

1906

John F. Sheridan revived *Cinderella and the Crystal Slipper* (1902) in Perth at Christmas. Headed by Heba Barlow (Cinderella), Beatrice English (Prince Charming) and with Sheridan as the dame (Baroness McTavish) the production went on to play seasons in Fremantle, regional Western Australia and Adelaide the following year. Also in the company were Joe Morris and Alf Wilson. Both men had appeared in the 1902 production.

1906 revivals included *Sinbad the Sailor* (1904): Following its successful revival in Sydney over the 1905/06 festive season William Anderson continued to revive *Sinbad*, taking it to Newcastle, Melbourne (return season), Adelaide (return season) and eventually New Zealand.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e].

For her second end of year entertainment Agnes Rahilly staged an abridged version of *The Sleeping Beauty* fairytale with a cast comprising children under the age of 16. Although the authorship of the work, or the adapter, is not yet known, it likely that Agnes Rahilly was involved to some degree, especially in so far as the non-text aspects were concerned.

For the Christmas season a few weeks later the company was strengthened with adults from her dramatic club. Rahilly and her partner G.A. Brown also joined the cast for this production. A special feature of the second production was said to have been the enchanted scene, "A Bower of Roses," where Beauty goes to sleep for a hundred years ("*Sleeping Beauty*," *Brisbane Courier* 26 Dec. 1906, 7).

1906: Protestant Hall, Brisbane; 10 Dec.

- **Prod/Dir.** Agnes Rahilly and G.A. Brown; **Limelight Op.** Mr Tyas.

- **Troupe:** Agnes Rahilly and G.A. Browns drama students.

- **Cast** incl. Miss Rae Cooper (Prince Charming), Elsie Green (Sleeping Beauty), Harold Deakin (King Hero), Jean Lamond (Peter), Leo Feenaghty (Puck), Pretoria Woods (Boy Blue), Jean Fraser (Queen Dodo, Beauty's mother), Amy Heath (Chief Mistress), Violet Gotterson (Lady May), Elsie Keen (Lady Betty), Gladys Keen (Lady Violet), Ivy Compton (Priscilla), Ettie Matthews (Benvolia), May Hicks (Blue Bell), Phyllis Stanton (Snowdrop), Maibry Campbell (Malvolia), Miss Green, Misses Eames (2), Miss Rogers, Ethel Valentine, Gladys Harlen, Ethel Willis, Mabel Willis, May McBrien, Phyllis Ingram, Miss Cudmore and Lois Lawrence, Miss May

- **Accompanist** Ethel Templeton.

- The evening's performance also included the sleep-walking scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, songs, recitals and dances, pretty costumes and limelight effects.



Telegraph (Brisbane) 1 Dec. 1906, 8.

1906: Protestant Hall, Brisbane; 26-28 Dec.; Centennial Hall; 29 Dec. 1906 - 3 Jan. 1907 [am]

- **Prod/Dir.** Agnes Rahilly and G.A. Brown.

- **Troupe:** Agnes Rahilly's Dramatic Club.

- **Cast** incl. Agnes Rahilly (Phyllis), G.A. Brown (King Hero), Rae Cooper (Prince Charming), Elsie Green (Prince Charming), Jean Lamond (Peter), Leo Feenaghty (Puck), Pretoria Woods (Boy Blue), Mr A. Thompson (Court Minstrel), Mr F. Osbourne (Prime Minsiter), Master F. Kay (Zuleika), Harold Deakin (Mobika), Jean Fraser (Queen Dodo, Beauty's mother), Mona Eames (Chief Mistress), Pearl Eames (Lady Violet), Dolly Hinch (Lady May), Ethel Valentine (Lady Betty), Ivy Compton (Priscilla), Jean Macgregor (Benvolea), Maibry Campbell (Malvolia), Kitty Green, Cissie Davis, Jean Stewart, May Hart, Violet Gotterson, Elsie Keen, Gladys Keen, Mary May, Ethel Willis, Mabel Willis, May McBrien, Phyllis Ingram, Lois Lawrence, Frances Schultz.

- **Accompanist** Ethel Templeton.

- The popularity of the show led to it being given an extended season at the Centennial Hall courtesy of Walter's Picture Company. Each evening's entertainment during that engagement comprised a first part film and vaudeville programme followed by the pantomime.

"Christmas Pantomime." *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 22 Dec. 1906, 6.

"Protestant Hall: *The Sleeping Beauty*." *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 11 Dec. 1906: 6.

"Protestant Hall: *The Sleeping Beauty*." *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 27 Dec. 1906, 5.

"*Sleeping Beauty, The*." *Brisbane Courier* 11 Dec. 1906, 3.

"*Sleeping Beauty, The*." *Brisbane Courier* 27 Dec. 1906, 3.

ALADDIN; OR, THE WONDERFUL LAMP: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e].

Presented over three nights just prior to Christmas by the children of St John's Sunday School, this version of Aladdin was likely adapted for the occasion by the school's teacher Mrs E.A. Stacey. The *Mercury's* preview notice records:

In the first act, the Geni of the Lamp, with a wave of her wand, transforms the tea gardens to the "willow" pattern scene in Peking, where the twelve Mandarins dance the umbrella dance, and Olga and Zoe Stacey do their champion clog. The second act shows, the enchanted cave, with all its glittering grandeur, in which 24 fairies appear in the floral ballet. The third act introduces the Emperor of China and his picturesque staff, who go through the evolutions of a quaint cotillon. Acts four and five: more novelties are introduced, and the concluding finale gives a grand finish, to a very fine performance ("*Aladdin*, 3).

Among the songs incorporated into the pantomime were: "Bad As They Make 'Em" and "Say How Do With Much Humour" (sung by Olga Stacey), "The Coconut Tree" (Olga and Zoe Stacey), and "Wooden Hut" (Hans and Zoe Stacey).

1906: Town Hall, Hobart; 17-19, 22 Dec. [am]

- **Prod/Dir/Chor.** Mrs E.A. Stacey; **Sc Art.** Messrs Marchant and Clay;

- **Cast** incl. Olga Stacey (Aladdin), Zoe Stacey (Princess Baralbadour), Molly Crowther (Fairy Queen), Ilma Stanley (Tartar Magician), Madge Boyes (Emperor of China), Clarice King (Empress), Eva Reading (Mustapha), Millie Stanley (Widow Twankey), Violet Jarman (Geni of the Ring), Frances Pillenger (Geni of the Lamp); Mandarins - Misses M. Grimmond, M. Wilmott, V. Levis, H. Cleary, L. Buchanan, G. Webster; Masters Hans Stacey, F.

Westbrook. Fairies - Misses Marion Stride, Eileen White, Marjorie Kirby, Linda Tudor, Irene Elliott, Nellie Elliott, Berry Tais, Marion Elliott, Leila Owen, Vera Owen, Violet Levis, Corrie Schott, Lily Schott.

- The 22 December production was a matinee only.

"*Aladdin*." *Mercury* (Hobart) 17 Dec. 1906, 3.

"Amusements: Aladdin at the Town Hall." *Mercury* (Hobart) 18 Dec. 1906, 6.

"Town Hall: Aladdin." *Tasmanian News* (Hobart) 18 Dec. 1906, 2.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: [pantomime] Lib Adapt. [n/e] (after Saville Clark); Mus. Walter Slaughter;

Add Mus. Alfred Hill.

Based on the popular story by Lewis Carroll, this version of *Alice in Wonderland* was abridged, localized and made up to date from the London "dream play for children" by Saville Clarke and Walter Slaughter,. It was performed by a company of juvenile actors. In a review published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* the libretto was said to have strung "together dialogue and scenes from the two volumes, the first act showing 'Wonderland,' and the second 'Through the Looking Glass'" ("*Alice*," 7). The *Daily Telegraph's* critic further noted:

It is a much-abridged version, this which was presented yesterday afternoon at Her Majesty's Theatre, and a considerably modernised one - which to some minds may seem sacrilege - but, then, the clamor of the theatre-goer of to-day is mostly for variety, and plenty of it. The novelty of the production lies especially in the fact that it is not only a children's pantomime, but a pantomime which is performed wholly and solely by children - young Australians, charged with the task of amusing many of their elders, as well as other young people ("Christmas," 5).

Of the music, the *Sydney Morning Herald* critic wrote, "Mr Walter Slaughter's simple melodious music is a strong point in the pantomime," going on to further describe it as "vivacious" ("*Alice*," 7). One of the chief features of the "Looking Glass" portion of the pantomime (Act 2), was the "poi" dance from Alfred Hill's opera, *Tapu*. The *Daily Telegraph* critic writes "Here the young performers caught the impassioned and poetical spirit of the music, and faithfully reproduced the rhythmic action which composes the dance ("Christmas," 5). The costume designs were reportedly based on John Tenniel's famous illustrations.

Of the young cast Clyde Cook, Doris Tindall and Lizette and Elsie Parkes all went on to have significant careers as entertainers.



Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) 23 Jan. 1907, 33

- 1906:** Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney; 24 Dec. 1906 - ca. Jan. 1907
- **Dir/Chor.** Minnie Everett; **Prod.** J.C. Williamson, George Tallis and Gustavo Ramaciotti; **M Dir.** Fred Quintrell; **Prpt.** Rock Phillips; **Ast S Mngr.** George Bryer; **Cost.** Emily Nathan (from original designs by John Tenniel); **Ast Chor.** Lily Seton.
 - **Cast** incl. Rosie Fitzgerald (Alice), Cyril French (Cheshire, the cat), Clyde Cook, Charles Smith, Harry Le Breton, Arthur Allen (Mad Hatter), Elmo Seaton, Madge Cass, John Coleman, Lizette Parkes (Duchess/Red Queen), Elsie Parkes, Donald Royle, Doris Tindall, Lizzie Anderson, Tilly Woodlock, Signor Antonio and his Trained Dogs.

"Alice in Wonderland." *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Dec. 1906, 7.

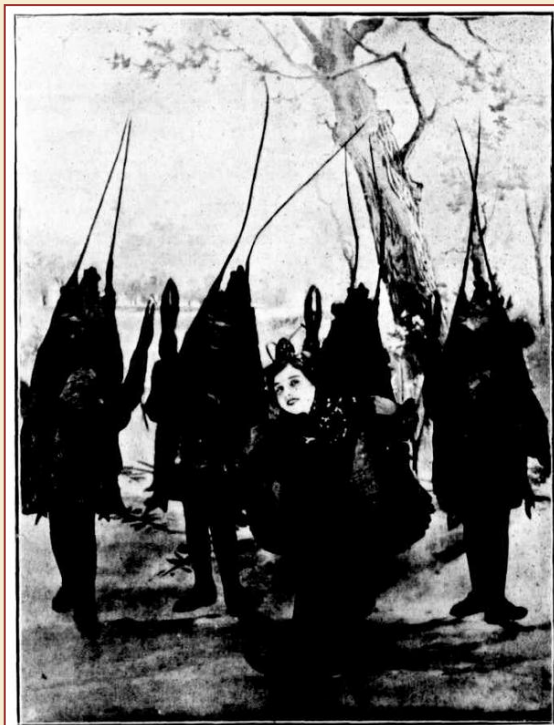
"Alice in Wonderland Played by Clever Children: The Maori Poi Dance and Chorus." *Australian Star (Sydney)* 26 Dec. 1906, 2.

"Christmas Pantomime: Alice in Wonderland at Her Majesty's." *Daily Telegraph (Sydney)* 25 Dec. 1906, 5.

"Stage, Song and Show." *Australian Star (Sydney)* 21 Dec. 1906, 7.



Left: The Red Queen and the White Queen; Right: The Lion and the Unicorn fighting for the Crown
Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) 23 Jan. 1907, 33.



The Lobster Chorus

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) 23 Jan. 1907, 41.



Alice and the Hares

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney) 23 Jan. 1907, 40.

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