

# 1860

## **KING CHARMING; OR, THE BLUE BIRD OF PARADISE:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

An extravaganza-style burlesque with local allusions adapted from J.R. Planché's *King Charming; Or, The Blue Bird of Paradise* (1850), the *Sydney Morning Herald's* critic records that "'impossible' kind which defies analysis, and is all the more pleasant from its very many incongruous absurdities." He or she goes on to note: From Henpekt the Hundredth to the fairy Soussio (with the marvelously ugly nose), each character contributes [their] quota to the general mirth afforded by the story of the loves of young King Charming and the Princess Florina" (6 Jan. 1860, 5).

**1860:** Prince of Wales Opera House, Sydney; 2-7 Jan.

- **Mngr.** Samuel Colville.

- **Cast** incl. Mary Provost, Mrs Crosby, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Jones, Mr Raynor, Mr Burford, Mr Palmer, Charles Miran.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.* (1995), v. pags.

"Extravaganza and Pantomime etc." *Sydney Morning Herald* 6 Jan. 1860, 5.

## **PLUTO AND PROSERPINE; OR THE TRIUMPHS OF CERES:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque with local hits possibly adapted by George Fawcett [Rowe] from Francis Talfourd's burlesque *Pluto and Proserpine; Or, The Belle and the Pomegranate* (1858). Fawcett [Rowe], in the character of Dr Hunter, impersonated "the costume, deportment and political bias of a well-known M.L.A. and disciple of Esculapius" (*Argus* 31 Jan. 1860, 5).

**1860:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 30 Jan. - 22, 27 Feb. - 3 Mar., 9 June [26 pfms]

- **S Art.** B. Tannett and John Hennings.

- **Cast** incl. Fanny Young, Miss Green (dancer), Miss Targett (dancer), Miss Springett (dancer), George Fawcett

[Rowe], Harry Jackson, Tilly Earl [Mrs John Edouin].

**1860:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 24-27 Oct., 3 Nov.

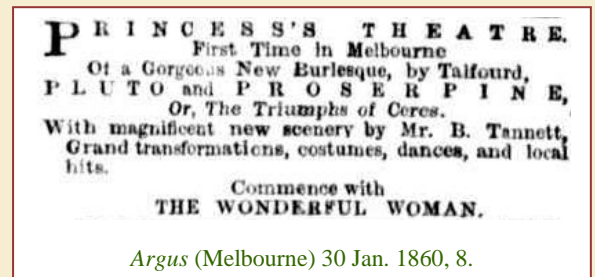
- **Mngr.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Prop.** G.V. Brooke.

- **Cast** incl. Mrs Alfred Phillips, Fanny Young, Harry Jackson.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 30 Jan. 1860, 8. **Advert.**

Editorial. *Argus* (Melbourne) 31 Jan. 1860, 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.* (1995), v. pags.



## **MYDEA - A LESSON TO HUSBANDS:** [burlesque]

**Txt Adapt.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

Most likely adapted by George Fawcett [Rowe], the burlesque contains numerous local allusions.

**1860:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 12-17 Mar.

- **Mngr.** George Fawcett [Rowe].

- **Cast** incl. George Fawcett [Rowe], Fanny Young, Amy Howard, Mr Stewart, Tom Fawcett.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 12 Mar. 1860, 8. **Advert.**

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.* (1995), v. pags.

## **THE NYMPH OF THE LURLEYBURG:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** W.M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted and localized from H.J. Byron's extravaganza *The Nymph of the Lurleyburg; Or, The Knight and the Naiads* (1859), and based on the legend of Lurline. Advertisements mention that the benefit was a response to insolvency brought about through the recent court case of Akhurst v Brooke in the County Court.

**1860:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 5 Apr. (benefit) [revival: 2 Aug. Theatre Royal]

- **Lse.** G.V. Brooke.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Milne, Fanny Young, Mr Jackson, Julia Matthews.

Editorial. *Argus* 7 Apr. 1860, 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.* (1995), v. pags.

## **THE TALISMAN; OR, EMIGRATION OF OLD:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** John Cooke; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by Cooke from Walter Scott's novel *The Talisman* expressly for the occasion, and with local allusions.

**1860:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 21, 25-27 June

- **Mngr.** Henry Edwards.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Rogers, Henry R. Harwood, Mr Jackson, Julia Matthews, Miss Morgan, Mlle. Nye.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.* (1995), v. pags.

## **FORTY THIEVES; OR, OPEN SESAME:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** W.M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Local allusions such as the land question, the total abstinence movement and Melbourne Hospital, were added to this adaptation of Gilbert á Beckett and Mark Lemon's burlesque *Open Sesame; Or, A Night with the Forty Thieves* (1844).

**1860:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 12-14 July

- **S Mngr.** R.W. Younge.

- **Cast** incl. Frederick Younge (Hassarac), Mrs Frederick Younge (Abdallah), Rose Edouin (Morgiana), Kate Ward (Cogia), J.H. Vinson, Mr Gordon, J.H. Johnson, Mr Moore, Mr Murray, Mr Naylor, Mr Avins, Mr Prestige.

"Editorial." *Argus* (Melbourne) 13 July 1860, 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

## **THE PILGRIM OF LOVE AND THE ENCHANTED HORSE:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque with localisms and up to date hits such as the land question, it has been described as a journey of exploration. Although the company for the Victorian tour was different to the Melbourne cast, the *Ballarat Advertiser* records that it was the same version as produced at the Princess Theatre.

**1860:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 27 Aug. - 22 Sept., 4, 6 Oct. [24 pfms]

- **Cast** incl. Julia Matthews, Mrs Winterbottom, Miss Green, Mrs Guerin, Mr Rogers, Richard Stewart, George Fawcett [Rowe], Mr Milne, Mr Ryan, Mr Milton.

**1860:** Ballarat (Victoria); ca. Dec.

**1860:** Lyceum Theatre (Bendigo, Vic); 26 Dec. -

- **Cast** incl. Miss Mortimer, Mr Holloway, Mr Murray, Mr Harlow, Miss Fiddes, Mr Ward.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

"New Lyceum Theatre." *Bendigo Advertiser* (Vic) 27 Dec. 1860, 2.

## **A BROIL AT THE CAFÉ:** [farce with music] **Txt.** James Smith; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described as a farce, the story is set in the Café de Paris (with Frederick Younge playing himself) and revolves around about marital jealousy. The narrative is said to have also contained references to theatrical personalities.

**1860:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 22 Sept.

- **S Art.** John Hennings and Mr Inman.

- **Cast** incl. Mr and Mrs Frederick Younge, Miss Targett, Mr Pond, Mr Gladstone, Frank Harlow, Mr Downey.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 22 Sept. 1860, 8. **Advert.**

## **LUCREZIA BORGIA:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

An operatic-style burlesque, possibly adapted from L.S. Buckingham's burlesque *Lucrezia Borgia at Home and Abroad* (1860). The work has been described as "abounding in local allusions."

**1860:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 8-13 Dec.

- **Troupe:** San Francisco Minstrels and Sable Opera Troupe.

- **Cast** incl. Mr Walsh.

**1861:** Lyceum Theatre, Bendigo (Victoria); 18-19 Jan.

**1861:** Ballarat (Victoria); 22 Jan.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

"Theatricals and Music: Prince of Wales Theatre." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 15 Dec. 1860, 2.

## **OUR VOLUNTEERS AT THE FLOWER SHOW:** [burlesque] **Txt.** Archibald Murray; **Mus.** [n/e]

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.**— Director and Stage Manager—Mr JOSEPH RAYNER.  
**NEW SOUTH WALES VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.**  
Form! Form! Riflemen Form!!  
First night of the new Australian extravaganza, as written expressly for this theatre, entitled  
**OUR VOLUNTEERS at the FLOWER SHOW!**  
The fascinating danseuse FRAULEIN FANNIE, and those talented artists the LEOPOLD BROTHERS, will appear this evening.  
**THIS EVENING,**  
**OUR VOLUNTEERS at the FLOWER SHOW.**  
After which, the grand romantic ballet of  
**THE STAR OF THE RHINE.**  
To conclude with the new drama entitled  
**WOMAN'S LOVE!**

*Sydney Morning Herald* 13 Dec. 1860, 1.

Advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a "new Australian extravaganza written expressly for this theatre" (1). *Bell's Life in Victoria* names the author as "Mr Murray, well-known as an excellent carver in wood" (3). The story concerns three young ladies without escorts, who wishing to visit the Flower Show dress as volunteers.

**1860:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 13-14 Dec.

- **Dir/S Mngr.** Joseph Raynor.

- **Cast** incl. Fanny Morgan, Mrs Crosby, Mr Burford, Mr Russell, F. Ede, Leopold Brothers.

To be followed by an Absurd Trifle,  
Written for this occasion,  
By  
**JAMES SMITH, Esq.,**  
And called  
**A B R O I L at the C A F E!**  
Mr. Fred. Younge.. .. Mr. Fred. Younge.  
Mr. Pond .. .. Mr. Pond.  
The Strange Gentleman .. .. Mr. Gladstone.  
Mr. Grizzle .. .. Mr. Frank Harlowe,  
First Waiter .. .. Mr. Downey.  
Visitors to the Cafe .. .. By Visitors to the Cafe,  
Mrs. Fredericke Younge .. Mrs. Frederick Younge.  
Susan (Mrs. Younge's servant) .. Miss Targett.  
Scene 1. :  
Mr. F. Younge's Residence.  
Scene 2. :  
Interior of the Grand Dining-Hall at the  
Cafe de Paris,  
As re-decorated by Mr. Inman.  
**Painted expressly for the occasion by Mr. Hennings.**

*Argus* (Melbourne) 22 Sept. 1860, 8.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.  
"Theatricals and Music: Royal Victoria." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 22 Dec. 1860, 3.  
*Sydney Morning Herald* 13 Dec. 1860, 1. Advert.

## **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Localised adaptation, possibly from J.R. Planché's extravaganza *Beauty and the Beast* published in 1841.

- 1860:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 13-14 Dec.  
- **Dir/S Mngr.** Joseph Raynor.  
- **Troupe:** Marsh Troupe.  
- **Cast** incl. Louise Arnot.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

## **JACK THE GIANT KILLER:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** George Scott Hough; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from H.J. Byron's extravaganza *Jack the Giant Killer; Or, Harlequin King Arthur and Ye Knights of Ye Round Table* (1859), this production contained numerous local allusions. The narrative, which has been dovetailed with the legend of King Arthur, sees Jack knighted by the king and given a mission to slaughter giants. Jack's zeal for the mission is given added incentive when his betrothed, Sybil, is carried off by the giant, Gorgibuster. When Jack arrives at the giant's home he is received hospitably by Gorgibuster, who intends to dispatch his guest during the night. Jack tricks the giant by placing a jack boot in his bed and hiding elsewhere. When the giant strikes the bed with his club he believes he has killed young Jack. The hero meanwhile rouses the servants, rescues Sybil and together they attack Gorgibuster, bringing him to an ignominious end at the point of pitchforks and umbrellas. The final incident, prior to the traditional transformation scene, has the escapees enter a cave filled with burnished gold, fountains and nymphs. The pantomime also finished with the traditional harlequinade (this time with a double cast of characters).

Two *Jack the Giant Killer* pantomimes were staged simultaneously in Melbourne. The other production (lasting only seven nights) was put on at the Princess's Theatre by the Marsh Family Troupe.

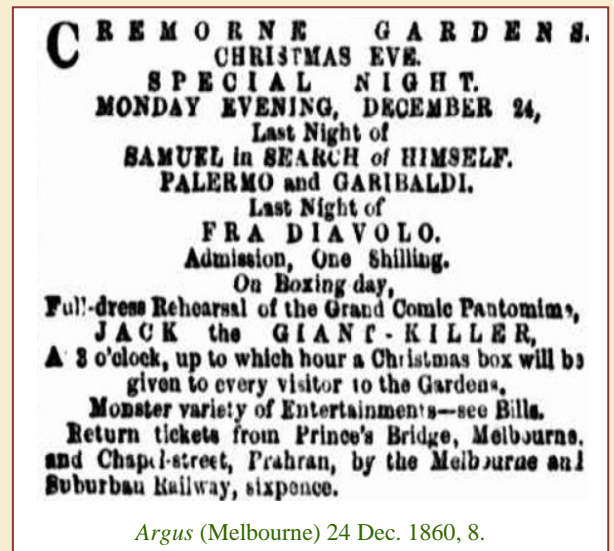
- 1860:** Royal Pantheon, Cremorne Gardens, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1860  
- 18 Jan. 1861 [19 pfms]  
- **Dir/Prod.** George Coppin; **Mngr.** J.R. Greville.  
- **Cast** incl. Julia Matthews (Jack), Mr Gordon (Gorgibuster the giant), J.R. Greville (Gorgibuster's servant), Rose Edouin (Sybil), Miss Nye (Harlequina), John Edouin (Harlequin), Mr Searle (Pantaloone 1), Master Renno (Pantaloone 2), Charles Edouin (Clown 1), Willie Edouin (Clown 2), Mrs J.R. Greville.  
- The 24 December production was a public dress rehearsal.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

"Cremorne." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1860, 5.

"Christmas Amusements: Cremorne." *Argus* (Melbourne) 8 Oct. 1860, 5.

"Theatricals and Music: Cremorne Theatre." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 29 Dec. 1860, 2.



CREMORNE GARDENS.  
CHRISTMAS EVE.  
SPECIAL NIGHT.  
MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24,  
Last Night of  
SAMUEL in SEARCH of HIMSELF.  
PALERMO and GARIBALDI.  
Last Night of  
FRA DIA VOLO.  
Admission, One Shilling.  
On Boxing day,  
Full-dress Rehearsal of the Grand Comic Pantomime,  
JACK the GIANT-KILLER,  
At 3 o'clock, up to which hour a Christmas box will be  
given to every visitor to the Gardens.  
Monster variety of Entertainments—see Bills.  
Return tickets from Prince's Bridge, Melbourne,  
and Chapel-street, Prahran, by the Melbourne and  
Suburban Railway, sixpence.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1860, 8.

## **JACK THE GIANT KILLER:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Featuring the Marsh Family troupe of children, this pantomime was adapted from H.J. Byron's extravaganza *Jack the Giant Killer; Or, Harlequin King Arthur and Ye Knights of Ye Round Table* (1859), with local allusions, notably references to "recent disclosures in the theatrical world" (*Age* 27 Dec. 1860, 5) and the Collingwood Rifle Corps (*Argus* 27 Dec. 1860, 4). The production did not contain then usual harlequinade.

- 1860:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1860 - 2 Jan. 1861  
- **Troupe:** Marsh Family.  
- **Cast** incl. Helen Marsh, Louise Arnot, Master George Marsh, John Dunn.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

"Princess's Theatre." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1860, 4-5.

"Christmas Amusements: Princess's, The." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1860, 4-5.

"Theatricals and Music: Princess's Theatre." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 29 Dec. 1860, 2.

## **LITTLE JACK HORNER, THE ORIGINAL HERO OF THE CORNER; OR, THE FAIRY COOKS OF OUR CHRISTMAS PIE:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** W.M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Also referred to as: *Little Jack Horner (the original Hero of the Corner); or, Harlequin Ignorance and the Magic Mince Pie*, the topical jokes and characters referred to such issues as the "recent political changes, the composition of the cabinet, the loquacity of our legislators, the irregularities of the telegraphic system, the contemplated formation of street railways, the progress

of exploration, Australian-servant-galism [etc]." The plot is described in the *Argus* as involving the triumph of Fairy Progressa by the "introduction into curriculum of instruction in applied sciences, and other subjects until recently regarded as heterodox by those presiding over the old seats of learning" (4). The story is possibly adapted from E.L. Blanchard's *Little Jack Horner* (1857).

The *Argus* notes that a number of business establishments in the city found their place among the scenes in the harlequinade. Notable were: The Cremorne (featuring its rotunda), Coppin's XXX and the Collingwood Gas Company (27 Dec. 1860, 5). *Bell's Life in Victoria* also mentions the Melbourne terminus of the St Kilda railway, the Monster Clothing Mart, and the exterior of Harry Jenkins' (29 Dec. 1860, 2).

**1860:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1860 - 19 Jan. 1861 [22 pfms]

- **Dir.** George Coppin; **Lse.** G.V. Brooke; **S Mngr.** Henry R. Harwood; **S Art.** John Hennings.
- **Cast** incl. Henry R. Harwood (Jack Horner), Fanny Young (Retogressa, a fairy), Tilly Earl [Mrs John Edouin] (Progressa, her fairy rival), G.H. Rogers (Old Proverb), Mde. Therese (dancer), Mde Strebinger (Harlequina /dancer), Mr Schmidt (Harlequin/dancer), Mr Dherang, J. Chambers (Clown).

**1861:** Lyceum Theatre, Bendigo (Victoria); 4 Feb.

- **Cast** incl. Mde Therese, Mr Schmidt, Joe Chambers, Mr Dherang, Mr Harlowe.

**T H E A T R E R O Y A L**  
 Sclo Lessee, Mr. G. V. Brooke,  
 Director, Mr Coppin.  
 On Boxing Night,  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1860,**  
**FAMILY JARS.**  
 Supported by Messrs. Rogers, Harwood, Wright,  
 Gladstone; Mesdames Phillips, Allen, &c.  
 To conclude with a Local Burlesque, by Mr. W. M.  
 Akhurst, with Comic Pantomime, entitled,  
**LITTLE JACK HORNER,**  
 The Original Hero of the Corner;  
 Or the  
**FAIRY COOKS of OUR CHRISTMAS PIE.**  
 With Powerful Cast of Characters, New and Splendid  
 Scenery, Machinery, Music, Dresser, &c.  
 To commence at 8 o'clock.  
 Prices of Admission as usual. No Half-price.  
 Stage Manager, Mr. Harwood.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1860, 8.

"Theatre Royal." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1860, 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

"Christmas Amusements: Theatre Royal." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1860, 4.

"Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 29 Dec. 1860, 2.

## **PILGRIM OF LOVE; OR, HARLEQUIN PRINCE AHMED, THE TALKING COCKATOO AND THE ENCHANTED HORSE:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Said to have been based on Washington Irving's *Alhambra Legends*, but more likely to have been adapted from H.J. Byron's extravaganza *The Pilgrim of Love* (1860).

[NB: Another similarly titled pantomime *The Pilgrim of Love; Or, The Parrot and the Princess* was staged in 1868. The authorship of that version is also unknown, and hence it is unclear if any relationship exists between the two.]

**1860:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1860 - 19 Jan., 22 Feb., 1 Mar. 1861 [22 pfms]

- **Dir.** Joseph Raynor; **M Arr.** Charles Eigenschenk; **S Art.** Alexander Habbe and Mr Guy.
- **Cast** incl. Fanny Morgan, Mrs Crosby, Mrs Charles Jones, Frau Fannie [Mrs Tom Leopold], Joseph Raynor, C.H. Burford, Samuel Howard, Henry, George and Tom Leopold.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

"Burlesque and Pantomime, The." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. 1860, 4.

*Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. 1860, 1. [Advert.](#)

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.**  
 Director and Stage Manager,—Mr. JOSEPH  
 RAYNER.  
**GREAT SUCCESS OF THE PANTOMIME.**  
 The performances will commence with  
**CHARLES THE SECOND; Or, THE MERRY  
 MONARCH.**  
 And conclude with the new  
**BURLESQUE AND COMIC PANTOMIME,**  
 With entirely new and beautiful scenery, dresses, and  
 mechanical effects, entitled the  
**PILGRIM OF LOVE;**  
 OR,  
**HARLEQUIN PRINCE AHMED, THE TALKING  
 COCKATOO, AND THE ENCHANTED  
 HORSE.**  
 Characters in the Burlesque—Miss F. Morgan, Mrs  
 Crosby, Mrs. C. Jones, Mr. J. Rayner, Mr. Burford, Mr.  
 Sam Howard.  
 In the Pantomime—  
**HARLEQUIN, Mr. H. LEOPOLD**  
**PANTALOON, Mr. G. LEOPOLD**  
**CLOWN, Mr. T. LEOPOLD**  
**COLUMBINE, the fascinating RAULIEN FANNIE**

*Empire* (Sydney) 27 Dec. 1860, 1.

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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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