

A number of variety-style acts were included in the programme submitted for a joint benefit to Messrs. Riley and Fenton at the Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney, on 1 October. An advertisement for the event published in the *Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser*,<sup>1</sup> records that they were positioned between the historical dramas, *Fall of Algiers; By Sea and Land* and *The Tower of Nesle; Or, The Chamber of Death*. The performances identified were from Miss Jones (an entirely new dance), Mrs Knowles (Song, "An Old Man Would be Wooing"), Mr Fitzgerald (Highland Fling), Mr Lee ("Jim Crow," with additional verses), Messrs Allen and Fitzgerald (favourite comic dances from the pantomime *Mother Goose*), Miss Lazar (ballad, "Rory O'Moore"), Mrs Araola (song, "Some Love to Roam"), Mrs Allen (new Indian dance from celebrated drama of *Robinson Crusoe*), and Miss Lazar (medley dance).

## THE DEMON KING; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE FAIRY OF THE SILVER STAR:

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

Described as a "Grand Comic Pantomime Embracing Several Local Whimsicalities (*Sydney Gazette* 15 Aug. 1840, 3), the opening performance of the initial April season was reported in the *Colonist* as a major success: "The house was a complete bumper, and the merits of the piece and the exertions of the performers met with a very flattering reception. Although for our part, we are disposed generally to regard with contempt this species of theatrical compositions, we must confess, in the present instance that considerable praise is due to Mr Lazar, the manager of the Victoria, for the clever style in which he has conceived and got up this pantomimic entertainment. The rhyme of its dialogue, its songs and duets, although of a doggerel description, and couched in the usual style of broad burlesque, are by no means bad of their kind; they contain some very passable puns and practical jokes. The preternatural machinery of incantations, visions and magic illusions, were very cleverly imagined, and not badly executed. There was something new in the combination, if not original in the idea, of the formidable exormedium [sic], in which so many demonic and fairy spirits were introduced, and represented as the prime promoters of all the merriment, mischief, or roguery that prevails in the world. The application of the legerdemain of harlequin his coadjutors, in illustration of J.T. Wilson,<sup>2</sup> the great Australian *Bolter*, was particularly pointed and was appreciated as a piece of severe but merited satire" (2).

In support of the review is a report in the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* which notes that the box office takings for the opening night amounted to £170, a considerable sum at that time (2).

When the pantomime was revived in August as part of a benefit programme put on for John Lazar, the *Australasian Chronicle* was far less complementary in its assessment of the production. "We regret to add that the pantomime of the *Demon King* was a complete failure," writes the critic, "not a single trick of pantomime was performed with any degree of dexterity, although the character of Harlequin was well supported by Mr Fitzgerald and that of Columbine by Miss Lazar" (3).



MR. JOHN LAZAR.

- 1840:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 20, 23, 25 Apr., 2, 9 May  
 - **Dir/Mngr.** John Lazar; **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight.  
 - **Cast** incl. Mr Lee (Clown).
- 1840:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 17 Aug., 7 Sept.  
 - **Dir/Mngr.** John Lazar; **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight.  
 - **Cast** incl. Mr Knowles (Quang Fong Fa, Emperor of China), Mr Grove (Zobardo, the Demon King), Mr Simes (Prince Sheharazade), Miss Lazar (Princess Po-Ke, the Emperor's daughter), Mr Lee (Ti-Filli-Ki, Prime Minister), Mr Lazar (Graditto), Mr Collins (Oreobrand, a demon), Mr Riley (Sangarotti, a demon), Miss Jones (Quinton, a Demon Spirit), Mrs Knowles (Seetenetto, Fairy Queen of the Silver Star), Miss Winstanley (Fair Star, the Queen's consort), Mrs Arabin, Mrs Grove, and Mrs Larra (Attendant Fairies); Harlequinade - Mr Fitzgerald (Harlequin), Mr Lee (Clown), Mr Allen (Pantaloone), Miss Lazar (Columbine).

Source: Adelaide Jewish Museum

**Royal Victoria Theatre.**  
**EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 20th, 1840.**  
**W**ILL be presented, for the first time, a new  
 and grand **COMIC PANTOMIME,**  
 entitled,  
**THE DEMON KING!**  
 OR,  
*Harlequin and the Fairy of the Silver Star.*  
 For Programme of Scenery, Tricks &c. see bills.  
 AFTER WHICH,  
 The laughable interlude called,  
**SAYINGS AND DOINGS;**  
 OR,  
**THE RULES OF CONTRARY.**  
 To conclude with the favourite farce of  
**SUDDEN THOUGHTS.**  
**J. LAZAR, MANAGER.**  
**VIVAT REGINA.**  
*Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser*  
 20 Apr. 1840, 5.

<sup>1</sup> *Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser* 1 Oct. 1840, 3. Advert.

<sup>2</sup> J.T. Wilson was a prominent Sydney auctioneer.

"Royal Victoria Theatre." *Colonist* (Sydney) 22 Apr. 1840, 2.  
*Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 15 Aug. 1840, 3. Advert.  
"Theatre." *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 25 Apr. 1840, 2.  
"Theatricals." *Australasian Chronicle* (Sydney) 20 Aug. 1840, 3.  
"Victoria Theatre." *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* 23 Apr. 1840, 2.

**OLD KING COLE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND HIS FIDDLERS THREE:** [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.**  
[n/e].

**1840:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Hobart; 28, 30 Dec.  
- **Dir/Mngr.** John Lazar; **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight; **S Mngr.** Arthur Falchon.

*Courier* (Hobart) 25 Dec. 1840) 3. Advert.

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE, Campbell-street.**  
The public is most respectfully informed, that **TOMORROW**, the 28th instant, will be represented the petite Comedy of **THE MARRIED BACHELOR, or MASTER AND MAN.** After which, the Nautical Drama of **THE MIDDY ASHORE, or A SPREE UPON LAND.** To conclude with the laughable farce of **THE IRISHMAN IN LONDON, or THE HAPPY AFRICAN.**

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On **MONDAY**, the 29th instant, the Nautical Melodrama of **BLACK-EYED SUSAN, or ALL IN THE DOWNS.** To conclude with (for the first time) a splendid new Christmas Pantomime, entitled **OLD KING COLE, or HARLEQUIN AND HIS FIDDLERS THREE.**  
**ARTHUR FALCHON, Stage Manager.**

*Courier* (Hobart) 25 Dec. 1840, 3.

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