

LOHENGRIN IN A NUTSHELL: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque of Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*. Elsa is accused by Count Frederick of having murdered her brother. Her champion, Lohengrin, arrives in a magic boat and defeats Frederick in a boxing match, thus winning Elsa. They are separated, however, and Frederick conspires with the sorceress Ortrud to assassinate Lohengrin using the magic of the future. Frederick is killed (a burlesque of the "Keeping Scene" in *The Shaughraun*) but revived. Lohengrin's magic goose turns into Redmond Barry and he departs for Paris with Elsa.

- 1879:** Academy of Music, Melbourne; 9-20 Mar.
 - **Dir/Lse.** G. B. W. Lewis; **S Art.** Charles Massey.
 - **Cast** incl. Mrs G. B. W. Lewis, Jessie Grey, Miss Brunton, Miss Dixon, Ruth Gray, Fred Thorne, Harry Daniels, Mr Joyce, Mr Douglas.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pages.
 "*Lohengrin in a Nutshell.*" *Argus* 9 Mar. (1878), 7.

IF; OR, AN OLD GEM RE-SET: [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

The second musical entertainment written for the Stewart family by Garnet Walch. Nellie Stewart recalls, in her autobiography *My Life's Story*, that "in 1877 Mr Garnet suggested that he should write an entertainment for us on lines broadly similar to that in which the Vokes Family in England had won such success, and that we should tour Australia with it. My father liked the idea, and Mr Walch wrote *Rainbow Revels* (1877). From its inception [the work] was so successful that [he] wrote another medley called *If*."

The story is set in a London boarding house run by Mrs Ferrett, whose lodgers decide to enact the Cinderella story in order to bring to her notice the plight of one of them. The first part is an operatic burlesque containing a medley of characteristic songs and dances. In the second part "the old gem" is a Cinderella burlesque. The date of an Australian premiere prior to the Sydney season is uncertain.

- 1878:** Town Hall, Hobart; 29 Apr. - 3 May
 - **Troupe:** Stewart Family.
 - **Cast** incl. Nellie, Docy, Maggie and Richard Stewart.
- 1878:** Mechanics' Institute, Launceston (Tas); 6 May -
 - Cast as for previous Hobart.
- 1878:** White's Rooms, Adelaide; 7 June -
 - Cast as for previous Hobart.
- 1878:** School of Arts, Sydney; 20-26 July
 - Cast as for previous Hobart season.
- 1878:** Queensland Theatre, Brisbane; 10-17 Aug.
 - **Lse.** James Thynne and Gerald Dillon.
 - Cast as for previous Hobart season.
 - **Musician:** Harcourt Lee.
- 1878:** School of Arts, Sydney; 9-13 Sept.
 - Cast as for previous Hobart season.
- 1879:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 31 May - 6 June
 - **Lse.** George Coppin, John Hennings and J. R. Greville.
 - Cast as for previous Sydney season.
 - The Stewarts also presented selection from *If* at benefit for orphans put on at the Theatre Royal on 6 June

T O W N H A L L
THIS EVENING, MONDAY, APRIL 29
GREAT CHANGE OF BILL.

M R. R. S T E W A R T,
 Lately Lessee of the Theatre Royal, Melbourne,
 accompanied by his Daughters, the Misses
DOCY, MAGGIE, & NELLIE STEWART,
 Will have the honour of appearing in a
N E W E N T E R T A I N M E N T,
 Written expressly for them by the well-known
 Australian Author, Garnet Walch, and entitled,
I F !
Or, AN OLD GEM RE-SET
 "Much virtue in it." *As You Like It* —Shake-
 sp^{er}ar."

Mercury (Hobart) 29 Apr. (1878), 1.

A L B I A N D R A T H E A T R E,
 Exhibition-street,
 Off Bourke-street.

Lessee and General Manager .. Mr. R. Crofton.
 Stage Manager Mr. M. Lewis.

TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.

First Appearance
 Of the
ROYALTY MELO-DRAMATIC EXTRAVAGANZA
 COMPANY,
 In a Highly Sensational Piece,
 Entitled
ZULEIKA, THE PIRATE QUEEN.
ZULEIKA, THE PIRATE QUEEN.

Unrivalled Chorus of 25 Voices.

Efficient Orchestra,
 Under the baton of the eminent conductor,
Mr. F. NEEDHAM.

Admission, 2s., 1s., and 1s.

Performance commences at 8.

W. T. KEITH, Business Agent.

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 12 Aug. (1878), 3.

Editorial. *South Australian Advertiser* 8 June (1878), 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pages.

Stewart, Nellie. *My Life's Story.* (1923), 39-40.

"**Stewart Family, The.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 July (1878), 5.

"**St George's Hall.**" *Age* 2 June (1879), 3.

"**Town Hall.**" *Mercury* (Hobart) 30 Apr. (1878), 2.

ZULEIKA THE PIRATE QUEEN; OR, THE LOVER, THE LADY AND THE LONG-LOST CHILD: [burlesque]

Txt. Charles A. Sherard; **Mus.** P. Needham

Billed as a "new and original extravaganza" and a "melo-dramatic extravaganza" containing love intrigues and a lost child plot set on an island ruled by the Queen of Pirates. Local and topical allusions to Ballarat and the Melbourne newspapers were included.

Argus 7 July (1888), 20.

While Needham is known to have composed the music for 1888 Melbourne production, it is not yet known whether he or someone else was responsible for composing the music for the 1878 version.

- 1878:** Academy of Music, Ballarat (Vic); 24 May
- **Dir.** R. M. Lewis.
- **Troupe:** Ballarat Comus Club.
- 1888:** Alexandra Theatre, Melbourne; 7-27 July [18 pfms]
- **Lse/Mngr.** B. Crofton; **S Mngr.** M. Lewis.
- **Cast** incl. Georgie Leighford, Miss Bufton, Arthur Lissant.

"Zuleika." *Ballarat Star* 25 May (1878), 2.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

BLUE BEARD: [burlesque] **Txt.** Montague Grover; **Mus.** [n/e]

Referred to as an operetta ("written by a local author") in an *Argus* news item (2 Aug. 1878, 5), *Blue Beard* was later described by Grover as a burlesque (*Argus* 28 Oct. 1878, 5). The *Argus* also indicates that the November revival included a prologue specially written by Grover (ibid, 5).

- 1878:** St Kilda Assembly Hall, Melbourne; 9 Aug. [am]
- **M Dir.** Signor Zelman.
- **Cast** incl. Mrs Bladen Neill.
- **Musician:** Leon Caron (violin).
- Staged as a drawing room entertainment in aid of the funds of the Victorian Humane Society.
- 1878:** Academy of Music, Melbourne; 12 Nov. [benefit]
- **Dir.** Mrs Grover and Miss Barber; **M Dir.** Signor Zelman.
- Staged as a joint benefit for the Children's Hospital and the Shipwreck Relief Society.

Editorial. *Argus* 2 Aug. (1878), 5.

Editorial. *Argus* 28 Oct. (1878), 5.

Editorial. *Argus* 12 Nov. (1878), 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"Melbourne." *Australian Town and Country Journal* 30 Nov. (1878), 1031.

ALFRED THE GREAT: [burlesque] **Txt.** Marcus Clarke and Henry Keiley; **Orig Mus.** Alfred Plumpton, with Thomas Zeplin

Joseph Aarons, with Nicholson and Ascherberg, 1878 (printed by Charles Troedel)

Billed as "a dramatic and musical fantasy" it contained songs to operatic and other music, the story concerns Merlin and Oberon who oversee the efforts of the Saxons to repel the Danish invaders - the *Hamlet*-quoting King Guthrum and his formidable queen, Hecla. However, their daughter, Hildegard, loves Egbert, who is a Saxon. Alfred loves Bertha, daughter of Dunulf the swineherd and burns cakes while they romance. Dunulf is captured by the Danes, but is saved by the Saxons, leading to a happy ending with weddings and reconciliation blessed by the fairies.

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Alfred THE GREAT
A Dramatic & Musical Fantasy
written and arranged by
Marcus Clarke and
Henry Keiley
First produced by JOSEPH AARONS Esq. Proprietor.
24th of December 1878.
Musical Director M^r Alfred Plumpton.
NICHOLSON & ASCHERBERG
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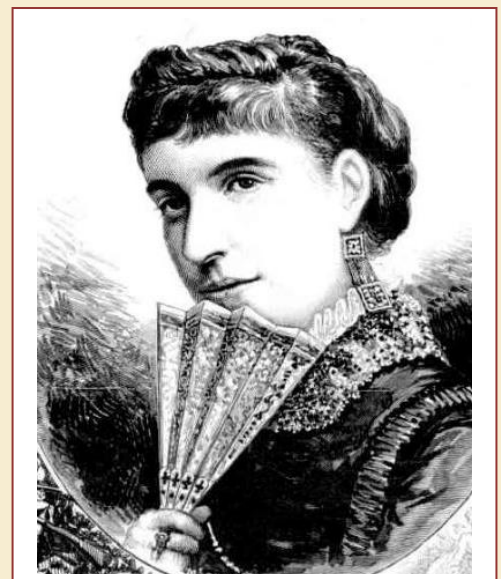
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Annetta Scasi
Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil
18 Jan. (1879), 168.

Source: National Library of Australia

The libretto contained rhyming couplets and blank verse, as well as some topical and satiric references, including patent medicine, advertising and the press.

1878: Academy of Music, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1878 - 1 Feb. 1879

- **Dir.** Joseph Aarons; **M Dir.** Alfred Plumpton; **S Art.** Charles Massey; **Cost.** S. Calvert, Mrs Stafford and W. Higinbotham, **S Mngr.** W. H. Wallace; **Orch Ldr.** Thomas Zeplin.

- **Cast** incl. Annetta Scasi, Florence Slater, Emilia Pasta, Blanche Leopold, Ella Moxham, Una Brooks, Clara

Thompson, J. H. Fox, Miss Russell, Miss Clifton, Maggie Knight, Miss F. A. Lambert, C. H. Templeton, Henry Bracy, George Leopold, Harry Leston, G. A. Johnson, J. F. Forde.

T H E L A T E S T N O V E L T Y .

Will be Published on Tuesday Next,
"ALFRED THE GREAT."
Music and Words of the Academy Burlesque.
SEVEN NEW and ORIGINAL SONGS,
With Pianoforte Accompaniments,
Composed and arranged by Alfred Plumpton,
And all the Words of the Burlesque.
PRICE ONE SHILLING.
NICHOLSON and ASCHERBERG,
Publishers.

Argus 23 Dec. (1878), 8.

► **Alfred the Great.** Digital copy of original publication available through the National Library of Australia [sighted 17/01/2013]

"Academy of Music: *Alfred the Great.*" *Argus* 23 Dec. (1878), 6.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

HARLEQUIN ROBINSON CRUSOE; OR, THE PIRATES OF PALM BAY AND THE INDIANS OF JUAN FERNANDEZ: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic writes: "As may be imagined the old story of Robinson Crusoe is considerably altered to bring it into pantomimic form. Heroines are of course introduced to make up the love part of the affair, without which the whole thing would be incomplete... Several songs introduced into the pantomime caricaturing local events, and hitting off some of our colonial celebrities were among the most telling parts of the entertainment, and evoked warm applause, especially the popular allusions to the Chinese question.

After Robinson Crusoe, his friend Gem Cocks and their beloveds, Polly and Angelica are shipwrecked on an island the girls are kidnapped by Will Atkins and his band of cut-throat pirates. Their rescue is complicated by the arrival of Indians, led by their young chief Oppoponax. Eventually, however, Crusoe and Cocks triumph over the pirates with the help of Friday. After a mock trial is held the pantomime winds up with a grand tableau and harlequinade.

The transformation scene comprised: 1. The Fairy Hall of Delight; 2. Fairy Lakes of Water Lillies; 3. Point Lace Chamber (Cupid's Abode); 4. Grand Emblematic Christmas Card; 5. Resplendent abode of Aurora; and 6. The Grand Magic Change to the Abode of Morpheus.

1878: Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 24 Dec. 1878 - ca. Jan. 1879

- **Scenic Art** Alfred Clint.

- **Cast** incl. Lydia Howarde (Robinson Crusoe), Bland Holt (Jem Cocks, a reduced actor, his friend and fellow traveller), Edmund Holloway (Will Atkins, a pirate of the reddest dye), Mattie Daniel (Gig, his confederate), Sam Poole (Friday), Lillie Marsh (Polly, Crusoe's beloved), Maud Walton (Angelica, Jem Cock's beloved), W. Cargo (Sherriff), Joe Tolano (Abraham Isaacs), May Vivian (Oppoponax, a young chief), Anne Marsh (Heliotype), Maud Douglas (Hyacinthe), Lena Edwin (Ylang Ylang, the Indian Queen); Harlequinade incl. Bland Holt (Clown)

"Victoria Theatre." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1878), 3.

QUEENSLAND THEATRE.
Sole Lessee MR. JAMES THYNE.
Stage Manager MR. ALEX. THOMSON.
C H R I S T M A S A N D N E W Y E A R ' S
F E S T I V A L
AT THE
QUEENSLAND THEATRE.
The Burlesque Extravaganza,
THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT,
In Two Acts. Adapted, localised, and expressly
re-arranged for production at this theatre.
The whole strength of Double Company,
QUEENSLAND DRAMATIC
AND
JUVENILE TROUBADOURS,
IN
ORIGINAL SONGS !
NEW DANCES !
SPARKLING LOCALS !
The Original High Kicker's Dance !
The Minuet of the Reign of George II !
The Triumphant Evolutions of the Amazon Army !
Brisbane Courier 23 Dec. (1878), 1.

THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT; OR, HARLEQUIN JACK BRISBANE AND PRETTY LITTLE QUEENSLAND: [pantomime] Lib Adapt/Mus. [n/e]

Possibly adapted from W. M. Akhurst's pantomime *The House that Jack Built; Or, Harlequin Progress and the Loves, Laughs, Laments and Labours of Jack Melbourne and Little Victoria* (Melb, 1869), itself later adapted as *The House that Jack Built; Or, Harlequin Jack Sydney* (1871). Containing songs to operatic and other music, it was localised and arranged expressly for the Queensland theatre.

The settings, as advertised in the *Brisbane Courier* were: Act 1 Sc 1. Post Office Clock and the Signs of the Zodiac; Sc 2. Fairy Land, the Changeling Jack; Sc 3. The Bowels of the Earth, the Fossils; Sc 4. The Demon Gold Mine, Underground Railway; Sc 5. Eastern and "the Kickers"; Sc 6. The Mine and the Demon's Term; Act 2 Sc 1. The Brisbane Houses of Parliament; Sc 2. The House that Jack Built; Sc 3. The Brewery; Sc 4. Shops in Town; Sc 5. More Shops; Sc 6. He Who Runs May Read. The transformation scene comprised 1. The Wonderful Perspective of the Jewelled Caves of the Arabian Nights; 2. The Eden of Flora; and 3. The Etherial Fountain of the Paradise of Changing Flowers.

- 1878:** Queensland Theatre, Brisbane; 26 Dec. 1878 - 22 Jan. 1879 [23 pfms]
- **Lse.** James Thynne; **S Art.** R. Burton and Messrs Metcalfe and Bennett; **Chor.** E. McLean; **S Mngr.** Alex Thomson.
- **Troupe:** Queensland Dramatic Company and McLean's Juvenile Troubadours.
- **Cast** incl. Nina Tulloch.

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 27 December (1878), 2.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

HEY DIDDLE DIDDLE THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE, THE COW JUMPED OVER THE MOON; OR, HARLEQUIN SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE, APOCKET FULL OF RYE, AND FOUR AND TWENTY BLACKBIRDS BAKED IN A PIE: [pantomime]

Lib Adapt. Samuel Lazar; **Mus.** [n/e]

Samuel Lazar, 1878 (printed by Caxton Steam Printing Co)

A pantomime with operatic airs and popular songs of the day, the 1878 published version of this pantomime declares the work as having been 'localised, plagiarized, treatised, temporized, satirized, not warrantised but advertised' (1). A review of the production in the *Sydney Morning Herald* further notes: "It is very happily constructed, and has been localised to an agreeable extent by Mr Samuel Lazar from the original by Mr Garnet Walch [1876]. It possesses the rather unusual feature in pantomime of being coherent; and the plotting and counterplotting, although attended with... fun, make it as interesting as many dramas produced here lately" ("Theatre Royal," 3). The references to the Sydney scene include issues such as black-birding, the anti-Russian sentiment relating to the "Eastern Crisis." The production also included a genealogical pageant of all history with reference to Darwin, burlesques of Shakespeare and recent tragic performances.

For a synopsis of Garnet Walch's original storyline see the 1876 entry. A more detailed synopsis is published in the 25 December issue of the *Age* (3). Although it is unclear how much of the 1876 plot remained in Samuel Lazar's adaptation, it is possible that the two are largely similar. One known difference, for example, is the setting of Gaffa and Gamma's home - in this version being on the beach at Manly.

- 1878:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1878 - 1 Feb. 1879 [return season: 25-27 Feb. 1879; 41 pfms]
- **Dir/S Mngr.** B. N. Jones; **Prod/Lse.** Samuel Lazar; **M Dir/Arr.** Walter Rice; **S Art.** W. J. Wilson; **Chor.** Boleno Coleman; **Cost.** Madame Croucher; **Com Sc.** James A. South.
- **Cast** incl. King Hey Diddle Diddle (C. Brown), Lachlan McGowan (Count Opodeldoc), Maggie Oliver (Bruno), Alice Deorwyn (Blondo), J. H. Deorwyn (Gaffer), H. Vincent (Gammer), Miss H. Melville (Queen Gertrude), Mdlle. De Glorian (Princess Caressa), W. H. Seagrave (Mary), R. Searle (Duke Advalorem, Prime Minister), J. H. Hasker (Von Cripsman, the Court Pastrycook), Miss B. Leslie (Countess Grammaris, Governess to the Princess), J. H. Hasker (King Christmas), Laura Cassidy (Pluma), Constance Deorwyn (Aura), A. Sefton (Boreas, the North Wind), Blanch Leslie (The New Year), Maggie Innes (Young Australia, a smart youth), Miss E. Tullock (Spring), Vivian Howe (Summer), Ada Howe (Autumn), Hettie Croucher (Winter), L. McEwen (The Longest day), Master A. Croucher (The Shortest Night), J. A. South (Pagasus (a gentleman of varied experience and imperturbable sangfroid), Maggie Innes (Girl of the Period).
- The animal characters are billed as being played by: Miss Ker Hauser (The Cat that plays the Fiddle), Mr Bovine and Anne Udder (The Cow that jumps the Moon), Master K. Nine (The Little Dog that laughs to see the sport), Mr Delph (The Dish that runs off with the spoon) and Mr Pewters (The Spoon); Harlequinade - Mdlle. Lake (Columbine), Boleno Coleman (Harlequin), J. H. Hasker (Pantaloone), James South (Clown).
- A second edition was staged from 18 January 1879.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"**Theatre Royal.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1878), 3.

JACK THE GIANT KILLER AND HIS DOUGHY DEEDS; OR, HARLEQUIN HOP O' MY THUMB AND THE TRUE VERSION OF WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN: [pantomime]

Lib. Garnet Walch; **Orig Mus.** Frederick Coppin; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Coppin, Hennings and Greville, 1879 (printed by Azzopardi and Hildreth)

A pantomime with songs to operatic and other music, and containing topical and satirical references to the Melbourne scene, politics, personalities, issues (including the Kelly Gang, the financial crisis, packed juries, the Berry ministry, the state education system) and burlesques on some recent theatrical productions (ie; George Rignold's *Henry V*). A review of the premiere, published in the *Argus* the following day, proposed, however, that although "there is a great deal of what is unusual" the production presented nothing new. The reviewer also complained that once again a pantomime was brought before the public in a state of unreadiness, and suggested that "no management has a right to make a public performance only a dress rehearsal" ("Theatre Royal," 3).

The incidents of the story include the forces of the evil Demon Fact, who oppose Fairy Fancy and Fair Play (of British parentage), themselves on the side of Jack and Hop O' My Thumb, a keen cricketer. Jack is given the charge of ridding King Arthur's kingdom of Giants who have caused panic on the money market (and who also eat children). Jack defeats Ogre and saves Hop and his brothers. Dame is loved by State School Teacher, Truncelot. Frederick Coppin composed the incidental music and overture for the pantomime.

An up-dated and revised version of this pantomime was produced in 1891 at the Alexandra Theatre (Melb). [*see 1891 entry for details*]

1878: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1878 - 14 Feb. 1879 [42 pfms]

- **Dir.** J. R. Greville; **Prod/Lse.** George Coppin, John Hennings and J. R. Greville; **M Dir.** Frederick Coppin; **S Art.** John Hennings and John Little; **Chor.** Mons. Massartic and Mde Rosine; **Cost.** Annie Wright and M. Marks; **Com Sc.** Mr Brown and Mr Newland.

- **Cast** incl. Maggie Liddle, Ada Stanley, Lily Bryer, Mde. Rosine, Ella Carrington, Jenny Bryce, Miss Melrose, Mr Brown, Mr Newland, Frank Harcourt, Mons. Massartic, Harry Sefton.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"**Pantomimes: Theatre Royal, The.**" *Argus* 24 Dec. (1878), 6.

"**Theatre Royal: Jack the Giant Killer.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1878), 3.

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage.* (1983), 76-7.



Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil
18 Jan. (1879), 168.

Last updated: 28/05/2016

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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