

## ROLLA OF OURS; OR, THE SHAMEFUL GOINGS-ON OF THE SPANIARDS IN

**PERU:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** W.M. Akhurst; **Mus.** B. Thorn

# South Australian General Printing Office (*Mercury and South Australian Sporting Chronicle*), 1851

A burlesque on *Pizarro* by R.B. Sheridan, *Rolla of Ours* ruthlessly exposes the faults and follies of the local government then in power. Shortly after this production the Irish tragedian Gustavus Vaughan Brooke appeared as Rolla at the Queen's Theatre in a dramatic version. The *Argus* made the comment, however, that the burlesque version was still so fresh in the minds of the audience that it was "difficult in looking on the drama, to forget the parody; and to avoid being moved to laughter, instead of tears, at the most touching passages" (27 Apr. 1855, 5).

The burlesque was first made public in 1851 when Adelaide's *Mercury and South Australian Sporting Chronicle* published it in installments (15 February and 8 March). No details of a stage production prior to 1855 have yet been located.

**1855:** Queen's Theatre, Melbourne; 8-11, 17, 24 Jan., 8 Mar.

- **M Arr.** B. Thom; **S Art.** William Pitt.

- **Cast:** Fanny Young, Mrs C. Young, Harriet Gordon [Hyde], Charles Young, Mr Burford, Mr Webster, J.P. Hydes, G. H. Rogers, Mr Ward, J. Chambers.

**1858:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 19-22 Jan.

- **Cast incl.** Mrs Phillips, Mrs Charles Poole, Miss Morgan, Mr Younge, Mr Lambert, W.H. Stephens, Robert McGowan.

- **Cast for the benefit production incl.** George Coppin and Mr Farquharson.

"Domestic Intelligence: Rolla of Ours." *Argus* (Melbourne) 8 Jan. 1855, 5.

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

"Domestic Intelligence: The Queen's Theatre." *Age* (Melbourne) 9 Jan. 1855, 5.

"Queen's Theatre – The New Burlesque." *Argus* (Melbourne) 9 Jan. 1855, 5.

"Theatre Royal." *Argus* (Melbourne) 20 Jan. 1858, 5.

**QUEEN'S THEATRE**  
Thursday Evening, 8th March.  
Second Week of the Great Tragedian!  
Mr. G. V. Brooke,  
Supported by Miss Fanny Cathcart, and Mr.  
R. Younge, from the Theatre Royal,  
Drury Lane, London.  
On Thursday Evening, 8th March,  
Will be presented the celebrated Play, in 5 Acts,  
entitled,  
**THE STRANGER.**  
The Stranger ... .. Mr. G. V. Brooke  
Baron Steinfort ... .. Mr. R. Younge  
Mrs. Haller ... .. Miss Fanny Cathcart.  
To conclude with the successful Burlesque,  
entitled,  
**ROLLA OF OURS;**  
Or, The Shameful Goings on of the Spaniards in  
Peru.  
Being a colonial version of Sheridan's "Pizarro,  
revised and previous errors corrected and ex-  
plained, in a lucid manner, by Messrs Young,  
Hydes and Company. Music by Mr. B. Thom.  
3602

*Argus* (Melbourne) 8 Mar. 1855, 8.

## HARLEQUIN FAT AND HARLEQUIN BAT; OR, THE QUEEN BEE AND THE

**GOLDEN HIVE:** [burlesque] **Txt.** [n/e]; **Mus.** Mr Moore

**ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.**  
**PROPRIETORS—Messrs. LAZAR AND COPPIN.**  
*Doors Open at 7 o'Clock, Commence at Half-past.*

**NOTICE—**The Theatre during the present week will be open  
**MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, and**  
**SATURDAY.**

**First Night of the GRAND COMIC PANTOMIME, with**  
the following powerful cast:—  
Harlequin, Mr. Chambers; Harlequina, Master Chambers;  
Columbine, Miss Chambers; Clown, Mr. Douglass; Clown  
junior, Master F. Douglass; Pantaloon, Mr. Hasker; Pan-  
taloon junior, Master J. Douglass; Lover, Mr. Lambert;  
Harlequin Fat, Mr. Coppin; Drone, Mr. Lazar; Fortunio,  
Mrs. Moore; Queen Bee, Mrs. Lambert.

**THIS EVENING (Monday), and TO-MORROW**  
(Tuesday), June 9th and 10th, 1851, will be pre-  
sented for the first time, an entirely new Comic Pantomime  
(interspersed with Dialogue, Music, &c.), with Seventeen  
new and appropriate Scenes, painted expressly for this  
occasion, embracing Up-country Cracks, Town Thumps,  
and Local Hits, entitled **HARLEQUIN FAT AND HARLE-**  
**QUIN BAT, or the QUEEN BEE AND THE FAIRY**  
**HIVE.** The Music composed and arranged by Mr. Moore;  
the Scenery painted by Mr. Hillier; the Dresses, Proper-  
ties, and Stage Appointments, by Mr. Douglass; Fireworks  
by Dr. Mathew. The principal characters as above.

On Monday to conclude with the laughable Farce of the  
**ILLUSTRIOUS STRANGER, or MARRIED AND**  
**BURIED.**

To-Morrow Evening (Tuesday), after the Pantomime,  
a laughable Farce, called the **LAUGHING HYENA,** to  
conclude with the laughable Farce of **KILL OR CURE.**

Described in advertising as "an entirely new Comic Pantomime (interspersed with Dialogue, Music etc), with Seventeen new and appropriate Scenes painted expressly for this occasion, embracing Up-country Cracks, Town Thumps, and Local Hits."

**1851:** Royal Victoria Theatre, Adelaide; 9-10, 12, 14 June

- **Prod.** John Lazar and George Coppin; **Sc Art.** Mr Hillier; **Cost.** Mr Douglas; **Fireworks** Dr Matthew.

- **Cast incl.** Mr Chambers (Harlequin), Master Chambers (Harlequina), Miss Chambers (Columbine), Mr Douglas (Clown), Master F. Douglas (Clown Jnr), Mr Hasker (Pantaloon), Master J. Douglas (Pantaloon Jnr), Mr Lambert (Lover), Mr Coppin (Harlequin Fat), Mr Lazar (Drone), Mrs Moore (Fortunio), Mrs Lambert (Queen Bee).

- Each of the four programs concluded with a different theatrical work - these being farce (2), drama (1) and an operetta (1).

*South Australian Register* (Adelaide) 9 June 1851, 2.