

1907

John F. Sheridan's popular pantomime, *Cinderella* (from 1902) is given a revival in Sydney, this time at the Palace Theatre. The season, which began on 21 December, was produced under the joint management of Sheridan and William Anderson. The pantomime had previously been revived in Perth over the 1906/1907 Christmas/New Year and is known to have thereafter travelled to Fremantle, regional Western Australia and Adelaide.

THE PIRATES OF PARRAMATTA; OR WAGNER OUTWAGGED: [burlesque]

Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Possibly written by Charles Pope, with assistance from others in the company (including Charles and Will Bovis), *The Pirates of Parramatta* was described in advertising as "the great farcical, musical, comical, burlesque, operatic extravaganza" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 12 Jan. 1907, 2).

1907: National Amphitheatre, Sydney; 5-17 Jan.

- **Dir.** Charles Pope; **Prod.** James Brennan; **M Dir/Cond.** Percival Davies; **Chor.** Chrissie Royal; **Cost.** Harriet Batham; **S Art.** W.H. Wilson.
- **Cast** incl. Will Bovis, Joe Rox, Will Wallace, Charles Pope, Sam Keenan, Mamie Lewis, Essie Jennings, Nellie Marshall.

THE CONGRESS OF ALL NATIONS: [music theatre] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Advertised as being staged for the first time in Sydney, an "entirely new and original First Part... in which over 45 artists will represent the characteristics of all Nationalities" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 23 Feb. 1907, 2).

1907: National Amphitheatre, Sydney; 23-28 Feb.

- **Prod.** James Brennan; **M Dir.** Percival Davies; **Chor.** Chrissie Royal; **Cost.** Harriet Batham; **S Art.** W.H. Wilson.
- **Cast** incl. Charles and Will Bovis, Joe Rox, Will Wallace, Charles Pope, Sam Keenan, Mamie Lewis, Essie Jennings, Nellie Marshall, Denis Carney, Phoebe Lewis, Maud Stewart, Carden Wilson, Joe and Madge Vivian, Walter Cottier, Herb Livingstone, Chrissie Royal, Leila Delmont, Dick Stead, Master Jim Saunders, W.H. Russell, Dulcie Cardwell, Eva Dagmar, Marie Rendall, Pauline Williamson, Lillie Boyle, Violet Williamson, Cora Stanton, Mabel Howarth.

BLUE BELL IN FAIRY LAND: [pantomime] Lib Adapt. [n/e] (after Seymour Hicks); Mus. Walter Slaughter

"Founded on the charming musical dream-play by Seymour Hicks and Walter Slaughter" (*Advertiser* 19 Dec. 1908, 2), Pollard's Opera Company produced *Blue Bell in Fairyland* with Slaughter's original music but with a specially adapted, updated and localised libretto. Played out over 16 scenes, with 12 set in Fairyland, the pantomime also comprised 12 ballets and 20 specialty acts.

The story revolves around Blue Bell, a pretty little flower girl who has to support two younger sisters by selling her flowers in the London streets. Her visits to fairyland, which occur during her sleep, involve looking for and awakening the selfish Sleepy King (who been asleep for 300 years so as to save his riches rather and not spend it on his people) and the beautiful Will 'O the Wisp. During her waking hours Bluebell also comes into contact with a Mr Joplin, a philanthropic bachelor, and Dick, "the chief of a brigade of bootblacks."

1907: Theatre Royal, Christchurch (NZ); 12 Aug. -

- **Prod/Lse.** F.H. Pollock; **Dir.** Tom Pollard;
- **Mngr.** Herbert Myers.
- **Troupe:** Pollard's Opera Co
- **Cast** incl. Minnie Topping (Blue Bell), Bert Nicholson (Dick), Norman Munford, Wilton Welch, Loma Sinclair (Blue Bell's sister), Alma Aldous (Blue Bell's sister), Ivy Aldous (Peter), Dora Rogers (Will 'O the Wisp), Cissie O'Keefe (Water Lily), Kitty Burke, Harold Rogers, B. Cheal, Frizzie Ireland, Charles Albert.

1908: Theatre Royal, Adelaide; 26 Dec. 1908 - 2 Jan. 1909

- **Cast** and production mostly as for New Zealand tour.
- **Produced** by special arrangement with J.C. Williamson.

"Amusements: Theatre Royal." *Register* (Adelaide) 19 Dec. 1908, 5.

"Amusements: Theatre Royal." *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 19 Dec. 1908, 9.

"Amusements: Theatre Royal." *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 28 Dec. 1908, 9.

"Christmas Pantomime, The." *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 21 Dec. 1908, 10.

Pantomime Box-Plans Open at Marshalls' Wednesday Morning Next, at 10 o'clock.

THEATRE ROYAL | Sole Lessee ... Mrs. F. H. Pollock.
Manager ... Mr. Herbert Myers.

APPROPRIATE FESTIVE SEASON ATTRACTION.
"A RARE TREAT IN ADELAIDE." "PANTOMIME AT XMAS TIME."
"THE EVENT OF A DECADE."

Commencing Saturday Next (Boxing Night), December 26.
And Every Evening.

POLLARD'S OPERA CO.
Under the Direction of Mr. Tom Pollard

will present for the first time in Adelaide, on a scale of lavish completeness, the
Gorgeous, Spectacular

XMAS PANTOMIME,
Founded on the Charming Musical Dream-Play by Seymour Hicks and Walter Slaughter, entitled

BLUE BELL IN FAIRYLAND.

Produced by Special Arrangement with J. C. Williamson, and with all the Original
Scenes, Wardrobe, and Effects.

A GLITTERING SCENE OF BEAUTY.
New Ballets! New Choruses! New Music! New Songs! New Dances! A host of
New Specialities, and a New Cast of Characters.

Full particulars will be duly announced.

Seasonable Prices—Dress Circle and Reserved Stalls, 4/-; Stalls, 2/8; Gallery, 1/-.
Early Door (Gallery only), 6d. extra. Box-plans at Marshalls'. Day Sales at Dabst
and Biven's.

First Pantomime Matinee, Wednesday, December 30.

Advertiser (Adelaide) 19 Dec. 1908, 2.



1. Cissie O'Keefe; 2. Bert Nicholson and Leslie Drummond; 3. May Topping.
Source. Peter Downes *The Pollards* (2002), 184



Source: Peter Downes *The Pollards* (2002), 184.

ROBINSON CRUSOE: [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** Fred W. Weirter.

Initially staged at William Anderson's Wonderland City with an all-juvenile cast, *Robinson Crusoe* transferred to the Oxford Theatre for a week in mid-January. It was revived the following Christmas by Edwin Geach with a combined adult and juvenile company.

1907: Wonderland City, Sydney; 24 Dec. 1907 - ca. Jan. 1908

- **Prod.** William Anderson; **Dir/M Dir.** Fred. W. Weirter.
- Cast comprised around 100 children.

1908: Oxford Theatre, George Street, Sydney; 11-17 Jan.

- Cast and production as for Wonderland City season (under the management of Oxford Theatre lessee William Crawley).
- Produced in association with William Anderson.
- A proposed New South Wales regional tour in March (to include Newcastle) did not eventuate, as Fred Weirter was engaged to tour New Zealand for John F. Sheridan.

1908: Palace Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1908 - 15 Jan. 1909

- **Prod.** Edwin Geach; **Dir.** Fred. W. Weirter; **M Dir.** Herr Diederichsen; **Sc Art.** J. Ricketts; **Chor.** Ethel Clifford; **Mngr.** George Marlow.

- **Cast** incl. Louie Crashaw (Robinson Crusoe), Eric Smedley (Demon Blustering), Les Hallinan (Dame Crusoe), Tom Campbell (Sandy Crusoe), Walter Cornock (Will Atkins), Little Willie (Friday), Albert Smith (Percy the donkey).

- The cast was again reported as comprising around 100 children.

1908: New South Wales/Queensland regional tour; ca. Jan-Feb.

- Itinerary incl. Newcastle (Victoria Th; 16 Jan.) • Maitland (Town Hall; 21-22 Jan.) • Singleton (Mechanics' Hall; 23 Jan.) • Warwick (Town Hall; 31 Jan, 1 Feb.) • Ipswich (Town Hall; 4 Feb.) • Brisbane (His Majesty's Theatre; 6-13 Feb.) • Rockhampton (Theatre Royal; 20 Feb.)

PALACE.
DIRECTION OF EDWIN GEACH.
Manager Mr. GEORGE MARLOW.
"A Merry Xmas and Happy New Year."
"A Treat for the Little Ones."
STARTING { TO-DAY AT 2 SHARP.
TO-DAY AT 2 SHARP.
TO-DAY AT 2 SHARP. } STARTING
Be Sure and Accompany the Youngsters
to see the
PANTOMIME OF
PANTOMIME OF
PANTOMIME OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
Which will be presented daily at Matinees Only.
Sydney Morning Herald 26 Dec. 1908, 2.

"Oxford - Robinson Crusoe." *Sunday Times* (Sydney) 12 Jan. 1908, 2.

"Palace - Robinson Crusoe: Juvenile Pantomime." *Sunday Times* (Sydney) 27 Dec. 1908, 2.

"Pantomime at the Palace." *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) 28 Dec. 1908, 3.

"Robinson Crusoe." *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. 1908, 3.

"Robinson Crusoe Pantomime." *Evening News* (Sydney) 28 Dec. 1908, 8.

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

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