson, Tilly Lake, Leslie Brothers

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pages.
Argus 16 Feb. (1889), 18. **Advert.**

LITTLE TROUBADOUR: [burlesque] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

- 1889:** Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; 16-24 Mar.
- **Prod.** Frank Smith; **S Mngr.** Harry Barrington.
- **Cast** incl. Charlie Fanning.

Sydney Morning Herald 16 Mar. (1889), 2. **Advert.**

H.M.S. PINAFORE (IN BLACK): [burlesque] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Staged, according to advertisements in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "by arrangement with Messrs. Williamson, Garner and Musgrove" (20 Apr. 1889, 2).

[NB: It is not clear how much of this burlesque was taken from two earlier productions written by W. Horace Bent. The first was staged under the title, *H.M.S. Pin-A-4*, at St George's Hall in 1880 by Kelly and Leon's Minstrels. The second burlesque staged as *H.M.S. Pinafore In Black*, by Bent and Bachelor's Anglo-Christy Minstrels at the Opera House (Sydney) in 1882. While possibly founded on the 1882 production, this version nevertheless contains some different characters. It should be noted that the cast also included J. S. Porter and Beaumont Read, long-time associates of Bent's]

- 1889:** New Haymarket Music Hall, Sydney; 13 Apr.
- **Prod/Lse.** Herman Florack.
- **Troupe:** Florack's Federal Minstrels.
- **Cast** incl. George Turner (Sir Joseph Stout), Lucy Fraser (Josephine), J. S. Porter (Captain Corkleg), Lucy Cottier (Hebe), Harry Clay (Chafed Haystack), Kate Carey (Phobe), Arthur Farley (Dead Dick Eye), Miss P. Neville (She-Be), Beaumont Read (Boatswain's Mate), Miss P. Foulsham (Sweetee), Charles Holley (Chief Cook), Frank York (Butter-tub), Master Harcourt (Midshipmate).

S T. G E O R G E ' S H A L L
Lessees and Managers Cogill Bros.
The Home of Sable Comedy and Melody.
Our 83rd Week.
Conquering by True Merit Alone,
And Winning Their Way into all Hearts
As the Founders and Architects of
The Golden Era of Refined Minstrelsy.

—
COGILL BROS.'
MINSTREL and BURLESQUE COMPANY.
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY), FEBRUARY 16,
Another New Programme. More New Artists.
First Appearance with this Company of
WILL—The LE-LIE BROS.—FRED,
The Musical Monarch,
In their Acrobatic Musical Comedy, entitled
"Past, Present, and Future."
First Appearance with this Company of
MIS MILLIE HERBERT,
The Favourite Vocalist.
Re-appearance of the Pleasing Soprano,
Miss **POLLIE ROBERTSON.**
First Time of Our Original Burlesque,
MARBLE—OUSE, SMELL—BURN.
An Earthquake of Fun in Three Shakes.

—
Prices—3s., 2s., and 1s.
Box-plan at Nicholson's.
FRED. W. DUVAL, Business Manager.

Argus 16 Feb. (1889), 18.

ONLY A KISS: [musical comedy] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

Described as an "operetta" in a *Sydney Morning Herald* review, *Only a Kiss* is more likely to have been a one act musical comedy, or even a musical farce. It was staged by the Faust Family as one of several second part entertainments, the other turns being a burlesque musical act by Ted Eugene Faust, several vocal numbers by Martyn Hagan, specialties by Lucy Fraser and a farce (described as a pantomime sketch) *Les Terrible Infants* ("Amusements," 11).

- 1889:** Protestant Hall, Sydney; 23 May -
- **Mngr.** M. E. Faust; **B Mngr.** James Morgan.
- **Troupe:** Faust Family Combination Concert Party and the Great London Bellringers.
- **Cast** incl. Faust Family.
- **Musicians** incl. Herr von der Medhen.

"**Amusements.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 May (1889), 11.

TWO LOVELY BLACK EYES; OR, THE SAILOR BOLD AND THE SMUGGLER

SOLD: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

An extensively localised version of the Horace Lennard burlesque *Too Lovely Black-Eyed Susan* (1888).

- 1889:** Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 15 June - 12 July [24 pfms]
- **Mngr.** Pemberton Willard; **M Dir.** J. A. Robinson.
- **Troupe:** Willard-Sheridan English Company.
- **Cast** incl. Gracie Whiteford, Vera Patey, Eva Leamington, Misses K. and M. Howard, Miss Beaufort, Miss Ellis, Miss Casilis, Miss Grant, Nellie Arline, John F. Sheridan, H. M. Imano, Mr Fredericks, Wilfred Carr, Mr Bovis, Mr Crawford, M. Mills, D. Dupp, C. D. Swell, Mr Slingsby.

"**Gaiety Theatre.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 17 June (1889), 8.

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

TONY AND TINA'S TROUBLES: [musical sketch] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Described as a "pretty protean specialty," this society sketch, possibly written by Alf Lawton with additional material by Clara Spencer, introduced "songs, dances and sayings" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 11 Oct. 1889, 2).

- 1889:** Darlinghurst Hall, Sydney; 11 Oct. -
- **Dir/S Mngr.** Martyn Hagan; **M Dir.** Herr von der Mehden.
- **Cast:** Alf Lawton, Clara Spencer.

LITTLE LORD FUNKEY-BOY: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised in the *Argus* as a burlesque it satirises Frances H. Burnett's play *Little Lord Fauntleroy* which was then playing at the Princess's Theatre, Melbourne. Local scenes incorporated into the story included "Yarra Flats" and "Castle De Emerald Hill."

- 1889:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 9-15 Nov.
- **Prod/Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill.
- **Troupe:** Cogill Brothers New Comedy Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Charles W. Cogill, Slade Murray, Charles Fanning, Alf Holland, Lulu Ryan, Percy Ryan, E. Toussard.



Argus 9 Nov. (1889), 16. **Advert.**

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

Left: **Charles Cogill** (State Library of Victoria).

Right: **Harry Cogill** (*Everyone's* 15 Dec 1926, 88)

THE BARBER'S DAUGHTER; OR, THE GREAT KAN-KAN DANCE: [pantomime]

Lib Adapt. John W. Morton; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a comic pantomime extravaganza with topical songs and hits burlesquing Rossini's opera *The Barber of Seville*.

- 1889:** New Opera House, Sydney; 26-28 Dec.
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **Mngr.** J. S. Smith.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' London Pavilion Company.
- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent, Tom Sadler, Mike Big, L. Mike, John Morton, John Fuller, J. S. Porter, John Dornan, M. Charlton, George Turner, Harry Carroll.

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

ALADDIN; OR, HARLEQUIN THE WONDERFUL RING, THE MAGICAL LAMP, AND THE PRETTY YOUNG PRINCESS WHO LOVED A GREAT SCAMP, THE FUNNY OLD DAME AND THE LATEST EDITION OF THE MUSICAL MODEL AND MYSTICAL MAGICIAN: [pantomime] **Lib.** E. W. Royce and Thomas H. Taylor; **Mus.** H. Dedrickson

Marcus and Andrew, 1889.

Also known simply as *Aladdin; Being a New Version of an Old Lamp* it was "cribbed, adapted and locally treated by Mr E. W. Royce" from the traditional *Aladdin* pantomime (*Age* 13 Jan. 1891, 8), with additional material supplied by Taylor. The 1890 Melbourne production was presented under the alternate title, without Taylor's name, however.

The story opens in Egypt, with the scene containing the Sphinx, mummies, Ptolomy and Cheops, sees Ptolomy foretell that the wonderful lamp will be found in Pekin. Abanazer, who very much desires to possess the lamp wants Aladdin to help him in his quest, but this means he must first make amends with the boy's mother, the Widow Twankey. When she finally agrees the pair head off to China. When they arrive there Aladdin becomes smitten with the Princess Badroubladour and proposes marriage, which she at first refuses but later, after Aladdin gives her a bouquet, agrees to. The Vizier is not amused with this situation, however, and forces the boy to flee from the city, where he comes across a cave guarded by the huge Afreet and numerous reptiles. After being given a magic ring, he is instructed to rub it in order to bring forth its genii, who will direct him to the magic lamp. Inside are a mass of jewels, enough to allow him the opportunity to win him the Emperor's consent to marry the Princess. The lamp is protected by all manner of evil looking creatures, but Aladdin manages to seize the lamp and escapes. Act two sees the story unfold back at Widow Twankey's place. The widow has been concerned at her son's long absence, but is filled with delight when he returns bringing with him all the riches she could imagine. Meanwhile, the Emperor's wealth has been depleted and after hearing about Aladdin's wealth comes calling in the hope that his daughter will provide a means of regaining his former splendour. The final act of the pantomime (not including the transformation scene and harlequinade, sees Aladdin return to China, where all manner of festivities, acrobatics, singing and dancing are performed. Just when things look like ending happily ever after, however, Abanazer contrives to steal the lamp and this gives him the power to elope with the princess. Aladdin chases him to Africa where he gets both his revenge and the princess. The pantomime culminates with the Emperor receiving a telegram from the Australian premiers announcing Federation. The transformation scene consisted of four oil paintings illustrating Nibelungenleid, and which show beautiful "undraped nymphs disporting themselves in the depths of the sea." Regarding these scenes, the *Age* critic proposed that "the most classical chastity of thought is here required from the audience to make the appearance of these ladies excusable... still it is beautiful, and only those who do not go to the theatres will perhaps object" ("Theatre Royal," 8).

Critical appraisal of the Melbourne production, in particular, was highly favourable, with the *Age* reviewer writing, for example, that it is a pantomime "which affords legitimate scope for wonderful scenic display, and develops a very pretty story" (ibid, 8). The *Argus* critic also found much to delight in, proposing that it be "described as a succession of beautiful pictures, brilliant pageants, of bright processions and glittering fetes, accompanied by a rapid flow of dramatic incident, diverting dialogue and humorous acting interspersed with songs, serious and sentimental, and picturesque dances" ("Theatre Royal," 8).

1889: Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1889 - 7 Feb. 1890 [38 pfms]
 - **Dir/S Mngr.** E. W. Royce; **M Dir/Arr.** H. Dedrickson; **S Art.** John Brunton and James Peake; **Chor.** E. W. Royce, Marie Reddall and W. S. West; **Cost.** Mde. Bima, John Brunton, Mr Brown and Mr Michau; **Com Sc.** John Wallace.
 - **Cast** incl. Jenny Lee (Aladdin), Violet Varley (Princess Badroubladour), George Walton (Widow Twankey), Miss A. Olive, Sophie Harris, Vera Patey, Mary Weir, Mildred Trigge, Laura Healy, Lizzie Donnelly, Slade Murray, Harry Cremer, W. Ford, A. Gonzalez, Mr Adolph, Fred Dark, George Walton, John Wallace, R. E. Watson, W. S. West, Bonhair Brothers (acrobats); **Dancers:** Royal Ballerinas.

1890: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1890 - 20 Feb. 1891
 - **Dir/S Mngr.** E. W. Royce; **M Dir/Arr.** H. Dedrickson; **S Art.** John Brunton and James Peake; **Chor.** E. W. Royce, Marie Reddall; **Harlequinade Dir.** Mr Benham; **Cost.** Miss Nathan and Mde. Beamer; **S Mngr.** Mr Patterson and H. Bennett.
 - **Cast** incl. Jennie Lee (Aladdin), Violet Varley (Princess Badroubladour), E. W. Royce (Emperor of China), C. Brown (The Vizier), Harry Shine (Abanazer), George Walton (Widow Twankey), Miss Lewis (Genius of the Ring), Ada Lee (Genius of the Lamp), Florence Young (Pekoe), H. Benham (Kasarac), Mr Gribbllin (Ptolemy), E. Phillips (Oheops), The Walhallas (acrobats), Little Benham (Clown), Mary Weir (Columbine), Laura Healy (Harlequina), H. Walhalla (Pantaloony), Mr Smythe (Harlequin), Mr Patterson (Policeman), Gus Gregory (Old Woman).
 - A second edition of the pantomime was staged from 7 February 1891, with this version containing new songs, new music and new dances.

T H E A T R E R O Y A L.
 Lessee ... Mr. S. LAZAR.
 Under the Management of Messrs.
WILLIAMSON, GARNER, and MUSGROVE.
 Treasurer, Mr. G. L. GOODMAN.

BOXING DAY, 1889.
THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING, DECEMBER 26,
 at a quarter to 8 o'clock,
 will be presented to the Sydney public,
 Messrs. WILLIAMSON, GARNER, and MUSGROVE'S
EIGHTH CHRISTMAS ANNUAL,
 the Gorgeous Spectacular
PANTOMIME.

ALADDIN,
 or HARLEQUIN,
 The Wonderful Ring, the Magical Lamp,
 And the Pretty Princess who loved a Great Scamp;
 The Funny old Dame, and the Latest Edition
 Of the Musical Model and Mystic Magician.
 Cribbed, adapted, and locally treated by
E. W. ROYCE and THOMAS TAYLOR.

Special engagement of
MISS JENNIE LEE.

The Directors beg to call attention to the unusually powerful
 company retained for this production,
ALADDIN.

Characters in the Opening:

ALADDIN ...	Miss JENNIE LEE
The Emperor of China ...	Mr. Slade Murray
The Vizier ...	Mr. H. Creamer
Abanazar ...	Mr. Fred Dark
The Widow Twankey ...	Mr. George Walton
Princess Badroubladour ...	Miss Violet Varley
Genius of the Ring ...	Miss Olive
Genius of the Lamp ...	Miss Sophie Harris
Pekoe ...	Miss Vera Patey
Kasarac ...	Mr. John Wallace
Ptolemy ...	Mr. R. E. Watson
Cheops ...	Mr. O'Brien
The sphinx ...	Mr. A. Riddle
Demon Spectres ...	Messrs. Gonzalez and Adolph

Sydney Morning Herald 26 Dec. (1889), 2.

"*Aladdin at the Theatre Royal.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1889), 6.

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

"*Theatre Royal - Aladdin.*" *Age* 27 Dec. (1890), 8. [see also advert. - 25 Dec. (1890), 8]

"*Theatre Royal - Aladdin.*" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1890), 8. [see also advert. - 7 Feb. 1891, 16]

THE LANDLUBBER; OR, A NAUTICAL NIGHTMARE: [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Garnet Walsh; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described as a "sparkling musical and farcical comedy" ("Rickards Comedy," 6), it was written with the aim of displaying the talents of Harry Rickards' company. The show ended with Rickards' interpretation of "A Night's History of the London Bridge," which involved characters such as a gay reveller, a ruined clerk, criminals, and a suiciding ruined woman.

1889: School of Arts, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1889 - 10 Jan. 1890 [14 pfms]

- **Prod/Lse.** Harry Rickards; **Mngr.** William A. Jenkins.

- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, James Bell, Fred Davys, Walter Noye, Manuel Lopez, Mareano Martin.

1890: Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 3-7 Mar.

- **Prod/Lse.** Harry Rickards; **Lse.** Stewart and Co.

- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Miss M. Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, James Bell, Fred Davys, Walter Noye, Manuel Lopez, Mareano Martin.

1890: Victoria Theatre, Newcastle (NSW); 26-27 Mar.

- Cast and production mostly as for previous Brisbane season.

1890: Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne; 19-25 Apr.

- **Prod/Lse.** Harry Rickards; **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **S Art.** Harry Grist and John Little.

- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy.

Argus 19 Apr. (1890), 16. **Advert.**

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

"**Rickards Comedy Company.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1889), 6.

VICTORIA THEATRE
Lessee ... **MR. HARRY RICKARDS**
PHENOMENAL SUCCESS.
But Last Night but Two of
THE RICKARDS COMEDY COMPANY.
Sole Proprietor ... **MR. HARRY RICKARDS**
TO-NIGHT (Wednesday) TO-NIGHT
AN ENTIRE CHANGE OF PRO-
GRAMME.
Positively the first time in Newcastle of the
sparkling Musical Comedy, by Garnet
Walsh, entitled
THE LAND-LUBBER.
The Land-Lubber A Nautical Nightmare
The Land-Lubber A Nautical Nightmare
The Land-Lubber A Nautical Nightmare
TO-NIGHT (Wednesday) TO-NIGHT.
Miss Katie Rickards will make her first
appearance in Newcastle this season as
Tootsie Sloper in the Land-Lubber. Mr.
Rickards has expended over £200 in new and
magnificent scenery, properties, &c.

Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners'
Advocate 26 Mar. (1890), 1.

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