

The authorship of a number of short musical comedies staged by Harry Rickards during 1890 remains unclear at this stage. It is believed, however, that several were written for him by local writers such as Garnet Walch and/or one of his leading comedians, Fred Davys. These "new musical and farcical comedies," advertised as being staged for the "first time in" wherever they were being presented at the time included: *Pink Notes*, *That Widow* and *Cupboard Love*.

IN A FOG: [musical comedy] Txt. Fred Davys; Mus. [n/e]

Described as a "comedieta," the story line has Rickards as a cockney valet de chambre (Adolphus Lavender) who leaves the service of aristocracy for that of a country gentleman, Benjamin Bibbington. A "fog" is created in the mind of the latter when he mistakes Adolphus for Theophilus Swanhopper Esq, a suitor to his daughter (Madge). Another major character is Jemima Jane, a superior but obtrusive housemaid.

There is some suggestion that this work may have been written by Garnet Walch (see Kelly 1997), as it is similar to other material supplied by him to Harry Rickards. An advertisement in the *Age* for the U.S. Minstrels Specialty Comedy and Variety Combination indicates, however, that it was Fred Davys (aka Professor Davys), an established Rickards comedian during the late 1880s/early 1890s, who wrote the piece (12 Sept. 1891, 12).

[NB: There is no evidence to suggest any relationship between this piece and two similarly named works, *Fun in a Fog*, staged by Empson's Entertainers ca. 1885; and *Fun in a Fog; Or, The Pirates of New Guinea*, presented by Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels in 1886. See 1886 entry for details].

- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 11-24 Jan.
 - **Prod/Lse.** Harry Rickards; **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins (for Rickards).
 - **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards (Adolphus Lavender), Ella Murphy, Ada Delroy, P. Murphy, Fred Davys.
- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 21 Feb. - 1 Mar.
 - **Prod.** Harry Rickards; **Lse.** Stewart and Co; **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins (for Rickards).
 - **Cast** and production mostly as per previous Sydney.
- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 13 Sept. -
 - **Dir.** Dan Tracey; **Prod.** Harry Rickards.
 - **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Musical Comedy Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards (Adolphus Lavender).
 - Presented along with Dan Tracey's *McGowan the Millionaire* [aka *The Irish Millionaire*] (see 1890 entry) and other minstrel/vaudeville entertainment.
- 1891** Victoria Hall, Melbourne; 12 Sept. -
 - **Prod.** J. Billin.
 - **Troupe:** U.S. Minstrels, Specialty, Comedy and Variety Combination.
 - **Cast** incl. Will Whitburn (Adolphus), Fred Davys (Benjamin), Will Stevens (Theophilus), Amy Rowe (Madge), Georgie Devoe (Jemima).
- 1892:** Garrick Theatre, Sydney; 21 May -
 - **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English Comedy Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards (Adolphus), Albert Lucas (Theophilus), Robert Bolder (Benjamin), Annie Edney (Madge), Katie Rickards [nee Leete] (Jemima).

SCHOOL OF ARTS,
SYDNEY.
 Lessee, Mr. Harry Rickards. Treasurer, Mr. J. C. Lisle.

FOURTH WEEK AND CONTINUED SUCCESS
RICKARDS OF THE RICKARDS
RICKARDS OF THE RICKARDS
 Sole Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards.

TO-DAY | TWO PERFORMANCES | TO-DAY.
THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, at 2.00,
INAUGURATION OF OUR
FASHIONABLE MATINEES.
 Specially prepared for ladies and children, and which will include the Giant Marionettes.
 Prices—Adults, 1s; children, 6d to reserved seats.

TO-NIGHT, at 8,
the screaming vaudeville,
IN A FOG,
AND A GIGANTIC NEW OLIO.

SPECIAL.--Mr. HARRY RICKARDS would call the attention of amusement lovers to the fact that to-night he will give the first complete change of the present season. In presenting for the first time in Sydney the new vaudeville, **IN A FOG**, more than ordinary care has been taken to ensure its success. The musical items have been carefully selected, and in response to numerous letters, **THE BLIGHTED GARDENER** will be revived.
 The whole of the new furnishing and art decorations have been specially prepared by Wallach Bros., and whatever may be the actual result, Mr. RICKARDS is determined that a great and genuine success shall be deserved.
 Prices, 2s, 1s, and 6d. Plan at Nicholson's.
WM. A. JINKINS, Business Manager.

Sydney Morning Herald 11 Jan. 1890, 2.

Age (Melbourne) 12 Sept. 1891, 12. **Advert.**

"**Harry Rickards Entertainment.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 Jan. 1890, 4.

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

"**Mr Rickards at the Gaiety.**" *Brisbane Courier* 24 Feb. 1890, 5. [see also advert. - 22 Feb. 1890, 2]

BLACK-EYED SUSAN; OR, THE LASS THAT LOVED YOUNG WILLIAM: [aka LITTLE BLACK-EYED SUSAN] [burlesque] Txt Adapt. John F. Sheridan; Add Txt/Mus/Lyr. Bert Royle;

Orig Mus. J.A. Robertson; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "refined musical extravaganza," this localised version of the F.C. Burnand burlesque on Douglas Jerrold's original drama had an extensive musical component, containing according to one source some forty musical numbers. The story was set in seven scenes, with these being: Act 1; Sc 1. Susan' Cottage; Sc 2. Rocky Pass; Sc 3. The Jolly Mugs; Sc 4. Dame Halley's Cottage; Act 2; Sc 1. The Jolly Mugs; Sc 2. The Gaol; and Sc 3. Deck of H.M.S. Calliope. The gaol scene was relocated to an appropriate local setting whenever the burlesque was staged in different cities.



John F. Sheridan
Truth (Brisbane) 10 Jan. 1909, 11.

The additional material supplied by Bert Royle no doubt required of him some intensive research into local identities and recent events when the production was taken on tour. For example, its staging in Brisbane (1890) saw part of the story is set in the Brisbane Gaol, which suggests that the text would have contained satirical hits aimed at the local audience. The *Brisbane Courier* writes in regard to this aspect of the 1890 production, "Mr Sheridan, as Henry Irving Smith, a smuggler, and afterwards Captain Crossgrain, was irresistibly funny, and had been supplied with any number of local hits" (28 Apr. 1890, 4). When the company returned for a two night season a week later (having opened for two nights at Ipswich during the week), the paper's critic further noted that "the dialogue was interspersed with many local allusions to persons and occurrences [which] were appreciated, and created a great deal of amusement" (3 May 1890, 5).

The musical programme inserted into the production was extensive, and included, according to the *Brisbane Courier* in 1890, "a magnificent song, 'Traveller's All' [sung] by Mr Montague, [of which] it is said... had not been heard in Australia for over a quarter of a century" (4). The 1891 revivals were commended, too, for the quality of the several ballets, the highlights being "The Snow Ballet," which was described in advertising as "a scenic and terpsichorian display [that ranked] as the most wonderful and picturesque ever presented to an Australian audience" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Apr. 1891, 2), and "The Grand Sailor Ballet." John F. Sheridan also performed two new numbers, "You Can't Think of

Everything" and "Is He Guilty?," a parody on "Bright Little Glass." Songs from the Brisbane season included: "The Villagers Chorus," "Merry Little Bridesmaids" (female trio), "The Smugglers, Silence and Fun" (male trio), "The Coquette" (solo), "How He Carries On" (solo), "On Board the Lugger" (company), "Two Lovely Black-Eyes" and "Villains of the Deepest Dye" (quintet), "Heave Away" (solo/ chorus), "It's English, You Know" (with dialect verses in English, Irish, Scotch, French, Yankee and Dutch sung by J. F. Sheridan), "Farewell My Own," and "Pretty See-U-Pass" (company), "Moonlight Killarney" (duo), "The Kranky Boys" (quartette), "Turn on Old Time" (trio), "Tooral-I-Oo-Ral-I" (company), "Beautiful Moon" (duet) and "The Blatherun" (solo/chorus).

1890: Opera House, Brisbane; 26 Apr., 2-3 May

- **Dir.** John F. Sheridan; **Prod.** MacMahon Bros; **M Dir/Cond.** J.A. Robertson; **Lse.** J.B. Hickie; **S Art.** Mr Campbell.

- **Cast** incl. Gracie Whiteford (William), Lena Salinger (Susan), Alfred James (Doggrass), F.W. Montague (John Pewter), Wilfred Carr (Jack the Terror, a smuggler), Charles Bovis (Nip-Up), Harry Crawford (Flip Flap), William Bovis (Tumble-Up), Alice Austin (Gnatbrain), David Marion (Blue Peter), John F. Sheridan (Henry Irving Smith/Captain Crossgrain), Nellie Arline (Dolly Mayflower), Minnie Bell (Julia Simple), Mary Melville (Polly Pickle), Tilly Williams (Kitty Combes), Kate Whiteford (Jenny Wren), Sissy Fraser (Pansy Blossom), May Ellis (Carrie Jay), Fanny Wiseman (Dame Halley), Wilfred Carr (Admiral of the Fleet).

1890: Opera House, Melbourne; 18 Oct. - [as *Little Black-Eyed Susan*]

- **Cast** incl. Jennie Lee (William), Gracie Whitehead (Susan), John Forde (Doggrass), F.W. Montague (John Pewter), Wilfred Carr (Jack the Terror), Charles Bovis (Bill Bite-em), Harry Crawford (Tom Steal-em), William Bovis (Joe Jobbins), J.S. Porter (Catchem, special inspector), Bert Royle (Admiral Goosegrease), John F. Sheridan (Henry Irving Smith/Captain Crossgrain), Horace Bent (Inspector Lariken, a well-known party), Fanny Wiseman (Gnat Bain), Alfred James (Dame Hatley, William's mama), Nellie Arline (Dolly Mayflower), Mildred Trigge (Susie Primrose), Bessie Royle (Blue Peter), Alice Austin (Polly Pansy), Julia Synnot (Tottle Tulip), Tilly Hutton (Mary Marigold), Miss de Courcy (Barbara Boronia), Lizzy Fraser (Tom Ratline), Lilly Williams (Joe Galley); Special Constables: Mr Fredericks (Nab-em), Mr Clinton (Clutch-em), Mr Roberts (Knock-em), Mr Russell (Pull-em), Mr Ferguson (Kick-em), Mr Hales (Choke-em), Mr Hunt (Pummeel-em).

1891: Garrick Theatre, Sydney; 25-30 Apr. [as *Little Black-Eyed Susan*]

- **Dir.** John F. Sheridan; **Prod.** F. E. Hiscocks and W.J. Wilson; **M Dir/Cond.** J.A. Robertson; **S Art.** W.J. Wilson; **Chor.** Mildred Trigge.

- **Cast** incl. Gracie Whiteford (Little Black-Eyed Susan), Nina Osbourne (Dolly Mayflower), John F. Sheridan (Henry Irving Smith/Captain Crossgrain), Stella Tudor (William), Bert Royle (Judge of Court), Mildred Trigge (Susie Primrose), Alfred James (Dame Hatley), Bessie Royle (Polly Pansy), Tillie Williams (Lottie Tulip), Gertie White (Mary Marigold), Lizzie Fraser (Barbara Boronia), Nellie Livingstone (Truitie Fruitie), Georgie White (Rosy Roslyn), Hettie Williams (Jenny Juniper), Miss Garner (Lily Lilac), Alice Austin (Gnat Brain), Henry M. Imano (Doggrass), William Carr (Jack the Terror), Charles Bovis (Bill Bite-em), William Bovis (Tom Steal-em), John Tudor (Grab-em, the Bailiff), Julius Erickson (Pull-em, an officer), Walter Dalgieish (The Donkey).

**SLADE MURRAY'S Great STRIKE SONG,
 "CAPITAL AND LABOUR"
 (By Mes-srs. St. John and Hawkins).
 The TETUWALLIS,
 The JAPANESE MARVELS,
 Master ZETTER,
 The Inimitable Juvenile Song and Dance Artist.**

First appearance of the famous Lyrical Songstress,
 Miss ALICE CANNING,
 With Flute Obligato by Mr. W. Stoneham,
 A HOST OF OTHER NOVELTIES.
 Concluding with Burnand's Nautical Burlesque,
 entitled,
**BLACK-EYED SUSAN,
 BLACK-EYED SUSAN,
 Or, THE LITTLE BILL THAT WAS TAKEN DOWN**
 (Localised up to date by Mr. Lance Lenton),
 With the following powerful cast of characters:—

Lord High Admiral	Mr. Percy St. John
Captain Crossstee, R.N.	Mr. Jas. Wilkinson
William	Miss Nina Tulloch
Hatchett	Mr. Alf. Santley
Baker	Mr. W. Perman
Doggrass	Mr. T. Durish
Gnatrain	Miss Fernleigh
Shaun o' Ploughshare	Mr. J. Collins
Susan	Miss Emma Markham
Dolly Mayflower	Miss Polly Robertson
Dame Halley	Mr. Slade Murray

**Admirals of the Red, Yellow, White, and Black,
 Ocean Nymphs, Sailors, Marines, Ladies,
 Topical Songs and Local Hits.**

Argus (Melbourne) 30 Aug. 1890, 16.

- 1891:** Theatre Royal, Adelaide; 12-13 Aug. [as *Little Black-Eyed Susan*]
 - Cast and production mostly as for previous Sydney season
 - **Lessee/Manager:** Wybert Reeve.
- 1891:** Her Majesty's Theatre, Brisbane; 19-21 Oct. - [as *Little Black-Eyed Susan*]
 - Cast and production mostly as for previous Adelaide season (with cast/character changes due to the departure of Nina Osbourne.
 - **Lessee/Manager:** Wybert Reeve.
 - Mildred Trigge replaced Nina Osbourne as Dolly, Alice Austin played Susie Primsrose, Gertrie White played Polly, Bessie Royle played Mary Marigold, Nellie Livingstone played Jenny Juniper, Hetty Williams played Barbara Boronia, Lizzie Fraser played Tooty Fruity, Jules Simonsen played Gnat Brain, Bert Royle (as Burton Royle) played Doggrass, and Julius Erickson played Admiral Goosegrease.
 - New cast members include: Dave Godfrey (Jim Grabem).

"Amusements: Theatre Royal." *South Australian Chronicle* (Adelaide) 15 Aug. 1891, 15.

"Amusements: Theatre Royal - *Little Black Eyed Susan*." *Evening Journal* (Adelaide) 13 Aug. 1891, 4.

"Amusements: The Drama Etc." *Leader* (Melbourne) 18 Oct. 1890, 27.

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 28 Apr. 1890, 4. [see also advert. - 26 Dec. 1890, 2]

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 3 May 1890, 5.

"Footlight Flashes." *Referee* (Sydney) 29 Apr. 1891, 7.

"Garrick Theatre." *Evening News* (Sydney) 27 Apr. 1891, 5.

"Garrick Theatre." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Apr. 1891, 6. [see also advert. - 25 Apr. 1891, 2. Advert.

"Her Majesty's Opera House." *Queenslander* (Brisbane) 24 Oct. 1891, 781

"Opera House: *Little Black-Eyed Susan, The*." *Argus* (Melbourne) 20 Oct. 1890, 7.

BLACK-EYED SUSAN; OR, THE LITTLE BILL THAT WAS TAKEN DOWN: [burlesque]

Txt Adapt. Lance Lenton; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by Lenton from the F.C. Burnand burlesque of Douglas Jerrold's original.

- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne; 28 Aug. - 5 Sept.
 - **Mngr.** Harry Friedman; **Lse/Prod.** J.S. Smith.
 - **Troupe:** Slade Murray's Gaiety Burlesque Co.
 - **Cast** incl. Nina Tulloch, Miss Fernleigh, Emma Markham, Percy St John, James Wilkinson, Alf Santley, W. Perman, T. Duriah, J. Collins, Slade Murray, Polly Robertson.

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

THE IRISH MILLIONAIRE: [aka McGOWAN THE MILLIONAIRE] [musical comedy]

Txt. Dan Tracey et al; **Mus.** [n/e]

SCHOOL OF ARTS
TO-NIGHT (Saturday) TO-NIGHT.
ANOTHER GREAT CHANGE by
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS
and his new Musical Comedy Company.
ENORMOUS ATTRACTIONS!
First appearance at this fashionable resort of
THE LEOPOLDS
 (William, George, and Thomas)
Australia's greatest Aerobats, in their refined Drawing-room
Entertainment.
First time in Australia of
DAN TRACEY and ADSON STEVE
In their Irish absurdity, entitled Muleshy Twins. Scene:
Castle Garden America, introducing Reels and Jigs, con-
cluding with their great Burlesque.
First time of
Mr. DAN TRACEY'S original Irish Comedy,
entitled,
MCGOWAN, THE MILLIONAIRE.
A Squatter from Dubbo... Mr. Dan Tracey
Mrs. Slattery ... Miss George Devos
Miss Mary Ann Slattery... Miss Katie Rickards
Buffalo Bill ... Mr. Steve Adson
Sambo ... Mr. John Gilmore
A Notorious Cadger ... Mr. Fred. Davys
Buffalo Bill's sister ... Miss Daisy Blair
Charlie Sweet ... Mr. Thos. Leopold
Policeman 219X ... Mr. William Leopold
Jimmy Fresh ... Mr. Geo. Leopold.
Scene 1. A Street in Sydney. Scene 2. Mrs. Slattery's Ash
Factory.
OUR GRAND NEW PARLOUR OLLIO.
Unparalleled success. Intense excitement.
Nightly caused by
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS
in his masterly interpretation of the grand dramatic scene,
THE ROAD TO RUIN.
Also screams of laughter and tumultuous applause by his
comic rendering of
BREAK IT GENTLY.
The above splendid programme will be preceded by the
enormously successful comedy,
IN A FOG, IN A FOG.
Note our prices of Admission: 2s. 1s. and Sixpence.
Plan at Nicholson's. Furnishings by A. B. Pyke.
business Manager, JOHN C. LESTER.

Sydney Morning Herald 13 Sept. 1890, 2.

Australian-based minstrel performer and entrepreneur, Dan Tracey (American by birth) presented his original Irish comedy initially under the title *McGowan the Millionaire* for the first time in September 1890 during his engagement with Harry Rickards at the School of Arts (Sydney). The *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critic notes that this 'farical comedy... had considerably more farce in its composition than comedy' ("School of Arts," 6). Played out in two acts (A Street In Sydney and The Reception Room of Mrs Slattery's Ash Factor), Tracey, best known to then as a champion clog dancer and Irish impressionist, played the principal role of Michael McGowan, a squatter from Dubbo. Other characters included Buffalo Bill (a larrikin looking for a fight) and his sister (Susey), along with a notorious cadger, a la-di-da masher, a landlady, her daughter (a lady of fashion), a newsboy, a policeman and a head waiter named Sambo.

The musical content presented during the original production's second act, has not yet been established, but presumably included several songs and dances. The revival, staged during Tracey's Vaudeville Comedy and Specialty Company season at the School of Arts later that same year included the following numbers: "Sweet Heather Bell" (Blanche Montagu), "I Hope I Don't Intrude" (song and dance by Ida Tauchert), "Sailor Jack" (Fred Spencer) and "Wait Till the Tide Comes In" (Florrie Spencer).

Changes to the comedy for the December 1890 revival, which saw it programmed as the featured entertainment for Tracey's opening night at the School of Arts, included several character name changes - Mary Ann Slattery becoming Katie Slattery, Policeman 219X became Constable Bigfoot Wallace, the notorious cadger was given the name Bill Stykes, Jimmy Fresh became Jimmy Cheek and Charlie Sweet's name was changed to Fred Montrose.

- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 13 Sept. - [as *McGowan the Millionaire*]
 - **Dir.** Dan Tracey; **Prod.** Harry Rickards.
 - **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Musical Comedy Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Dan Tracey (Michael McGowan), Georgie Devoe (Mrs Slattery), Katie Rickards (Mary Ann Slattery), Steve Adson (Buffalo Bill), Johnny Gilmore (Sambo, the head waiter), Fred Davys (A Notorious Cadger), Daisy Blair (Susey), Thomas Leopold (Charlie Sweet), William Leopold (Policeman 219X), George Leopold (Jimmy Fresh, a Newsboy).
 - Presented along with Fred Davys' musical comedy *In a Fog* and other minstrel/vaudeville entertainment.
- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 20 Dec. -
 - **Dir/Prod.** Dan Tracey.
 - **Troupe:** Dan Tracey's Vaudeville Comedy and Specialty Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Dan Tracey (Michael McGowan), Miss F. Schuler (Mrs Slattery), Blanche Montagu (Katie Slattery), Steve Adson (Buffalo Bill), Will Wallace (Sambo), A. Gordon (A Notorious Cadger), Ida Tauchert (Susey), Harry Duval (Fred Montrose), F. Spencer (Constable Bigfoot Wallace), Mr Winchester (Jimmy Cheek).

"Amusements: The Garrick Theatre - Opening Night." *Evening News* (Sydney) 23 Dec. 1890, 3.
 "School of Arts." *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Dec. 1890, 6. [see also advert. - 26 Dec. 1890, 2]
Sydney Morning Herald 13 Sept. 1890, 2. **Advert.**

KING OF THE FLJIS; OR, THE FI-JY-TY KING: [burlesque] **Txt.** Lance Lenton; **Mus.** Henry Hawkins
 Advertised in the *Argus* as a burlesque presented "for the first time in Australia" (8).

- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne; 22 Sept. - 3 Oct. [11 pfms]
 - **Mngr.** Harry Friedman; **Prod/Lse.** F.E. Hiscocks and J. S. Smith.
 - **Cast** incl. Vera Campbell, Miss Allen, Miss Heath, Miss Holly, Miss Harris, Millie Herbert, Amy Olive, Miss Hunt, Frank Beverley, Ted Holland, Mrs Keenan, E.E. Stevens, Irving Sayles, R. Johnson, J. Evans, Dave Gardner.

Argus (Melbourne) 22 Sept. 1890, 8. **Advert.**
 Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.

FAUST IN FOUR FLASHES; OR, THE DOCTOR GAY, THE GIRLS AT PLAY AND THE DEVIL TO PAY: [burlesque] **Txt.** Frederick B. Norton; **Mus.** [n/e]

A musical burlesque based on the popular Faust story, and written by Sydney-based theatrical agent Frederick Norton.

- 1890:** Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; 27 Oct. - 22 Nov. [24 pfms]
 - **Prod.** Frank Smith; **M Arr.** R. Lockead; **S Mngr.** Harry Barrington; **S Art.** Harry Whaite.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Leston (Mephisto), Lucy Fraser, Martyn Hagan, Ted Holland, Thomas Delohery, Johnny Cowan, Amy Rowe, Robert Baxter, Mr Fielder, Daisy Blair, Edith Wilson Miss Robinson, Miss Jackson, Miss Clifford, Miss L. Bowen, Alma Obrey, Ruby Jones, Beatrice Cox.

"Amusements." *Evening News* (Sydney) 31 Oct. 1890, 3.
 Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.

ILL-TREATED ILL TROVATORE: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A popular burlesque subject, with one of the earliest known local productions being staged in 1874 by Sydney's Balmain Amateur Dramatic Association (18 Feb.), information regarding those adapting the burlesque is invariably difficult to locate. Although the authorship of this 1890 localised adaptation of H.J. Byron's musical burlesque has not been established beyond doubt, it appears to share some degree of relationship with a burlesque staged in 1892 under the same title by Dan Tracey. The connection here lays with eminent Australian actor, Harry Leston, who was involved in both versions. Despite these similarities it is likely that a reasonable amount of new comic business and more contemporary songs would have been added to the latter production, and hence they are treated as separate entries. This is supported by a *Sydney Morning Herald* preview of the 1892 production which notes that "new scenery and some pretty music have been introduced into the burlesque" (Editorial, 9).

- 1890:** Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; ca. Oct.
 - **Prod.** Frank Smith; **Dir/S Mngr.** Harry Barrington.
 - **Cast** incl. Harry Leston.

Editorial. *Sydney Morning Herald* 23 Apr. 1890, 9. [re: 1892 Dan Tracey /Harry Leston production]

THE HUMOURS OF THE STRIKE: [burletta] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Written around the time of the infamous 1890 Illawarra miner's strike, the Gaiety Theatre production contained, according to an *Sydney Morning Herald* advertisement, "local hits, local songs, local faces [in] forty minutes of fun" (2). It began its initial season at the Gaiety as a third part entertainment, following the John B. Gough play *Tempted* and a turn by the American Midgents.

- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 8, 10-11, 14 Nov.
 - **Mngr.** William Haswell and D'Orsey Ogden; **Lse.** D'Orsey Ogden and Lawrence Foley.

- **Cast** incl. Miss Walters, Maggie Oliver, Dot Melrose, Maribel Greenwood, D'Orsey Ogden, C.R. Stanford, Will Stevens, N. Douglas, Mr Hartley, Mr Andrews.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.
Sydney Morning Herald 8 Nov. 1890, 2. [Advert.](#)

G A I E T Y T H E A T R E .

Lessee and Manager **F. M. Clark**

GRAND RE-OPENING,
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22).
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22).
SOMETHING REALLY NEW.

Re-appearance of Melbourne's Popular and Versatile
Comedian,
FRANK M. CLARK,
In an Entirely New, Novel, Bright, and Sparkling
Entertainment Entitled,
A TRIP TO VENUS,
Specially written for this occasion,
Full of Fun and Merriment,
REplete WITH HUMOUR,
BRISTLING WITH REPARTEE,
Accompanied by New and Original
MUSICAL GEMS,
And Eminently characterised with the refinement
which has ever been a special feature of the various
productions in this popular place of amusement.

A TRIP TO VENUS: [aka VENUS REVISITED]

[musical entertainment] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as an "entertainment specially written for this occasion" - the re-appearance in Melbourne of Frank M. Clark. It has also been referred to as *Venus Revisited* (see left).

1890: Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne; 22 Nov. - 24 Dec.

- **Prod/Lse.** F.M. Clark; **S Art.** Harry Grist; **Cost.** Mr and Mrs J. F. Dunning.

- **Cast** incl. Dora Busch, Madeline Franks, Beatrice James, Ida Maven, Frank M. Clark, James Wilkinson, E. Lawler, Will Watkins, Johnny Matlock, J. Dornan, Franks and Marion.

Argus (Melbourne) 22 Nov. 1890, 12.

ALADDIN; OR, THE WONDERFUL SCAMP: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus. [n/e]**

Described as a "Grand Xmas Burlesque" *Aladdin; Or, The Wonderful Scamp*, was presented by Alhambra Music Hall proprietor, Frank Smith, as part of a season on burlesque which began a few months earlier. *Aladdin* was with little doubt a popular success for Smith, running for a month, despite the competition from big budget pantomimes such as George Rignold's *Dick Whittington* and George Musgrove's *Cinderella*. Although the authorship is unclear, advertising for the second edition of the burlesque indicates that new music and new comic business, along with new scenery and costumes, were incorporated into the narrative. Such changes would no doubt have been undertaken by various cast members in collaboration with stage manager/director, Harry Barrington.

1890: Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; 20 Dec. 1890 - 20 Jan. 1891

- **Prod.** Frank Smith; **Dir/S Mngr.** Harry Barrington.

- **Cast** incl. Blair Sisters.

[no title] *Sydney Morning Herald* 23 Dec. 1890, 6.

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT: [pantomime] **Lib. Frank Ayrton and J. Harding Tucker;**

Mus. Frank Eugarde; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Written and arranged expressly for George Rignold by Frank Ayrton, and localised by J. Harding Tucker, and with original music by Frank Eugarde, this version of the popular story is believed to be unrelated to George Rignold's 1891 (Melbourne) and 1892 (Sydney) *Dick Whittington* productions [see 1891 entry for details]. Despite the comparatively close proximity of the two pantomimes and the authorship of the latter pantomime remaining unknown, the use of different composers and the presentation of different topicalities, localisations and local scenes suggest that alternate versions were produced.

According to the *Sydney Morning Herald* reviewer, the story line for this 1891 production "wisely kept to the story which every child knows... without any complication elements" (5). The story emerges from the enmity existing between King Rat and Fairy Silvertone over the fortunes of young Dick Whittington. After having declared war on the Fairy Queen, she vows to protect Dick with the aid of Truth and Industry.

Some of the scene highlights include: Cheapside, a ballet of Australian flowers, a raft scene, a battle between Cat and Rats at the palace of the Emperor of Morocco, and a scene at the Guildhall with a procession of various trades. The *Herald's* review makes favourable comment on the "many songs full of local and topical hits" (5), and records that Maggie Moore, who appears in almost every scene, also has "at least one song in each."

1890: Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney; 24 Dec. 1890 - 14 Feb. 1891

- **Dir/Prod/Lse.** George Rignold; **Harlequinade Dir.** Frank Ayrton; **S Mngr.** J.W. Hazlitt; **M Arr.** Frank Eugarde;

S Art. Alfred Clint, Mr Owen, Mr Vaughan and Mr Lake; **Chor.** Madge Seymour and Frank Ayrton; **Prpts.** Rock Phillips. **Cost.** Arthur Fredericks, with Mrs Buckley; **Lig.** J. Thompson and Mr Heaton (electric and limelight), Mr E. Huntley (engineer).

- **Cast** incl. Maggie Moore (Dick Whittington), Tom Edwards (Thomas the Cat), Stirling Whyte (Alderman Fitzwarren), Frank Ayrton (Sarah, Fitzwarren's cook/Clown), Madge Seymour (Alice Fitzwarren), Henry Hoyte (Idle Jack), Joe Tolano (Bottompad/Pantaloon), Mabel Tracey (Ralph Mainbrace), W. Fanning (Edward), J. W. Sweeney (Captain O'Kidd), May Ellis (Tom Bowline), Hetty Litton (Ben Trunnion), Frank Harcourt (The Emperor of Morocco), A. J. Ivimey (Rum Tum), G.C. Wilson (Fizzleum), Arthur Rigby (King Rat), Will Leopold (Vice/Fat Thomas) George Leopold (Idleness/Police man), Miss C. Fitzmaurice (Princess Zorilda), Olivia Kempf (Princess Zaidee), Fannie Reynolds (Princess Badoura), Bessie Rignold (Fairy Silvertone), Julia Phillips (Truth), Frances Hastings (Industry), H. Middleton (Coppem/Swell), L. Sydney (Kiddem/Harlequin), Miss Osbourne (Columbine).

"*Dick Whittington at Her Majesty's.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Dec. 1890, 5. [see also advert. - 24 Dec. 1890, 2]
Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

CINDERELLA, THE PRINCE, THE FAIRY GOLD AND SILVER, AND THE

LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER: [pantomime] **Lib** [n/e]; **Add Lib.** Frank Emery; **Mus.** [n/e]; **Add Mus.** H.T.

Harrison

Although the authorship of this pantomime is unclear, Frank Emery no doubt had a hand in the adaptation and localisation of the material. Apart from directing the production he was also responsible for inventing and arranging the "novel and original harlequinade" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 24 Dec. 1890, 2). In this respect, too, H.T. Harrison is believed to have contributed sections of the score, with most of the songs and dances coming from popular music hall and traditional sources.

One of the highlights of the production was reportedly the Grand Transformation Scene. Titled "Cupid and Psyche" it was played out as 1. The Birth of Cupid; 2. Psyche Carried Away by Zephyrus; 3. and Wedded to Cupid; 4. Her Journey through Hades; and 4. The Reunion of the Lovers Cupid and Psyche. The final scene was played out against a grand view of Sydney Harbour painted by George Gordon. The Grand Processional Ballet also drew praise from the critics. Entitled "Ye Spirits of Ancient Pantomime," the ballet had been imported in its entirety from London, where it had apparently been 'the sensation of last year' (*ibid.*, 2).

1890: Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1890 - 30 Jan. 1891

- **Dir.** Frank Emery; **Prod.** George Musgrove; **Cond.** H.T. Harrison; **S Art.** George Gordon, John Brunton and John Hennings; **Chor.** Rosalie Duvalli.

- **Cast** incl. Aggie Kelton (Cinderella), Vera Patey (Prince Prettypet), Lena Salinger (Dandini, the Prince's Lieutenant) J.R. Greville (Ugly Sister), A.G. Poulton (Ugly Sister), John Forde (The Baron) Harry Benham (Demon King), J. Wilkinson (Buttoni), Frank Emery, Alice St John, Miss S. Harris, W. Stevenson, H. Salinger, Harry Creamer, Miss G. Dallas, Miss J. Lewis, Miss A. Powys, the Famous Trevoa Family.

"*Cinderella at the Theatre Royal.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. 1890, 8. [see also advert. - 24 Dec. 1890, 2]

CINDERELLA; OR, HARLEQUIN THE LOVER, THE LACKEY AND THE LITTLE

GLASS SLIPPER: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Percy St John; **Mus.** [n/e]

J. J. Liddy, 1890 [printed by Wiseman Brothers]

This pantomime, localised and adapted by St John, possibly from H.J. Byron's extravaganza of the same name, was presented in three acts in addition to the traditional transformation scene and harlequinade. The amount of local references and topicalities infused in to the production is not clear, but the popularity of such practice would have seen them included into both the lyrics of the comic songs as well as the comedy routines.

The story of *Cinderella* can to a certain extent be followed via the breakdown of scenes: Act 1; Sc 1. "The Fairy Chorus;" The Demon appears and is routed by the fairy forces; Cinderella meets the Prince, Dandini offers odds and is accommodated; "Hunting Chorus;" Dandini puts on side, but is reminded that "Gently Does the Trick." Sc 2. At The Baron's; where the audience is once more introduced to beauty, in the shape of two charming sisters; The Baron gets no breakfast; A loud attack on the front door; Cinderella returns, "We Don't Do that in Sandgate Society." Sc 3. The Baron's Reception Hall; Buttoni is knighted; The Prince is introduced to the Baron's two sweet lambs; Cinderella appears; Oh rapture; Grand Medley "Australia." Act 2; Sc 1. The Baron's Kitchen; Cinderella bemoans her fate; An invitation to the ball; Family jars; The Baron and his daughters depart for the ball; Appearance of the Fairy Godmother; Cinderella goes to the ball, drawn in her carriage by the smallest team of ponies in the world. Sc 2. The Demon's Home; Quartz plots revenge on Cinderella; Demon acrobatic fights; Sc 3. The Ballroom; "Grand Amazon March"; The Prince's Fete; The Prince arrives; Consternation of the Baron and his daughters; Arrival of Cinderella; Extraordinary specialty acts; Sensational juggling act on the rolling globe; Johnny Sharman and his Clever Performing Dogs; "Grand Minuet;" The clock strikes twelve; Flight of Cinderella; The slipper; Great struggle to compress two feet into six inches; Cinderella claims the slipper. Sc 4. Ante Chamber at The Palace; Betrothal of the Prince and Cinderella; Grand Finale "True Hearts Across the Sea." Sc 5. Grand Transformation Scene; Harlequinade (*Brisbane Courier* 25 Dec. 1890, 2).

The 1890 Brisbane season ended in controversial circumstances a little over a week after its commencement when the lessee of the Gaiety Theatre, J. J. Liddy died unexpectedly. According to a public notice placed in the *Brisbane Courier* by Charles B. Hicks, who had been managing the theatre on behalf of Liddy, Slade Murray's company cancelled their engagement with the theatre at 2pm on the Saturday previous without any notice and despite Hick's assurance "to give bonds to carry out said contract until the date 16 January 1891 as agreed upon." To support his position Hicks' published the details of a certification (signed by Murray, St John and Friedman) which stated that Murray's company had "no further claims upon Charles B. Hicks, as Manager of the Gaiety." Although clearly outraged by Murray's decision to join D'Arcy Stanfield's company at the New Theatre Royal (where the two troupes staged a production of *The Forty Thieves*) Hick's appears to have been mindful of possible legal ramifications and accused Murray and his associates only of "unprofessional conduct" (5 Jan. 1891, 2).

[NB: Percy St John later adapted Cinderella into a burlesque format (presented as a second half entertainment). He also did the same with another of his pantomimes, Sinbad (1894). Although the pantomime and burlesque productions are related in terms of basic narrative, the burlesques were essentially abridged and updated versions (including new topical allusions and songs) which had the transformation scenes and harlequinade deleted. St John also wrote another (possibly unrelated) Cinderella burlesque titled *Cinder-Ellen* (1898).

1890: Liddy's Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 26 Dec. 1890 - 2 Jan. 1891

- **Dir.** Percy St John and Lachlan McGowan; **Prod/Lse.** J.J. Liddy; **M Arr/Cond.** C.H. Bruce; **Mngr.** Harry Friedman (for Slade Murray); **Mngr.** Charles B. Hicks; **Chor.** Mr C. Sorrell; **Cost.** Mrs L. Evans; **S Art.** George Perriman, **Lig.** J. Dalmes.

- **Troupe:** Slade Murray's Gaiety Burlesque Ensemble / Liddy's New Star Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Marion Norman (Cinderella), Percy St John (Baron Von Hardup/Pantaloon), Slade Murray (Flossie), Ernest Leonard (Tottie), Lachlan McGowan (Buttoni), Emma Markham (Prince Poppetti), Nina Tulloch (Dandini), Joe Smith (Alidoro/Police man), George Russell (Usher to the Court), Edward Rogers (Lord Bunkum), Harry Lane (Duke Sneekem), Arthur Johnson (Sir Heavy Toff), Tom Stevens (Hon. Ally Sloper), Cecil Vance (Hon. Hookem), Ed Crouch (Lord Guyawack), Madie Bennett (Violet), Fleta Maitland (Pansy), Eva Germaine (Quartz/Harlequin), Master Willie Smith (Amalgam), Master Walter Acworth (Ally), Grace Elvy (Love), Nelly Gaden (Joy), Edith Dawes (Happiness), Annie Bolton (Pleasure), Agnes Makins (Sugar), Jessie Howard (Cream), Lucy Yates (Geranium), Emilia Bagley (Lily), Mellie Lawrence (Heliotrope), Ruby Naylor (Rose), May Perryman (Fuchsia), Nellie Ech (Mignonette), Lucy Wright, Mary Wilson, Nellie Symes, Mary Hogan, Fannie Heiky, Maud Lambrote, Ellen Murphy, Ethel Renken, Lizzie Pearce, Nellie Edgar, Sara Wilton, Annie Bright, Mary Ashton, Lizzie Robson, Maud Brown, Annie Lily, Rose Dawson, Elly Read, Sarah Ellis, Madge Nunn, Annie May, Amy Dalton, Violet Mountford, Ada Mann (Harlequina), Johnny Sharman (Clown), Mlle. Rosina (Columbine).

"Gaiety - Cinderella, The." *Brisbane Courier* 27 Dec. 1890, 7.
[see also advert. - 25 Dec. 1890, 2]

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

LIDDY'S GAIETY THEATRE.
 Lessee and Proprietor - LIDDY.
 Manager - - - Mr. CHAS. B. HICKS.
 Stage Managers - MESSRS. ST. JOHN and MCGOWAN. Treasurer - J. SPIRO.
 Musical Director - C. H. BRUCE. Scenic Artist - G. PERRIMAN.
 Manager for the Slade Murray - Gaiety Burlesque Coy. - HARRY FRIEDMAN.

❖ BOXING NIGHT, FRIDAY, DEC. 26, 1890, ❖

Liddy's Grand Comic Christmas Pantomime,
 PRODUCED BY THE
SLADE MURRAY
GAIETY BURLESQUE COMPANY

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
 LIDDY'S NEW STAR COMPANY.
 ENTITLED,

Cinderella

(OR HARLEQUIN),
 THE LOVER, THE LACKEY, AND THE
 GLASS SLIPPER.

Coined, Cribbed, Adopted, and Locally Treated by
 PERCY ST. JOHN.

BRISBANE:
 Printed by WINEMAN BROS., Albert Street,
 1890.

Brisbane (1890)

Source: Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Treading the Boards (1999), 19.

Last updated: 5/01/2019

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

NB: The URL for this PDF will change each time it is updated. If you wish to cite or link to this record please use the following:
 Australian Variety Theatre Archive • <http://ozvta.com/1890s/>