

**MASANIELLO:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** M. Alphonse and/or George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

A localised adaptation of Robert Brough's *Massaniello; Or, The Fish-O-Man of Naples* (1857), a burlesque of the Auber opera *Massaniello*. The *Argus* describes the work as a "new minstrel burlesque" (Theatricals and Music, 2).

The exact identity of the author is unclear, with the *Argus* recording that M. Alphonse was the localiser (24 Sept. 1861, 8), while *Bell's Life in Victoria* indicates initially that the work was "localised by Mr Fawcett" (2 Feb. 1861, 2.) and later as being "adapted and localised by a colonial author" (28 Sept. 1861, 2).

[NB: The spelling of this production of *Masaniello* in reviews/advertising usually contains one "s" while the 1865 Akhurst version contains a double "ss."]

**1861:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 31 Jan. - 6 Feb.

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

- **Cast** incl. Rosa Dunn, Fanny Young.

**1861:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 23-28 Sept.

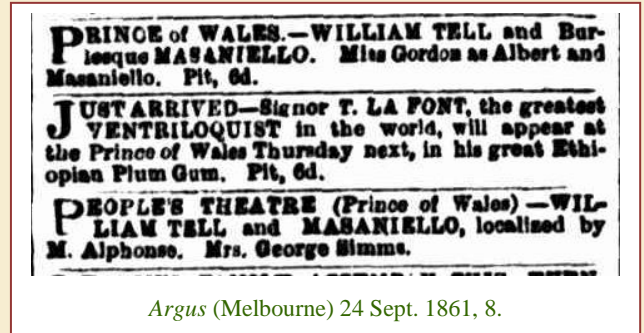
- **Cast** incl. Harriet Gordon [Hyde].

*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Sept. 1861, 8. **Advert.**

"Theatricals and Music: Princess's." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 2 Feb. 1861, 2.

"Theatricals and Music: Prince of Wales Theatre." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 2 Feb. 1861, 2.

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



*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Sept. 1861, 8.

**CUPID AND ZEPHYR; OR, PRINCESS GAY AND HANDSOME:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.**

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

Also known as *Cupid and Zephyr; Or, Princess Young and Handsome*, it contained "a number of good and happy hits at local affairs, [including] the Brighton Broker and Werribee Encampment" ("Princess's Theatre," 4).

**1861:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 1-20 Apr. [18 pfms]

- **Lse.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **S Art.** B. Tannett.

- **Cast** incl. Julia Matthews, Tilly Earl [Mrs John Edouin], Rosa Dunn, Miss Montrose, Mdl. Therese, George Fawcett [Rowe], J. Dunn, M. Schmidt (dancer).

"Princess's Theatre." *Argus* (Melbourne) 2 Apr. 1861, 4-5.

**Editorial.** *Argus* (Melbourne) 8 Apr. 1861, 5.

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

**STEPHENS DEFENDS THE COLONY:** [musical entertainment] **Txt.** C. Winder; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "new local sketch written for the benefit of actor W.H. Stephens."

**1861:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 14 May [benefit]

- **Cast** incl. W.H. Stephens.

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

**FAYRE ROSAMONDE; OR QUEEN ELEANOR AND YE BOWERS OF WOODSTOCK:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "new burlesque written expressly for Mr and Mrs G. Simms" (*Argus* 22 May 1861, 8), possibly from Nelson Lee Jnr's *Fair Rosamond and the Queen with the Dagger and the Bowl; Or, The Fairy of the Enchanted Labyrinth* (1860).

**1861:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 18-23 May

- **S Art.** Mr Willes.

- **Cast** incl. Mr and Mrs George Simms.

**1861:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 19-25 Oct.

- **Cast** incl. Mr and Mrs George Simms, Mr Chapman.

**1867:** Varieties Theatre, Melbourne; 14 Sept.

- **Mngr.** Mr Chapelle; **S Mngr.** George Simms.

- **Cast** incl. Florence Norman, Mrs O'Brien, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Rollin, Miss Laporte, Mr Daniels, Mr Musgrave, G. Wells, Mr Clarke, Mr Rollin, Mr Allen, George Simms.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 22 May 1861, 8. **Advert.**

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

## **LITTLE JACK HORNER; OR, THE DOWNFALL OF IGNORANCE:** [burlesque]

**Txt Adapt.** R.P. Weston; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as an extravaganza it contained both local and European notables and included a burlesque of *Rigoletto*.

- 1861:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Melbourne; 29 May - 10 June  
- **S Art.** Alexander Habbe, Mr Wallace and Mr Winning.  
- **Cast** incl. Sir William and Lady Emily Don, Mrs Jones, Miss Hart, Mrs Crosby, Fanny Morgan, G.H. Rogers, Sam Howard.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.  
*Sydney Morning Herald* 29 May 1861, 1. [Advert.](#)

## **ENDYMION, THE NAUGHTY BOY WHO CRIED FOR THE MOON:** [musical entertainment] **Txt Adapt.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a "new classical, local and political extravaganza." Fawcett [Rowe] is recorded as having impersonated John Macadam, the Postmaster General, also one of the members for Castlemaine, in the character of Actaeon.

- 1861:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 17 June - 6 July [17 pfms]  
- **Lse.** George Fawcett [Rowe].  
- **Cast** incl. Rosa Dunn, Tilly Earl [Mrs John Edouin], Julia Matthews, George Fawcett [Rowe], Richard Stewart, John Dunn.

[Editorial.](#) *Age* (Melbourne) 17 June 1861, 5.  
Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.  
[Editorial.](#) *Argus* (Melbourne) 19 June 1861, 5.

## **WILLOW PATTERN PLATE:** [musical entertainment] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Also known as *The Mandarin's Daughter* it was advertised as a "magnificent localised extravaganza," and possibly adapted from W.P. Hale's and F. Talfourd's published extravaganza of the same name (1851).

- 1861:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Aug. - 7 Sept.  
- **Mngr.** Harriet Gordon [Hyde].  
- **Cast** incl. Harriet Gordon [Hyde], Mr and Mrs George Simms, J.P. Hyde, Mr Walsh.

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

## **FRA DIAVOLO:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from H.J. Byron's burlesque *Fra Diavolo Traveste; Or, The Beauty and the Brigands* (1858), with local allusions and performed by volunteer amateurs in aid of the Servants' Home (*Brisbane Courier* 24 July 1861, 2).

- 1861:** Prince of Wales Theatre, Melbourne; 9, 14 Sept.  
- **Mngr.** Harriet Gordon [Hyde].  
- **Cast** incl. Harriet Gordon [Hyde], Mr and Mrs George Simms, J.P. Hyde, Mr Walsh.  
**1868:** Royal Victoria Hall, Brisbane; 24 July [benefit]  
- **Troupe:** Volunteers Brigade Band.  
- **Lse.** J.R. Taylor; **Prop.** E. Willett.  
- **Cast** incl. W. Backhouse; Colour-Sergeants Bond and Fowles.

[Editorial.](#) *Brisbane Courier* 24 July 1868, 2.  
Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

## **THE QUEEN OF BEAUTY, WHO HAD A FIGHT WITH THE GENII:** [burlesque]

**Txt Adapt.** W. M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described as a "new eastern burlesque," George Fawcett [Rowe] appeared in the role of C.J. Don, a local MLA (*Age* 12 Nov. 1861, 5).

- 1861:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 11-28 Nov.  
- **Lse.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **S Art.** B. Tannett.  
- **Cast** incl. Julia Matthews, Mrs Ray, George Fawcett [Rowe], Richard Stewart, John Dunn.

"[Editorial.](#)" *Age* (Melbourne) 11 Nov. 1861, 5. See also "[Editorial.](#)" *Age* (Melbourne) 12 Nov. 1861, 5.  
"[Editorial.](#)" *Argus* (Melbourne) 12 Nov. 1861, 5.  
Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.  
"[Theatricals and Music: Princess's.](#)" *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 16 Nov. 1861, 2.

## **PUSS IN BOOTS:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Reviewed in *Bell's Life in Victoria* as a localised (and condensed) version of J.R. Planché's burlesque *Puss in Boots* (1837) written by a "gentleman whose talents in this line are well appreciated by the public" (14 Dec. 1861, n. pag.).

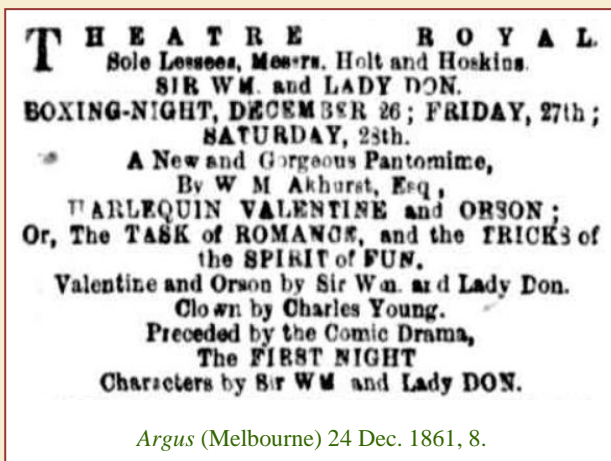
**1861:** Royal Pantheon, Cremorne Gardens, Melbourne; 9-24 Dec. [15 pfms]

- **Cast** incl. Harriet Gordon [Hyde], Miss Taburney, Miss Nye, Lee Family, Harry Jackson, J.H. Vinson.

"[Theatricals and Music: Princess's.](#)" *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 14 Dec. 1861, 2.  
Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

## **HARLEQUIN VALENTINE AND ORSON; OR, THE TASK OF ROMANCE AND THE TRICKS OF THE SPIRIT OF FUN:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** W.M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Set in Greece, Egypt, Medieval France (but with the final tableaux showing Australian explorer Robert O'Hara Burke crowned by Fame), the pantomime begins with the King of France riding forth into Artois forest on Saint Valentine's day with his courtly train. While in the forest he finds a new-born baby in the thicket and takes the child home, naming him in honour of the day upon which he was discovered. Many years later the young knight is eager to claim his first adventure. After presenting himself at the gates of King Pippin he forthwith falls in love with the monarch's daughter, Eglantina, and is offered her hand in marriage if he proves himself. His opportunity comes in the form of a petition from 'three palmers clad in grey' who ask that he give them assistance against a savage boy who lives in the forest of Artois. Said to have amazing strength, the boy lives among the bears and has a taste for the blood of men. Valentine ventures forth but is attacked by the savage first. Almost overcome and bloodied the knight wins out, however, and eventually tames the boy into a trusting servant. Together the pair set out to seek information about their parentage, and along the journey undertake several adventures. This includes pitting their wits against a terrible giant and saving a dame who has been held captive for twenty years. The woman turns out to be their mother, and all ends happily.



**T H E A T R E R O Y A L**  
Sole Lessees, Messrs. Holt and Hoskins.  
SIR WM. and LADY DON.  
BOXING-NIGHT, DECEMBER 26; FRIDAY, 27th;  
SATURDAY, 28th.  
A New and Gorgeous Pantomime,  
By W M Akhurst, Esq,  
HARLEQUIN VALENTINE and ORSON;  
Or, THE TASK OF ROMANCE, and the TRICKS of  
the SPIRIT of FUN.  
Valentine and Orson by Sir Wm. and Lady Don.  
Clown by Charles Young.  
Preceded by the Comic Drama,  
The FIRST NIGHT  
Characters by Sir WM and Lady DON.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1861, 8.

According to the *Argus* theatre critic "the quality of the writing is wretched, but the piece [was] richly mounted and superbly illustrated" (27 Dec. 1861, 5). The *Age* critic agreed, suggesting that some pruning was required: "The introduction to the pantomime might be compressed with advantage. At present its length rendered it rather fatiguing to the audience, and it is not so lively or mirth provoking as could be wished. The appointments and scenery are, however, as we have before stated, admirable" (27 Dec. 1861, 5).

The music combined operatic and 'Ethiopian' (minstrel) styles.

**1861:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1861 - 18, 21 Jan. 1862 [18 pfms]

- **Lse.** Mr Holt and Mr Haskins; **S Art** John Hennings.

- **Cast** incl. Miss Mortimer, Mde Strebinger, Miss Targett, Sir and Lady William Don, Henry R. Harwood, Charles Young, J.H. Flexmore, Mr Searle.

"[Christmas Pantomimes at the Theatres: The Royal, The.](#)" *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

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

"[Pantomimes – Theatre Royal.](#)" *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

"[Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal.](#)" *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1861, 2.

## **HARLEQUIN MOTHER HUBBARD AND PUSS IN BOOTS:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** George

Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

Also known as *Harlequin Puss in Boots*, this pantomime was adapted by George Fawcett from Charles Dance's burlesque *Puss in Boots* (1837). The production incorporated numerous hits at local issues and personalities, and also included some well-known Melbourne settings, notably the Melbourne Cricket Ground and Sandridge Pier. One of the characters, the ogre O'Gobble Kilmore, is said to have represented the Victorian Chief Secretary, Mr O'Shanassy.

While Fawcett began the story by presenting a parody of "the witches" scene from *Macbeth*, the *Age* records that he adhered to the original *Puss in Boots* story with 'tolerable closeness'. Briefly, the pantomime tells of an old miller's youngest son, Ralph, who is bequeathed a cat by his recently departed father, while the elder son inherits the mill. When Ralph helps out Mother Hubbard she extends her protection to him and endows the cat with extraordinary powers. Meanwhile the king of the realm is in despair having had all his gamer stolen. When Ralph and Puss arte brought before the king Puss presents him with a rabbit before introducing his master as the latest addition to the Colonial peerage. Impressed, the king insists on seeing Ralph's estates, which allowed the introduction of a panorama of Australian scenery - corn fields, vineyards and the bush - before all find themselves at a castle known as the 'Last Retreat of the Squatter Ogre.' When Puss slays the ogre Ralph is set to inherit his estate and marry the king's daughter when in inadvertently blurts out his humble origins. The king is outraged at the deceit and only the arrival of Mother Hubbard saves Ralph from his wrath. She rapidly transports Ralph, Puss, the King, Princess Rosemead and the court to the Palace of Jack and the Beanstalk, which heralds a magical transformation scene. The pantomime finished with a harlequinade filled with 'fun, frolic and agility' (27 Dec. 1861, 5).

[NB: See also 1862 file for Fawcett Rowe's burlesque version of *Puss in Boots*]

**1861:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1861 - 18 Jan. 1862 [21 pfms]

- **Lse/Mngr.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **S Art.** B. Tannett.

- **Cast** incl. Julia Matthews (Ralph/Columbine), George Fawcett (Puss in Boots/Harlequin), Mrs Ray (Mother Hubbard), Miss Marian (Princess Rosebud), Richard Stewart (the King/Ogre/Clown), Mr Downey (Pantaloony), Kate Corcoran, Mr Wray, John Dunn, Mr Liston.

**R** OYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.  
Lessee, Geo Fawcett. On THURSDAY, DEC. 26,  
Grand production of the Comic Christmas Pantomime  
HARLEQUIN & MOTHER HUBBARD and PUSS IN  
BOOTS Harlequin, Mr. Fawcett; Columbine, Miss  
Julia Matthews; Clown, Mr. Stewart; Pantaloony, Mr.  
Dherang.

*Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1861, 8.

"Christmas Pantomimes at the Theatres: Princess's, The." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

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

"Pantomimes: Princess's Theatre." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

"Theatricals and Music: Princess's." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1861, 2.

## **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK; OR, HARLEQUIN HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, LIFE ON THE MOON, AND PRANKS OF THE GOOD LITTLE PEOPLE:** [pantomime]

**Lib Adapt.** James Mulholland; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as having been 'localised by Mr Mulholland,' the pantomime made numerous references to current issues and local personalities. The topical hits included: the visiting All-England eleven, the Exhibition Building, the volunteer movement, Dr Macadam, and a cabinet meeting - where His Excellency and Ministry were caricatured (*Argus* 24 and 27 Nov. 1861, 8). One of the local scenes was a well-known cricketer's shop in Swanston Street.

The story is introduced by way of the cabinet meeting. In this scene the 'grotesquely characterised' members of the Ministry 'give utterance to allusions of a local nature' which leads such declarations as: "Talk of a motion MLA's to pay, we'll rather pay you all to stop away" (*Age* 27 Dec. 1861, 5). The narrative then shifts to "Jack's Cottage in Devonshire" followed by "The Grotto of the Pixies," before the hero begins climbing the magic beanstalk and entering the giant's castle. The story from this point on is said to have closely followed the traditional fairytale plot.

**1861:** Royal Pantheon, Cremorne Gardens, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1861 - 22 Jan. 1862 [27 pfms]

- **S Art.** Mr Murphy.

- **Cast** incl. Harriet Gordon [Hyde] (Jack), Miss Nye (Columbine), Miss Taburney, Master Sydney Chambers (Harlequin), Mr Dherang (Clown), Mr Stanley (Pantaloony), Harry Jackson (Goody Grey Shoes), the Lee Family.

"Christmas Pantomimes at the Theatres: Cremorne, The." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

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

"Pantomime: Cremorne." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1861, 5.

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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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