

# 1849

John Lazar revived his 1843 pantomime *Harlequin and the Talking Bird* at Adelaide's Queen's Theatre on 28 May with new scenic art by Mr Douglas and music especially arranged by Mr Richards. Among the cast were John Lazar, Miss Lazar, Mr Douglas, Mr Jacob and Madame Veilburne. The pantomime had originally been staged by Lazar at Sydney's Royal Victoria Theatre.

A number of theatrical works based on the California gold rush, which started in 1848, began to appear on the colonial Australian stage from 1849 - including *Emigration; Or, Harlequin California* and *The Fairy of the Golden Regions; Or, Harlequin at California* (see below).

An advertisement placed in Melbourne's *Argus* on 18 October indicates that *Crispin, the King of the Cobblers*, first staged in Hobart in 1847, was in active preparation and would be speedily staged at the Queen's Theatre (2). However, no record of any Melbourne production of this pantomime has yet been located.

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## **THE OLD WOMAN THAT LIVED IN A SHOE; OR, HARELQUIN AND THE KING OF THE RUBY MINE:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** Andrew Torning; **Mus.** [n/e]

Compiled, arranged and staged under the direction of Andrew Torning for a few nights during the Easter holiday period, this pantomime was described in pre-publicity as a "Comical, Tragical, Operatical, Melodramatical, Farcical, Pantomimical Pantomime founded on an ancient English Legend, setting forth the troubles of it celebrated Old Lady, whose domestic afflictions form the subject of the famous poem of the some name" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 7 Apr. 1849, 2). The critic for *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* wrote of the opening night production:

In holiday times the public and performers are always in good humour with each other, and the productions in which the later appear on such occasions, ought not to be tested by the severity of dramatic criticism. A pantomime got up, only for a few nights, cannot be expected to be a very crack concern, still, *The Old Woman, that Lived in a Shoe*, is very well done, and reflects great credit on Mr. Torning, upon whose pantomimic abilities it principally depends. The nursery legend of the Little Old Woman, and her numerous progeny is strictly adhered to in the opening, and the usual quantity of bumps and thumps are gone through after the transformation of the various characters, and some very effective tricks and scenic changes are exhibited. The Columbine of Mrs. Torning was a very sprightly and graceful performance, and we are very glad to see that this lady has not lost any of her Terpsichorean powers by her retirement into private life. Torning was very funny as the Clown, and Signor Carandini made an excellent Harlequin with such powerful aids it is almost needless to remark that the pantomime gave universal satisfaction (3).

NB: It is unclear if there is any relationship between this work and several pantomimes produced earlier - notably *The Red Gnome of the Ruby Mines* (1848).

**1849:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 9-10, 12, 14 Apr.

- **Dir/Prod.** Andrew Torning; **Mngr.** Mr Griffiths

- **Cast** incl. Mr Hollis (Squire Thickhead/Pantaloon), Signor Carandini (Simple Simon/Harlequin), Andrew Torning (Dame Pickaxe/Clown), Mrs Torning (Cowslip/Columbine),

**1849:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 14 June [benefit]

- **Dir.** Andrew Torning.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Hollis (Pantaloon), Signor Carandini (Harlequin), Andrew Torning (Clown), Mrs Torning (Columbine).

- Staged as part of a benefit given to the Tornings.

"[Local Intelligence: The Drama.](#)" *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* 14 Apr. 1849, 3.



## **MOTHER HUBBARD AND HER DOGS, WITH THE DEMON KING AND THE BUNYIP; OR, THE FAIRY OF THE SILVER GROTTO:** [pantomime] **Lib.** Mr Lee; **Mus.** [n/e]

In pre-publicity for the pantomime, published in the *Colonial Times*, Hobart, the author and producer/director Mr Lee went to great lengths to attract the city's patronage, extolling his past successes and providing an in depth synopsis of the scenes and dramatic action. In his introduction Lee writes:

Mr Lee has the honor to announce to his friends and the public, that his benefit will take place on the [evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>], on which occasion he most respectfully solicits their support and patronage.... This pantomime, written by and produced under the solo direction of Mr Lee, who flatters himself that the public of Hobart Town have full confidence in his capability to get up pieces of this description-namely, the pantomimes of *Quang Fong Fa* and *Harlequin and Jack Sprat*, both of which were produced by him, and had a successful career, begs to assure them that no labor or expense has been spared to render this production worthy of patronage (4 May 1849, 4).

The pantomime is played out in 15 scenes (including the transformation) beginning in the Cave of Despair and ending with a tableaux in the Fairy Palace. See the 4 May issue of the *Colonial Times* for a complete description.

**1849:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Hobart Town; 7 May [benefit]

- **Prod/Dir.** Mr Lee.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Cohen (Harlequin), Mr Towns (Pantaloon), Mr Lee (Clown), Miss Howard (Columbine), Miss Lee (Fairy).

- Produced as part of Mr Lee's benefit. The evening's entertainment concluded with singing and dancing and the farce *State Secrets*.

*Colonial Times* (Hobart Town) 4 May (1849), 4. Advert.

"Mr Lee's Benefit." *Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania* (Hobart Town) 9 May 1849, 3.

## EMIGRATION; OR, HARLEQUIN IN CALIFORNIA: [aka HARLEQUIN IN CALIFORNIA; OR, EMIGRATION FROM TASMANIA; AND THE FIEND OF THE GOLDMINE] [pantomime] **Lib.** R. J. Osborne; **Mus.** [n/e]

R.J. Johnson is identified in several Launceston advertisements as the author of both this work and the 1847 pantomime, *Transportation*.<sup>1</sup> The town's newspapers also indicate that the production was in "active preparation" as early as 10 October, some three weeks prior to its premiere. The *Guardian* critic writes of the Hobart Town production:

On Monday night the entertainments on these boards were liberally patronized, and ably performed. Mr Stubbs, as Neptune, in the pantomime, acted his part admirably, as did also the other characters who appeared in the piece. Little Miss Howard, however, elicited no inferior applause from an audience who could appreciate the germs of an embryo talent, which, in process of time, may contribute to the hilarity of her patrons, and the gratification of her instructors (20 June 1849, 3).

Of the same performance the *Colonial Times* theatre critic said only:

Messrs. Stubbs and Howard have produced a new pantomime at the Victoria, and if judgment can be given, from the satisfaction evinced by a very respectable audience yesterday evening, the new production cannot fail in having a run (19 June 1849), 3.

*Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania*  
(Hobart Town) 13 June 1849, 2.

The Launceston revival was deemed highly successful by the *Cornwall Chronicle's* theatre critic when it was staged there in late October the same year. In his or her review the critic writes:

The splendid manner in which the new local pantomime was produced at this theatre on Monday evening, not only astonished, but delighted a numerous and respectable audience; the opening scenery (painted expressly by Mr. Saville) and the accompanying music were of a very superior description; the merits of Mr. Howson render a critique superfluous; the dresses were first-rate, particularly that of Neptune; the departure of the Californian gold hunters from Launceston, the storm at sea, and the transformations to the Pantomime characters was excellent; Mrs. Osborne's Columbine, and the gent who played Harlequin, dueted much and deserved applause; Osborne's clown was decidedly in the style of the celebrated Joey Grimaldi, his "Hot Codlings" was quite a treat, and it is to be hoped that a similar dish will be served up on some future occasion; the part of Pantaloon, without any 'brag,' was exceedingly well sustained. As the audience increases nightly, there is not the slightest doubt of bumper houses rewarding the liberal exertions of the proprietor.

**1849:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Hobart Town; 18 June

- **Cast** incl. Mr Cohen (Harlequin), Mrs Stubbs (Columbine), R.J. Osborne (Clown), Mr Stubbs (Neptune/Pantaloon), Miss Louise Howard.

- The entertainment also included a selection of songs from the Female Serenaders.

Victoria Theatre,

**NOTICE.**

THE THEATRE will be closed  
in order of extensive preparation  
being made for the 18<sup>th</sup> of JUNE,  
the anniversary of the

**BATTLE OF WATERLOO.**

On which occasion a Grand Comic  
Pantomime, with new Scenery, Tricks,  
Machinery, Dresses, Properties, &c.,  
entitled

**EMIGRATION,**  
OR  
**Harlequin in California,**  
OR THE  
*Demon of the Gold Mines,*  
which will be produced under the  
superintendence of the Author of the  
successful Pantomime of

**TRANSPORTATION.**

Harlequin..... Mr. COHEN  
Columbine.... Mrs. STUBBS  
Clown..... Mr. OSBORNE  
Pantaloon.... Mr. STUBBS

<sup>1</sup> See for example *Launceston Examiner* 20 Oct. (1849), 2.

- 1849:** Royal Olympic Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 29, 31 Oct., 2 Nov.  
 - **Prod/Dir/Lse.** R.J. Osborne; **S Art.** Mr Saville.  
 - **Cast** incl. Mr Jardine (Harlequin), Mrs Osborne (Columbine), R. J. Osborne (Clown), Mr Bragg (Pantaloon), Mr Carter (Antico).  
 - Presented along with various other works, including the farces *Pickwick*, *Cherry Bounce*, and *The Two Jim Crows*.

"Olympic Theatre." *Cornwall Chronicle* 31 Oct. 1849, 976.

"Royal Victoria Theatre." *Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania* (Hobart Town) 20 June 1849, 3.

## HARLEQUIN AND THE THREE WISHES; OR, THE MAGIC BLACK PUDDINGS:

[pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

**HARLEQUIN**  
 AND  
**THE THREE WISHES ;**  
 Or the Magic Black Puddings.  
 Harlequin..Mr Clifford Clown..Mr Stubbs  
 Pantaloon..Mr Hasker  
 Columbine ..... Mrs Stubbs  
 Columbinetta ..... Miss Louise Howard  
 In the course of the Pantomime, Neapolitan  
 Ta-en-all, by Mrs Stubbs and Miss Howard  
 The Love Walz, by Mr Clifford, Mrs Stubbs,  
 and Miss Howard Polka, by Miss Howard  
 Mrs Stubbs Scotch Pas de Deux, Mrs Stubbs  
 and Miss Howard. Also a variety of New  
 Local Scenery, painted by Messrs Stubbs and  
 Wallis, expressly for this occasion.

Staged on the last night of the Theatre Royal season in Geelong, as part of a benefit night given to Eliza Deering, *Harlequin and the Three Wishes* featured several specialty performances - notably a "Neapolitan Ta-en-all" by Mrs Stubbs and Miss Howard, "The Love Waltz" by Mr Clifford, Mrs Stubbs and Miss Howard, a polka by Miss Howard and Mrs Stubbs, and a Scotch Pas de Deux by Mrs Stubbs and Miss Howard. The pantomime was also staged with new scenery.

- 1849:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Vic); 7 Sept. [benefit]  
 - **Dir.** Henry Deering; **S Art** Messrs Stubbs and Wallis.  
 - **Cast** incl. Mr Clifford (Harlequin), Mr Stubbs (Clown), Mr Hasker (Pantaloon), Mrs Stubbs (Columbine), Louise Howard (Columbinetta).  
 - The rest of the programme included the drama *Don Caesar De Bazan*; *Or, Maritana the Gipsy* a selection of songs (including a new version of "Billy Barlow"), and *Don Barlow; Or, The Libertine Destroyed*.

*Geelong Advertiser* (Vic) 6 Sept. 1849, 3. Advert.

## HARLEQUIN GREEK; OR, PICKWICK IN THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY: [pantomime]

**Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

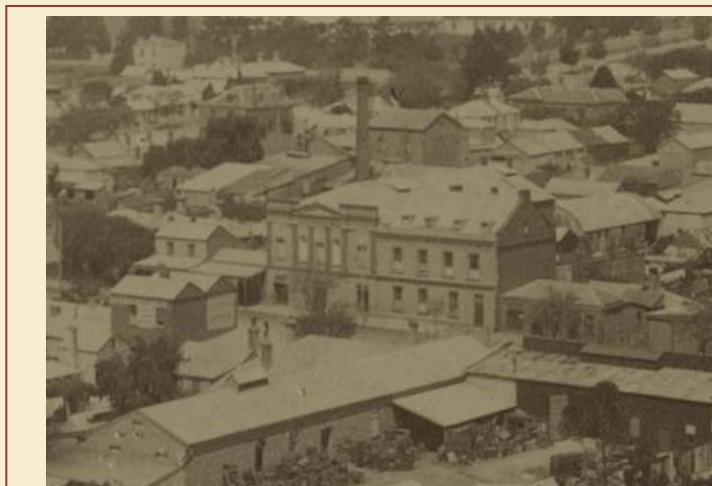
Advertised as being produced for the first time, *Harlequin Greek* was staged during a benefit night given to Mr J.R. Kenney.

- 1849:** Royal Amphitheatre, Launceston (Tas); 20 Oct.  
 - **Dir/Mngr.** J.R. Kenney.  
 - The evening's entertainment also included a production of the drama *The Shipwreck of Medusa*.  
 - Another pantomime, *Harlequin in California*, was also staged in Launceston that same night - at the Royal Olympic Theatre (see above). No reviews of *Harlequin Greek* or the benefit have yet been located.

## HARLEQUIN SHROVE TUESDAY; OR, THE FAIRY OF THE MAGIC PANCAKE:


[pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

- 1849:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Victoria); 26-31 Dec.  
 - **Prod/Proprietor** H. Elmes; **Orch Ldr.** Mr Stainsby; **Sc Art.** Mr Wallis.  
 - **Cast** incl. Mr Howard, Mr Evans.



The old Theatre Royal and Royal Hotel building, Geelong (ca. 1902)  
 Geelong Heritage Centre

**THEATRE ROYAL**  
**GEELONG.**



**BOXING NIGHT.**  
 THIS EVENING, DEC. 26.

On the above evening the entertainment  
 will commence with an entirely new  
 Comic Christmas Pa.tomime, called

**HARLEQUIN**  
**SHROVE TUESDAY,**  
 OR THE FAIRY OF THE MAGIC PANCAKE

For Characters &c., see Small Bills.

*Geelong Advertiser* 27 Dec. 1849, 1.

## KING PIPPIN; OR, HARLEQUIN VALENTINE AND THE WILD MAN OF THE WOODS: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

1849: Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 26-28 Dec. 1849, 1, 5, 8, 15, 19 and 29 Jan. 1850

- **Prod.** Joseph Wyatt.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Rogers (King Pippin), Mr Hydes (Henry), Mrs Guerin (Valentine), Frank Howson (Orson), Mr Spencer (Agramaut), Madame Carandini (Eglatine), Mrs Rogers (Agatha), Mrs Gibbs (Belisanta), Mrs F. Willis (Florimonda); **Harlequinade:** Signor Carandini (Harlequin), Andrew Torning (Clown), Mr Hollis (Pantaloon), Madame Torning (Columbine).

- The entertainment concluded with various farces and interludes such as *The Haunted Inn* (26 Dec.), *This House is to be Sold* and *Shocking Events* (1 Jan.)

*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. 1849, 2. Advert.

## FAIRY OF THE GOLDEN REGIONS; OR, HARLEQUIN AT CALIFORNIA:

[pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Among the features of the production were scenic views of the Sacramento River, San Francisco Bay, Port Adelaide and other local scenes. Mr Douglass was also drawn on stage "by four real cats in a newly-invented patent car."<sup>2</sup> In an extended review of the Queen's Theatre production the *South Australian Register* records in its 29 December edition:

'Tis not in mortals to command success,' but few deserve it more than that indefatigable caterer for public amusement, Lazar who, notwithstanding the bustle consequent on the frequent change of performances during Morton King's engagement, has found time to get up a very effective Christmas Pantomime, which, in addition to the attractions of that greatest of all juvenile treats, recommends itself to the notice of children of larger growth by its reference to the 'yellow fever' now so rife, and its adoption of the name of California - that land whose rich reality, overrate it as they may, exceeds all former treasure fluids, as Peru surpassed Pactolus. Of the introduction we cannot say very much; it had some wit, and a great deal of impertinence that passed for wit with the pittities, in it.... On the whole, we consider *Harlequin California* the best pantomime we have seen in South Australia, and think all juveniles should enjoy the laughter it is calculated to provoke during the holidays, before they are again consigned to the books and birch of those 'who teach the ingenuous youth of nations' (2).

1849: Queen's Theatre, Adelaide; 26-27 Dec.

- **Prod/Dir.** George Coppin; **Sc Art.** Mr Opie

- **Cast** incl. George Coppin (Peppernose Bang), Mr Lazar (Hiram Dodge), Mr Lambert (Harlequin), Mr Douglass (Clown), Mr Lindon (Pantaloon), Mr Strickland (Sprite), Miss Lazar (Columbine).

- The entertainment concluded with various farces, including *Cavaliers and Roundheads* and *Catching an Heiress*.

"Local Intelligence." *South Australian Register* (Adelaide) 29 Dec. 1849, 2.

**New Queen's Theatre.**  
**Grand Christmas Pantomime.**

**T**HIS Evening (Wednesday), and To-morrow (Thursday), will be presented a grand original Comic Pantomime, written expressly for the Theatre, called

**FAIRY OF THE GOLDEN REGIONS:**  
*Or, Harlequin at California.*

The scenery painted by Mr Opie, the tricks and transformations by Messrs Lindon and Douglass.

Peppernose Bang ..... Mr Coppin.  
Hiram Dodge ..... Mr Lazar.  
Harlequin ..... Mr Lambert.  
Clown ..... Mr Douglass.  
Pantaloon ..... Mr Lindon.  
Sprite ..... Mr Strickland (from the Surrey Theatre).  
Columbine ..... Miss Lazar.  
The rest of the characters by the whole of the company.

In the course of the Pantomime will be exhibited a view of the Sacramento River, the Bay of San Francisco, Port Adelaide, and a variety of Local Scenery. Mr Douglass will be drawn by four real Cats in a newly-invented patent car. The Pantomime will conclude with a brilliant Display of Fireworks.

To conclude this evening with the laughable farce of the

**UNFINISHED GENTLEMAN.**

To conclude to-morrow evening with a laughable farce called

**CAVALIERS AND ROUNDHEADS.**  
Gregory Thimblewell .. Mr Coppin.

*South Australian Register* 26 Dec. 1849, 2.

## FE FI FO FUM, HARLEQUIN JACK THE GIANT KILLER; OR, THE FAIRY OF THE SILVER STREAM: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

1849: Royal Olympic Theatre, Launceston (Tasmania); 26-27 Dec.

- **Prod/Dir/Lse.** R. J. Osborne.

- Each evening's entertainment concluded with a farce, including *A Queer Subject* (26 Dec.) and *Duke and Soldier* (27 Dec.). The Boxing Night programme also included selections from Shakespeare by Mr Leslie and a new comic song by Mr Osborne. No details regarding the pantomime cast has yet been located.

*Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas) 26 Dec. 1849, 7. Advert. [published as page 1115]

<sup>2</sup> *South Australian Register* (Adelaide) 26 Dec. 1849, 2. Advert.