

**HARLEQUIN AND THE ENCHANTED EGG:** [pantomime] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE,**  
Campbell Street.

At the request of several Families of Hobart Town and its vicinity, To-Morrow's Performances will commence with the new Grand Christmas Pantomime, to which will be added the Grand Romantic Drama of the Mistletoe Bough.

**TO-MORROW, 8th January, the Evening's Performances** will commence with the new Grand Pantomime, with entire new Scenery, Dresses, Decorations, and Appointments, called **HARLEQUIN AND THE ENCHANTED EGG.**

Programme of Scenery, Incidents, &c.

Scene 1.—Interior of King Wong Bang's Palace—The King and Courtiers Carousing—Mysterious Dream of King Wong Bang respecting the Enchanted Egg. Scene 2.—Wood—(Thunder and Lightning)—Palpata, Grabugeon, and Mobostoco, in search of the Egg, the Guardian Demon following. Scene 3.—Rocky Pass—Palpata, Grabugeon, and Mobostoco in peril—Awful appearance of the Demon—Invisible Chorus—The Egg discovered and borne off. Scene 4.—Golden Cave—Grand Procession of King Wong Bang—The triumphal entrance of the successful finders of the Egg—The Egg disenchanted and the Fairy delivered—The rage of the Demon and his revenge—The Transformation. Scene 5.—Street—Fun and frolic, a reel, and off we go. Scene 6.—Street—Booking Office—"Bull and Mouth"—Parcels delivered, &c. Scene 7.—Wood and Cut Wood—The Robber of the Rhin(e) O!—Pantaloons shot—Extraction of the Bullets. Scene 8.—Lodging House—"I am not to be let with the Lodging, so let me alone"—How to use a Mop, and serve a Bailiff—"Hot Pies." Scene 9.—Lester's China Shop—A general Smash—News from China—A novel Cannon Ball. Scene 10.—Lucifer Match Warehouse and General Dealer—Clown turned Shopkeeper—Tea and Sugar, alias Birch Brooms and Sand—A blow up—Meat Company—High and low price. Scene 11 and last—Fairy Palace, Tableau, Chorus, and Fireworks.

To conclude with the Romantic Drama of **THE MISTLETOE BOUGH, or YOUNG LOVEL'S BRIDE.**

Produced as a first part entertainment at the request of some Hobart families, in order that their children could return home earlier, *Harlequin and the Enchanted Egg* was played out over 11 scenes, beginning in the interior of King Wong Bang's palace and ending with a tableau at the fairy palace.

NB: The *Courier* records in its "Theatre" preview that the "harlequinade pantomime" had "already been produced at the Victoria Theatre" (7 Jan. 1842, 2). To date, no record of a pantomime with this title has been located in connection with that theatre. The only other pantomime identified as being staged at the Royal Victoria prior to this was *Harlequin and the Evil Spirit of Wye* (27 Dec. 1841). It is possible that the journalist was mistaken.

1842: Royal Victoria Theatre, Hobart; 8 Jan.

- Lse. F.B. Watson; Mngr. S. Cameron; Machinist Mr Boyd.
- Cast inc. Mr Serle, Mrs Harrold, Mr Boyd.

"Local: Theatre." *Courier* (Hobart) 7 Jan. 1842, 2.

*Courier* (Hobart) 7 Jan. 1842, 3. Advert.

*Courier* (Hobart) 7 Jan. 1842, 3.

**THE SHAM CATALANI IN LITTLE PUDDLETON:** [aka THE MOCK CATALANI IN LITTLE PUDDLETON] [burletta] Text/Orig Mus. Charles Nagel; Add Mus. [n/e].

# James Tegg (Syd), 1842.

# New South Wales Archives, n. yr.

# British Library, n yr. [1344 K8]

Although this "new original musical burletta" was claimed by Nagel as his own, the similarities between it and Adolf Bauerle's *Die Falsche Catalani in Krahwinkel* suggest some degree of relationship. As Katherine Brisbane notes, however: "Such local adaptations were as common in Australia as in Europe at that time, when copyright in a work lay with the publisher, not the author" (213). Despite having a question mark over its origins *The Sham Catalani in Little Puddleton* still holds a significant place in Australian theatre history. The colonial authorities, having previously discouraged Australian settings for theatrical productions because of the "special circumstances of the colony," were by the early 1840s in a position to relax the censorship guidelines. The first real evidence of this change occurred on 23 April 1842 when Nagel's play was granted a license for performance by the NSW Colonial Secretary, Edward Deas Thomson (so long as "oaths" were removed).

The 1842 production was described as "a satire upon the rage for encouraging foreign singers, the dialogue is smart, [and] some of the music (composed by the author) is pretty. It must be assumed that the burletta underwent some changes for its revival in 1843, however, as the *Australian Journal* notes in a review of that production (re-titled *The Mock Catalani in Little Puddleton*): "Considerable dissatisfaction has been expressed in circles at the omission of the new songs written expressly for the occasion by Captain Nagel, and which were announced in Monday's bills. We regret this on every account, and must express our hope that the ladies, to whom these songs were assigned, will make the *amende honorable* to the clever author, by bringing them before the public in the next representation of this burletta" (2 June 1843, 1275).

*Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*  
7 May 1842, 2.

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.**  
UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF  
**COLONEL FRENCH,**  
And the Officers of H. M. 28th Regiment.  
ON WHICH OCCASION  
The Band of the Regiment will attend.

The Public is most respectfully informed, that in consequence of the unbounded applause and unanimous approbation bestowed on the

**FIRST ORIGINAL BURLETTA**  
Ever produced in this Colony, it will be repeated this Evening.

**SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1842.**  
The Performances will commence with the laughable Burletta, entitled

**THE MOCK CATALANI  
IN LITTLE PUDDLETON.**

Dobba (the Mayor of Little Puddleton) ..	Mr. Fenton
William (the Sham Catalani) .....	Mr. Simmons
Captain O'Leary .....	Mr. Falchon
Tibbs (Poet Laureate of Little Puddle) ..	Mr. Simes
Spruce .....	Mr. Grove
John .....	Mr. Lee
Head's .....	Mr. Meredith
Town Crier .....	Mr. Collins
Fanny .....	Mrs S. W. Wallace
Jolly .....	Mrs. Ximenes

Attendants, Soldiers, Citizens, Lane Sexton, &c.

IN THE COURSE OF THE PIECE, THE FOLLOWING SONGS, &c. :-

Original, "The Sentitive Plant," Mrs. Wallace  
Duet, "Dear Maid," Mrs. Wallace and Mr. Simmons  
Serg, "The Widow Malone" Mr. Falchon.  
Song, "Oh men what silly things you are," Mr. Ximenes  
Original, Song and Chorus, "Catalani."  
Original, "The pretty Bark Hut in the Bush," Mrs. Ximenes.  
Original, Song and Chorus, "Wellington," Mr. Falchon.  
Song, Mrs. Ximenes.  
Original, "Mock Italian Aria," Mr. Simmons.  
Grand Finale. Original.

Margaret Williams notes in *Australia on the Popular Stage* that Joseph Simmons, himself one of the colony's earliest playwrights, appeared in the lead role of a gentleman who disguises himself as an Italian diva in order to out-trick his rivals (18). The story, which the *New South Wales Examiner* records as being "its least recommendation" (3), concerns William (a music teacher) and Captain O'Leary (commander of the troops at Little Puddleton) who are both competing for the hand of the Mayor's daughter, Fanny Dobbs. Against her father's preference, Fanny chooses William, and in a most "improbable" plot device William obtains a pledge from both the mayor and the captain that they will accept the situation if it should happen that one day they both go down on their knees and kiss his hand. The mayor subsequently receives a letter informing him of the imminent visit to the town of the prima donna, Catalini. Upon "her" arrival Catalini is naturally greeted in a most flattering manner, two of the most respectful being (naturally) Mayor Dobbs and Captain O'Leary, who both salute the diva's extended hand on their bended knees. William throws off his disguise and he and Fanny are forthwith married and "[so we conclude, at least] live happily for the rest of their lives" (*New South Wales Examiner* 11 May 1842, 3).

**1842:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 4, 7 May  
 - **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight.  
 - **Cast** incl. Joseph Simmons, Tilly Jones.

**1843:** Royal Victoria Theatre [aka Royal City Theatre], Sydney; 29 May [as *The Mock Catalini in Little Puddleton*]  
 - **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight.  
 - **Cast** incl. Joseph Simmons.

**1853:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Vic); 8, 13 May

Brisbane, Katherine. *Companion to Theatre in Australia* (1995), 213.

"Charles Nagel, Esq., and the *Mock Catalini*." *Australasian Chronicle* (Sydney) 21 May 1842, 2.

"Drama, The." *Australian Journal* 10 May (1842), 2.

Irvin, Eric. "Australia's 'First' Dramatists." *Australian Literary Studies* 4.1 (1969), 18-30.

Jones, Melinda. *Companion to Theatre in Australia*. Sydney: Currency Press, 1995, 131.

"Literature." *Australasian Chronicle* (Sydney) 9 June 1842, 3.

"Royal Victoria Theatre." *New South Wales Examiner* (Sydney) 4 May 1842, 3.

*Sydney Herald* 4 May 1842, 2. Advert.

*Sydney Herald* 7 May 1842, 2. Advert.

Skinner, Graeme. "Toward a General History of Australian Musical Composition: First National Music 1877-c.1860." Ph D Diss. U of Sydney (2011), 208-211, and v. pags.

"Coppin Collection." State Library of Victoria. Playbill.

"Theatrical Examiner: Royal Victoria Theatre - *The Mock Catalini, The*." *New South Wales Examiner* (Sydney) 11 May 1842, 3.

"Theatricals." *Australian* (Sydney) 2 June 1843, 2.

"Theatricals." *Sydney Herald* 5 May 1842, 3. [see also advert. May 1842, 2]

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. Melbourne: Oxford UP, 1983, 18-19, 291.

**THE FAIRY QUEEN; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE CHARMED ARROW: [aka THE FAIRY QUEEN; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE GOLDEN ARROW]** [pantomime] **Txt.** J.L. Jacobs; **Mus.** n/e].



ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE,  
 (CAMERON'S)  
 PATERSON STREET,  
 Open for the Season on the Evenings of  
 Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The Orchestra comprises the whole of the  
 available talent in town.

Several Novelties are in preparation, and  
 will follow each other in rapid succession.

The Patrons of the Victoria Theatre are most  
 respectfully informed, that on  
**MONDAY, JULY 11, 1842,**  
 Will be produced, for the first time in this  
 Town, the new Pantomime, written  
 expressly for this Theatre, with  
 New Scenery, Tricks, Ma-  
 chinery, &c., entitled,  
**THE FAIRY QUEEN;**  
 OR,  
**HARLEQUIN AND THE CHARMED  
 ARROW.**

The whole to conclude with  
**WINNING A HUSBAND**  
 OR,  
**SEVEN'S THE MAIN.**

Written expressly for the Royal Victoria "with New Scenery, Tricks, Machinery etc" (*Cornwall Chronicle* 9 July 1842, 3), the author is later identified as Mr Jacobs "of this theatre" (*Cornwall Chronicle* 16 July 1842, 2). In that same report the *Chronicle* records that the pantomime had "attracted crowded houses during the week."

When the pantomime was produced at the Melbourne's Royal Victoria Theatre in 1844 (under a slightly variant title), it was (mis)advertised as having been "written especially for this occasion" by Mr Jacobs. The new scenery, machinery and tricks were likely created for the production, though. This production also featured the song "Hot Coddilins" (sung by Mr Miller) and a Pas De Deux medley (performed by Mr Jacobs and Mrs Brown). Advertising also indicates that a number of specialty dances were incorporated into the storyline (including gavots, a hornpipe and comic dances).

[NB: In the 13 July edition of the *Cornwall Chronicle* the members of the Royal Victoria Theatre company signed a letter to the editor which expressed their concern over unfounded rumours regarding the imminent dissolution of the theatre. In that letter Mr Jacobs is identified as J.L. Jacobs (3). Unfortunately it is not yet known which members of the company took part in the pantomime].

**1842:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 11-16 July  
 - **Prod/Mngr.** Mr Cameron.

**1844:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Melbourne; 31 Oct., 4 Nov. [as *The Fairy Queen; Or, Harlequin and the Golden Arrow*]  
 - **Cast** incl. Mrs Knowles (Titania, the Fairy Queen), Mr Jacobs (Henry, a peasant in love with Mary), Mrs Grove (Thistledown), Mrs Murray (Iris), Mrs Avins (Urania), Mr Capper (Old Lovegold, Mary's father), Mr Miller (Starshot, a rival of Henry), Mrs Brown (Mary, betrothed to Henry).  
 - **Harlequinade:** Mr Jacobs (Harlequin), Mr Miller (Clown), Mr Avins (Pantaloon), Mrs Brown (Columbine).

*Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas) 9 July 1842, 3.

- Presented on 30 October as part of the benefit programme accorded Mr Jacobs, and ("for the last time") on 4 November during Mr Searle's benefit.
- The 4 November performance saw the inclusion of an extra "Clown" (Mr Searle) and an extra Pantaloon (Mr Jones).

*Port Phillip Gazette* (Melbourne) 30 Oct. 1844, 3. Advert. [incl. scene synopsis]

*Port Phillip Gazette* (Melbourne) 2 Nov. 1844, 3. Advert. [incl. scene synopsis]

## THE MAGIC WAND; OR, THE GENII OF THE RING:

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

Possibly written or adapted by J.L. Jacobs, *The Magic Wand* tells the story of a magician called Baddakin. Among the minor roles were a dandy, a butler, watchmen, laundrymen, fairies, and a vegetable seller.

**1842:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 8 Oct.

- **Prod/Mngr.** Mr Cameron; **S Mngr.** Mr Arabin; **S Art.** Mr Opie; **M Dir.** H.G. O'Clevegh (?).
- **Cast** incl. Mr Arabin (Baddakin, a magician), Mr Opie Kazerac (his servant), Mr Atkins (Adrian), Mr Jacobs (Widow Ching Mustapha), Miss Harold, Miss Wilson.
- **Harlequinade:** Mr Arabin (Pantaloon), Mr Opie (Clown), Mr Atkins Harlequin), Mrs Harrold (Columbine).

*Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas) 8 Oct. 1842, 3.

The Evening's Entertainments will conclude with a Pantomime, got up expressly for this night only, entitled the

### MAGIC WAND;

OR

The Genii of the Ring.

Baddakin (a Magician) Mr. Arabin, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr. Opie; Kazerac (his Servant (afterwards Clown) Mr. Searle; Adrian, Mr. Atkins, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr. Jacobs; Widow Ching Mustapha, Mrs. Watson; Columbine, Mrs. Harold; The Demon Bug, ———; Fairies, Dandy, Butler, Watchman, Laundrymaid, Vegetable Seller, &c., &c. by Misses Harold, Watson, and the rest of the Company.

Scenery by Mr. Opie; Stage Manager, Mr. Arabin; Leader of the Orchestra, Mr. H. G. O'Clevegh.

## THE FAIRY OF THE CORAL CAVE; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE MAGIC

**PANCAKE:** [pantomime] **Txt.** Andrew Torning; **Mus.** [n/e].

The *Sydney Morning Herald* records: The introductory scenes are laughable, and after the change, Mr Torning as Clown, Mr Lee as Pantaloon, Mr Chambers as Harlequin, and Madame Louise as Columbine, went with considerable ability through the usual evolutions of a pantomime, interspersed with a number of pretty dances and amusing tricks. Some of the scenery is very good, particularly the fairy scene, with which the piece opens and closes. The house was crowded in every part (27 Dec. 1842, 2).

At a benefit for Mr Knowles, held at the same theatre on 6 February, management announced the inclusion of "the highly popular COMIC DANCE, from the new Pantomime, by Mr. A. Torning, in the character of Clown, and the favourite MEDLEY DANCE, received nightly with great applause, by Madame Louise, in the character of Columbine (*Sydney Morning Herald* 3 Feb. 1843, 3).

The entire pantomime was later included as part of Andrew Torning's benefit at the Royal Victoria Theatre on 12 March. Madame Torning, who took on the role of Columbine for that performance, presented a new Garland Dance, while Andrew Torning and Mr Chambers danced a new Pas de Deux (*Sydney Morning Herald* 11 Mar. 1843, 3).

**1842:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 26, 27 Dec. 1842; 2, 5 Jan.; 13 Mar. 1843

- **Dir/Mngr.** Andrew Torning; **Prod/Prop.** Joseph Wyatt and William Knight.
- **Cast** incl. Andrew Torning (Clown), Mr Lee (Pantaloon), Madame Louise (Columbine), Mr Chambers (Harlequin).
- The 27 December performance concluded with a production of *The Iron Chest* (*Australasian Chronicle* 27 Dec. 1842, 3).

**1843:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 1, 3 July

- **Dir.** Andrew Torning; **S Art.** Mr Roberts; **Mngr.** Mr Griffiths.
- **Cast** incl. Mrs Ximenes (Shrove Tuesday, Queen of the Fairied), Mrs Thomson (Ash Wednesday), Madame Carandini (Good Friday), Misses Griffiths (Attendant Fairies), Sig. Carandini (William, a plough boy/Harlequin), Mr Riley (Gilee Batterhead, a farmer/Pantaloon), Mr Torning (Dame Batterhead/Clown), Madame Torning (Cinnamon, their daughter/Columbine), Mr Smith (Tommy Batterhead), Mr Smith (Fanny Batterhead).
- The 1 July production was staged as part of a benefit to Andrew Torning. Other items on the bill were *The Wild Boy of the Hycenian Forest* (drama), and *A Ghost in Spite of Himself* (farce).

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.**  
**BOXING NIGHT,**  
**THIS DAY, DECEMBER 26, 1842,**  
**Will be performed for the first time a new**  
**Grand Pantomime, called**  
**THE FAIRY OF THE CORAL CAVE;**  
**OR,**  
**HARLEQUIN AND THE MAGIC PANCAKE.**  
**Clown . . . . Mr. A. Torning**  
**Pantaloon . . . . Mr. Lee**  
**Columbine . . . . Madame Louise**  
**Harlequin . . . . Mr. Chambers.**  
**A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENTS.**  
**To conclude with**  
**THE RAKE'S PROGRESS.**

*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. 1842, 2.

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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:**

Clay Djubal. "1842." *Australian Variety Theatre Archive*, Works: 1830-1849.

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